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Political Platform

Proposer: FYEG

Title: **Political Platform**

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FYEG Political Platform

We, the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), are the movement of the Green youth at the European level. Our individual and organisational backgrounds lie in the social and environmental justice movements, in feminist and queer battles, and in the defence of fundamental rights and democracy. For more than 30 years, our member organisations have joined forces at the European level, uniting their collective voices and aspirations to learn from each other, to debate, to campaign together, and to make the green Europe we wish to see become a reality.

Through our shared struggles and aspirations, we see that not a single one of our political issues is a lone priority. We refuse to choose between the survival and well-being of the planet, our personal liberties and freedoms, and social welfare. To be Green means to fight for all these demands simultaneously.

To achieve our goal of a feminist, diverse, democratic, sustainable, and social Europe, we use different channels, political arenas, and tools. The institutions of formal politics are spaces in which many decisions affecting our lives and our politics are made. We work to be present and heard at all stages and levels, and to make clear the urgency of Green politics.

FYEG advocates for systemic changes that cannot be achieved through a catalogue of single-issue political measures. They require the dismantling of various systems of oppression and the transformation of society as a whole. Therefore, our fight is not limited to institutions. We are also active at the grassroots level, running campaigns together, supporting local struggles, and empowering

changemakers through non-formal education projects.

Our work and practices as a movement must be aligned with what we stand for. We must fight against the sexist, racist, ageist, ableist, class-based systems of oppression – also within our own organisations. Only in this way can we build a truly inclusive movement for all.

The challenges lie not only in victories within institutional politics, but also in changing the political playing field. The dreams and actions of a small number of committed individuals and movements can bring causes to the centre of the political debate and, by doing so, effect much-needed change.

As the Federation of Young European Greens, we agree on the principles laid down in this document, which should serve as a basis for our work across Europe.

1. A Diverse and Feminist Europe

FYEG fights for intersectional (see Glossary 91) feminism (see Glossary 63), a feminism that is anti-racist, anti-fascist, and draws from the queer (see Glossary 138) and disability rights movements. A feminism that recognises diversity and the different ways in which privilege (see Glossary 185) and oppression (see Glossary 114) manifest in society. Our feminism is not just about smashing the patriarchy (see Glossary 123), but about smashing all systems of oppression. We are against societies that only feed the dominant power. We push for an alternative model based on justice and equity for those devalued by systems of oppression, one that actively undermines the dominant power.

Systems of oppression seek to divide us, control us, and harm everyone in society. We will not let them. We fight any kind of discrimination or hate crime on the basis of real or assumed nationality, race, ethnicity, religion or beliefs, gender and sexual identity, ideology, disability, class, or age. We recognise the difference and diversity among people and societies in Europe, and see this as a richness.

We advocate for policies created with people who experience discrimination and support affirmative action for underrepresented groups. We demand anti-discrimination laws. Governments must take measures to ensure the safety and health of marginalized groups.

As we work for a Europe which is truly welcoming and inclusive for all, we take a twofold approach. First, we work for social justice (see Glossary 155) and equality now – within the limits of the current norms, within the systems that constrain us – while recognising that this can never be social justice for

everyone and that, in this way, only small gains are made. Second, we question the systems, we think them anew, in order to break free from the norms and boundaries that constrain us.

Systems of oppression are a social construct and can therefore be deconstructed, with the help of collective action and organising. We can imagine and give life to new systems that work for all. We question human-made borders, the arbitrariness of passports and permits, and the dichotomy of binary gender (see Glossary 38).

1.1. Diversity and Intersectionality

Global systems of patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism and racism, and their byproducts, ableism, cis- and hetero-sexism and colourism, among others, intersect to create overlapping and mutually reinforcing layers of oppression and inequality. The solutions we push for must therefore be rooted in an intersectional perspective. When approaching a specific case of oppression, we should not lose sight of the bigger framework in which oppression takes place, as well as other systems of inequality associated with it.

When fighting inequality and tackling societal problems, we keep in mind that a person’s identity has many facets and oppose approaches which define a group as homogenous and based on a single identity.

We understand that all dimensions of a person’s identity contribute to a person’s access to justice and equality. Inequality can take many forms, ranging from the lack of representation of a specific identity in the public sphere to the criminalisation of identities. Our aspiration is a world in which such inequalities are dismantled, and people can express themselves and their identities freely and without fear.

When new policies are proposed at all levels of governance, they should be analysed from an intersectional perspective , taking into account the individual, systemic, institutional and historical dimensions of inequality to ensure that no one is left behind.

1.2. Anti-racism

Today, European societies remain deeply racist. In such a context, it is not enough to simply not be racist – we must be anti-racist. Racism is not only about hate speech and hate crime: it is the systemic discrimination against and oppression of people on the basis of their supposed membership of a particular racial or ethnic group. It includes antiziganism, antisemitism (see Glossary 4),

and
islamophobia (see Glossary 93). It is built through the perpetuation of prejudices, as well as the belief that there are different races and that some races are superior to others. In the case of antisemitism, this ‘belief’ has evolved into a world-explaining conspiracy ideology which sees all evil in Jews and their destruction as the liberation from evil. Antisemitism is a continual presence in society in its entirety and antisemitic attitudes can be found across all groups of society. We must always fight antisemitism in all its forms and appearances,including in an anti-racist context.

European societies are built on the ongoing oppression and discrimination of racialised people (see Glossary 140), including Black people, people of colour, Roma and Traveller communities, Indigenous peoples, Muslims, and Jews. Today, racialised people are still second-class citizens in Europe. This oppression is visible in the institutions, on the streets, and in culture. Racialised people face police violence and are discriminated against in all aspects of life, from job opportunities to access to healthcare and housing. Hate and discrimination with respect to religions and religious individuals and groups also forms an important part in analysing certain social phenomena, including hate crimes, discriminatory acts and anti-religious sentiments, in an anti-racist context. Though they are not related to race and/or ethnicity, they still intersect with other parts of one's identity and are also being unjustly conflated with the race and/or ethnicity. (See Religion).

Race should be understood as a social construct and as a category that is used to discriminate against people of colour and other racialised groups, and not as a biological reality.

Racism in Europe is, among others, rooted in the colonial and imperialist history of European countries. The ideologies and inequalities that it created are still present today. To properly tackle racism, Europe must face up to its colonial past and recognise the racism present in European history, societies, cultures, and institutions. An appropriate response to this must include monetary reparations for the former colonies of European states, as well as the return of stolen artefacts currently exhibited and kept in European museums. The colonial art restitution debate is a necessity and key contribution to the decolonization of these relationships.

As racism is a structural and systemic problem, public and private institutions must review and change their structures and processes. FYEG supports mechanisms to dismantle racism and achieve justice for those who are marginalised by systemic racism. We support the introduction of mechanisms of affirmative action including access to higher education or public jobs. States must fight discrimination in access to healthcare, jobs, justice, and education. To ensure

that the population and in particular the next generation is educated about racism, curricula should be designed that cover different forms and appearances of racism, its history, systemic and structural causes and who has benefitted from this.

Equipped with this knowledge and tools to reflect their situation and circumstances of living, individuals have to recognise their own privileges, educate themselves, and join in solidarity with people and communities affected by racism.

More specifically, FYEG strongly believes that addressing racial oppression holds the key to achieving not only social justice but also climate justice and equity. Racialised activists have been at the forefront of justice struggles. In their struggles they are either made invisible by white people or have been disproportionately targeted by state violence. It is essential for our movements to recognise and actively fight against the mechanisms that have resulted in the exclusion and silencing of racialised activists.

1.3. Disability rights

FYEG supports the rights and fights of disabled people. Disability can refer to physical or intellectual impairments and can include mental and/or chronic health conditions. Ableism (see Glossary 1) is discrimination or social prejudice against disabled people, such as assuming a disabled person does not have the same capabilities as an able-bodied person to perform certain tasks or roles within society.

Being disabled should not limit a person's choices to be present in public spaces, interact with the world around them, and take part in social, political, and cultural activities. FYEG supports the social model of disability, which sees that social environments exclude and impair people, prevent them from exercising their autonomy, and reduce equality, rather than the person's own impairment.

To remove these barriers, FYEG supports a holistic approach to increasing accessibility which puts disabled people at the centre of policy development.

Policies must be created by them and for them. FYEG recognises that disability is unique to each individual and their own experience, and that there can be no one-size-fits-all policy or healthcare approach.

We believe that sign language should be recognised by all states as an official language, and that access to sign language, braille, and other methods of

communication should be broadened. FYEG also believes that all barriers should be removed that prevent disabled people from accessing their civil and political rights; these can include physical and social barriers.

When it comes to healthcare treatment for disabled people, medical professionals should work on the assumption that individuals are capable of giving consent unless they are informed otherwise. Medical professionals should not proceed with any form of treatment without first seeking the consent of the person receiving the treatment.

1.4. Gender

FYEG works towards a world in which people can thrive and know it is safe to be themselves, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.

Gender-based violence (see Glossary 72) is a brutal violation of human rights. It affects people of all social and economic backgrounds across Europe. Women of colour, women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ (see Glossary 100) women, migrant women, and poor and working-class women are most likely to be at risk and face the biggest obstacles to getting help.

The historical, systemic exclusion of marginalised genders at all levels of political decision-making, from local to European institutions, finally needs to stop. Different mechanisms, including quotas, can help to correct this, and ensure the proportional representation of all gender identities in assemblies at all levels of government in Europe.

Our long-term aspiration is a fluid world. We recognise that labels, while helping us to identify how to fight for rights and justice in a system built against us, cannot represent the spectrum of identities and expressions we embody. Our short-term task is to work for LGBTQIA+ rights, to work for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), to fight against gender-based violence, and to continue to advocate for gender equality at all levels of society – at home, in the workplace, in politics, etc. We work towards a world in which every person has the right to live freely according to their gender identity and gender expression, and the right to self-determination (see Glossary 148) and bodily autonomy (see Glossary 12).

a. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, combatting discrimination and gender-based violence

Sexual and reproductive health and rights should be part of all educational

curricula and should be effectively implemented in all schools. The sexual education curriculum should be non-judgemental, sex positive, consent-focused, and comprehensive enough to cover sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. More funding and research should be allocated to sexual education and reproductive healthcare.

We demand free, accessible, good quality, and safe sexual and reproductive healthcare and services for all. Healthcare should be based on human rights, bodily autonomy, and informed consent (see Glossary 89) for all, especially the most vulnerable groups, such as trans people (see Glossary 166), people with disabilities, people without papers, and migrants. Additionally, there must be appropriate funding for gender specific medical research since women, trans (see Glossary 166) and gender non-conforming persons usually don't exist in medical research at all or only as pathologised objects. This must change.

Free and accessible sexual and reproductive healthcare should include accessible and free contraception for all, as well as medically-assisted procreation (see Glossary 103). There will also be more money for research into new forms of contraception, such as the male pill. Pink tax discrimination (see Glossary 126) should end. Menstrual products should be cost-free and freely accessible everywhere, including schools, universities, and public toilets. Wherever there is free toilet paper there should be free menstrual products. Gender-neutral toilets will be realized in all publicly accessible buildings and for employees. In large buildings, there will be at least one toilet on each floor that is accessible to everyone. Toilet shortages shouldn't be a problem for anyone.

Each year thousands of people die because of the criminalisation of and lack of access to abortion. Banning abortion only causes greater harm to those who seek it, who then undergo serious health, legal, and financial risks to have an abortion illegally. We condemn all attempts to restrict access to abortion. We advocate for free, accessible, non-judgemental, good quality, safe, legal, and local abortion. The right to abortion must be included in the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights (see Glossary 50).

Certain countries require trans people wishing to access legal gender recognition procedures to undergo forced sterilisation. This violates their dignity and right to bodily autonomy and must be banned. Non-consensual surgeries on intersex people (see Glossary 92) should also be outlawed. States must ban all dehumanising practices and offer reparations to all trans and intersex people who have been forced to renounce their bodily autonomy in this way.

The stigmatisation of HIV (see Glossary 83) must end. HIV treatment is highly effective in reducing the transmission of HIV and people with an undetectable

viral load cannot transmit HIV. Legal discrimination against people with HIV must stop. More funds should be allocated to education and raising awareness on HIV and HIV prevention, as well as to research and treatment. HIV treatment, HIV prevention, and testing for HIV should be free and universally accessible.

Women and girls (cis and trans) are often exposed to serious forms of physical violence including domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape. We demand the legal definition of rape to respect individual self-determination. Today, rape is generally defined as sexual intercourse with a person by forcible compulsion; sexual intercourse with a person who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless or mentally incapacitated; or sexual intercourse with an underage person. We demand for it to be defined by lack of consent, not by the threat of violence.

All European countries must implement the Istanbul Convention (see Glossary 94). The Convention sets out measures to address all forms of violence against women, recognising this violence as a human rights violation and a form of discrimination. Countries need to provide clear and concise information for victims in a language they understand, accessible and inclusive shelters, and telephone hotlines. We demand that all European countries have a harmonized and clear definition of femicide, domestic violence and gender-based violence and its penalization.

We acknowledge the gender-based discrimination of women in the labour market, including the underpayment of historically female-dominated occupations. We therefore demand equal pay for equally valuable work and an end to discrimination based on pregnancy and parenthood.

b. LGBTQIA+ rights

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual rights are still under attack in our patriarchal, capitalist system. Even today, conservative governments are trying to take away the hard-earned freedoms and rights of LGBTQIA+ people. Homophobia (see Glossary 81) and transphobia (see Glossary 167) can fuel hate speech and hate crime and should be criminalised.

Every person should have the right to live according to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression freely and without fear. So-called “conversion therapy” (see Glossary 28) is dehumanising and must be banned and prosecuted immediately. The relationships of same- and opposite-sex couples and their families should enjoy equal recognition. All couples have a right to family life. This includes the right to adoption and foster care, the right for all people with a uterus to have access to medically assisted procreation (see Glossary 103), and the right of equal access to sperm donation, regardless of

their sexual orientation, health or relationship status. IVF treatments should be equally reimbursable to all couples. Marriages and civil unions must be open to all couples, and those recognised in one European country must also be and automatically fully recognised in all others.

Trans women are women, trans men are men, being non-binary is valid, and trans rights are human rights. Mandatory mental health assessments violate trans people’s dignity and right to self-determination and should be banned. We demand legal gender recognition procedures for all genders and none, and the right to change names in an auto-declarative and unconditional manner. These procedures should be quick, transparent, accessible, free, based solely on individual self-determination, and without age restrictions. Additionally, we call for the removal of all sex markers in identity documents, including passports.

1.5. Religion

Pluralistic societies (see Glossary 128) depend on enabling a safe space in which each person is free to believe or not believe, practise their beliefs, observe their beliefs, and organise for their beliefs. We fight against islamophobia (see Glossary 93) and antisemitism (see Glossary 4), and condemn any kind of discrimination and hate speech against people based on their religion. We believe in a pluralistic society built on dialogue. The right to religious freedom and the right to practise religion freely must be protected under national and European law. We oppose the idea that religion is by nature a divisive issue and a source of tensions, and that people should hide their religious beliefs or feel ashamed of them.

We stand for a secular state (see Glossary 153) in which there is a separation between religion and government, and where religious laws are not considered to be above or outside civil law. We believe states should not give preferential treatment to any religion or religious persons and organisations over other citizens and charities as this creates a discriminatory system. Workers should have the right to celebrate the holidays of their own religion without facing discrimination or penalisation. The wearing of religious symbols should not be used as a reason to exclude people from education, work, public services, or public spaces.

1.6. Cultural and Indigenous Rights

FYEG stands for cultural rights. The colonial, imperialist, discriminatory and assimilationist policies in European countries have left ethnic, cultural and national minorities heavily marginalised and vulnerable. We defend the right of individuals and communities, including national minorities, to practise and

preserve their cultures, including their languages, religions, art forms, and ways of life. Ethnic, cultural and national minorities must have strong legal protection, sufficient and stable funding and cultural autonomy in support of their efforts to revitalise, retain and develop their languages, cultures and ways of life. We support the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by all European states (see Glossary 54).

FYEG also recognises the importance of respecting and protecting indigenous european populations. For some of them, despite having used the land they live on for thousands of years, their rights are ignored when it comes to decisions that directly affect their economic and social wellbeing, and their cultures risk being eroded and destroyed. FYEG stands for education for the general population to reduce dated views about indigenous populations based on ignorance and prejudice, and a recognition of their economic and social rights to continue their ways of life. This should include local self-determination on issues such as mining, animal herding as well as promotion and protection of indigenous cultures and languages. We support efforts to ensure that these rights are harmonised across artificial political borders, such as through international conventions.

Europe and the European Union must provide support and offer asylum to those whose cultural rights are being violated elsewhere.

2. A Democratic Europe

Democracy is increasingly under attack, both in Europe and elsewhere. Authoritarian leaders ignore democratic principles and violate the rule of law (see Glossary 149) – even within the European Union. Some states proclaim themselves to be so-called “illiberal democracies” (see Glossary 86). At the same time, technological and digital developments are having wide-reaching implications for fundamental rights, posing substantial challenges to our democracies, while also bringing new possibilities for democratic participation and new forms of activism.

FYEG fights for a Europe and a European Union which are truly democratic and embrace and encourage the active participation of their inhabitants. We advocate for the strong protection of the rights of these inhabitants, especially the most vulnerable, young people, and those that engage in activism in order to better our societies.

2.1. The rule of law

The rule of law is an essential element of democratic societies. In recent

years, attacks on the rule of law have multiplied in several European countries, with women and minorities most strongly affected. FYEG stands for reinforcing the independence of the judiciary, accelerating the fight against corruption, and guaranteeing the independence of the media.

In the EU, we call for the full implementation of Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (see Glossary 6) allowing for the scrutiny and possible suspension of a Member State's voting rights in the Council of the EU if they fail to respect the fundamental values of the Union including the rule of law, in the short term.
This decision should be taken via qualified majority (see Glossary 137). In the long term, the power to impose sanctions on member states and to suspend voting rights of member states in the Council should become matters for the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) (see Glossary 33). FYEG also supports the implementation of a strong rule of law mechanism (see Glossary 150), according to which the granting of EU funding is made conditional upon Member States' respect of the rule of law and fundamental rights.

While implementing those tools, we must ensure that citizens are not disadvantaged by their governments' poor behaviour. It should be made possible to bypass corrupt national governments and for EU funds to be directly assigned to local authorities or final beneficiaries. We also call for increased support for organisations that are fighting for democracy, press freedom, fundamental rights, and the rule of law, for example through the EU Rights and Values programme (see Glossary 52).

The European judicial system should be reinforced. The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) (see Glossary 33) should have more power to protect citizens and uphold fundamental rights, including human rights, democracy, freedom of the press and independent judiciary. We support reinforcing the prerogatives and powers of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (see Glossary 61) to investigate and press charges in more fields, beginning with corruption, the misuse of public money, and international crime.

2.2. Democracy

FYEG supports representative democratic systems in which citizens elect representatives to debate issues and make decisions on their behalf. We support parliamentary systems (see Glossary 121) over presidential systems (see Glossary 130) in which power is concentrated in the hands of a single person and proper debate is not possible. Representatives should be elected using a system of proportional representation (see Glossary 135).

Those current systems in which elected officials are seen as being cut off from

citizens and not accountable to the electorate are clearly not functioning well enough and are creating mistrust in democracy itself. Action is needed at several levels to protect and improve our democratic systems.

To complement representative democratic systems, FYEG supports introducing and reinforcing direct democracy mechanisms such as participatory budgeting (see Glossary 122), special assemblies composed of randomly chosen citizens, citizens' initiatives, the right to petition, citizen-initiated referendums (see Glossary 22), especially on a local level, the right to challenge (see Glossary 146), and representative recalls (see Glossary 144). Democratic institutions should also be made more transparent, with all debates open or publicly available, public registers detailing the financial interests of every elected official, and full transparency on lobbying activities.

But this is not enough: any democracy which does not provide adequate space for debate and reflection is no true democracy, and FYEG therefore supports efforts to create deliberative democracies. Through providing public spaces and opportunities for rational debate and discussion between members of the public and not just talking political heads, through citizenship, deliberation, and participation education in schooling we can ensure that the policies of today that will shape the future - such as on climate change - are well thought out.

FYEG is also supportive of the subsidiarity principle (see Glossary 158). Every decision that affects the lives of citizens should be taken at the level that is closest to them, where they can more easily play an active role and hold their representatives accountable. Local and regional governments should be given more power, and their participation in decision-making processes at the European level should be reinforced. Forms of democracy inspired by the principles of commons (see Glossary 26) and based on the public, democratic management of the commons should be implemented to the greatest possible extent. Our aim needs to be to create liveable, democratic spaces in our towns and cities.

The right to take part in democratic processes should be open to as many people as possible and should be based primarily on a person's place of residence rather than nationality. All foreign citizens should enjoy the right to vote in their place of residence for all elections. Nobody should be deprived of the right to vote because of their age, nationality, ethnicity, the fact that they are in prison, or any other criteria. Young people in particular are systematically excluded from decision-making processes. FYEG also stands for lowering the voting age to 16 with the prospective to lower the voting age further. Gender quota systems for elections are important tools to redress the underrepresentation of women in politics and should be further adapted to include all underrepresented genders.

Action needs to be taken to enable the civic participation of groups and communities that are excluded from participation in decision-making processes. FYEG recognizes that in our society, women, non-binary people, gender non-conforming people, socio-economically disadvantaged people and young people are subjected to higher burdens to political participation, as well as to violence and tokenism. Discrimination constitutes an attack on democracy. Strengthening training, supporting youth political organisations, using non-formal education methods, using gender balanced lists of speakers and quotas are all examples of interventions that build towards full and meaningful participation of all groups in society, thus to the legitimacy of democratic processes.

2.3. An activist Europe

Democratic participation must never be limited to the polling booth. The right to protest is a fundamental part of democratic culture and must be protected. We encourage active participation in our democracies, not only through political organisations but also through civil society and activist work. The EU, its Member States, and other European states must actively support and encourage civil society and youth political engagement. FYEG engages itself to promote regenerative forms of activism that protect members' physical and mental well-being, and urges the social and environmental movements it partners up with to do so as well.

The right to organise and to take part in protests freely, without experiencing threats, intimidation, or violence, should be protected. We also defend the right of journalists and citizens to document demonstrations and police activities during those demonstrations.

In their work for a better society, activists often make use of civil disobedience (see Glossary 23). While the authorities may not welcome its use, their reaction to civil disobedience is often disproportionate to the point of being unacceptable. The rights of activists must be defended under all circumstances.

This also applies to cases in which actions to bring about effective climate action or defend human rights go against the law as it stands.

FYEG stands for reinforcing the protection and the support to whistleblowers, as they reveal information and documents of public interest and for the common good.

2.4. Towards a federal Europe

Most of the challenges Europe is facing cannot be solved at the local or national level alone. A stronger, more integrated, and federal Europe (see Glossary 62) is needed to address citizens' demands.

As the only directly elected EU institution, the European Parliament (see Glossary 60) is key to building a stronger Europe. In the short term, its Members should be elected partly on national lists and partly on Union-wide lists, while ensuring the fair representation of all Member States. Instead of being presented with the European Council's (see Glossary 57) choice of European Commission (see Glossary 55) president, the European Parliament should be able to elect the candidate of its choice. We believe Commissioners should not be appointed by Member States but chosen by Members of the European Parliament while guaranteeing fair representation of Member States. Moreover, the European Parliament should have the right to initiate legislation.

We call on Member States to find a solution to the issue of the seats of different EU institutions, while making sure all decision-making bodies are not concentrated in the same city, country or part of the EU, but are spread across the whole EU. Moreover, the costly moving circus of the European Parliament should be stopped.

Many long-awaited progressive initiatives have been blocked by the Council of the European Union (see Glossary 32). In the short term, decisions at the Council should be taken by qualified majority (see Glossary 137) and not by unanimity (see Glossary 175) on budgetary, social, and fiscal policy. This would both facilitate European action in many fields and reinforce the influence of the European Parliament.

In the long term, FYEG demands the election of a European citizens' convention.

This body would be responsible for drafting an EU constitution that would replace the existing treaties and pave the way for a federal and truly democratic EU. This EU constitution should then be voted on through a Union-wide referendum.

A stronger EU requires a real EU budget. The EU budget should be substantially increased, in particular by giving the EU its own power to levy taxes for its "own resources" (see Glossary 116) such as a European kerosene (see Glossary 96) tax, a carbon tax (see Glossary 18), a carbon border adjustment mechanism (see Glossary 14), a tax on tech giants, and a tax on financial transactions (see Glossary 162) (see Chapter 4 – Fiscal policy). The European Union may levy taxes in certain areas based on the principle of subsidiarity. This will reduce the dependence on Member States' contributions and will allow for more effective taxation in certain areas than a Member State could do on its own. When

establishing these Europe-wide taxes, the economic differences between Member States must be taken into account, whereby a Europe-wide tax must not increase inequality between Member States or hit poorer Member States harder. The EU should also be able to issue bonds to contribute to its budget. We call for deepened European defence cooperation and in the long term the development of further interoperability between EU member states armies.

2.5. Public safety

We believe that every person in our societies should be safe and feel safe. Today’s mainstream public safety policies are not fulfilling that objective: many citizens still feel unsafe and are being attacked based on their gender, appearance, supposed sexual orientation, or gender identity, and on racist and xenophobic (see Glossary 187) grounds. Violence is still a major part of our societies. A public safety policy that aims to end violence by employing even more violence, and that is executed at the expense of public freedoms and fundamental rights, is doomed to fail. FYEG stands for a reinvention of public safety policy based on prevention and rehabilitation rather than violence and repression.

Prevention should be central. We believe that, among others, better education, the teaching of nonviolent communication, gender equality, and tackling racism contribute to reducing the level of violence in society. Public safety is interlinked with social policies. Implementing stronger social policies and fighting against poverty is key to improvement in the long term. We support the integration of stronger, more situation-specific social policies in neighbourhoods with the highest levels of poverty. Prevention recognises that the police cannot be the solution to every issue. Specific personnel such as psychologists and street and other social workers can work better with people in certain psychological states, with homeless people, and with victims of violence. These jobs should be supported and better funded.

The police has become a cornerstone of failing public safety policies. While we believe some form of policing is needed, the police needs to be fundamentally changed. A zero-tolerance policy on racism, sexism, and other hateful conduct in the police is essential. The police should be made accountable for its actions and an independent police oversight body should be put in place to investigate police violence and other complaints. Democratic scrutiny of the police, in which police chiefs are accountable to local assemblies and regularly answer questions during public sessions, is of critical importance. Additionally, policing must be demilitarised. It is unnecessary for the police to have military-like vehicles and heavily armed officers with assault rifles and grenades. There must be structural change – a movement away from state-sponsored violence and repression and towards prevention and cooperation as tools for

dealing with conflict in our societies. Defunding the police would lead to this structural change by refocusing public money towards social good.

We also support the improvement of the employment and working conditions of police employees. In some countries, many are overworked and under a lot of pressure, have poor working conditions, and receive low salaries. This contributes to an increased use of violence, higher levels of corruption, and poor quality service. Police employees should receive better training, especially concerning gender-based violence, the tackling of unconscious bias (see Glossary 176), nonviolent communication, and nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.

Certain policies such as drug policies and migration policies create avoidable violence. The criminalisation of the use, cultivation, and selling of drugs, as well as the criminalisation of migration, actively supports the development of underground mafia systems who rely on the use of violence. FYEG stands for the legalisation of drugs (see Glossary 97) and opening borders as a way of reducing violence and reinforcing security (see Chapter 5 – Health).

The judicial system also has a role to play in the prevention of crime by repeat offenders, by ensuring that convicted people receive adequate psychological support, prioritising alternatives to prison, and promoting the rehabilitation and reintegration of convicted people.

2.6. Digital rights

As citizens’ use of digital products increases, digital rights become more and more important. FYEG believes digital rights are key to fully exercising other fundamental rights, such as the right to access information held by public authorities, to freedom of opinion and expression, and to political activism. Digital activism has become an important part of political activism and must be defended. We therefore stand for an internet in which those rights can be fully exercised and for a regulatory framework that fully protects citizens.

Digitalisation (see Glossary 39) should not be an excuse for states and companies to spy on citizens. Communication via the internet must be protected by encryption. We oppose government-requested loopholes or the weakening of that encryption. The secrecy of correspondence (see Glossary 152) should be extended to include all digital communication, including metadata (see Glossary 104). We defend the principle of self- determination in relation to one’s personal data, as well as the outlawing of mass data retention (see Glossary 102) by private companies. Targeted advertisements and third- party cookies should be made illegal. The right to be forgotten (see Glossary 145) should also be protected.

FYEG believes in the power of free software and open source-based platforms (see Glossary 113), which must be strengthened by the European Union in order to guarantee full transparency in the fight for consumer rights. Alternatives to tech giants should be established that abide by these principles. In order for alternatives to emerge, it is essential to defend the principle of net neutrality (see Glossary 110).

We fight for access to the internet and an accessible internet. This means universal access to the necessary infrastructure and broadband, as well as internet access at no charge. It also means accessibility for disabled people through the mainstreaming of subtitles, alternative text (see Glossary 2), etc. It is also vital to ensure that people from different backgrounds have equal opportunities to use digital domains. For language minorities it is often difficult or impossible to use their own languages digitally as they lack sufficient digital infrastructure, such as localised software, keyboard layouts, grammar checkers and online dictionaries. The development of language technology resources for minority languages must be supported in order to ensure digital language equality.

In times in which almost everyone and everything is digitally connected, we also fight for a stronger right to disconnect (see Glossary 147) for workers.

Digital and technological developments have the power to fundamentally change our societies. The opportunities these technologies bring must be used to strengthen democratic participation. Online pseudonymity must be protected as this is key for people to express their political or personal opinions without fear and without risking negative consequences.

The digital sphere is not a lawless space. Private companies that are active in the digital sphere must be regulated and pay their fair share of taxes. Discrimination and hate speech in the digital sphere must be recognised as problematic, and combatted. This includes developments in the realm of artificial intelligence (see Glossary 7), which has the potential to transform our societies for the better but also risks reinforcing existing discrimination through biased algorithms. More attention should be paid to the negative consequences of automated decision-making. Automated decision-making that can lead to discrimination and ethnic profiling should be regularly tested and adapted to counter this.

The spread of disinformation and fake news has the potential to undermine our democracies and must be dealt with accordingly by effective legislation and training. This includes protection against foreign interference in democratic processes and the fight against terrorism. The pursuit of these goals must never be used as an excuse to pass legislation that restricts the freedom of

expression, freedom of assembly, or other fundamental rights. We oppose the use of upload filters (see Glossary 180).

3. A Sustainable Europe

The climate crisis is the largest threat facing humanity. FYEG considers the current economic system of material growth and environmental exploitation as a root cause of climate change. To stop climate change, we need a shift towards a democratic economy able to properly address environmental damage, the use of natural resources and the voices of groups affected (see chapter 4). Without urgent action, it will jeopardise many human achievements and fundamental rights, endanger food and water supply, and put many territories at risk. Climate change is also likely to have important geopolitical consequences.

FYEG considers the impacts of climate change as a real injustice. Those who are the most responsible for climate change are least likely to be affected by it, whereas those who are the least responsible will bear the brunt of its negative effects. FYEG believes it is essential to adopt an intersectional approach highly critical of capitalism when analysing the causes and effects of the climate crisis. We advocate for just solutions to the climate crisis that take into account the racial, gender, class, age, disability, and colonial dimensions of the climate crisis.

Since the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (see Glossary 173) in 1992, the Paris Agreement (see Glossary 120) in 2015, and the declaration of climate emergency by the European Parliament in 2019, and thanks to the work of many activists and scientists, awareness of the seriousness of the crisis has grown. But the actions that have been taken to tackle climate change, including those of the EU, are still widely insufficient. The world is still on track for an increase in global temperatures way above 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels (see Glossary 170).

The climate crisis is not the only global existential crisis humanity is facing. The biodiversity crisis is also a reality, the seriousness of which is still being underestimated. The sixth mass extinction (see Glossary 154), resulting from human activity, is accelerating. Various sources of pollution are still the cause of many diseases and deaths.

FYEG considers these crises as symptoms of an economic system that relies on unlimited economic growth, the exploitation of animals and nature. We need to rethink that relationship and offer concrete solutions to these crises.

3.1. An urgent and just transition towards climate

neutrality

FYEG supports the objective of maintaining global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Much stronger action is needed to fight climate change, directly tackling root causes. This implies changing our entire economic system in an extremely short time altering our production and consumption patterns, in a just way, for emissions to drop overall. These types of shifts cannot be done by the market; instead, strong action from the state is needed.

European countries historically holds greater responsibility for climate change than most parts of the world. This means that European Countries holds a bigger responsibility to tackle climate change and its worldwide consequences. European countries and the EU must be the frontrunner in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Countries with the most resources should be even more ambitious and reach their climate objectives earlier.

FYEG supports the objective of reaching climate neutrality in Europe by 2035.

We encourage EU member states to implement a general tax on greenhouse gas emissions. The amount of the levy is equal to the damage that the greenhouse gas can cause per kilogram. In addition, this amount can be higher if it appears that the objectives are not being achieved. FYEG is also in favour of further using the European emission trading system by drastically lessen the number of emission rights.

Europe must also provide support in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to poorer countries, including via financial support and technology transfer. It must also assist them in tackling the effects of climate change, as well as supporting them in making their societies, their economies, and their food and water supplies more resilient to climate change. We must also be careful to ensure that Europe’s path to climate neutrality does not involve externalising emissions to third countries. Instead, it should aim to reduce the emissions caused in third countries as a result of European consumption.

Globally, but also within Europe, the transition towards a climate neutral economy must be socially just. We are concerned about the unequal impact of climate change and of environmental hazards which often disproportionately affect poor people and marginalised groups. We need to make sure our response to the climate crisis does not reinforce existing inequalities. For example, the extraction of rare minerals needed for this transition should not be at the expense of the populations of the countries in which those minerals can be found. While we believe that technological progress has an important role to play in solving the climate and biodiversity crises, we are critical of approaches that tend to overestimate the positive impact of uncertain future

technologies to avoid addressing core issues and engage in systemic change. An example is carbon capture and storage (see Glossary 15), often used as a reason for less ambitious emissions targets, in spite of the fact that the technology has not yet been fully developed.

Current mainstream environmental and climate policies do not affect everyone in the same way. FYEG calls for those policies to be both socially just and to fight inequalities. We call for support measures for every worker at risk of losing their job because of the transition towards a carbon neutral economy (see Glossary 16). They should receive help including, but not limited to, having a job guaranteed and having access to retraining. It is also important to reinforce our social welfare mechanisms (see chapter 5) and to take into account the gender and racial aspects of a just transition (see Glossary 95). Failure to tackle the climate crisis would have terrible implications for all, including workers. We should take the opportunity to rethink working conditions in the context of the ecological transition. We should make the transition a just transition.

3.2. Energy

In order to meet our climate objectives, a deep transformation of our energy system is needed.

Europe must phase out all fossil fuels, starting with coal and fracked gas (see Glossary 68), which must be phased out in Europe by 2027 at the latest. This includes first and foremost the stopping of imports of fossil fuels directly or as soon as possible according to WTO trade law from authoritarian regimes committing the most egregious human rights violations, such as but not limited to breaches of peremptory norms (see Glossary 189) - for example, the Russian Federation. Furthermore, the production and import of fossil fuels must be replaced by renewable and emission-free solutions: wind energy, solar energy, marine energy, and waste heat recovery (see Glossary 183). The production of electricity should be 100% renewable by 2035 at the latest. Taxpayers’ money must therefore not finance fossil fuels. The opening or extension of fossil fuel extraction sites must be prohibited immediately, and existing sites should be closed as soon as possible. New fossil fuel infrastructure should not be built in Europe. This includes gas infrastructure. It is also crucial that the energy gap in certain areas in Europe can be quickly filled in and that an optimal energy mix across the continent is achieved.

FYEG supports energy democracy and stands for the development of a decentralised and interconnected energy system. Energy systems should be localised. We support forms of collective ownership of energy production, such as energy cooperatives. Networks to transport energy are crucial to enable this transition; they should

be owned, developed, and operated as commons, for example being publicly owned.

The cleanest and quickest way to achieve the energy transition is to reduce our energy consumption. Efforts should be made to improve energy efficiency, to renovate all buildings, and to transform the industry. Governments must organise the renovation and insulation of all buildings by 2030. This would also play a key role in reducing energy poverty across Europe.

Nuclear energy (see Glossary 111) cannot be built in time to use it as a climate crisis solution. Nuclear energy, just like any energy source, has drawbacks, including but not limited to the exploitation of workers in the extraction of uranium (see Glossary 181), the long-term disposal of nuclear waste, huge consequences of potential accidents, the long time it takes to build and the increasingly expensive costs to build nuclear power plants.

FYEG prioritizes renewable energy sources over nuclear and fossil fuels. FYEG demands that renewable energy development must not endanger biodiversity and must reduce reliance on rare earth minerals that often are mined in exploitative practices. Phaseout of nuclear power plants must be reliant on renewable energy and must not increase the reliance on fossil fuels even in the short run.

The development of renewable energy limits the dependence on fossil fuels and uranium from Russia and other authoritarian states. The end goal of the FYEG energy policy is a decentralized, community-owned and operated renewable energy system.

We believe natural carbon sinks such as forests, oceans, wetlands, and peatlands have an important role to play in reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Policies should be adopted to protect and enhance their potential. On the other hand, technologies such as geo- engineering (see Glossary 76) are often presented as solutions to fight climate change, but their large-scale efficiency remains undemonstrated and their risks remain unclear to the public. While their full potentials are still yet to be seen, these technologies should never be used as an excuse to continue the burning of fossil fuels and delay real climate action.

3.3. Water, food and agriculture

Water is the backbone of life and agricultural production. It therefore must not be considered as a commodity. Water sources and resources must be protected from potential pollution through agriculture, mining, production, construction and waste disposal. Food is essential to life. It therefore cannot be considered as a commodity. FYEG stands for food and agricultural policies that guarantee that

every person has access to local, healthy, diversified and quality food.

Farmers and agricultural workers play an essential role in ensuring this right to food and their own rights should be respected, as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (see Glossary 172). Farmers and agricultural workers should be able to earn a decent revenue from their work. We believe in a model consisting of numerous small- and medium- scale farms, guaranteeing thriving countrysides.

Industrialised agriculture is responsible for substantial greenhouse gas emissions, massive biodiversity loss, water scarcity, soil depletion, and a range of public health issues (e.g. antimicrobial resistance (see Glossary 3)). A transition towards a form of agriculture which respects the environment, preserves soil, water, and the climate, and is based on agroecological practices and organic agriculture is urgently needed. Artificial fertilisers and pesticides (see Glossary 124) must be phased out within a reasonable time frame, starting with the most dangerous (e.g. neonicotinoids and glyphosate). A rapid drop in animal farming and in the consumption of animal products is also needed with the goal of phasing out industrial livestock production. Traditional indigenous livelihoods such as hunting, fishing and animal herding must be protected. In general, we consider it desirable that as little meat as possible is consumed, taking into account health concerns and the aforementioned issues. This would improve public health and animal welfare as well as drastically reduce the environmental impact of food production. The precautionary use of antibiotics in animal farming must be banned immediately and the maximum amount of animals held per area must be drastically limited.

Food systems should be rebuilt on the principles of food sovereignty (see Glossary 66), eliminating corporate capture of food, reducing food waste, prioritising short supply chains and locally produced food, ending imports of deforestation-driving products such as soy or palm oil, and making sure that European agriculture is not exported in a way that harms agricultural systems in other countries. To achieve this, we need a food production system that ensures environmental and economic sustainability and food security for all, without endangering the food security (see Glossary 65) of future generations. It is of utmost importance to find ways to guarantee an economically viable system that does not have negative effects on nature and the wider environment. To this end, FYEG looks positively towards promising new methods of food production. Research capacities have to be significantly strengthened and mainstreamed in order to find ways of reducing the environmental impact of the food system, while guaranteeing farmers' rights and ensuring decent living conditions in rural areas. Forms of urban farming such as vertical farming can offer solutions to provide cities with sustainable food, since they reduce the use of some natural resources, such as land area and water. Since sustainable methods of clean meat-

production could potentially help the transition to a vegetarian society, while also coming with potential risks, research into safe, efficient and environmentally-friendly clean meat (see Glossary 24)-production needs to be intensified.

This transition towards a more sustainable and fairer agricultural system requires changes in the regulatory framework as well as ambitious public policies. FYEG stands for more transparent labelling, with details of origin, composition, methods of production, use of pesticides, animal welfare, and nutritional values. A thorough reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (see Glossary 25) is needed, taking environmental issues, animal welfare as well as working conditions into account in its subsidy scheme. The promotion of sustainable and plant-based diets should also be encouraged.

GMOs in agriculture have both positive and negative effects. GMOs are meant to provide better yields, increase nutritional capacity, or be more resistant to pests and extreme weather conditions. Yet, they can also increase corporate control through patents, increase farmer dependence on biotech firms, and threaten biodiversity through increased unforeseen mutations and increased herbicide and pesticide use. Associated with mono-cropping practices, GMOs make overall ecosystems less resilient to pests. We believe the use of GMOs, including new GMOs, should be regulated and subjected to individual scientific assessments for and by public institutions, concerning all risks to consumers, farmers, and the environment, prior to authorisation. FYEG believes that heirloom seeds and the development of agroecology represent a better solution to the challenges faced by our food system. Moreover, in a world where the amount of food produced would be sufficient to feed all, increasing yield productivity is not the only leverage point to reduce hunger. Food distribution, the reduction of food waste and shifting towards vegetarian diets are all part of the solution. We firmly believe in food and land sovereignty. Financial interests must never be placed above the environment and biodiversity, nor above people.

3.4. Transport

Transport is responsible for almost a quarter of greenhouse gases emitted in Europe and is one of the only sectors in which emissions have risen in recent years, despite important technological progress. Transport is also one of the main sources of air pollution, which is responsible for the premature deaths of 400,000 people in the EU each year. Changes in both practices and modes of transport are needed, with a shift towards zero-emission travel a priority.

While keeping up efforts to reduce aircraft emissions, Europe needs to fly less. This can be achieved by introducing a EU-wide kerosene (see Glossary 96) tax,

and an end on both the construction of new airports and the extension of existing ones. Train travel should be favoured over air travel. An effective policy could involve the phase-out of commercial flights for trips where it is possible to use an alternative, more environmentally friendly means of transport with a journey time of less than 10 hours. At the same time, train networks should be further developed, including the construction of high-speed trains and the introduction of more night train routes, with the aim of achieving a network of high-speed lines connecting major cities in Europe. We should prioritise the renovation of existing train tracks over the construction of new ones whenever possible in order to minimise the environmental impact. At the same time, existing secondary lines in rural areas should be maintained and the frequency of their service increased. Efforts should be made to achieve a 100% decarbonised network by 2035. Travelling across Europe by train should be made easier, for example by the introduction of a European train ticket system.

For everyday shorter journeys, regions and cities should continue developing public transport networks as well as safe and efficient cycling and pedestrian networks. We aim to eliminate the use of private cars in city centres and residential areas. Comprehensive urban planning (see Glossary 27) plays a crucial role in creating socially accessible and ecologically just cities and residential areas in which people can live, work, and spend free time without having to travel long distances. Insecurity in public transport which disproportionately affect women and gender minorities, should be tackled in order to make public transport really attractive to all. Rural areas should not be left out: regions should guarantee public transport solutions, relying on intermodality between cycling, buses, trains, and private cars. New fossil-fuel vehicles should no longer be available for purchase in Europe by 2025, and their use should be phased out as soon as possible. FYEG also supports efforts to introduce fare-free local public transport throughout Europe, starting with people belonging to vulnerable groups and young people.

Further efforts should be made to ensure that public transport is fully accessible for all, including people with disabilities.

3.5. Technological Progress

Technological innovation and new technologies can bring about substantial positive change in society. Progress in the medical sector, in digital technologies, in energy production, and in the development of clean vehicles is crucial to fight the ongoing crises Europe is facing.

Technological progress is not always a synonym for social and societal progress. We are firmly attached to the precautionary principle, meaning that innovations should be assessed thoroughly and should be proven harmless for the environment,

human health, and society as a whole before being authorised. Uncertainty should not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent environmental degradation or preserve public health. New innovations should be open to scientific and public assessment to determine their potential costs and benefits.

While we believe that technological progress has an important role to play in solving the climate and biodiversity crises, we are critical of approaches that tend to overestimate the positive impact of uncertain future technologies to avoid addressing core issues and engage in systemic change. An example is carbon capture and storage (see Glossary 15), often used as a reason for less ambitious emissions targets, in spite of the fact that the technology has not yet been fully developed.

FYEG believes that space science and exploration are important emerging policy areas which deserve more attention. Space science gives us tools in the fight against the climate crisis. It allows us to measure where, when, how and why climate change is taking place, and assists the world with detailed maps and images during disasters. Space travel should only serve scientific research, innovation, and exploration, not financial profit-making or military activities. In addition, FYEG supports cleaning up our immediate space environment - space junk colliding with each other risks causing catastrophic chain reactions.

3.6. Animal rights

While most European citizens agree that the welfare of animals should be improved, not a lot is being done. We need to consider animals as subjects and sentient beings who should be protected from harm, and we should reflect critically on our place within the animal realm. Animals have rights that should be respected and be taken into account when transitioning towards a sustainable and just agriculture and society. We have to provide an appropriate and painless livelihood especially for animals kept as farm animals.

Animals should not be subject to cruel treatment. FYEG stands for the immediate ban of the cruellest practices, such as the production of foie gras through force-feeding (see Glossary 67), corrida (see Glossary 31), fur farming, dolphinariums (see Glossary 40), and hunting with dogs. We also believe that animals should not be kept in conditions contrary to their natural behaviours. We believe animals should not be allowed to be kept in a circus and that zoos should be subject to a much stronger regulation.

Every year, nearly 70 billion land animals are slaughtered worldwide for food. With the industrialisation of animal farming, the conditions in which farm animals live have become worse and worse. It is essential to both reduce the

consumption of animal-based products and improve the welfare of farm animals. Cage farming, one of the commonest forms of industrial animal farming, must be banned with immediate effect. FYEG defends the small-farm model in which animals have access to sufficient space, are able to go outdoors, play and interact with others of their kind. Newly created animal breeds that favour rapid animal growth but often cause the animal to suffer should also be phased out. Stronger regulation of animal transport should be put in place, with a ban on the export of live animals outside the EU.

We support work towards the abolition of the use of animals in research and support research into techniques that will allow scientists to replace, refine and reduce the number of research animals they use. We recognise the importance of animal welfare and the essential contribution that animals have made and currently make to research that improves human and animal health. We support the replacement (through methods that avoid using animals such as computer (in silico) models, in vitro techniques, or human volunteers), refinement (through improvements to scientific procedures and husbandry that minimise pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm and/or improve animal welfare, for example, through improved housing and husbandry and better welfare assessments) and reduction (through good experimental design and statistical analysis) of the use of animals in in vivo experiments. We oppose in vivo experiments where research animals are not housed or treated in a manner in keeping with international best practice.

Wild animals should also benefit from better protection, with the protection of wild natural spaces and the stronger regulation of hunting (see g). The Covid-19 pandemic, which likely originated from interactions between wildlife and humans, is one example of the consequences that zoonotic diseases (see Glossary 188) can have on humankind, and has clearly demonstrated the need to take measures to prevent their development. We support the introduction of an EU Positive List (list of species allowed to be kept as pets).

FYEG also defends stronger regulation in order to fight overfishing, regenerate fish populations, and restore marine ecosystems. The use of fishing techniques with a low impact on the environment should be encouraged, while higher impact techniques such as bottom-contacting fishing gears, electric pulse fishing (see Glossary 45), and fish aggregating devices (see Glossary 64) (FADs) should be banned. Small-scale fisheries have to be prioritised immediately, and measures must be taken to stop the concentration and industrialisation of the fishing sector in Europe. The rapid development of industrialised fish farming in recent years must be addressed with the introduction of stronger regulations on fishing quota, fish welfare and environmental protection. Activities of fishing companies in fishing grounds of lesser developed states, in particular African, must immediately end. Furthermore the EU and European states must end bilateral

contracts which allow European companies to raid African fishing grounds. Instead the EU and European states should support African State to build and develope coast guards which have the ability to effectively protect their fishing grounds from foreign intruders.

3.7. Protecting our natural environment

Nature should not be regarded as a commodity, as something humanity is separated from, but as something that it belongs to. Like climate change, nature knows no borders. We believe it is time that nature be properly recognised and protected.

FYEG supports giving rights to nature that ensure its protection under national and international law. We want the crime of ecocide to be recognised in domestic and international criminal law. The most destructive fishing, deforestation, soil degradation, and mining practices should be banned. We must fight overfishing. Hunting should be strongly regulated, no longer permitted for commercial and leisure purposes except for indigenous peoples practising their traditional livelihoods, and only authorised as a last resort to preserve balance within an ecosystem.

We support the objective of giving protected status to at least 30% of our planet’s land and seas, with 10% granted a particularly high level of protection. The rainforests, coral reefs, Arctic ice pack, and oceans are global commons, and decisions regarding these global commons should be a global concern for all. We reject approaches to nature conservation that perpetuate colonial domination and violate fundamental rights. No one should be displaced or forced to leave their home because of a nature reserve.

We are on the brink of mass extinction. It is not enough to just protect ecosystems; we must promote the restoration and renaturalisation of devastated areas according to scientific criteria. Furthermore, our own human ecosystems, such as cities, can and must be renaturalised – allowing space for new ecosystems to flourish.

Across the world, environmental defenders are facing threats and violence, with many being murdered for their defence of the environment. This is unacceptable. Defending the natural world is not a crime. Those who threaten environmental defenders must be prosecuted, and the European Union should grant protection and offer asylum to those under threat.

The transition to a zero-carbon society might also have an impact on and conflict with nature conservation. The impact of infrastructures such as wind farms, hydropower plants, and high-speed railways should be minimised as much as

possible.

4. A Green and Feminist Economy

The Federation of Young European Greens identifies the root causes of the social and environmental crises as lying within the current economic system. We believe that this capitalist system, based on unrestrained competition, consumerism, the exploitation of workers, and profit maximisation (see Glossary 133) is unsustainable and incompatible with our planet’s limited resources and the goal of an economy that benefits all. This system deliberately imposes social and environmental costs on low-income countries, future generations, and other species. It makes all the reproductive and care work invisible, a work mainly accomplished by women. It creates extreme inequalities and excludes most people from decision-making processes concerning how and what is produced and valued in an economy. This is because it relies on some people owning means of production and living by that, while others have to work to make a living. This creates injustices within societies as well as between them: division between rich and poor, global south and global north all rooted in capitalism. The crises we are facing are the result of the patriarchal, racist and capitalist system that is disrupting human well-being and destroying our collective resilience, and which represents an existential threat to humanity.

FYEG sees an urgent need for a new vision of progress that is fit for the century ahead of us. In order to bring an end to environmental destruction and human deprivation, it is crucial to change the way our economies are built and defined. We need to shift from economic growth (see Glossary 43) to human and planetary well-being and thus create a new economic system. We need to go beyond indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) (see Glossary 79) and make issues such as quality of life and environmental well-being centerpiece. We believe the technological shift to a zero-waste industry and economy is not enough. The green and feminist economy we want to build implies a radical change in the democratisation of the economy, the redistribution of wealth, and a just transition.This economy is also feminist, implying that a feminist economy takes equally into account all beings, the environment and their interdependence in its propositions. It makes social protection a priority and values the care work, accomplished mainly by women, for people and the environment.

4.1. A degrowth transition towards post-growth economies

Given that the fulfilment of universal human needs (see Glossary 190) and the conditions for wellbeing globally cannot be realised under the current economic system based on growth and capital accumulation, FYEG stands for degrowth as a post-capitalist strategy towards a post-growth society. Degrowth is a planned

reduction of energy and material use designed to bring the economy back into balance with the living world in a way that reduces inequality and improves human well-being, at the local and global level, in the short and long term (see Glossary 36). The goal of degrowth is to reduce ecological impact, reduce inequality, and improve well-being. In contrast with degrowth, recessions are not planned, and do not target any of these outcomes. They are not intended to reduce ecological impact (even though this might in some cases be an unintended outcome), and they are certainly not intended to reduce inequality and improve well-being – indeed, they do the opposite. Economies that exceed the ecological capacities of the planet, as the ones in Europe, have to be restructured such that they can decelerate justly, without the suffering that recessions bring. Nevertheless, there are some regions in Europe that are more responsible for exceeding planetary boundaries and whose current ecological footprint is higher, which are the ones that have to degrow more and faster. The downscaling of less-necessary forms of production such as fossil fuels, fast fashion, industrial farming or luxury goods, entails liberating productive capacities that can be redirected to activities that contribute to human and environmental wellbeing, such as clean energy, essential services, agroecology and care.

Economic growth measured by GDP has to be abandoned as a policy objective. Policy has instead to focus on ecosocial metrics such as life expectancy, health, education, housing, and ecologically sustainable work as indicators of both ecosystems and human well-being. The strong evidence of the impossibility of decoupling economic growth from ecological impacts at the pace and scale required, points to the need to address the situation from a post-growth paradigm, with a necessary phase of degrowth in economies that are above the regenerative capacity of the planet.

Degrowth is a demand for effective decolonization. Countries in the global south should be free to organise their resources and labour around meeting human needs rather than around servicing Northern growth. Historically, the industrial growth in Europe and the subsequent expansion and industrialisation of its colonies were significantly facilitated by the pattern of appropriating raw materials, natural resources, and labour from the Global South through what has been named as ecological unequal exchange. Even following the withdrawal of colonial troops, the fundamental structure of the colonial economy endures, sustaining growth in the North through the continued appropriation, exploitation, and oppression of the South.

Degrowth is a transition towards post-growth economies because the reduction in production and consumption is a means to create the conditions for the transformation of the modes of living. The destination is a post-growth society characterised by an economy in an harmonious relation with nature where it is possible to thrive without growth. Policies such as universal basic services,

universal basic income or universal care income, working time reduction and a green job guarantee among others could play a key role in creating the universal security of livelihoods during the process of transition, accompanied by polices that democratically enact ecological limits with social justice, such as caps on material and energy use, caps on income and wealth and flight quotas among others.

4.2. Economic structures

The current structure of the economy is a source of injustice, inequality, and environmental destruction. The monopoly some international companies hold prevents the entrance of new actors onto the market. It is more and more difficult for states and citizens to hold companies accountable for their actions. These companies are the gatekeepers for change. FYEG believes that in order to create a more sustainable and fair approach to the economy, our economic system has to change. It must serve humans, non-humans, and our ecosystems, not billionaires.

It is time to rethink how we do economics, in service of the sustainable satisfaction of universal human needs at a global level instead of profit, considering the economy as embedded in society and the environment, following an ecological economics perspective.

Many economic challenges come from large companies who seek profit at all costs. They undermine workers’ rights and environmental standards as well as small local businesses and worker cooperatives. They often avoid paying taxes, compromising the ability of the state to provide public services. We therefore call for the economy to be structured differently. Companies that are considered too big to fail (see Glossary 164) or hold monopolies, oligopolies or create cartels must be split up. Antitrust laws must be effectively enforced to companies with substantial market power. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) must have more opportunities to run their businesses without facing the threat of multinational corporations. Enterprises that serve goals other than maximising profits, who operate simply in order to provide services or create jobs, are a solution, which manifest in the social and solidarity economy in the form of worker-owned or state-owned cooperatives, associations and consumer groups, among others.

We believe workers themselves can take a more active role in shaping the economy. We demand that businesses be governed by the people that work in them. One important step towards this goal would be the occupation of at least 50% of seats on company boards by employees. Another tool is the cooperative business model (see Glossary 29) as it helps to democratise the economy and shift the focus to placing people over profit and building a more inclusive economy.

Mechanisms should be put in place to make it easier for workers to transform their companies into cooperatives, especially when the original owner is planning to close the company.

A green and feminist economy rejects the commodification and privatisation of the commons. Basic human needs and social rights should always be guaranteed and must never depend on markets. This applies especially in the cases of housing, health, education, food, and transport. It is particularly important knowing that the impact of this commodification and privatisation is gender biased.

In order to reduce the impact of the economy on the environment, it is also important to deal with the negative impacts of globalisation. While we recognise some of its benefits, it has both social and environmental consequences and favours major companies over small business. We support, where feasible, relocalising (see Glossary 142) the economy, starting with the production of essential goods such
as food and medicine.

The goal of economic policy should not be to boost exports at all costs but rather to improve resilience and reduce imports, dependency on single actors, and environmental impacts. More transparent and shorter supply chains that can be more easily surveyed for exploitative and destructive practices should be encouraged. The introduction of not only carbon but also of social border taxes could be one of the ways to encourage the relocalisation of the economy.

4.3. A sustainable economy

Transforming our economy into a green and feminist economy also means reducing consumption and pollution. The Earth cannot possibly sustain today’s levels of consumption. Therefore, challenging consumerism should be at the centre of a just transition.

We want to turn the linear economy (see Glossary 101), which is based on a “take-make-waste” model, into a fully circular economy (see Glossary 21). In a circular economy, products and materials are used over and over again instead of being discarded. We believe we can shift from a linear economy to a circular economy based on the following principles: minimising the usage of energy and resources; under a sufficiency strategy; preventing waste, toxic materials and pollution; keeping goods and materials in use and in closed loops; ensuring human health; and encouraging the prevention of waste.

For citizens to be able to play an active role and change their buying habits, we defend the right to access more detailed, harmonised, and reliable

information on the social, environmental, and climate impacts of goods and services over their lifecycle, including durability and repairability (see Glossary 143). A ban on programmed obsolescence is also key in this regard. We also emphasise the need for change in relation to product- related greenwashing (see Glossary 78) and false environmental claims. We call for regulation encouraging producers the use of non-proprietary standards, designing by the principles of open hardware and a loss of patents and duty to publicise constructions and building plans when spare parts are no more produced. In order to ease repairability of goods producers must ensure the availability of spare parts over the entire lifecycle of the product.

Today, most items and packaging are meant to be used once and discarded. This creates vast quantities of pollution and waste materials. As landfills exceed capacity and micro-plastics pollute the whole planet, there is a substantial need for change. We support a move towards a zero-waste society, phasing out single-use plastics and encouraging the development of bulk buying.

Consumption is influenced by an ever more visible advertising presence. We support regulation in advertising, including a ban on advertising the most polluting products and behaviours (e.g. car and air travel, meat consumption). We support a ban on targeted advertisement that uses people’s personal data to influence their behaviours. We also think the environmental and visual impact of advertisements should be addressed, for example by banning private advertisement in the public space.

4.4. Fiscal policy

Taxation is needed to fund public budgets, maintain quality public services and welfare states, and fund investments needed for a just transition to a zero-carbon economy. We oppose the austerity policies (see Glossary 8) that have been put in place across Europe. Massive investments into social and urban infrastructure, health systems, education and fighting climate change are needed for the young
generation. Young people need decent jobs, health care, free public transport and a liveable planet more than they need a balanced state budget .

We demand fair taxation and a stronger fight against fiscal fraud. Taxation can also be a powerful tool in itself, reducing inequalities, redistributing wealth, and contributing to changing behaviours.

We defend the introduction of a European common taxation policy in order to fight tax avoidance (see Glossary 160) and tax havens (see Glossary 161), both inside and outside the EU. A baseline 20% EU corporate tax (see Glossary 30) should be introduced to reduce the attractiveness of tax avoidance. Part of that

corporate tax should automatically feed into the EU budget.

Taxation should be used to reduce inequalities. We support progressive income taxation (see Glossary 134), with higher taxation for the richest taxpayers. We also support the introduction of a wealth tax (see Glossary 184) on millionaires, possibly at the EU level. Finally, we believe a higher taxation on inheritance is key to reducing the transfer of inequalities from one generation to the next.

The Federation of Young European Greens also believes that taxation can help support positive behaviours and discourage harmful behaviours, and that over time we should prioritise phasing out taxes on work in favour of taxes on behaviour and wealth. Behavioural taxes such as a carbon tax, the taxation of meat products, the taxation of single-use plastic items, and the taxation of polluting cars, among others, can be powerful tools to encourage change. Those taxes should be implemented fairly to avoid overburdening citizens already living in precarious situations. Their revenue should be redistributed globally and help support a just transition.

4.5. Financial markets

More than a decade after the global financial crisis, financial markets and banking systems remain dangerous and flawed. Financial markets continue to cause systemic instability and social inequality. Investments continue to flow to unsustainable, carbon-intensive (see Glossary 19) industries. Banks still ignore the damage their investments are causing to societies and the environment.

We need to change finance. We cannot make the transition to a fairer, greener future economy without a global financial system that can allocate capital to where it is needed, drive sustainable investment, and manage risk equitably. The financial system must serve the needs of society, not the other way around. To achieve this, transparency, fairness, and sustainability are key. The taxation of financial transactions (see Glossary 162) is an important tool to fight short-term and instant transactions. We support its introduction at the EU level.

We need a global banking system – and a system of banking regulation (see Glossary 10) – that responds to today’s needs and prioritises the public good. It needs to encourage productive investments in the local green economies of today and tomorrow, rather than propping up polluting industries or encouraging dangerous speculation. It needs to address inequality, both globally and locally, rather than entrenching it. And it needs to be accountable to society, rather than lawless and deregulated.

4.6. The digital economy

The digital economy is becoming a central part of the economy. It has the power to change our society – for the better or for the worse. We need to act quickly to ensure that the development of the digital economy is not used to attack our rights and privacy (see chapter 2), or to bypass social regulations as in the case of platform workers (see Glossary 127) (see chapter 5). We need to make digitalisation an opportunity for our society and ensure that regulations are creating a level playing field (see Glossary 99) for all actors, as well as improving training on digital jobs.

The size and influence of some of the big digital companies raise legitimate concerns. We support dismantling tech giants (see Glossary 163) and de-monopolising (see Glossary 37) digital offerings.

Europe’s physical communications infrastructure (see Glossary 125) must be built, owned, operated, and maintained on a non-profit basis as a common resource. This allows faster expansion, with more people gaining access at a lower cost.

While digitalisation can be used to tackle climate change, the biodiversity crisis, and pollution, we must not forget that digitalisation itself is not a climate-neutral activity. From web servers, crypto-currencies, and cables to antennas, phones and computers, digitalisation relies on infrastructure that consumes large quantities of energy and therefore contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. It also requires the use of many rare earth elements, the extraction of which causes serious harm to the environment.

The premature obsolescence of digital products exacerbates this phenomenon, as well as generating large quantities of electronic waste that is not properly recycled and therefore contributes to water and soil pollution.

A lot more needs to be done to ensure the sustainable implementation of digitalisation. We must remember that digitalisation is a tool to achieve our wider goals and not an end in itself.

4.7. Preparedness and Civil Defence

FYEG sees the need to prevent runaway climate change. However, we also see the need to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and what might happen if we fail to stop it at 1.5 degrees.

To ensure that the consequences we will undoubtedly have to deal with as the

world warms do not hit those who are less well off, while wealthy groups nationally and internationally can continue to live their lives and consume as normal, all actors in society need to be engaged in stronger and more equitable preparedness - institutions and businesses as much as civil society organisations and individuals. Food and water, healthcare, and general preparedness are three areas where we believe significantly more work needs to be done across Europe.

We need to ensure that Europe is agriculturally self-sufficient in order to be sure that when the crisis comes, food does not become something only the wealthy can afford. In the climate of the future, we cannot rely on harvests in other countries to turn out well. Nor is it morally right for a rich country to rely on imports of vital crops when we know that climate change will lead to food shortages, especially in poorer countries. To this end, FYEG believes in an expansion of existing strategic food stockpiles, and an agricultural policy that focuses not only on environmental and climate aspects but also resilience, appropriateness, and security of supply.

The same goes for water - there is insufficient knowledge in many European countries of how much ground reserves they have, and many countries rely heavily on just one or two major sources for the majority of their drinking water. To avoid situations where people lose access to drinking water while nearby industries still use water for their operations, there should be clear prioritisation plan developed in each locality for use of limited water supplies, and where feasible backup systems should be developed in case of contamination or interruption of normal water supplies. As Greens we believe in human security, and there is no need more human than that for water.

Disasters can create supply holdups, and we need to ensure that Europeans can survive while help is on the way. FYEG believes that national governments should develop emergency rationing plans to be prepared for if the worst happens, and require housing associations and households to ensure that they store at least two weeks worth of these durable, basic foodstuffs. This should be combined with a requirement that all newly built structures contain emergency shelters, adapted to local emergency conditions.

In addition, it would be optimistic to assume that COVID will be the last pandemic our generation sees. FYEG believes that all countries should be required to hold emergency pandemic and total defence stockpiles, aimed at providing food, medical and protective equipment, and medicine that a population might need in a long global emergency. Humans security, rather than military security, should be our priority.

5. A Social Europe

For several decades we have witnessed one social crisis leading to the next. Each crisis either revealed or created more cracks in our social systems and shone a spotlight on our deeply dated healthcare systems and unstable European working environment.

Housing has become increasingly difficult to find, with wages stagnating while living and housing costs rise. We live in a society that tolerates the fact that some people are too poor to have a roof over their heads.

Instead of reducing inequalities and providing opportunities for all, education systems across Europe are being transformed by a neoliberal (see Glossary 109) and productivist (see Glossary 132) mindset and are reproducing inequalities from one generation to the next.

Those policies are still primarily dealt with at the national level, reinforcing inequalities between as well as within countries. We need a truly social Europe. This includes fighting inequalities, rethinking the way we work, and taking strong action on housing, health, and education. The system needs to change – now.

5.1. Fighting poverty

Millions of people across Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion, with certain parts of Europe experiencing an increase in poverty rates. At the same time, the rich are getting richer, with some individuals accumulating indecent amounts of wealth. Neoliberalism and myths such as trickle-down theory (see Glossary 169) have not delivered on their promises. Inequalities are on the rise, threatening
the cohesion of our societies.

FYEG supports strong welfare states, which it considers essential in the fight against poverty and to guarantee the enforceability of fundamental rights. Their dismantling in several parts of Europe must end. Action to fight poverty should include but not be limited to ensuring that all individuals receive an income. Existing benefits must be fair, must allow people to live above the poverty line (see Glossary 129), and should rise in line with average wage increases. Social services should help to ensure that everyone has access to a home, healthcare, and training and/or work. Our social policies must leave no one behind.

FYEG stands for the implementation of a minimum income across the EU, set at an amount matching the cost of living in each region. Our social policy’s goal is a

guaranteed social security net that leaves no one behind, the right to a meaningful job, abolishing the low-wage sector with strong minimum wages and tariffs, and a significant reduction of working hours while maintaining the wage level. This should be financed by the higher taxation of the super-rich, among other measures (see chapter 4 – Fiscal policy).

At the same time, Europe must not forget its privileged position in the world and must also work towards eradicating inequalities worldwide (see chapter 6 – Trade and global justice).

5.2. The future of work

With technological progress, digitalisation, and the need to reduce the environmental impact of our economies, work is changing and is likely to continue to do so. It is important to reflect on the future of work to ensure these changes improve everyone’s welfare and well-being.

FYEG supports a better balance between work and personal life. This will require a whole range of changes, including a reduction in working hours. Studies have shown that a reduction in working hours is accompanied by gains in efficiency. Reducing working hours is also a feminist demand as it enables the redistribution of unpaid care work. As a first step, we therefore propose a maximum 32-hour working week within the European Union while maintaining wage levels. We also support raising the number of paid holidays to a minimum of 40 days per year.

Work needs to be paid fairly. In order for people not to face economic difficulties when working fewer hours, we have to start changing wages immediately and start valuing work differently. Jobs that are traditionally occupied by women tend to be valued less, although they bring significant benefits to society. We should take into account not only the societal value of a job but also the level of mental and physical effort it demands in order to determine wage levels. To use the example of care work, jobs in this sector are systematically underpaid, with the mental and physical demands of the job not adequately reflected in the wages paid, and involve poor working conditions. FYEG supports raising wages to above average levels for people who work in the care sector.

Wage differences across Europe are used by multinational companies to maximise their profits, exploiting workers in countries where wages are the lowest and firing workers in countries where wages are higher. In order to prevent the lowering of social standards and the deterioration of workers’ rights, we support the introduction of an EU minimum wage scheme (see Glossary 51), with minimum wages based on the cost of living in a particular country or region and

a mechanism to progressively harmonise them upward. Noone should live below the poverty line. Workers should be able to travel freely, seek employment, and work in the country of their choice. Strong protective measures are needed to ensure that the foreign posting of workers is not used to bypass national social protection schemes.

Interns and trainees also must receive fair pay in order to cover their living costs and in recognition of the value of the work they do. FYEG wants an immediate ban on unpaid internships.

It is easy to lose a job – and it can be extremely difficult to find another one. Unemployment is not an individual failure, but an inevitability in our broken economic system. The welfare state should be a safety net that leaves no one in poverty. People need to be protected during periods of unemployment. We fight for fair unemployment benefits (see Glossary 177) and the fair treatment of those trying to re-enter the labour market. Over the course of their lives, individuals change jobs far more frequently than in previous generations. We therefore support the reinforcement of lifelong learning schemes to allow people to study or train for new jobs at any point in their lives.

We support the introduction of parental leave (see Glossary 119) schemes across Europe that guarantee that every new parent, regardless of their gender, has access to a period of paid parental leave of at least three months. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that parental leave schemes contribute to gender equality. Mandatory parental leave for new fathers can help to reduce the discrimination
that new mothers face when applying for jobs, as well as promote the equal distribution of domestic tasks in the household. Therefore we support a model where both parents have 4 more months of paid parental leave with additional 4 months left to distribute freely between themselves.

FYEG recalls the right to unionise and considers that trade unions (see Glossary 165) play a crucial role in improving working conditions. The right to unionise as well as the right to strike must be recognised and protected across Europe. Moreover, bodies which represent employees’ interests should be strengthened, and 50% of the seats on the boards of large companies should be reserved for employee representatives.

Digitalisation has led to new forms of work and employment such as the gig economy, in which workers are not employed on regular work contracts which include social protection, but are instead paid for each task completed. While this can bring a flexibility that some workers enjoy, we must ensure that gig workers have equal social protection, including health and work-related accident insurance, protection against discrimination, parental benefits and rights, and

pensions. We must also ensure that the platforms and companies who use gig workers are paying salary, tax, and other costs in line with other actors, as well as requiring platforms and other companies to officially employ “false self-employed” individuals in the event that they request this.

We also believe that work which has a positive impact on the environment and on society should be properly rewarded, for example through grants. We propose setting up a care income (see Glossary 20) in the form of a premium paid by states to reward those who care for people, society in general, and the environment on a non-professional basis.

We believe in fair retirement policies, such as a progressive retirement age which allows people to continue working after that age if they freely choose to do so. Many retired people, especially women, receive extremely low pensions. We support decent pension incomes for all which are sufficient for a dignified life.

5.3. Discrimination in the workplace

FYEG recognises that racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and ageism – which it believes to be inherent to neoliberal capitalism – do not stop at the doors of our workplaces, and stands for anti-discrimination policies in the workplace.

Every European company should have a clear policy in relation to toxic behaviour including unconscious bias, hateful speech, and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as organising regular trainings on this. We also want to strengthen European law in order to make it easier for people who have experienced sexual harassment to come forward and take legal action against their harassers.

A European regulation for equality in the workplace should be adopted, making it mandatory for companies to implement an equality plan, ensure gender balance and promote diversity in all levels of company governance , and have a clear plan to ensure the closure of any wage gap. Companies with more than 20 employees must implement a quotum for governing bodies in the middle and top layer of the company, ensuring that a maximum of 60% of people within these governing bodies is cis-gendered and male. Companies who fail to implement basic principles such as equal pay for equal work should be sanctioned.

FYEG stands for the full equality of all genders. We are calling on the European Union to develop a strategy to end gender discrimination. This strategy must include non-binary and trans people.

Racism in workplaces must be fought, and finally ended. In order to achieve this, companies must commit to diversity internships, fellowships, and other programmes. Additionally, antiracism policies, diversity and inclusion reports, and regular training must be made mandatory. We support using testing to expose discrimination and condemn companies that discriminate against people.

We support freedom of movement (see Glossary 69), as well as the freedom to stay (see Glossary 70). The exploitation of migrant workers must be brought to an end. Working and employment conditions, as well as access to benefits, should be determined according to the country in which a person is working, not their nationality or background. Companies, governments, and courts should treat migrant workers the same as other workers. We are concerned about the current practice of several European countries to treat highly skilled migrant workers and other migrant workers differently. We call for the establishment of a universal right to migration for work purposes, as well as a common European policy framework for labour migration.

Young people all over Europe need to work in order to study or to support their families. They are often treated differently to their older colleagues. FYEG would require employers to pay young people (including minors) the same amount as their older colleagues for performing the same work. Union-supported and regulated wage increases based on the number of years working in a certain field or at a particular workplace could still be permitted.

5.4. Housing

FYEG stands for housing for all. For this to happen, housing must be affordable for all and no longer a profit-making activity. We aim towards a world in which housing is no longer a commodity but rather a human right. States should intervene on the housing market to prevent speculation (see Glossary 157) and ensure that everyone has a home.

We believe that affordable housing should also be decent and of good quality. With extreme weather events becoming more and more frequent, it is more important than ever to build houses which can withstand disasters like flooding and earthquakes. In order to ensure that housing is truly a right for all, we believe that all new buildings must be made accessible for disabled people.

There will be stricter supervision of real estate agents and private landlords. For example, use is made of "anonymous tenants" to combat discrimination in the housing sector. In addition to warnings and fines, rental permits can also be withdrawn if there is structural mismanagement.

Many Europeans are still facing energy poverty (see Glossary 47) and are not able to heat their homes, in particular single-parents, mostly women. Buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO2 emissions in the EU. We believe all housing should be energetically renovated within the next 10 years and environmental standards for buildings must aim to minimalise the use of embodied energy during planning and construction and a maximum of energy efficiency during their lifecycle .

We need higher taxation for property purchases that exceed individual needs. We also need better rental rights for people who cannot afford to buy a house and those who prefer not to own a home. In places where rents have increased in the last decades we support the introduction of rent control measures, which have already been implemented in several places. We also support cities who are putting restrictions on short-term tourist lets that drive up rental prices. The geographic side of public housing in Europe is currently based on the economic value of houses. This results in segregation between rich and poor and thus also between ethnic groups. We counter this on a policy basis.

We have to increasingly invest in public housing (see Glossary 136) at local, regional, federal, and EU levels in order to combat overburdening by housing costs, which affects around 80 million people in the EU. In many countries, public housing is not evenly distributed between cities and districts, thus increasing inequalities. We support the introduction of public housing quotas by city and by neighbourhood. To prevent pressure on the housing prices on the private market, cities with large student populations need sufficient and quality non-profit student housing. Investments should be increased in non-profit student housing as well.

While some people are overburdened with housing costs, others cannot afford housing at all. The number of homeless people in the EU has risen by 70% since 2010, and more than 700,000 people are now sleeping rough all over Europe. We must therefore launch a Europe-wide plan for everyone to have access to inclusive, climate friendly, and decent homes. We support approaches such as Housing First (see Glossary 82) that provide homeless people with housing without preconditions, seeing this as the first step towards integration. Our general aim is a fair housing market without excessive costs for tenants and buyers and where everyone can afford a place to live. Over the long term, there should be serious consideration given to deprivatising the housing market.

5.5. Health

As stated in Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for [their] health and well-being”. A free and accessible universal healthcare system is essential to

achieve these standards, based on physical and psychological well-being as well as social care and prevention. Healthcare should be inclusive of everyone without discrimination and be based on the best current scientific knowledge.

FYEG supports publicly funded healthcare. Health is not a commodity, but a human right. Healthcare that is free at point of use means that people are not expected to pay for accessing healthcare services (primary and secondary care). Instead, their health insurance is covered through tax. Healthcare workers are essential, and their working and employment conditions must be improved.

The huge disparities between rural and urban access to healthcare, such as emergency and specialised services, should be addressed, with investment made to support and increase the number of healthcare services and workers in rural areas.

Cooperation between companies and states allows health crises to be tackled more effectively and solutions to health issues more easily available to countries in need. International organisations such as the WHO should therefore be strengthened, while also being made more transparent and inclusive.

The European Union is beginning the process to establish a European Health Union. FYEG supports a mechanism to harmonise healthcare across Europe. To develop this, the EU should commit to properly funding its EU4Health programme (see Glossary 53).

About 25 % of Europe's citizens suffer from mental health problems. As FYEG, we demand that mental health and related conditions be taken more seriously. We have to increase the availability of counselling and psychotherapy as well as funding for other mental health services in order to provide adequate and affordable care for every European citizen who is experiencing mental health problems, independent of their economic or social background.

Marginalised groups (for example women, LGBTQIA+, racialised people) often face issues when trying to access healthcare, such as stigma around their health needs and discrimination, to the point of being refused treatment or not taken seriously. Those with existing medical conditions (such as people with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses), may face difficulties receiving treatment for other conditions. All discrimination should be fought against, with awareness-raising and stigma-reducing campaigns and training for healthcare workers. Additionally, we demand more research to be conducted into mental health in marginalised groups, as well as initiatives that specifically target loneliness and the social isolation of specific groups such as elderly people, chronically ill people, and disabled people.

FYEG fights for sexual and reproductive health and rights (see chapter 1).

FYEG also supports a stronger focus on prevention in public health policy. Fighting air and water pollution, eliminating endocrine disruptors and carcinogenic substances, promoting healthy diets including the reduced consumption of heavily processed food, and promoting sport are all key actions to prevent severe chronic disease. A healthy lifestyle should be affordable for everyone. Therefore, fruit and vegetables should be cheaper and unhealthy products should be increased in price. Sports are important for social contact and should not only be promoted, but also be accessible for all. Therefore, financial support should be given when necessary. Prevention policies on smoking and drinking should also be put in place, for example through information campaigns, taxation, the regulation of sales, and bans on advertising. FYEG encourages countries to create separate shops for alcohol and tobacco. Smoking should be banned in public places where it is clearly a nuisance to people's health. FYEG supports a harm-reduction approach through prevention programmes within drug policy and the treatment of addiction. Alongside addiction awareness-raising, the stigma around addiction should be tackled. Addiction should be recognised as a medical condition, and social protection and medical and social support should be offered to those suffering from addiction.

We support the full legalisation and regulation of drugs across Europe, while increasing prevention measures. Drug legalisation would deprive organised crime structures of a lucrative source of income. Tax revenues from drug sales should be used to fund the healthcare and prevention sectors and social services.

We demand a fair, publicly owned pharmaceutical sector. Large pharmaceutical companies should not hold the monopoly (see Glossary 106) on public safety, especially when this leads to unequal access to life-saving treatments. Additionally, life-saving drugs should not be sold at a profit. All contracts made between pharmaceutical companies and national governments or the European Union should be transparent and made publicly available.

Individuals’ well-being, dignity, and wishes should be fully respected in the healthcare system. We fight for improving palliative care (see Glossary 117) and for allowing people to choose how and when they die.

5.6. Education

Education is more than just learning how to spell, counting to 10 or training workers. It should also be the process of learning how to grow as a person and as a member of society. Education must be accessible to all genders, ages, sexualities, religions, and ethnicities, independent of ability,origin, place of residence, access to digital tools, wealth, or legal status.

Education should not depend on the balance of your bank account. It should be free and publicly funded, from kindergarten to university. Education should not focus on performance or economic profitability. Pressure should be taken off children and students, and special attention should be paid to their mental health.

Vocational colleges (see Glossary 182) and universities are of equal importance to institutions of higher education. Young people who want to pursue a more practical education should be given the same resources as those who are more academically inclined. We believe that young people who pursue a practical education should receive payment for the duration of their apprenticeship and be ensured qualified guidance throughout their education.

All types of curricula should be inclusive. Topics such as LGBTQIA+ issues, sex education, mental health, and anti-racism, among others, should feature in every school’s curriculum. We believe that students from ethnic or linguistic minority groups should have access to, for example, their culture and/or language of origin in schools, either as an extra-curricular activity or as part of the main curriculum. It should be safe and possible to break gender norms and class norms in the educational system, and students should be encouraged to follow their dreams and passions instead of fulfilling social expectations.

FYEG also believes that European and international mobility should be accessible to all from an early age. With that in mind, we support increasing the budget of the Erasmus+ programme to guarantee that every young person has the opportunity to take part in an international mobility programme before graduating from secondary school and before graduating from university.

6. Europe in the World

The current international system has not achieved its promise of ensuring peace, guaranteeing fundamental rights, and reducing global inequalities and poverty. Conflicts are taking place all around the globe. Illiberalism (see Glossary 87) and autocracy (see Glossary 9) are on the rise. At the same time, the international organisations and rules that have characterised international cooperation over the last decades are increasingly under attack. The changing geopolitical context (including the withdrawal of the USA from the world stage and the rise of other powers such as China) will have far-reaching consequences for the international system. On top of this, the effects of the climate crisis will contribute to instability. We stand at the beginning of a period of significant volatility.

The European Union has tried to establish itself as a global actor over recent

years. We believe that it is only together that the European Union Member States have enough weight to tackle complex global challenges effectively. The external action of the European Union must be built on and guided by values. We believe that European foreign policy must uphold human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the respect of international law; preserve and build peace; pursue multilateral (see Glossary 107) solutions; and fight for effective action at the global level to fight climate change, the biodiversity crisis, and other global environmental and social challenges.

6.1. Multilateralism

Challenges such as the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic are global in nature and cannot be overcome by any state alone. In a world that is becoming increasingly connected and complex, international cooperation is the only way forward. At a time when international organisations are being undermined and with certain states pursuing a course of unilateralism (see Glossary 178), the European Union, as well as other actors, needs to actively fight for multilateral solutions and the strengthening of international organisations.

We oppose a move towards a world characterised by great power competition and the rule of the strongest. It is our responsibility to fight for a fair, rule-based international system that protects those who are more vulnerable and gives them the power to actively shape their futures. We stand for the strengthening of international courts and call for the EU to join the European Convention on Human Rights (see Glossary 56) in a timely fashion in order for it to be held to account in cases of human rights abuses.

The European Union will also advocate for reforms within the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (see Glossary 90) and the World Bank (see Glossary 186). Their decision-making processes must be decoupled from the financial contributions of Member States. These institutions must contribute to a stable and sustainable world economy. Multilateral solutions on global issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, migration, weapons, and security should be pursued.

While being strong supporters of multilateralism, FYEG also believes that it needs to be deeply reformed. The current system is still institutionalising existing power inequalities instead of balancing them. The fact that five of the richest countries in the world, who happen to be among the largest military powers and weapons exporters, hold permanent seats on the UN Security Council (see Glossary 174) and have the right of veto is neither fair nor sustainable in the long term. In the short term, this system should be reformed by giving permanent seats on the Security Council to more countries, including those who have historically been exploited and hindered in their economic development by

colonial powers, and by ending the right of veto. In the long term, the UN should evolve towards a global democracy in which representatives from all countries would be democratically elected.

6.2. Feminist foreign policy

As FYEG, we stand for the development and implementation of a European feminist foreign policy. Feminist foreign policy is a political framework that is centred around the well-being of marginalised people and invokes processes of self-reflection regarding hierarchical global systems.

There is an urgent need for the European Union to reconsider the way it conducts its external actions. Traditionally, foreign policy thinking tends to focus on military force and the security of states. Feminist foreign policy offers us a new, intersectional way to think about foreign policy from the viewpoint of the most vulnerable. It aims to elevate women's and marginalised groups' experiences and agency to scrutinise the destructive forces of patriarchy, neocolonialism, heteronormativity (see Glossary 80), capitalism (see Glossary 13), racism (see Glossary 141), imperialism (see Glossary 88), and militarism (see Glossary 105).

For European states, this means addressing its history of colonialism. Many European states built their wealth on the brutal exploitation of other countries. Colonialism and its aftershocks are affecting countries and the hierarchies in the international system to this day. A European feminist foreign policy must be a decolonial foreign policy. A first step into this direction is debt forgiveness (see Glossary 35) and reparations for formerly colonised countries. In the longer term, the way the European Union conducts development assistance needs to be rethought and global economic institutions need to be reformed to effectively address the situation of formerly colonised countries.

FYEG supports the right to self-determination for peoples. The European Union should promote the right to self-determination for peoples, in adherence to international law and states' territories, and with the prospect of improving the human rights situation and democracy.

In terms of peacebuilding, a European feminist foreign policy means that more women and other marginalised groups must be brought to the negotiation table. Our focus should not be on top-down processes, but rather on community-centred initiatives.

As part of a European feminist foreign policy, the institutions which shape foreign policy, such as the European External Action Service (see Glossary 58) and national foreign services, must reflect the diversity of the societies they

work for. Foreign policy continues to be dominated by old white men, and it is the task of institutions to actively take steps to change this.

6.3. Peace and security

Peace is more than the mere absence of war. Our understanding of peace entails a positive peace that includes a commitment to justice and human rights and the eradication of poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion, as well as tackling the effects of the climate crisis.

Too often security is equated with militarisation. Such a perspective is not only false and limiting, but harmful. We need a paradigm shift in terms of security, putting more emphasis on crisis preparedness, resilience, and emerging security challenges such as hybrid threats and climate change. Further militarisation fails to meet today’s security challenges. Instead of militarisation, we therefore call for an allocation of resources to where they can contribute to human security (see Glossary 84) and truly sustainable peace. This includes ensuring funding for civil society organisations and humanitarian organisations.

Human beings, not state security, must be at the heart of all security efforts. When it comes to conflict response, humanitarian action and dialogue must be prioritised over militarised intervention. Imposing sanctions has precedent over militarized intervention as well, yet sanctions must be targeted and do no harm to the overall population. Within international organisations dealing with security, the EU must actively fight for solutions built on the principles of human security. Within the European Union, we must put an end to the unanimity requirement to impose international economic sanctions. However, we recognise that in certain situations dialogue is not enough. When genocide or other horrific human rights abuses are occuring, or unprovoked crimes of aggression occur and mediation has proven unsuccessful, we through the EU need to be able to forcefully and militarily respond to protect human life and security. To this end, we support the development of rapidly deployable and interoperable EU military forces that are able to engage in peace enforcement and civilian protection, such as the EUFOR Crisis Response Operations Core, so long as they are truly used for this purpose and not as an instrument of economic or national interests.

Through the production and export of arms, European States are fuelling conflicts across the world. We demand the end of arms exports. In line with the principle of human security, we also call on European States and the EU to increase efforts to make nuclear weapons illegal under international law and join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (see Glossary 168). We also advocate for the global prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWs)

(see Glossary 98).

We support all Stateless Peoples subjected to oppression by other states. We highlight the importance of supporting their fight for freedom and recognition, and call for international treaties to be respected in context of colonizing or apartheid regimes, only as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Military activities, as well as other forms of subjugation, must be put to an end under the mandate of international organisations such as the United Nations Security Council, or the International Court of Justice. Recognition of new borders for these Peoples needs to be respected by all parties in order to include them as a rightful member of the international community.

The climate crisis will only bring more meteorological and humanitarian disasters, which can be deadly, create problems for the delivery of essential services and risk destroying critical infrastructure. In times of peace we support the training and use of military forces for disaster response and preparedness, both within Europe and outside of it, in strict accordance with international law and solely under mandate.

6.4. Migration

We believe in the unrestricted right to travel and migrate for education, economic, security, freedom, peace, climate, and other reasons. Freedom of movement should be considered a human right. Your freedom and opportunities should not depend on where you or your parents were born or your ability to acquire a certain nationality.

At the same time, we are also conscious of the root causes of forced migration, especially from countries in which people are affected by famine, war, climate change, exploitation, and various kinds of persecution (ethnic, cultural, religious, political, ...). You should not be forced to look for better and safer conditions in other countries because your situation is deteriorating to the point where your life and that of your loved ones are put in grave danger. Furthermore, sustainable development cooperation is not only giving aid to those who need them. Europe should be proactive in rooting out the causes of forced migration, especially when originating from European actor's actions, and ensuring human security (cf Feminist Foreign Policy)

Europe must become a safe haven for people seeking refuge. Illegal pushbacks (see Glossary 85) of migrants and refugees must stop, and the humane treatment of migrants and refugees upon and after their arrival ensured, in particular access to sufficient food, clean and safe drinking water, and healthcare. The housing of migrants and refugees in mass camps with poor living conditions must

end, and dignified housing must be provided immediately. Member states and local governments should strive to provide secure small-scale housing which will serve as a springboard for migrants and their families to be able to rent in the private housing market in the medium and long-term. In housing refugees, member states and local governments should also put the particular sensitivities into consideration including, but not limited to, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQ+ migrants, and migrants with disabilities.

Human rights activists who organise voluntary rescue operations have been charged with heinous crimes. Humans have always been migrating and will always migrate. Europe should support migration, facilitate secure travel for all migrants, especially refugees and asylum seekers, and make sure that all people are saved when in distress, as regulated in international admiralty law.

Criminalising and hassling private organisations and commercial ships which do so is a breach of international law and must be prosecuted. The European States' and the EU's externalisation of border management, through agreements such as the ones with the Turkish government and the Libyan authorities and militias, has further amplified the violations of human rights at the borders of the EU. This must end immediately.

We defend the right to asylum. Europe must create legal and safe channels for migration. We demand humanitarian and resettlement visas, allowing refugees to come to Europe safely. Administrative procedures to obtain these visas should be free of charge for applicants at the point of service.

We need a common European asylum policy based on the principles of solidarity with migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees. The Dublin system (see Glossary 42) as we now know it should be replaced. Refugees and asylum seekers already in the EU should be able to effectively register for asylum, have access to asylum procedures, and be able to request asylum not in the member state of arrival but in the one of their choice. A common system of EU procedures, requirements, and checks must be implemented, with clear time frames, in order to relieve pressure on the individual. We need a common European asylum policy based on the principles of solidarity. Additionally, all member states, particularly those who are of better financial standing, must welcome more refugees, in order to relieve pressure on border countries. In welcoming refugees, member states and local governments should also put particular sensitivities into consideration including, but not limited to, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQ+ migrants, and migrants with disabilities.

Europe does not have a migrant or refugee crisis, Europe has a militarisation of migration and border policies crisis. FYEG is unequivocally against “Fortress Europe”. The militarisation of border management, including through Frontex (see

Glossary 71), has turned Europe into a fortress, causing the death of thousands of migrants every year. We demand the abolition of Frontex and the reallocation of its
budget and resources towards policy and appropriate institutions based on the human security framework. Their main objective is to create political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental conditions in which peoples' vital rights and freedoms are secure.

Current border policies institutionalise racism and social stratification (see Glossary 156). Instead, we should make sure that our migration policies serve to create a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and peaceful Europe. This means equal access to education, job opportunities for all, the recognition of education and skills learnt in someone’s country of origin, and the provision of language training. Moreover, it should be easier to gain study, work, and residence permits in Europe and to be granted family reunification. The granting of permanent residence permits should be the norm, not the exception.

Across Europe, millions of people live undocumented. The rights of these paperless people (see Glossary 118) should be protected. There are millions of young people who were born in the European Union but are not EU citizens because of their parents’ migration status. Anyone who is born in the EU is European and should receive an EU passport upon birth.

6.5. The geopolitical challenges of digitalisation

Digitalisation has brought new geopolitical challenges. Digital companies and platforms are in an excellent position to use the flaws of the current international system to their benefit, for example to avoid taxation or locate the country that will offer them the best conditions and the lowest level of accountability. At a time when certain companies have become more powerful than states, only international cooperation and European legislation can provide solutions and protect citizens’ personal data and privacy. We support dismantling the biggest tech companies to allow other actors to compete on a level playing field and to avoid the over-concentration of power. We also support the development of alternatives to tech giants that must show greater respect for people’s data and privacy.

Digitalisation has also created new online battlefields. The cyberattacks reported by some media outlets, hospitals, and public services show the need to reinforce cybersecurity (see Glossary 34). The attempts of some countries to influence democratic processes such as referenda and elections, for example through disinformation campaigns, also demonstrate the need to take preventative measures. We support a ban on targeted advertising (see Glossary 159) and the strong regulation of political advertising on social media.

Finally, digitalisation also has geopolitical consequences in relation to the consumption of rare earth elements (REEs). REEs are essential for the manufacture of many electronic devices but are only found in sufficient quantities in certain countries, which makes them a source of geopolitical tension. We support the development of recycling facilities in Europe as well as limits on the export of waste containing REEs.

6.6. Trade and global justice

Sharp global inequalities shape today’s international system. Formerly colonised countries are suffering from the legacy of colonialism to this day. Global inequalities are also apparent in the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis, as those who are the most responsible are not the same as those who are most severely affected. Global inequalities are perpetuated by free trade and by international trade rules that leave countries powerless to face multinational corporations.

FYEG stands for global justice. Global justice entails a rethinking of how we conduct both development and trade. The EU should reserve 1% of its GDP for development cooperation and should advocate for raising the OECD (see Glossary 115) standard to 1%. This amount must be fully spent on improving the situation of people in poverty-stricken countries providing local aid groups, communities or relevant authorities with funds and support to develop initiatives which fit their own priorities, in respect of good governance. It should neither end up with European companies that receive this as a covert subsidy, nor be spent to prevent migration to Europe. The EU and its Member States must fundamentally re-design their approach to trade agreements and finance development in order to fully comply with highest fair trade and environmental standards. Its development banks believe in outdated economic models that result in accumulated debt and large corporations stunting the growth of local businesses.

Trade must be fair. This means that trade can never be conducted at the expense of human rights, democracy, social and environmental standards, or the fight against the climate crisis. We oppose any trade and any trade agreements that do not fulfil these criteria. Like development policies, fair trade must acknowledge the responsibility of former colonial European states towards countries which have historically been exploited and hindered in their economic development by them. Fair trade must respect the interests of formerly colonised countries and must not counter the objectives of development policies.

The change we are calling for is not limited to trade agreements. We also call for regulatory due diligence and transparency in supply chains to prevent environmental harm and to ensure social rights. European companies must be held responsible in European States and the EU for breaches committed in third

countries. A human rights due diligence (HRDD) legislation, legally referring to all human rights, should apply to all business relations of all companies who are making use of the EU’s single market (with specific considerations for SMEs) to ensure that the entire supply chain is being looked at. We believe that HRDD legislation must at least cover, but not be limited to, severe human rights violations, and their enforcement must be uniform across the European Union.

FYEG stands for a different type of globalisation, one that is based not on increasing profits and trade at all costs, but rather on exchanging ideas celebrating cultural diversity, and working together towards a better future.

6.7. A Green European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Union will not become stronger by closing itself off from others. Through the European Neighbourhood Policy (see Glossary 59) the EU has since its inception tried and failed to guarantee democracy, human rights, fair economies and rule of law for states bordering the Mediterranean and to the East of the Union.

Though the expansion of the EU is not an end in itself, EU membership should be open to all European countries that are not yet or no longer members of the EU. We support the accession of countries who express the wish to join the EU if they meet human rights, democratic, and rule of law criteria.

The European Union should develop and maintain strong cooperation with neighbouring countries who are not members of the EU, including by guaranteeing visa-free travel and participation in key programmes such as Erasmus+ (see Glossary 48). For non-European states, the entire policy needs an overhaul with enhanced conditionality, greater focus and rewards for progress on fundamental rights, and cooperation on environmental and climate issues. As greens, we support measures that secure peace and prosperity, and provide the basis for environmental and climate action. The European Neighbourhood Policy has the potential to do so, but does not contribute to the achievements of these objectives right now.

Glossary

1. Ableism: Discrimination or prejudice against disabled individuals or people who are perceived to be disabled.

2. Alternative text: A written description of an image to help screen-reading tools explain the image to visually impaired readers.

3. Antimicrobial resistance: A process through which microbes evolve and develop mechanisms that protect them from the effects of antimicrobials such as antibiotics and antifungals. This phenomenon is being accelerated by the massive use of antimicrobials in intensive animal farming.

4. Antisemitism: A certain perception of Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews or discrimination against them.

5. Antiziganism: Hostility, prejudice, discrimination, or racism specifically directed at Romani people.

6. Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union: Procedure to suspend certain rights from Member States of the European Union in the event of a breach of EU fundamental values.

7. Artificial intelligence (AI): The ability of a machine to complete tasks which ordinarily require human intelligence.

8. Austerity policies: A set of government-imposed economic policies to reduce budget deficits. Measures can include tax increases and spending cuts.

9. Autocracy: A system of government in which supreme power over a state is concentrated in the hands of one person.

10. Banking regulation: Government rules or regulations on how banks and financial institutions should conduct business.

11. Bioenergy: Energy produced using biomass or biofuels, including energy from wood or other plants, plant-derived biofuels, and organic waste.

12. Bodily autonomy: The right to govern what happens to one's own body.

13. Capitalism: An economic system in which the means of production are in private ownership and operated for profit. It is characterised by the accumulation of capital, investments determined by private decision, and

the fact that prices and the production and distribution of goods are primarily determined by competition in a free market.

14. Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM): A proposed tax to be imposed on certain goods imported from outside the EU, based on their carbon footprint. The CBAM would reduce emissions and encourage the use of domestically produced

goods.

15. Carbon capture and storage (CCS): A process which attempts to prevent the release of large quantities of carbon dioxide (CO2) into the atmosphere from fossil fuel use in power generation and other industries. Waste CO2 is captured, transported to a storage site, and pumped into underground geologic formations, where it is securely stored away and thus prevented from reaching the atmosphere.

16. Carbon neutral economy: An economy that operates without releasing more CO2 than can be absorbed by carbon sinks.

17. Carbon sink: Anything that absorbs more CO2 that it emits. Examples include areas of vegetation (e.g. forests) and phytoplankton-rich seas, which naturally absorb the CO2 present in the atmosphere.

18. Carbon tax: A tax paid by businesses that emit CO2 in the course of their operations.

19. Carbon-intensive industries: Industries that emit high quantities of CO2 and are responsible for the vast majority of CO2 emissions.

20. Care income: Remuneration received by non-professional carers such as family members for their care work.

21. Circular economy: In contrast to the linear economy, a circular economy is designed to eliminate waste, promote the continuous use of resources and materials, and use finite resources in a sustainable way.

22. Citizen-initiated referendum: A referendum that can be initiated by a group of citizens as opposed to referendums that are initiated by government and elected bodies.

23. Civil disobedience: Active and professed refusal to obey certain laws, governmental demands, or commands. Used as a nonviolent and usually collective means of political action.

24. Clean meat –also known as in vitro or cultured meat– is meat that is grown in cell culture, rather than in an animal’s body.

25. Common Agricultural Policy: The agricultural policy of the European Union, introduced in 1962. It now consists of a system of agricultural subsidies as well as other programmes.

26. Commons: Cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable earth. These resources are held in common as opposed to being under private ownership.

27. Comprehensive urban planning: A process that determines community goals and development aspirations as a first step. Areas such as transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing are all considered.

28. Conversion therapy: The use of any of various methods in an attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual, or to change a person’s gender identity to correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth. Conversion therapy is not based on scientific evidence and is ineffective and harmful.

29. Cooperative business model: A membership-based business model in which a group of people with a specific need are willing to work together to found and operate a jointly owned company that will meet that need.

30. Corporate tax: A tax that companies are required to pay on the profits they make.

31. Corrida: Bullfight.

32. Council of the European Union: Decision-making body of the EU made up of ministers of EU Member States. Together with the European Parliament, it amends and approves the legislative proposals of the European Commission.

33. Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU): The judicial branch of the EU. It ensures that the legislation agreed upon is interpreted and implemented identically across all Member States, and that such implementation is in compliance with that legislation. The CJEU also deals with legal disputes between Member States and the EU institutions and, in certain cases, between businesses, organisations or individuals and the EU institutions.

34. Cybersecurity: The application of technologies, processes, and controls to protect systems, networks, programmes, devices, and data from cyberattacks.

35. Debt forgiveness: The total cancelation of debt owed by individuals, corporations, or states.

36. Degrowth: Degrowth is a planned reduction of energy and material use designed to bring the economy back into balance with the living world in a way that reduces inequality and improves human well-being, at the local and global level, in the short and long term. Degrowth is a coherent policy to reduce

ecological impact, reduce inequality, and improve well-being. In contrast with degrowth, recessions are not planned, and do not target any of these outcomes. They are not intended to reduce ecological impact, and they are certainly not intended to reduce inequality and improve well-being – indeed, they do the opposite.

37. De-monopolise: Break up existing monopolies.

38. Dichotomy of binary gender: The classification of gender into two distinct, opposite forms of masculine and feminine, whether by social

system or cultural belief.

39. Digitalisation: The use of digital technologies to improve business processes. Digitalisation may change business models and provide new revenue and value-producing opportunities. Also the process of moving to a digital business model.

40. Dolphinarium: A pool or aquarium for dolphins and other aquatic mammals, allowing them to be on public display.

41. Doughnut economics: An economic model which places emphasis on balance between socio-ecological systems and highlights the importance of serving one without excessively damaging the other, remaining within a safe and just space for humanity.

42. Dublin system: An EU mechanism that determines which Member State is responsible for the examination of an asylum application submitted by someone seeking international protection within the EU under the Geneva Convention.

43. Economic growth: An increase in the production of goods and services, compared from one time period to another.

44. Economy for Common Good: A social movement advocating for an alternative economic model. It calls for working towards the common good and cooperation as values above profit-orientation and competition.

45. Electric pulse fishing: A fishing technique sometimes used which uses electric shocks to catch fish.

46. Embodied energy: Embodied energy is the sum of all the energy required to produce any goods or services, considered as if that energy was incorporated or 'embodied' in the product itself.

47. Energy poverty: The lack of access to modern energy services.

48. Erasmus: Erasmus+ (formerly known as Erasmus) is a programme to support mobility and cooperation opportunities in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult education, youth work and sport. Best known for its university exchange programme.

49. Erasmus+: See Erasmus.

50. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Legally binding charter that sets out the rights and liberties of everyone in the European Union.

51. EU minimum wage scheme: Proposed EU directive on the introduction of a minimum wage for workers in the European Union to ensure a decent living.

52. EU Rights and Values programme: The programme aims to protect the rights and values enshrined in the EU treaties by supporting civil society organisations and encouraging civic and democratic participation.

53. EU4Health programme: The EU’s response to the COVID-19 crisis. The largest ever EU programme within the health sector, EU4Health aims to increase preparedness for cross-border health threats, as well as strengthen health systems across the EU.

54. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML): European convention for the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional minorities.

55. European Commission: The executive branch of the European Union. Responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties, and managing the day-to-day business of the EU.

56. European Convention on Human Rights: An international convention to protect human rights and political freedoms in Europe, adopted in the framework of the Council of Europe and that is enforced by the European Court of Human Rights.

57. European Council: EU institution which defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union. It comprises the heads of state or government of Member States, the Commission president, and the president of the European Council.

58. European External Action Service (EEAS): The diplomatic service of the EU.

59. European Neighbourhood Policy is the structure that governs the EU’s relations with states in its immediate neighbourhood.

60. European Parliament: Directly elected EU body that has legislative power, budgetary power, and control over other EU institutions such as the European Commission.

61. European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO): Independent office responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and bringing to judgment crimes against the EU budget.

62. Federal Europe: The transformation of the EU from a confederation (union of sovereign states) to a federation with a central government.

63. Feminism: A range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that aim to establish gender equality in society.

64. Fish aggregating devices: An object used to attract fish such as marlin, tuna and dolphins. Widely used in the industrial fishing of tuna, it is accused of increasing the fishing of juveniles, bycatches of sensitive species as well as creating marine litter.

65. Food security: The ability for all people, at all times, to have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

66. Food sovereignty: A concept developed by farmers based on the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and the right of communities to control the way food is produced, traded, and consumed. It could create a food system that is designed to help people and the environment rather than to generate profits for multinational corporations.

67. Force-feeding: A feeding technique used in the production of foie gras. A nutritional substance is given to the goose by means of a small plastic feeding tube passed through the nose or mouth into the stomach. As a result, their livers become massively enlarged.

68. Fracked gas: Gas obtained through the use of fracking. Fracking is the process of drilling down into the earth before a high-pressure water mixture is directed at the rock to release the gas inside.

69. Freedom of movement: The right to travel, work, and live in a country, as

well as the unconditional right to leave and re-enter.

70. Freedom to stay: The right to remain in the country of one’s choosing.

71. Frontex: The European Border and Coast Guard Agency. An EU agency, Frontex is responsible for border control of the European Schengen Area, in coordination with the national border and coast guards of Schengen Area Member States.

72. Gender-based violence: Harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful norms.

73. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): Animals, plants, or microbes whose DNA has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.

74. Genital mutilation: A procedure that typically includes the total or partial excision of external genitalia. Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

75. Genuine progress indicator (GPI): A national-level indicator that provides information on sustainable economic welfare, rather than just economic activity. GPI has been suggested to replace or supplement GDP.

76. Geoengineering (also known as climate engineering): The deliberate manipulation of the Earth's climate to counteract the effects of global warming from greenhouse gas emissions.

77. Globalisation: The growing integration and interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in goods and services, technology, and flows of investment, people, and information.

78. Greenwashing: A superficial or insincere display of concern for the environment, usually in order to gain business advantage.

79. Gross domestic product (GDP): The market value of all the final goods and services produced within the geographic boundaries of a country within a specified time period, normally a year.

80. Heteronormativity: A discourse which is based on the assumption that heterosexuality is the norm and privileges this over any other form of sexual

orientation.

81. Homophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards homosexuality or people who identify or are perceived as being lesbian, gay, or bisexual, as well as systemic discrimination against them.

82. Housing First: An approach to tackling homelessness in which permanent housing is seen as a person’s first and primary need and is provided without any preconditions.

83. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV): A virus that attacks the immune system. If not treated, HIV can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

84. Human security: A security concept that redirects focus from the security of states to insecurities in people’s daily lives, such as the threat of hunger, disease, crime, environmental degradation, and issues related to the labour market.

85. Illegal pushbacks: Illegal cross-border expulsions without due process.

86. Illiberal democracy: A governing system in which, although elections take place, citizens are cut off from knowledge about the activities of those who exercise real power because of the lack of civil liberties.

87. Illiberalism: See “illiberal democracy":

88. Imperialism: The policy, practice, or advocacy of extending the power and dominion of a nation, especially by direct territorial acquisitions or by gaining indirect control over the political or economic life of other areas.

89. Informed consent: Agreement or permission to take a particular course of action granted in full knowledge of the possible effects or results.

90. International Monetary Fund (IMF): A multilateral institution that lends money to governments with the aim of stabilising currencies and maintaining order in international financial markets.

91. Intersectionality: A way of understanding how people’s overlapping identities impact the way they experience oppression and discrimination.

92. Intersex people: Intersex is an umbrella term for differences in sex traits or reproductive anatomy. Intersex people are born with these differences or develop them in childhood. There are many possible variations in genitalia,

hormones, internal anatomy, and chromosome patterns.

93. Islamophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards people who practise Islam or are perceived as Muslims, as well as systemic discrimination against them.

94. Istanbul Convention: The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. A legally binding treaty aiming to put an end to violence against women and domestic violence.

95. Just transition: A framework developed to encompass a range of social interventions needed to secure workers' rights and livelihoods when economies are shifting to sustainable production, primarily combating climate change and protecting biodiversity.

96. Kerosene: A clear flammable liquid primarily obtained from petroleum, commonly used as a fuel for jet engines.

97. Legalisation of drugs: Drug production and commercialisation is legal under specific conditions that are controlled by the government.

98. Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs): A type of autonomous military system

that can independently search for and engage targets based on programmed constraints and descriptions.

99. Level playing field: A state in which conditions in a competition or situation are fair for everyone.

100. LGBTQIA+: An initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual, as well as other gender, sexual, or romantic minorities.

101. Linear economy: An economic model based on the assumption of a constant supply of raw materials, resulting in a “take-make-dispose” mentality.

102. Mass data retention: The collection and storage of data on individuals and their online behaviour by governments and businesses.

103. Medically assisted procreation (MAP): A generic term for any of a range of techniques that manipulate an egg and/or sperm to bring about fertilisation.

104. Metadata: Data that provides information about other data.

105. Militarism: The belief that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests.

106. Monopoly: A company, person or state that has (near) complete control over the supply of or trade in a commodity or service, meaning that it is impossible for others to become involved in it.

107. Multilateralism: In international relations, multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal.

108. Neocolonialism: The use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, especially formerly colonised ones.

109. Neoliberalism: A political and economical ideology, associated with economic liberalism and free-market capitalism. It supports privatization, deregulation, free trade, austerity and reductions in government spending.

110. Net neutrality: The principle that internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data equally. According to this principle, ISPs may not intentionally prioritise certain types of online traffic and block or meter others.

111. Nuclear energyEnergy that is produced from nuclear reactions.

112. Nuclear fusion: A process in which two or more atoms are combined to form one or more atomic nuclei and subatomic particles, producing energy. Research is being funded into the use of this energy in electricity production, for example through the ITER programme.

113. Open source-based platforms: Software that is publicly licensed and designed with available source code, granting users the right to use, copy, study, change, and improve its structure or design.

114. Oppression: Unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power.

115. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): An international organisation with the mandate to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

116. Own resources: The EU’s main sources of revenue comprising duties and levies, value added tax, and national contributions.

117. Palliative care: Medical and related care provided to a seriously ill patient to manage symptoms, relieve pain and discomfort, improve quality of life, and meet the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the patient.

118. Paperless person: A person who does not have any proof of their legal identity or status.

119. Parental leave: Time off from employment granted to parents to care for a child following its birth or adoption. Employers are required to hold employees' jobs for the duration of the leave period. Parental leave is sometimes unpaid. FYEG supports fully paid parental leave.

120. Paris Agreement: A legally binding international treaty on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. Its primary goal is to limit the global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, in addition to pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees.

121. Parliamentary system: A democratic system of governance in which the executive has the direct or indirect support of a democratically elected parliament, and is held accountable to that parliament.

122. Participatory budgeting: A process of democratic deliberation and decision-making in which citizens decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget.

123. Patriarchy: A social system in which men hold primary power.

124. Pesticide: A chemical substance or biological agent used to deter, incapacitate, or kill certain insects, mammals, wild plants, and other unwanted organisms.

125. Physical communications infrastructure: The network of interconnected

resources (cables, switches, towers, antennae, etc.) upon which broadcasting, telecommunication, and internet services are operated.

126. Pink tax: The tendency for products marketed specifically toward women to be more expensive than those marketed for men.

127. Platform workers: Workers that are put in contact with customers through online and are paid for each completed task rather than employed through regular work contracts with social protections.

128. Pluralistic society: A society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, and social groups are able to maintain and develop their unique cultural identities, with the acceptance of the dominant culture, provided these are consistent with the laws and values of wider society.

129. Poverty line: The minimum level of personal or family income deemed adequate in a particular country, below which one is classified as poor according to governmental standards.

130. Presidential system: A system of government in which the president is constitutionally independent of the legislature and holds most executive power.

131. Privilege: Special status or advantages conferred on certain groups at the expense of other groups.

132. Productivism: The theory that increasing productivity is the primary goal of socio-economic activity.

133. Profit maximisation: The process by which a firm determines the price, input, and output level that returns the greatest profit.

134. Progressive taxation: A tax system based on the taxpayer’s ability to pay. Low-income earners pay a lower rate of tax than those with higher incomes.

135. Proportional representation: An electoral system in which the number of seats held by a political group or party within a legislative body is proportional to the number of votes received.

136. Public housing: Low-rent housing owned, sponsored, or administered by the state.

137. Qualified majority: One of the voting systems used by the Council of the European Union to take decisions (the others being simple majority and unanimous vote). The usual qualified majority is reached when 55% of Member States representing at least 65% of the total EU population vote in favour. In special cases, the figure rises to 72% of Member States representing at least 65% of the EU population.

138. Queer: An umbrella term for gender, sexual and romantic minorities who are not heterosexual, heteronormative, or gender-binary.

139. Quota (diversity and inclusion): A policy requiring a certain number or share of minority group members or women on boards, shortlists, etc., in order

to make institutions and businesses more representative.

140. Racialised people: Individuals who have been ascribed a racial identity for the purpose of continued domination, discrimination, and social exclusion.

141. Racism: The systemic discrimination and oppression of people on the basis of their supposed membership of particular racial or ethnic groups, built through the perpetuation of prejudices and the belief that there are different races, some of which are superior to others.

142. Relocalising the economy: Establishing a network of small businesses in

the local area to fulfil basic needs rather than relying on national or global corporate monopolies.

143. Repairability: The extent to which an object is able to be repaired.

144. Representative recall: A process through which voters can remove elected officials before their official terms have ended.

145. Right to be forgotten: The right of an individual to have private information on them deleted so that third persons can no longer trace them.

146. Right to challenge: An option offered in some countries allowing citizens to call for a referendum challenging a decision taken by the parliament or the government.

147. Right to disconnect: The right to digitally disconnect from work without facing negative repercussions.

148. Right to self-determination: The right for people, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and fair equality of opportunity, to freely choose their sovereignty and international political status with no interference.

149. Rule of law: The principle that all persons, institutions, and entities are subject to the law, including lawmakers, law enforcement officials, and judges.

150. Rule of law mechanism: Preventive tool to promote the rule of law and provide options in the event of breaches by Member States, for example the suspension of EU funding.

151. Schengen Area: An area in which all member countries have agreed to abolish controls at internal borders and create a single external border.

152. Secrecy of correspondence: A fundamental legal principle guaranteeing that sealed correspondence will not be opened and the content will not be revealed to anyone but the addressee.

153. Secular state: A state that is neutral in matters of religion.

154. Sixth mass extinction: An ongoing mass extinction event of wildlife on Earth as a result of human activity, in particular over the last century.

155. Social justice: The objective of social justice is to create a fair and equal society in which each individual matters, their rights are recognised and protected and in which wealth is fairly distributed.

156. Social stratification: The hierarchical structures of class and status in any society.

157. Speculation (financial): Investment, in particular on the housing market, involving high financial risk but also the possibility of significant gain.

158. Subsidiarity principle: A principle according to which social and political issues should be dealt with at the most immediate (or local) level that is consistent with their resolution.

159. Targeted advertising: Internet advertising that delivers customised adverts to consumers based on their behaviour on the internet.

160. Tax avoidance: The arrangement of one's financial affairs to minimise tax liability within the law.

161. Tax haven: A country or place which offers foreign individuals and companies very low tax rates. People choose to live there or register companies there to avoid paying higher tax in their own countries.

162. Taxation of financial transactions: A tax that is applied to all financial transactions, just as tax is paid on all other transactions, services, and goods.

163. Tech giants: The largest and most dominant companies in the information technology industry.

164. Too big to fail: Companies and business, particularly banks, that are so interconnected and so large that their failure would have a serious impact on the economic system, and that therefore require rescuing by governments in the

event of potential failure.

165. Trade union: An organisation formed primarily by workers in order to represent their rights and interests to their employers.

166. Trans people: People who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from the sex that they were assigned at birth. People whose gender identity matches the sex that they were assigned at birth are referred to as cisgender or cis people.

167. Transphobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards transgender people, as well as the systemic discrimination against them.

168. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: An international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.

169. Trickle-down theory: A theory according to which financial benefits given to large businesses and the wealthy will in turn trickle down to smaller businesses and consumers.

170. Two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels: One of the objectives of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global temperature rise well below this level. Global temperature rises are usually calculated compared to “pre-industrial levels”, meaning before the unusual rise in global temperature observed since the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

171. UN 2030 Agenda: A resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly which focuses on achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to end poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, and create a peaceful, just, sustainable, and inclusive society.

172. UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas: Declaration adopted in 2018 by the UN General Assembly which recognises the rights of farmers and people living in rural areas. These include the right to nature, seeds, land, water, biodiversity, health, education, and housing, as well as labour rights and cultural rights.

173. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): An international treaty signed in 1992 which sets a framework to address climate change at a global level. Regular international negotiations have been organised under the aegis of the treaty which led to the adoption, among others, of the Tokyo Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

174. UN Security Council: One of the six principal organs of the UN system, the UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security. Its resolutions are legally binding.

175. Unanimity: The agreement of all.

176. Unconscious bias: An attitude or stereotype that an individual unconsciously associates with another person or group of people.

177. Unemployment benefit: A payment made at regular intervals to an unemployed person.

178. Unilateralism: An approach in which a country decides on a policy or course of action on its own, without regard to the interests of other states, outside agreement or support, or reciprocity.

179. Universal basic income (UBI): A periodic payment provided to all on an individual basis, without means testing or work requirements.

180. Upload filters: Automated decision-making tools that scan files uploaded to a particular platform in order to determine if these violate the platform’s guidelines and rules.

181. Uranium: A chemical element widely used in nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons

182. Vocational colleges: Post-secondary educational establishments that offer teaching and practical experience in skilled trades.

183. Waste heat recovery: The use of the surplus heat produced by processes whose main aim is not heat production.

184. Wealth tax: A tax based on the value of the assets owned by a taxpayer.

185. White privilege: The societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people in some societies.

186. World Bank: A multilateral financial institution that lends money to governments and government agencies for development projects.

187. Xenophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards foreigners or people who are perceived as foreign, as well as systemic discrimination against them.

188. Zoonotic diseases: Any infection or disease that is transmitted to humans from animals.

189. Peremptory norms: Also jus cogens norms. These norms are rules accepted by (almost) all states, which are of fundamental importance for the international community, and which have universal application and are always valid and may not be derogated from. Examples include the prohibition of genocide, piracy, slavery, racial discrimination, the crime of aggression and the unlawful use of force.

190. Universal human needs: A framework which defines human needs as universal which acknowledges that individuals, everywhere in the world, at all times present and future, have certain basic needs which must be met in order for people to avoid harm, to participate in society, and to reflect critically upon the conditions in which they find themselves. One Important distinction made by this framework is the distinction between needs and satisfiers. Needs are limited, universal, and nonhierarchical and their fulfilment leads to wellbeing while satisfiers concern how needs are pursued in specific contexts and range from social practices to political models to personal values. Max-Neef identifies universal human needs as subsistence, protection, affection, understanding, participation, idleness, creation, identity and freedom.