

# Political Platform

**Proposer:** FYEG

**Title:** Political Platform

## Political Platform text

1 We, the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), are the movement of the  
2 Green youth at the European level. Our individual and organisational backgrounds  
3 lie in the social and environmental justice movements, in feminist and queer  
4 battles, and in the defence of fundamental rights and democracy. For more than  
5 30 years, our member organisations have joined forces at the European level,  
6 uniting their collective voices and aspirations to learn from each other, to  
7 debate, to campaign together, and to make the green Europe we wish to see become  
8 a reality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 34 **11. A Diverse and Feminist Europe**

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## 79 **Glossary**

### 80 **1. A Diverse and Feminist Europe**

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

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

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

100 As we work for a Europe which is truly welcoming and inclusive for all, we take  
101 a twofold approach. First, we work for social justice (see Glossary 155) and  
102 equality now – within the limits of the current norms, within the systems that  
103 constrain us – while recognising that this can never be social justice for  
104 everyone and that, in this way, only small gains are made. Second, we question  
105 the systems, we think them anew, in order to break free from the norms and  
106 boundaries that constrain us.

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

## 112 **1.1. Diversity and Intersectionality**

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

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

123 We understand that all dimensions of a person's identity contribute to a  
124 person's access to justice and equality. Inequality can take many forms, ranging

125 from the lack of representation of a specific identity in the public sphere to  
126 the criminalisation of identities. Our aspiration is a world in which such  
127 inequalities are dismantled, and people can express themselves and their  
128 identities freely and without fear. When new policies are proposed at all levels  
129 of governance, they should be analysed from an intersectional perspective,  
130 taking into account the individual, systemic, institutional and historical  
131 dimensions of inequality to ensure that no one is left behind.

## 132 **1.2. Anti-racism**

133 Today, European societies remain deeply racist. In such a context, it is not  
134 enough to simply not be racist – we must be anti-racist. Racism is not only  
135 about hate speech and hate crime: it is the systemic discrimination against and  
136 oppression of people on the basis of their supposed membership of a particular  
137 racial or ethnic group. It includes antiziganism, antisemitism (see Glossary 4),  
138 and islamophobia (see Glossary 93). It is built through the perpetuation of  
139 prejudices, as well as the belief that there are different races and that some  
140 races are superior to others. In the case of antisemitism, this ‘belief’ has  
141 evolved into a world-explaining conspiracy ideology which sees all evil in Jews  
142 and their destruction as the liberation from evil. Antisemitism is a continual  
143 presence in society in its entirety and antisemitic attitudes can be found  
144 across all groups of society. We must always fight antisemitism in all its forms  
145 and appearances, including in an anti-racist context.

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

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

162 Racism in Europe is, among others, rooted in the colonial and imperialist

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

171 As racism is a structural and systemic problem, public and private institutions  
172 must review and change their structures and processes. FYEG supports mechanisms  
173 to dismantle racism and achieve justice for those who are marginalised by  
174 systemic racism. We support the introduction of mechanisms of affirmative action  
175 including access to higher education or public jobs. States must fight  
176 discrimination in access to healthcare, jobs, justice, and education. To ensure  
177 that the population and in particular the next generation is educated about  
178 racism, curricula should be designed that cover different forms and appearances  
179 of racism, its history, systemic and structural causes and who has benefitted  
180 from this. Equipped with this knowledge and tools to reflect their situation and  
181 circumstances of living, individuals have to recognise their own privileges,  
182 educate themselves, and join in solidarity with people and communities affected  
183 by racism.

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

### 191 **1.3. Disability rights**

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

198 Being disabled should not limit a person's choices to be present in public  
199 spaces, interact with the world around them, and take part in social, political,  
200 and cultural activities. FYEG supports the social model of disability, which

201 sees that social environments exclude and impair people, prevent them from  
202 exercising their autonomy, and reduce equality, rather than the person's own  
203 impairment.

204 To remove these barriers, FYEG supports a holistic approach to increasing  
205 accessibility which puts disabled people at the centre of policy development.  
206 Policies must be created by them and for them. FYEG recognises that disability  
207 is unique to each individual and their own experience, and that there can be no  
208 one-size-fits-all policy or healthcare approach.

209 We believe that sign language should be recognised by all states as an official  
210 language, and that access to sign language, braille, and other methods of  
211 communication should be broadened. FYEG also believes that all barriers should  
212 be removed that prevent disabled people from accessing their civil and political  
213 rights; these can include physical and social barriers. means ensuring that  
214 disabled people are properly represented in political life and decision-making  
215 processes. Representation must be meaningful, not symbolic, and must include  
216 disabled voices at every level.

217 FYEG supports the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights  
218 of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and particularly the right to independent  
219 living, personal autonomy, and full inclusion in community life.

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

#### 225 **1.4. Gender**

226 FYEG works towards a world in which people can thrive and know it is safe to be  
227 themselves, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender  
228 expression, and sex characteristics. Gender-based violence (see Glossary 72) is a  
229 brutal violation of human rights. It affects people of all social and economic  
230 backgrounds across Europe. Women of colour, women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+  
231 (see Glossary 100) women, migrant women, and poor and working-class women are  
232 most likely to be at risk and face the biggest obstacles to getting help.

233 The historical, systemic exclusion of marginalised genders at all levels of  
234 political decision-making, from local to European institutions, finally needs to  
235 stop. Different mechanisms, including quotas, can help to correct this, and

236 ensure the proportional representation of all gender identities in assemblies at  
237 all levels of government in Europe.

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

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

250 Sexual and reproductive health and rights should be part of all educational  
251 curricula and should be effectively implemented in all schools. The sexual  
252 education curriculum should be non-judgemental, sex positive, consent-focused,  
253 and comprehensive enough to cover sexual orientation, gender identity, gender  
254 expression, and sex characteristics. More funding and research should be  
255 allocated to sexual education and reproductive healthcare.

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

264 Free and accessible sexual and reproductive healthcare should include accessible  
265 and free contraception for all, as well as medically-assisted procreation (see  
266 Glossary 103). There will also be more money for research into new forms of  
267 contraception, such as the male pill. Pink tax discrimination (see Glossary 126)  
268 should end. Menstrual products should be cost-free and freely accessible  
269 everywhere, including schools, universities, and public toilets. Wherever there  
270 is free toilet paper there should be free menstrual products. Gender-neutral  
271 toilets will be realized in all publicly accessible buildings and for employees.

272 In large buildings, there will be at least one toilet on each floor that is  
273 accessible to everyone. Toilet shortages shouldn't be a problem for anyone. Each  
274 year thousands of people die because of the criminalisation of and lack of  
275 access to abortion. Banning abortion only causes greater harm to those who seek  
276 it, who then undergo serious health, legal, and financial risks to have an  
277 abortion illegally. We condemn all attempts to restrict access to abortion. We  
278 advocate for free, accessible, non-judgemental, good quality, safe, legal, and  
279 local abortion. The right to abortion must be included in the EU's Charter of  
280 Fundamental Rights (see Glossary 50).

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

288 The stigmatisation of HIV (see Glossary 83) must end. HIV treatment is highly  
289 effective in reducing the transmission of HIV and people with an undetectable  
290 viral load cannot transmit HIV. Legal discrimination against people with HIV  
291 must stop. More funds should be allocated to education and raising awareness on  
292 HIV and HIV prevention, as well as to research and treatment. HIV treatment, HIV  
293 prevention, and testing for HIV should be free and universally accessible.

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

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

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

#### 314 **b. LGBTQIA+ rights**

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

320 Every person should have the right to live according to their sexual  
321 orientation, gender identity, and gender expression freely and without fear. So-  
322 called “conversion therapy” (see Glossary 28) is dehumanising and must be banned  
323 and prosecuted immediately. The relationships of same- and opposite-sex couples  
324 and their families should enjoy equal recognition. All couples have a right to  
325 family life. This includes the right to adoption and foster care, the right for  
326 all people with a uterus to have access to medically assisted procreation (see  
327 Glossary 103), and the right of equal access to sperm donation, regardless of  
328 their sexual orientation, health or relationshipstatus. IVF treatments should be  
329 equally reimbursable to all couples. Marriages and civil unions must be open to  
330 all couples, and those recognised in one European country must also be and  
331 automatically fully recognised in all others.

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

#### 340 **1.5 Religion**

341 Pluralistic societies (see Glossary 128) depend on enabling a safe space in  
342 which each person is free to believe or not believe, practise their beliefs,  
343 observe their beliefs, and organise for their beliefs. We fight against  
344 islamophobia (see Glossary 93) and antisemitism (see Glossary 4), and condemn  
345 any kind of discrimination and hate speech against people based on their

346 religion. We believe in a pluralistic society built on dialogue. The right to  
347 religious freedom and the right to practise religion freely must be protected  
348 under national and European law. We oppose the idea that religion is by nature a  
349 divisive issue and a source of tensions, and that people should hide their  
350 religious beliefs or feel ashamed of them.

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

## 360 **1.6. Cultural and Indigenous Rights**

361 FYEG stands for cultural rights. The colonial, imperialist, discriminatory and  
362 assimilationist policies in European countries have left ethnic, cultural and  
363 national minorities heavily marginalised and vulnerable. We defend the right of  
364 individuals and communities, including national minorities, to practise and  
365 preserve their cultures, including their languages, religions, art forms, and  
366 ways of life. Ethnic, cultural and national minorities must have strong legal  
367 protection, sufficient and stable funding and cultural autonomy in support of  
368 their efforts to revitalise, retain and develop their languages, cultures and  
369 ways of life. We support the implementation of the European Charter for Regional  
370 or Minority Languages by all European states (see Glossary 54).

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

383 Europe and the European Union (EU) must provide support and offer asylum to

384 those whose cultural rights are being violated elsewhere.

## 385 **2. A Democratic Europe**

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

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

### 399 **2.1. The rule of law**

400 The rule of law is an essential element of democratic societies. In recent  
401 years, attacks on the rule of law have multiplied in several European countries,  
402 with women and minorities most strongly affected. FYEG stands for reinforcing  
403 the independence of the judiciary, accelerating the fight against corruption,  
404 and guaranteeing the independence of the media.

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

416 While implementing those tools, we must ensure that citizens are not  
417 disadvantaged by their governments’ poor behaviour. It should be made possible  
418 to bypass corrupt national governments and for EU funds to be directly assigned

419 to local authorities or final beneficiaries. We also call for increased support  
420 for organisations that are fighting for democracy, press freedom, fundamental  
421 rights, and the rule of law, for example through the EU Rights and Values  
422 programme (see Glossary 52).

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

## 430 **2.2. Democracy**

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

437 Those current systems in which elected officials are seen as being cut off from  
438 citizens and not accountable to the electorate are clearly not functioning well  
439 enough and are creating mistrust in democracy itself. Action is needed at  
440 several levels to protect and improve our democratic systems.

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

450 But this is not enough: any democracy which does not provide adequate space for  
451 debate and reflection is no true democracy, and FYEG therefore supports efforts  
452 to create deliberative democracies. Through providing public spaces and  
453 opportunities for rational debate and discussion between members of the public  
454 and not just talking political heads, through citizenship, deliberation, and

455 participation education in schooling we can ensure that the policies of today  
456 that will shape the future - such as on climate change - are well thought out.

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

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

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

### 487 **2.3. An activist Europe**

488 Democratic participation must never be limited to the polling booth. The right  
489 to protest is a fundamental part of democratic culture and must be protected. We  
490 encourage active participation in our democracies, not only through political  
491 organisations but also through civil society and activist work. The EU, its  
492 Member States, and other European states must actively support and encourage

493 civil society and youth political engagement. FYEG engages itself to promote  
494 regenerative forms of activism that protect members' physical and mental well-  
495 being, and urges the social and environmental movements it partners up with to  
496 do so as well.

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

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

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

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

#### 511 **2.4. Towards a federal Europe**

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

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

525 We call on Member States to find a solution to the issue of the seats of  
526 different EU institutions, while making sure all decision-making bodies are not

527 concentrated in the same city, country or part of the EU, but are spread across  
528 the whole EU. Moreover, the costly moving circus of the European Parliament  
529 should be stopped.

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

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

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

541 A stronger EU requires a real EU budget. The EU budget should be substantially  
542 increased, in particular by giving the EU its own power to levy taxes for its  
543 "own resources" (see Glossary 116) such as a European kerosene (see Glossary 96)  
544 tax, a carbon tax (see Glossary 18), a carbon border adjustment mechanism (see  
545 Glossary 14), a tax on tech giants, and a tax on financial transactions (see  
546 Glossary 162) (see Chapter 4 – Fiscal policy). The EU may levy taxes in certain  
547 areas based on the principle of subsidiarity. This will reduce the dependence on  
548 Member States' contributions and will allow for more effective taxation in  
549 certain areas than a Member State could do on its own. When establishing these  
550 Europe-wide taxes, the economic differences between Member States must be taken  
551 into account, whereby a Europe-wide tax must not increase inequality between  
552 Member States or hit poorer Member States harder. The EU should also be able to  
553 issue bonds to contribute to its budget. We call for deepened European defence  
554 cooperation and in the long term the development of further interoperability  
555 between EU member states armies.

## 556 **2.5. Public safety**

557 We believe that every person in our societies should be safe and feel safe.  
558 Today's mainstream public safety policies are not fulfilling that objective:  
559 many citizens still feel unsafe and are being attacked based on their gender,  
560 appearance, supposed sexual orientation, or gender identity, and on racist and  
561 xenophobic (see Glossary 187) grounds. Violence is still a major part of our  
562 societies. A public safety policy that aims to end violence by employing even

563 more violence, and that is executed at the expense of public freedoms and  
564 fundamental rights, is doomed to fail. FYEG stands for a reinvention of public  
565 safety policy based on prevention and rehabilitation rather than violence and  
566 repression.

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

578 The police has become a cornerstone of failing public safety policies. While we  
579 believe some form of policing is needed, the police needs to be fundamentally  
580 changed. A zero-tolerance policy on racism, sexism, and other hateful conduct in  
581 the police is essential. The police should be made accountable for its actions  
582 and an independent police oversight body should be put in place to investigate  
583 police violence and other complaints. Democratic scrutiny of the police, in  
584 which police chiefs are accountable to local assemblies and regularly answer  
585 questions during public sessions, is of critical importance. Additionally,  
586 policing must be demilitarised. It is unnecessary for the police to have  
587 military-like vehicles and heavily armed officers with assault rifles and  
588 grenades. There must be structural change – a movement away from state-sponsored  
589 violence and repression and towards prevention and cooperation as tools for  
590 dealing with conflict in our societies. Defunding the police would lead to this  
591 structural change by refocusing public money towards social good.

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

600 Certain policies such as drug policies and migration policies create avoidable  
601 violence. The criminalisation of the use, cultivation, and selling of drugs, as

602 well as the criminalisation of migration, actively supports the development of  
603 underground mafia systems who rely on the use of violence. FYEG stands for the  
604 legalisation of drugs (see Glossary 97) and opening borders as a way of reducing  
605 violence and reinforcing security (see Chapter 5 – Health).

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

## 610 **2.6. Digital rights**

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

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

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

633 We fight for access to the internet and an accessible internet. This means  
634 universal access to the necessary infrastructure and broadband, as well as  
635 internet access at no charge. It also means accessibility for disabled people  
636 through the mainstreaming of subtitles, alternative text (see Glossary 2), etc.  
637 It is also vital to ensure that people from different backgrounds have equal

638 opportunities to use digital domains. For language minorities it is often  
639 difficult or impossible to use their own languages digitally as they lack  
640 sufficient digital infrastructure, such as localised software, keyboard layouts,  
641 grammar checkers and online dictionaries. The development of language technology  
642 resources for minority languages must be supported in order to ensure digital  
643 language equality.

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

646 Digital and technological developments have the power to fundamentally change  
647 our societies. The opportunities these technologies bring must be used to  
648 strengthen democratic participation. Online pseudonymity must be protected as  
649 this is key for people to express their political or personal opinions without  
650 fear and without risking negative consequences. The digital sphere is not a  
651 lawless space. Private companies that are active in the digital sphere must be  
652 regulated and pay their fair share of taxes.

653 Discrimination and hate speech in the digital sphere must be recognised as  
654 problematic, and combatted. This includes developments in the realm of  
655 artificial intelligence (see Glossary 7), which has the potential to transform  
656 our societies for the better but also risks reinforcing existing discrimination  
657 through biased algorithms. More attention should be paid to the negative  
658 consequences of automated decision-making. Automated decision-making that can  
659 lead to discrimination and ethnic profiling should be regularly tested and  
660 adapted to counter this.

661 The spread of disinformation and fake news has the potential to undermine our  
662 democracies and must be dealt with accordingly by effective legislation and  
663 training. This includes protection against foreign interference in democratic  
664 processes and the fight against terrorism. The pursuit of these goals must never  
665 be used as an excuse to pass legislation that restricts the freedom of  
666 expression, freedom of assembly, or other fundamental rights. We oppose the use  
667 of upload filters (see Glossary 180).

### 668 **3. A Sustainable Europe**

669 The climate crisis is the largest threat facing humanity. FYEG considers the  
670 current economic system of material growth and environmental exploitation as a  
671 root cause of climate change. To stop climate change, we need a shift towards a  
672 democratic economy able to properly address environmental damage, the use of  
673 natural resources and the voices of groups affected (see chapter 4). Without

674 urgent action, it will jeopardise many human achievements and fundamental  
675 rights, endanger food and water supply, and put many territories at risk.  
676 Climate change is also likely to have important geopolitical consequences.

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

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

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

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

### 701 **3.1. An urgent and just transition towards climate neutrality**

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

708 European countries historically holds greater responsibility for climate change

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

714 FYEG supports the objective of reaching climate neutrality in Europe by 2035. We  
715 encourage EU member states to implement a general tax on greenhouse gas  
716 emissions. The amount of the levy is equal to the damage that the greenhouse gas  
717 can cause per kilogram. In addition, this amount can be higher if it appears  
718 that the objectives are not being achieved. FYEG is also in favour of further  
719 using the European emission trading system by drastically lessen the number of  
720 emission rights.

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

729 Globally, but also within Europe, the transition towards a climate neutral  
730 economy must be socially just. We are concerned about the unequal impact of  
731 climate change and of environmental hazards which often disproportionately  
732 affect poor people and marginalised groups. We need to make sure our response to  
733 the climate crisis does not reinforce existing inequalities. For example, the  
734 extraction of rare minerals needed for this transition should not be at the  
735 expense of the populations of the countries in which those minerals can be  
736 found. While we believe that technological progress has an important role to  
737 play in solving the climate and biodiversity crises, we are critical of  
738 approaches that tend to overestimate the positive impact of uncertain future  
739 technologies to avoid addressing core issues and engage in systemic change. An  
740 example is carbon capture and storage (see Glossary 15), often used as a reason  
741 for less ambitious emissions targets, in spite of the fact that the technology  
742 has not yet been fully developed.

743 Current mainstream environmental and climate policies do not affect everyone in  
744 the same way. FYEG calls for those policies to be both socially just and to  
745 fight inequalities. We call for support measures for every worker at risk of  
746 losing their job because of the transition towards a carbon neutral economy (see  
747 Glossary 16). They should receive help including, but not limited to, having a

748 job guaranteed and having access to retraining. It is also important to  
749 reinforce our social welfare mechanisms (see chapter 5) and to take into account  
750 the gender and racial aspects of a just transition (see Glossary 95). Failure to  
751 tackle the climate crisis would have terrible implications for all, including  
752 workers. We should take the opportunity to rethink working conditions in the  
753 context of the ecological transition. We should make the transition a just  
754 transition.

### 755 **3.2. Energy**

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

773 FYEG supports energy democracy and stands for the development of a decentralised  
774 and interconnected energy system. Energy systems should be localised. We support  
775 forms of collective ownership of energy production, such as energy cooperatives.  
776 Networks to transport energy are crucial to enable this transition; they should  
777 be owned, developed, and operated as commons, for example being publicly owned.

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

783 Nuclear energy (see Glossary 111) cannot be built in time to use it as a climate  
784 crisis solution. Nuclear energy, just like any energy source, has drawbacks,  
785 including but not limited to the exploitation of workers in the extraction of

786 uranium (see Glossary 181), the long-term disposal of nuclear waste, huge  
787 consequences of potential accidents, the long time it takes to build and the  
788 increasingly expensive costs to build nuclear power plants.

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

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

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

### 807 **3.3. Water, food and agriculture**

808 Water is the backbone of life and agricultural production. It therefore must not  
809 be considered as a commodity. Water sources and resources must be protected from  
810 potential pollution through agriculture, mining, production, construction and  
811 waste disposal. Food is essential to life. It therefore cannot be considered as  
812 a commodity. FYEG stands for food and agricultural policies that guarantee that  
813 every person has access to local, healthy, diversified and quality food.

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

820 Industrialised agriculture is responsible for substantial greenhouse gas

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

837 Food systems should be rebuilt on the principles of food sovereignty (see  
838 Glossary 66), eliminating corporate capture of food, reducing food waste,  
839 prioritising short supply chains and locally produced food, ending imports of  
840 deforestation-driving products such as soy or palm oil, and making sure that  
841 European agriculture is not exported in a way that harms agricultural systems in  
842 other countries. To achieve this, we need a food production system that ensures  
843 environmental and economic sustainability and food security for all, without  
844 endangering the food security (see Glossary 65) of future generations. It is of  
845 utmost importance to find ways to guarantee an economically viable system that  
846 does not have negative effects on nature and the wider environment. To this end,  
847 FYEG looks positively towards promising new methods of food production. Research  
848 capacities have to be significantly strengthened and mainstreamed in order to  
849 find ways of reducing the environmental impact of the food system, while  
850 guaranteeing farmers' rights and ensuring decent living conditions in rural  
851 areas. Forms of urban farming such as vertical farming can offer solutions to  
852 provide cities with sustainable food, since they reduce the use of some natural  
853 resources, such as land area and water. Since sustainable methods of clean meat-  
854 production could potentially help the transition to a vegetarian society, while  
855 also coming with potential risks, research into safe, efficient and  
856 environmentally-friendly clean meat (see Glossary 24) production needs to be  
857 intensified.

858 This transition towards a more sustainable and fairer agricultural system  
859 requires changes in the regulatory framework as well as ambitious public  
860 policies. FYEG stands for more transparent labelling, with details of origin,  
861 composition, methods of production, use of pesticides, animal welfare, and  
862 nutritional values. A thorough reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (see

863 Glossary 25) is needed, taking environmental issues, animal welfare as well as  
864 working conditions into account in its subsidy scheme. The promotion of  
865 sustainable and plant-based diets should also be encouraged.

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

### 884 **3.4. Transport**

885 Transport is responsible for almost a quarter of greenhouse gases emitted in  
886 Europe and is one of the only sectors in which emissions have risen in recent  
887 years, despite important technological progress. Transport is also one of the  
888 main sources of air pollution, which is responsible for the premature deaths of  
889 400,000 people in the EU each year. Changes in both practices and modes of  
890 transport are needed, with a shift towards zero-emission travel a priority.

891 While keeping up efforts to reduce aircraft emissions, Europe needs to fly less.  
892 This can be achieved by introducing a EU-wide kerosene (see Glossary 96) tax,  
893 and an end on both the construction of new airports and the extension of  
894 existing ones. Train travel should be favoured over air travel. An effective  
895 policy could involve the phase-out of commercial flights for trips where it is  
896 possible to use an alternative, more environmentally friendly means of transport  
897 with a journey time of less than 10 hours. At the same time, train networks  
898 should be further developed, including the construction of high-speed trains and  
899 the introduction of more night train routes, with the aim of achieving a network  
900 of high-speed lines connecting major cities in Europe. We should prioritise the  
901 renovation of existing train tracks over the construction of new ones whenever

902 possible in order to minimise the environmental impact. At the same time,  
903 existing secondary lines in rural areas should be maintained and the frequency  
904 of their service increased. Efforts should be made to achieve a 100%  
905 decarbonised network by 2035. Travelling across Europe by train should be made  
906 easier, for example by the introduction of a European train ticket system.

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

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

### 924 **3.5. Technological Progress**

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

929 Technological progress is not always a synonym for social and societal progress.  
930 We are firmly attached to the precautionary principle, meaning that innovations  
931 should be assessed thoroughly and should be proven harmless for the environment,  
932 human health, and society as a whole before being authorised. Uncertainty should  
933 not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent environmental  
934 degradation or preserve public health. New innovations should be open  
935 to scientific and public assessment to determine their potential costs and  
936 benefits.

937 While we believe that technological progress has an important role to play in

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

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

### 952 **3.4. Animal rights**

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

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

967 Every year, nearly 70 billion land animals are slaughtered worldwide for food.  
968 With the industrialisation of animal farming, the conditions in which farm  
969 animals live have become worse and worse. It is essential to both reduce the  
970 consumption of animal-based products and improve the welfare of farm animals.  
971 Cage farming, one of the commonest forms of industrial animal farming, must be  
972 banned with immediate effect. FYEG defends the small-farm model in which animals  
973 have access to sufficient space, are able to go outdoors, play and interact with  
974 others of their kind. Newly created animal breeds that favour rapid animal  
975 growth but often cause the animal to suffer should also be phased out. Stronger

976 regulation of animal transport should be put in place, with a ban on the export  
977 of live animals outside the EU.

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

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

999 FYEG also defends stronger regulation in order to fight overfishing, regenerate  
1000 fish populations, and restore marine ecosystems. The use of fishing techniques  
1001 with a low impact on the environment should be encouraged, while higher impact  
1002 techniques such as bottom-contacting fishing gears, electric pulse fishing (see  
1003 Glossary 45), and fish aggregating devices (see Glossary 64) (FADs) should be  
1004 banned. Small-scale fisheries have to be prioritised immediately, and measures  
1005 must be taken to stop the concentration and industrialisation of the fishing  
1006 sector in Europe. The rapid development of industrialised fish farming in recent  
1007 years must be addressed with the introduction of stronger regulations on fishing  
1008 quota, fish welfare and environmental protection. Activities of fishing  
1009 companies in fishing grounds of lesser developed states, in particular African,  
1010 must immediately end. Furthermore the EU and European states must end bilateral  
1011 contracts which allow European companies to raid African fishing grounds.  
1012 Instead the EU and European states should support African State to build and  
1013 develop coast guards which have the ability to effectively protect their  
1014 fishing grounds from foreign intruders.

1015 **3.5. Protecting our natural environment**

1016 Nature should not be regarded as a commodity, as something humanity is separated  
1017 from, but as something that it belongs to. Like climate change, nature knows no  
1018 borders. We believe it is time that nature be properly recognised and protected.

1019 FYEG supports giving rights to nature that ensure its protection under national  
1020 and international law. We want the crime of ecocide to be recognised in domestic  
1021 and international criminal law. The most destructive fishing, deforestation,  
1022 soil degradation, and mining practices should be banned. We must fight  
1023 overfishing. Hunting should be strongly regulated, no longer permitted for  
1024 commercial and leisure purposes except for indigenous peoples practising their  
1025 traditional livelihoods, and only authorised as a last resort to preserve  
1026 balance within an ecosystem.

1027 We support the objective of giving protected status to at least 30% of our  
1028 planet's land and seas, with 10% granted a particularly high level of  
1029 protection. The rainforests, coral reefs, Arctic ice pack, and oceans are global  
1030 commons, and decisions regarding these global commons should be a global concern  
1031 for all. We reject approaches to nature conservation that perpetuate colonial  
1032 domination and violate fundamental rights. No one should be displaced or forced  
1033 to leave their home because of a nature reserve.

1034 We are on the brink of mass extinction. It is not enough to just protect  
1035 ecosystems; we must promote the restoration and renaturalisation of devastated  
1036 areas according to scientific criteria. Furthermore, our own human ecosystems,  
1037 such as cities, can and must be renaturalised allowing space for new ecosystems  
1038 to flourish.

1039 Across the world, environmental defenders are facing threats and violence, with  
1040 many being murdered for their defence of the environment. This is unacceptable.  
1041 Defending the natural world is not a crime. Those who threaten environmental  
1042 defenders must be prosecuted, and the EU should grant protection and offer  
1043 asylum to those under threat. The transition to a zero-carbon society might also  
1044 have an impact on and conflict with nature conservation. The impact of  
1045 infrastructures such as wind farms, hydropower plants, and high-speed railways  
1046 should be minimised as much as possible.

1047 **4. A Green and Feminist Economy**

1048 The Federation of Young European Greens identifies the root causes of the social  
1049 and environmental crises as lying within the current economic system. We believe

1050 that this capitalist system, based on unrestrained competition, consumerism, the  
1051 exploitation of workers, and profit maximisation (see Glossary 133) is  
1052 unsustainable and incompatible with our planet's limited resources and the goal  
1053 of an economy that benefits all. This system deliberately imposes social and  
1054 environmental costs on low-income countries, future generations, and other  
1055 species. It makes all the reproductive and care work invisible, a work mainly  
1056 accomplished by women. It creates extreme inequalities and excludes most people  
1057 from decision-making processes concerning how and what is produced and valued in  
1058 an economy. This is because it relies on some people owning means of production  
1059 and living by that, while others have to work to make a living. This creates  
1060 injustices within societies as well as between them: division between rich and  
1061 poor, global south and global north all rooted in capitalism. The crises we are  
1062 facing are the result of the patriarchal, racist and capitalist system that is  
1063 disrupting human well-being and destroying our collective resilience, and which  
1064 represents an existential threat to humanity.

1065 FYEG sees an urgent need for a new vision of progress that is fit for the  
1066 century ahead of us. In order to bring an end to environmental destruction and  
1067 human deprivation, it is crucial to change the way our economies are built and  
1068 defined. We need to shift from economic growth (see Glossary 43) to human and  
1069 planetary well-being and thus create a new economic system. We need to go beyond  
1070 indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) (see Glossary 79) and make  
1071 issues such as quality of life and environmental well-being centerpiece. We  
1072 believe the technological shift to a zero-waste industry and economy is not  
1073 enough. The green and feminist economy we want to build implies a radical change  
1074 in the democratisation of the economy, the redistribution of wealth, and a just  
1075 transition. This economy is also feminist, implying that a feminist economy takes  
1076 equally into account all beings, the environment and their interdependence in  
1077 its propositions. It makes social protection a priority and values the care  
1078 work, accomplished mainly by women, for people and the environment.

#### 1079 **4.1. A degrowth transition towards post-growth economies**

1080 Given that the fulfilment of universal human needs (see Glossary 190) and the  
1081 conditions for wellbeing globally cannot be realised under the current economic  
1082 system based on growth and capital accumulation, FYEG stands for degrowth as a  
1083 post-capitalist strategy towards a post-growth society. Degrowth is a planned  
1084 reduction of energy and material use designed to bring the economy back into  
1085 balance with the living world in a way that reduces inequality and improves  
1086 human well-being, at the local and global level, in the short and long term (see  
1087 Glossary 36). The goal of degrowth is to reduce ecological impact, reduce  
1088 inequality, and improve well-being. In contrast with degrowth, recessions are  
1089 not planned, and do not target any of these outcomes. They are not intended to

1090 reduce ecological impact (even though this might in some cases be an unintended  
1091 outcome), and they are certainly not intended to reduce inequality and improve  
1092 well-being – indeed, they do the opposite. Economies that exceed the ecological  
1093 capacities of the planet, as the ones in Europe, have to be restructured such  
1094 that they can decelerate justly, without the suffering that recessions bring.  
1095 Nevertheless, there are some regions in Europe that are more responsible for  
1096 exceeding planetary boundaries and whose current ecological footprint is higher,  
1097 which are the ones that have to degrow more and faster. The downscaling of less-  
1098 necessary forms of production such as fossil fuels, fast fashion, industrial  
1099 farming or luxury goods, entails liberating productive capacities that can be  
1100 redirected to activities that contribute to human and environmental wellbeing,  
1101 such as clean energy, essential services, agroecology and care.

1102 Economic growth measured by GDP has to be abandoned as a policy objective.  
1103 Policy has instead to focus on ecosocial metrics such as life expectancy,  
1104 health, education, housing, and ecologically sustainable work as indicators of  
1105 both ecosystems and human well-being. The strong evidence of the impossibility  
1106 of decoupling economic growth from ecological impacts at the pace and scale  
1107 required, points to the need to address the situation from a post-growth  
1108 paradigm, with a necessary phase of degrowth in economies that are above the  
1109 regenerative capacity of the planet.

1110 Degrowth is a demand for effective decolonization. Countries in the global south  
1111 should be free to organise their resources and labour around meeting human needs  
1112 rather than around servicing Northern growth. Historically, the industrial  
1113 growth in Europe and the subsequent expansion and industrialisation of its  
1114 colonies were significantly facilitated by the pattern of appropriating raw  
1115 materials, natural resources, and labour from the Global South through what has  
1116 been named as ecological unequal exchange. Even following the withdrawal of  
1117 colonial troops, the fundamental structure of the colonial economy endures,  
1118 sustaining growth in the North through the continued appropriation,  
1119 exploitation, and oppression of the South.

1120 Degrowth is a transition towards post-growth economies because the reduction in  
1121 production and consumption is a means to create the conditions for the  
1122 transformation of the modes of living. The destination is a post-growth society  
1123 characterised by an economy in an harmonious relation with nature where it is  
1124 possible to thrive without growth. Policies such as universal basic services,  
1125 universal basic income or universal care income, working time reduction and a  
1126 green job guarantee among others could play a key role in creating the universal  
1127 security of livelihoods during the process of transition, accompanied by policies  
1128 that democratically enact ecological limits with social justice, such as caps on  
1129 material and energy use, caps on income and wealth and flight quotas among

1130 others.

#### 1131 **4.2. Economic structures**

1132 The current structure of the economy is a source of injustice, inequality, and  
1133 environmental destruction. The monopoly transnational corporations hold prevents  
1134 the entrance of new actors onto the market. It is more and more difficult for  
1135 states and citizens to hold companies accountable for their actions. These  
1136 companies are the gatekeepers for change. FYEG believes that in order to create  
1137 a more sustainable and fair approach to the economy, our economic system has to  
1138 change. It must serve humans, non-humans, and our ecosystems, not billionaires.

1139 It is time to rethink how we do economics, in service of the sustainable  
1140 satisfaction of universal human needs at a global level instead of profit,  
1141 considering the economy as embedded in society and the environment, following an  
1142 ecological economics perspective.

1143 Our political environments and economic systems have been unduly influenced by  
1144 large companies lobbying over many decades giving them an unfair advantage and  
1145 creating an overall chilling effect on political and economic decisions. Over  
1146 time this has created the conditions which allows these companies to extract  
1147 massive profits at the expense of local economies and society at large. They  
1148 undermine workers' rights and environmental standards as well as small local  
1149 businesses and worker cooperatives. They often avoid paying taxes, compromising  
1150 the ability of the state to provide public services. We therefore call for the  
1151 economy to be structured differently. Companies that are considered too big to  
1152 fail (see Glossary 164) or hold monopolies, oligopolies or create cartels must be  
1153 split up. Antitrust laws must be effectively enforced to companies with  
1154 substantial market power. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) must have  
1155 more opportunities to run their businesses without facing the threat of  
1156 multinational corporations. Enterprises that serve goals other than maximising  
1157 profits, who operate simply in order to provide services or create jobs, are a  
1158 solution, which manifest in the social and solidarity economy in the form of  
1159 worker-owned or state-owned cooperatives, associations and consumer groups,  
1160 among others.

1161 We believe the workers themselves should take a more active role in shaping the  
1162 economy. We demand that businesses be governed by the people that work in them.  
1163 One important step towards this goal would be the occupation of at least 50% of  
1164 seats on company boards by employees. Another tool is the cooperative business  
1165 model (see Glossary 29) as it helps to democratise the economy and shift the  
1166 focus to placing people over profit and building a more inclusive economy.  
1167 Mechanisms should be put in place to make it easier for workers to transform

1168 their companies into cooperatives, especially when the original owner is  
1169 planning to close the company.

1170 A green and feminist economy rejects the commodification and privatisation of  
1171 the commons. Basic human needs and social rights should always be guaranteed and  
1172 must never depend on markets. This applies especially in the cases of housing,  
1173 health, education, food, and transport. It is particularly important knowing  
1174 that the impact of this commodification and privatisation is rooted in  
1175 neoliberalism, racism, and misogyny.

1176 While globalization has brought the world more diversity and tools for exchange,  
1177 we must take a systemic look at who is profiting from the opening of the world.  
1178 Current trends of digitalisation and energy transition should not give grounds  
1179 for the growth of new neocolonial mechanisms. We support, where feasible,  
1180 relocalising (see Glossary 142) the economy, starting with the production of  
1181 essential goods such as food and medicine.

1182 The goal of economic policy should not be to boost exports at all costs but  
1183 rather to boost people's wellbeing, improve resilience and reduce imports,  
1184 dependency on single actors, and environmental impacts. More transparent and  
1185 shorter supply chains that can be more easily surveyed for exploitative and  
1186 destructive practices should be encouraged. The introduction of not only carbon  
1187 but also of social border taxes could be one of the ways to encourage the  
1188 relocalisation of the economy.

#### 1189 **4.3. A sustainable economy**

1190 Transforming our economy into a green and feminist economy also means reducing  
1191 consumption and pollution. The Earth cannot possibly sustain today's levels of  
1192 consumption. Therefore, challenging consumerism should be at the centre of a  
1193 just transition.

1194 We want to turn the linear economy (see Glossary 101), which is based on a  
1195 "take-make-waste" model, into a fully circular economy (see Glossary 21). In a  
1196 circular economy, products and materials are used over and over again instead of  
1197 being discarded. We believe we can shift from a linear economy to a circular  
1198 economy based on the following principles: minimising the usage of energy and  
1199 resources; under a sufficiency strategy; preventing waste, toxic materials and  
1200 pollution; keeping goods and materials in use and in closed loops; ensuring  
1201 human health; and encouraging the prevention of waste.

1202 For citizens to be able to play an active role and change their buying habits,

1203 we defend the right to access more detailed, harmonised, and reliable  
1204 information on the social, environmental, and climate impacts of goods and  
1205 services over their lifecycle, including durability and repairability (see  
1206 Glossary 143). A ban on programmed obsolescence is also key in this regard. We  
1207 also emphasise the need for change in relation to product- related greenwashing  
1208 (see Glossary 78) and false environmental claims. We call for regulation  
1209 encouraging producers the use of non-proprietary standards, designing by the  
1210 principles of open hardware and a loss of patents and duty to publicise  
1211 constructions and building plans when spare parts are no more produced. In order  
1212 to ease repairability of goods producers must ensure the availability of spare  
1213 parts over the entire lifecycle of the product.

1214 Today, most items and packaging are meant to be used once and discarded. This  
1215 creates vast quantities of pollution and waste materials. As landfills exceed  
1216 capacity and micro-plastics pollute the whole planet, there is a substantial  
1217 need for change. We support a move towards a zero-waste society, phasing out  
1218 single-use plastics and encouraging the development of bulk buying.

1219 Consumption is influenced by an ever more visible advertising presence. We  
1220 support regulation in advertising, including a ban on advertising the most  
1221 polluting products and behaviours (e.g. car and air travel, meat consumption).  
1222 We support a ban on targeted advertisement that uses people's personal data to  
1223 influence their behaviours. We also think the environmental and visual impact of  
1224 advertisements should be addressed, for example by banning private advertisement  
1225 in the public space.

#### 1226 **4.4. Fiscal policy**

1227 Taxation is needed to fund public budgets, maintain quality public services and  
1228 welfare states, and fund investments needed for a just transition to a zero-  
1229 carbon economy. We oppose the austerity policies (see Glossary 8) that have been  
1230 put in place across Europe. Massive investments into social and urban  
1231 infrastructure, health systems, education and fighting climate change are needed  
1232 for the young generation. Young people need decent jobs, health care, free  
1233 public transport and a liveable planet more than they need a balanced state  
1234 budget.

1235 We demand fair taxation and a stronger fight against fiscal fraud. Taxation can  
1236 also be a powerful tool in itself, reducing inequalities, redistributing wealth,  
1237 and contributing to changing behaviours.

1238 We defend the introduction of a European common taxation policy in order to

1239 fight tax avoidance (see Glossary 160) and tax havens (see Glossary 161), both  
1240 inside and outside the EU. A baseline 20% EU corporate tax (see Glossary 30)  
1241 should be introduced to reduce the attractiveness of tax avoidance. Part of that  
1242 corporate tax should automatically feed into the EU budget.

1243 Taxation should be used to reduce inequalities. We support progressive income  
1244 taxation (see Glossary 134), with higher taxation for the richest taxpayers. We  
1245 also support the introduction of a wealth tax (see Glossary 184) on  
1246 millionaires, possibly at the EU level. Finally, we believe a higher taxation on  
1247 inheritance is key to reducing the transfer of inequalities from one generation  
1248 to the next.

1249 The Federation of Young European Greens also believes that taxation can help  
1250 support positive behaviours and discourage harmful behaviours, and that over  
1251 time we should prioritise phasing out taxes on work in favour of taxes on  
1252 behaviour and wealth. Behavioural taxes such as a carbon tax, the taxation of  
1253 meat products, the taxation of single-use plastic items, and the taxation of  
1254 polluting cars, among others, can be powerful tools to encourage change. Those  
1255 taxes should be implemented fairly to avoid overburdening citizens already  
1256 living in precarious situations. Their revenue should be redistributed globally  
1257 and help support a just transition.

#### 1258 **4.5. Financial markets**

1259 More than a decade after the global financial crisis, financial markets and  
1260 banking systems remain dangerous and flawed. Financial markets continue to cause  
1261 systemic instability and social inequality. Investments continue to flow to  
1262 unsustainable, carbon-intensive (see Glossary 19) industries. Banks still ignore  
1263 the damage their investments are causing to societies and the environment.

1264 We need to change finance. We cannot make the transition to a fairer, greener  
1265 future economy without a global financial system that can allocate capital to  
1266 where it is needed, drive sustainable investment, and manage risk equitably. The  
1267 financial system must serve the needs of society, not the other way around. To  
1268 achieve this, transparency, fairness, and sustainability are key. The taxation  
1269 of financial transactions (see Glossary 162) is an important tool to fight  
1270 short-term and instant transactions. We support its introduction at the EU  
1271 level.

1272 We need a global banking system – and a system of banking regulation (see  
1273 Glossary 10) – that responds to today's needs and prioritises the public good.  
1274 It needs to encourage productive investments in the local green economies of

1275 today and tomorrow, rather than propping up polluting industries or encouraging  
1276 dangerous speculation. It needs to address inequality, both globally and  
1277 locally, rather than entrenching it. And it needs to be accountable to society,  
1278 rather than lawless and deregulated.

#### 1279 **4.6. The digital economy**

1280 The digital economy is becoming a central part of the economy. It has the power  
1281 to change our society – for the better or for the worse. We need to act quickly  
1282 to ensure that the development of the digital economy is not used to attack our  
1283 rights and privacy (see chapter 2), or to bypass social regulations as in the  
1284 case of platform workers (see Glossary 127) (see chapter 5). We need to make  
1285 digitalisation an opportunity for our society and ensure that regulations are  
1286 creating a level playing field (see Glossary 99) for all actors, as well as  
1287 improving training on digital jobs.

1288 The size and influence of some of the big digital companies raise legitimate  
1289 concerns. We support dismantling tech giants (see Glossary 163) and de-  
1290 monopolising (see Glossary 37) digital offerings.

1291 Europe's physical communications infrastructure (see Glossary 125) must be  
1292 built, owned, operated, and maintained on a non-profit basis as a common  
1293 resource. This allows faster expansion, with more people gaining access at a  
1294 lower cost.

1295 While digitalisation can be used to tackle climate change, the biodiversity  
1296 crisis, and pollution, we must not forget that digitalisation itself is not a  
1297 climate-neutral activity. From web servers, crypto-currencies, and cables to  
1298 antennas, phones and computers, digitalisation relies on infrastructure that  
1299 consumes large quantities of energy and therefore contributes to greenhouse gas  
1300 emissions. It also requires the use of many rare earth elements, the extraction  
1301 of which causes serious harm to the environment.

1302 The premature obsolescence of digital products exacerbates this phenomenon, as  
1303 well as generating large quantities of electronic waste that is not properly  
1304 recycled and therefore contributes to water and soil pollution.

1305 A lot more needs to be done to ensure the sustainable implementation of  
1306 digitalisation. We must remember that digitalisation is a tool to achieve our  
1307 wider goals and not an end in itself.

#### 1308 **4.7. Preparedness and Civil Defence**

1309 FYEG sees the need to prevent runaway climate change. However, we also see the  
1310 need to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and what might happen if we  
1311 fail to stop it at 1.5 degrees.

1312 To ensure that the consequences we will undoubtedly have to deal with as the  
1313 world warms do not hit those who are less well off, while wealthy groups  
1314 nationally and internationally can continue to live their lives and consume as  
1315 normal, all actors in society need to be engaged in stronger and more equitable  
1316 preparedness - institutions and businesses as much as civil society  
1317 organisations and individuals. Food and water, healthcare, and general  
1318 preparedness are three areas where we believe significantly more work needs to  
1319 be done across Europe.

1320 We need to ensure that Europe is agriculturally self-sufficient in order to be  
1321 sure that when the crisis comes, food does not become something only the wealthy  
1322 can afford. In the climate of the future, we cannot rely on harvests in other  
1323 countries to turn out well. Nor is it morally right for a rich country to rely  
1324 on imports of vital crops when we know that climate change will lead to food  
1325 shortages, especially in poorer countries. To this end, FYEG believes in an  
1326 expansion of existing strategic food stockpiles, and an agricultural policy that  
1327 focuses not only on environmental and climate aspects but also resilience,  
1328 appropriateness, and security of supply.

1329 The same goes for water - there is insufficient knowledge in many European  
1330 countries of how much ground reserves they have, and many countries rely heavily  
1331 on just one or two major sources for the majority of their drinking water. To  
1332 avoid situations where people lose access to drinking water while nearby  
1333 industries still use water for their operations, there should be clear  
1334 prioritisation plan developed in each locality for use of limited water  
1335 supplies, and where feasible backup systems should be developed in case of  
1336 contamination or interruption of normal water supplies. As Greens we believe in  
1337 human security, and there is no need more human than that for water.

1338 Disasters can create supply holdups, and we need to ensure that Europeans can  
1339 survive while help is on the way. FYEG believes that national governments should  
1340 develop emergency rationing plans to be prepared for if the worst happens, and  
1341 require housing associations and households to ensure that they store at least  
1342 two weeks worth of these durable, basic foodstuffs. This should be combined with  
1343 a requirement that all newly built structures contain emergency shelters,  
1344 adapted to local emergency conditions.

1345 In addition, it would be optimistic to assume that COVID will be the last  
1346 pandemic our generation sees. FYEG believes that all countries should be

1347 required to hold emergency pandemic and total defence stockpiles, aimed at  
1348 providing food, medical and protective equipment, and medicine that a population  
1349 might need in a long global emergency. Human security, rather than military  
1350 security, should be our priority.

## 1351 **5. A Social Europe**

1352 For several decades we have witnessed one social crisis leading to the next.  
1353 Each crisis either revealed or created more cracks in our social systems and  
1354 shone a spotlight on our deeply dated healthcare systems and unstable European  
1355 working environment.

1356 Housing has become increasingly difficult to find, with wages stagnating while  
1357 living and housing costs rise. We live in a society that tolerates the fact that  
1358 some people are too poor to have a roof over their heads.

1359 Instead of reducing inequalities and providing opportunities for all, education  
1360 systems across Europe are being transformed by a neoliberal (see Glossary 109)  
1361 and productivist (see Glossary 132) mindset and are reproducing inequalities  
1362 from one generation to the next.

1363 Those policies are still primarily dealt with at the national level, reinforcing  
1364 inequalities between as well as within countries. We need a truly social Europe.  
1365 This includes fighting inequalities, rethinking the way we work, and taking  
1366 strong action on housing, health, and education. The system needs to change –  
1367 now.

### 1368 **5.1. Fighting poverty**

1369 Millions of people across Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion,  
1370 with certain parts of Europe experiencing an increase in poverty rates. At the  
1371 same time, the rich are getting richer, with some individuals accumulating  
1372 indecent amounts of wealth. Neoliberalism and myths such as trickle-down theory  
1373 (see Glossary 169) have not delivered on their promises. Inequalities are on the  
1374 rise, threatening the cohesion of our societies.

1375 FYEG supports strong welfare states, which it considers essential in the fight  
1376 against poverty and to guarantee the enforceability of fundamental rights. Their  
1377 dismantling in several parts of Europe must end. Action to fight poverty should  
1378 include but not be limited to ensuring that all individuals receive an income.  
1379 Existing benefits must be fair, must allow people to live above the poverty line  
1380 (see Glossary 129), and should rise in line with average wage increases. Social

1381 services should help to ensure that everyone has access to a home, healthcare,  
1382 and training and/or work. Our social policies must leave no one behind.

1383 FYEG stands for the implementation of a minimum income across the EU, set at an  
1384 amount matching the cost of living in each region. Our social policy's goal is a  
1385 guaranteed social security net that leaves no one behind, the right to a  
1386 meaningful job, abolishing the low-wage sector with strong minimum wages and  
1387 tariffs, and a significant reduction of working hours while maintaining the wage  
1388 level. This should be financed by the higher taxation of the super-rich, among  
1389 other measures (see chapter 4 – Fiscal policy).

1390 At the same time, Europe must not forget its privileged position in the world  
1391 and must also work towards eradicating inequalities worldwide (see chapter 6 –  
1392 Trade and global justice).

## 1393 **5.2. The future of work**

1394 With technological progress, digitalisation, and the need to reduce the  
1395 environmental impact of our economies, work is changing and is likely to  
1396 continue to do so. It is important to reflect on the future of work to ensure  
1397 these changes improve everyone's welfare and well-being.

1398 FYEG supports a future that does not revolve around systemic exploitation of the  
1399 masses. Firstly, we need to get rid of strict and suffocating work culture.  
1400 Studies have shown that a reduction in working hours is accompanied by gains in  
1401 efficiency. Reducing working hours is also a feminist demand as it enables the  
1402 redistribution of unpaid care work. As a first step, we therefore propose a  
1403 maximum 32-hour working week within the EU while maintaining wage levels. We  
1404 also support raising the number of paid holidays to a minimum of 40 days per  
1405 year.

1406 Work needs to be paid fairly. In order for people not empowerish those working  
1407 less hours, we have to start changing wages immediately and start valuing work  
1408 differently. Jobs that are traditionally occupied by women tend to be valued  
1409 less. We should take into account not only the societal value of a job but also  
1410 the level of mental and physical effort it demands in order to determine wage  
1411 levels. To use the example of care work, jobs in this sector are systematically  
1412 underpaid, with the mental and physical demands of the job not adequately  
1413 reflected in the wages paid, and involve poor working conditions. FYEG supports  
1414 raising wages to above average levels for people who work in the care sector.

1415 Wage differences across Europe are used by multinational companies to maximise

1416 their profits, exploiting workers in countries where wages are the lowest and  
1417 firing workers in countries where wages are higher. In order to prevent the  
1418 lowering of social standards and the deterioration of workers' rights, we  
1419 support the introduction of an EU minimum wage scheme (see Glossary 51), with  
1420 minimum wages based on the cost of living in a particular country or region and  
1421 a mechanism to progressively harmonise them upward. No one should live below the  
1422 poverty line. Workers should be able to travel freely, seek employment, and work  
1423 in the country of their choice. Strong protective measures are needed to ensure  
1424 that the foreign posting of workers is not used to bypass national social  
1425 protection schemes.

1426 Interns and trainees also must receive fair pay in order to cover their living  
1427 costs and in recognition of the value of the work they do. FYEG wants an  
1428 immediate ban on unpaid internships.

1429 It is easy to lose a job – and it can be extremely difficult to find another  
1430 one. Unemployment is not an individual failure, but an inevitability in our  
1431 broken economic system. The welfare state should be a safety net that leaves no  
1432 one in poverty. People need to be protected during periods of unemployment. We  
1433 fight for fair unemployment benefits (see Glossary 177) and the fair treatment  
1434 of those trying to re-enter the labour market. Over the course of their lives,  
1435 individuals change jobs far more frequently than in previous generations. We  
1436 therefore support the reinforcement of lifelong learning schemes to allow people  
1437 to study or train for new jobs at any point in their lives.

1438 We support the introduction of parental leave (see Glossary 119) schemes across  
1439 Europe that guarantee that every new parent, regardless of their gender, has  
1440 access to a period of paid parental leave of at least three months. Mechanisms  
1441 should be put in place to ensure that parental leave schemes contribute to  
1442 gender equality. Mandatory parental leave for new fathers can help to reduce the  
1443 discrimination that new mothers face when applying for jobs, as well as promote  
1444 the equal distribution of domestic tasks in the household. Therefore we support  
1445 a model where both parents have 4 more months of paid parental leave with  
1446 additional 4 months left to distribute freely between themselves.

1447 FYEG recalls the right to unionise and considers that trade unions (see Glossary  
1448 165) play a crucial role in improving working conditions. The right to unionise  
1449 as well as the right to strike must be recognised and protected across Europe.  
1450 The workers should be granted accessible information and education on  
1451 unionisation and standing up for their rights. Sanctions against companies that  
1452 are attempting union busting should be put in place at the EU level. Moreover,  
1453 bodies which represent employees' interests should be strengthened, and 50% of  
1454 the seats on the boards of large companies should be reserved for employee

1455 representatives. Digitalisation has led to new forms of work and employment such  
1456 as the gig economy, in which workers are not employed on regular work contracts  
1457 which include social protection, but are instead paid for each task completed.  
1458 While this can bring a flexibility that some workers enjoy, we must ensure that  
1459 gig workers have equal social protection, including health and work-related  
1460 accident insurance, protection against discrimination, parental benefits and  
1461 rights, and pensions.

1462 We must also ensure that the platforms and companies who use gig workers are  
1463 paying salary, tax, and other costs in line with other actors, as well as  
1464 requiring platforms and other companies to officially employ “false self-  
1465 employed” individuals in the event that they request this.

1466 We also believe that work which has a positive impact on the environment and on  
1467 society should be properly rewarded, for example through grants. We propose  
1468 setting up a care income (see Glossary 20) in the form of a premium paid by  
1469 states to reward those who care for people, society in general, and the  
1470 environment on a non-professional basis.

1471 We believe in fair retirement policies, such as a progressive retirement age  
1472 which allows people to continue working after that age if they freely choose to  
1473 do so. Many retired people, especially women, receive extremely low pensions. We  
1474 support decent pension incomes for all which are sufficient for a dignified  
1475 life.

### 1476 **5.3. Discrimination in the workplace**

1477 FYEG recognises that racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism,  
1478 and ageism – which it believes to be inherent to neoliberal capitalism – do not  
1479 stop at the doors of our workplaces, and stands for anti-discrimination policies  
1480 in the workplace.

1481 Every European company should have a clear policy in relation to toxic behaviour  
1482 including unconscious bias, hateful speech, and sexual harassment in the  
1483 workplace, as well as organising regular trainings on this. We also want to  
1484 strengthen European law in order to make it easier for people who have  
1485 experienced sexual harassment to come forward and take legal action against  
1486 their harassers.

1487 A European regulation for equality in the workplace should be adopted, making it  
1488 mandatory for companies to implement an equality plan, ensure gender balance and  
1489 promote diversity in all levels of company governance , and have a clear plan to

1490 ensure the closure of any wage gap. Companies with more than 20 employees must  
1491 implement a quorum for governing bodies in the middle and top layer of the  
1492 company, ensuring that a maximum of 60% of people within these governing bodies  
1493 is cis-gendered and male. Companies who fail to implement basic principles such  
1494 as equal pay for equal work should be sanctioned.

1495 FYEG stands for the full equality of all genders. We are calling on the EU to  
1496 develop a strategy to end gender discrimination. This strategy must include non-  
1497 binary and trans people.

1498 Racism in workplaces must be fought, and finally ended. In order to achieve  
1499 this, companies must commit to diversity internships, fellowships, and other  
1500 programmes. Additionally, antiracism policies, diversity and inclusion reports,  
1501 and regular training must be made mandatory. We support using testing to expose  
1502 discrimination and condemn companies that discriminate against people.

1503 We support freedom of movement (see Glossary 69), as well as the freedom to stay  
1504 (see Glossary 70). The exploitation of migrant workers must be brought to an  
1505 end. Working and employment conditions, as well as access to benefits, should be  
1506 determined according to the country in which a person is working, not their  
1507 nationality or background. Companies, governments, and courts should treat  
1508 migrant workers the same as other workers. We are concerned about the current  
1509 practice of several European countries to treat highly skilled migrant workers  
1510 and other migrant workers differently. We call for the establishment of a  
1511 universal right to migration for work purposes, as well as a common European  
1512 policy framework for labour migration.

1513 Young people all over Europe need to work in order to study or to support their  
1514 families. They are often treated differently to their older colleagues. FYEG  
1515 would require employers to pay young people (including minors) the same amount  
1516 as their older colleagues for performing the same work. Union-supported and  
1517 regulated wage increases based on the number of years working in a certain field  
1518 or at a particular workplace could still be permitted.

#### 1519 **5.4. Housing**

1520 FYEG stands for housing for all. For this to happen, housing must be affordable  
1521 for all and no longer a profit-making activity. We aim towards a world in which  
1522 housing is no longer a commodity but rather a human right. States should  
1523 intervene on the housing market to prevent speculation (see Glossary 157) and  
1524 ensure that everyone has a home.

1525 We believe that affordable housing should also be decent and of good quality.  
1526 With extreme weather events becoming more and more frequent, it is more  
1527 important than ever to build houses which can withstand disasters like flooding  
1528 and earthquakes. In order to ensure that housing is truly a right for all, we  
1529 believe that all new buildings must be made accessible for disabled people.

1530 There will be stricter supervision of real estate agents and private landlords.  
1531 For example, use is made of "anonymous tenants" to combat discrimination in the  
1532 housing sector. In addition to warnings and fines, rental permits can also be  
1533 withdrawn if there is structural mismanagement.

1534 Many Europeans are still facing energy poverty (see Glossary 47) and are not  
1535 able to heat their homes, in particular single-parents, mostly women. Buildings  
1536 are responsible for approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO2  
1537 emissions in the EU. We believe all housing should be energetically renovated  
1538 within the next 10 years and environmental standards for buildings must aim to  
1539 minimise the use of embodied energy during planning and construction and a  
1540 maximum of energy efficiency during their lifecycle .

1541 We need higher taxation for property purchases that exceed individual needs. We  
1542 also need better rental rights for people who cannot afford to buy a house and  
1543 those who prefer not to own a home. In places where rents have increased in the  
1544 last decades we support the introduction of rent control measures, which have  
1545 already been implemented in several places. We also support cities who are  
1546 putting restrictions on short-term tourist lets that drive up rental prices. The  
1547 geographic side of public housing in Europe is currently based on the economic  
1548 value of houses.

1549 This results in segregation between rich and poor and thus also between ethnic  
1550 groups. We counter this on a policy basis. We have to increasingly invest in  
1551 public housing (see Glossary 136) at local, regional, federal, and EU levels in  
1552 order to combat overburdening by housing costs, which affects around 80 million  
1553 people in the EU. In many countries, public housing is not evenly distributed  
1554 between cities and districts, thus increasing inequalities. We support the  
1555 introduction of public housing quotas by city and by neighbourhood. To prevent  
1556 pressure on the housing prices on the private market, cities with large student  
1557 populations need sufficient and quality non-profit student housing. Investments  
1558 should be increased in non-profit student housing as well.

1559 While some people are overburdened with housing costs, others cannot afford  
1560 housing at all. The number of homeless people in the EU has risen by 70% since  
1561 2010, and more than 700,000 people are now sleeping rough all over Europe. We  
1562 must therefore launch a Europe-wide plan for everyone to have access to

1563 inclusive, climate friendly, and decent homes. We support approaches such as  
1564 Housing First (see Glossary 82) that provide homeless people with housing  
1565 without preconditions, seeing this as the first step towards integration. Our  
1566 general aim is a fair housing market without excessive costs for tenants and  
1567 buyers and where everyone can afford a place to live. Over the long term, there  
1568 should be serious consideration given to deprivatising the housing market.

## 1569 **5.5. Health**

1570 As stated in Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights,  
1571 “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for [their] health and  
1572 well-being”. A free and accessible universal healthcare system is essential to  
1573 achieve these standards, based on physical and psychological well-being as well  
1574 as social care and prevention. Healthcare should be inclusive of everyone  
1575 without discrimination and be based on the best current scientific knowledge.

1576 FYEG supports publicly funded healthcare. Health is not a commodity, but a human  
1577 right. Healthcare that is free at point of use means that people are not  
1578 expected to pay for accessing healthcare services (primary and secondary care).  
1579 Instead, their health insurance is covered through tax. Healthcare workers are  
1580 essential, and their working and employment conditions must be improved.

1581 The huge disparities between rural and urban access to healthcare, such as  
1582 emergency and specialised services, should be addressed, with investment made to  
1583 support and increase the number of healthcare services and workers in rural  
1584 areas.

1585 Cooperation between companies and states allows health crises to be tackled more  
1586 effectively and solutions to health issues more easily available to countries in  
1587 need. International organisations such as the WHO should therefore be  
1588 strengthened, while also being made more transparent and inclusive.

1589 The EU is beginning the process to establish a European Health Union. FYEG  
1590 supports a mechanism to harmonise healthcare across Europe. To develop this, the  
1591 EU should commit to properly funding its EU4Health programme (see Glossary 53).

1592 About 25 % of Europe's citizens suffer from mental health problems. As FYEG, we  
1593 demand that mental health and related conditions be taken more seriously. We  
1594 have to increase the availability of counselling and psychotherapy as well as  
1595 funding for other mental health services in order to provide adequate and  
1596 affordable care for every European citizen who is experiencing mental health  
1597 problems, independent of their economic or social background.

1598 Marginalised groups (for example women, LGBTQIA+, racialised people) often face  
1599 issues when trying to access healthcare, such as stigma around their health  
1600 needs and discrimination, to the point of being refused treatment or not taken  
1601 seriously. Those with existing medical conditions (such as people with  
1602 disabilities and/or chronic illnesses), may face difficulties receiving  
1603 treatment for other conditions. All discrimination should be fought against,  
1604 with awareness-raising and stigma-reducing campaigns and training for healthcare  
1605 workers. Additionally, we demand more research to be conducted into mental  
1606 health in marginalised groups, as well as initiatives that specifically target  
1607 loneliness and the social isolation of specific groups such as elderly people,  
1608 chronically ill people, and disabled people.

1609 FYEG fights for sexual and reproductive health and rights (see chapter 1).

1610 FYEG also supports a stronger focus on prevention in public health policy.  
1611 Fighting air and water pollution, eliminating endocrine disruptors and  
1612 carcinogenic substances, promoting healthy diets including the reduced  
1613 consumption of heavily processed food, and promoting sport are all key actions  
1614 to prevent severe chronic disease. A healthy lifestyle should be affordable for  
1615 everyone. Therefore, fruit and vegetables should be cheaper and unhealthy  
1616 products should be increased in price. Sports are important for social contact  
1617 and should not only be promoted, but also be accessible for all. Therefore,  
1618 financial support should be given when necessary. Prevention policies on smoking  
1619 and drinking should also be put in place, for example through information  
1620 campaigns, taxation, the regulation of sales, and bans on advertising. FYEG  
1621 encourages countries to create separate shops for alcohol and tobacco. Smoking  
1622 should be banned in public places where it is clearly a nuisance to people's  
1623 health. FYEG supports a harm-reduction approach through prevention programmes  
1624 within drug policy and the treatment of addiction.

1625 Alongside addiction awareness-raising, the stigma around addiction should be  
1626 tackled. Addiction should be recognised as a medical condition, and social  
1627 protection and medical and social support should be offered to those suffering  
1628 from addiction.

1629 We support the full legalisation and regulation of drugs across Europe, while  
1630 increasing prevention measures. Drug legalisation would deprive organised crime  
1631 structures of a lucrative source of income. Tax revenues from drug sales should  
1632 be used to fund the healthcare and prevention sectors and social services.

1633 We demand a fair, publicly owned pharmaceutical sector. Large pharmaceutical  
1634 companies should not hold the monopoly (see Glossary 106) on public safety,  
1635 especially when this leads to unequal access to life-saving treatments.

1636 Additionally, life-saving drugs should not be sold at a profit. All contracts  
1637 made between pharmaceutical companies and national governments or the EU should  
1638 be transparent and made publicly available.

1639 Individuals' well-being, dignity, and wishes should be fully respected in the  
1640 healthcare system. We fight for improving palliative care (see Glossary 117) and  
1641 for allowing people to choose how and when they die.

## 1642 **5.5. Education**

1643 Education is more than just learning how to spell, counting to 10 or training  
1644 workers. It should also be the process of learning how to grow as a person and  
1645 as a member of society. Education must be accessible to all genders, ages,  
1646 sexualities, religions, and ethnicities, independent of ability, origin, place of  
1647 residence, access to digital tools, wealth, or legal status.

1648 Education should not depend on the balance of your bank account. It should be  
1649 free and publicly funded, from kindergarten to university. Education should not  
1650 focus on performance or economic profitability. Pressure should be taken off  
1651 children and students, and special attention should be paid to their mental  
1652 health.

1653 Vocational colleges (see Glossary 182) and universities are of equal importance  
1654 to institutions of higher education. Young people who want to pursue a more  
1655 practical education should be given the same resources as those who are more  
1656 academically inclined. We believe that young people who pursue a practical  
1657 education should receive payment for the duration of their apprenticeship and be  
1658 ensured qualified guidance throughout their education.

1659 All types of curricula should be inclusive. Topics such as LGBTQIA+ issues, sex  
1660 education, mental health, and anti-racism, among others, should feature in every  
1661 school's curriculum. We believe that students from ethnic or linguistic minority  
1662 groups should have access to, for example, their culture and/or language of  
1663 origin in schools, either as an extra-curricular activity or as part of the main  
1664 curriculum. It should be safe and possible to break gender norms and class norms  
1665 in the educational system, and students should be encouraged to follow their  
1666 dreams and passions instead of fulfilling social expectations.

1667 FYEG also believes that European and international mobility should be accessible  
1668 to all from an early age. With that in mind, we support increasing the budget of  
1669 the Erasmus+ programme to guarantee that every young person has the opportunity  
1670 to take part in an international mobility programme before graduating from

1671 secondary school and before graduating from university.

## 1672 **6. Europe in the World**

1673 The current international system has not achieved its promise of ensuring peace,  
1674 guaranteeing fundamental rights, and reducing global inequalities and poverty.  
1675 Conflicts are taking place all around the globe. Illiberalism (see Glossary 87)  
1676 and autocracy (see Glossary 9) are on the rise. At the same time, the  
1677 international organisations and rules that have characterised international  
1678 cooperation over the last decades are increasingly under attack. The changing  
1679 geopolitical context (including the withdrawal of the USA from the world stage  
1680 and the rise of other powers such as China) will have far-reaching consequences  
1681 for the international system. On top of this, the effects of the climate crisis  
1682 will contribute to instability. We stand at the beginning of a period of  
1683 significant volatility.

1684 The EU has tried to establish itself as a global actor over recent years. We  
1685 believe that it is only together that the EU Member States have enough weight to  
1686 tackle complex global challenges effectively. The external action of the EU must  
1687 be built on and guided by values. We believe that European foreign policy must  
1688 uphold human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the respect of international  
1689 law; preserve and build peace; pursue multilateral (see Glossary 107) solutions;  
1690 and fight for effective action at the global level to fight climate change, the  
1691 biodiversity crisis, and other global environmental and social challenges.

### 1692 **6.1. Multilateralism**

1693 Challenges such as the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic are global in  
1694 nature and cannot be overcome by any state alone. In a world that is becoming  
1695 increasingly connected and complex, international cooperation is the only way  
1696 forward. At a time when international organisations are being undermined and  
1697 with certain states pursuing a course of unilateralism (see Glossary 178), the  
1698 EU, as well as other actors, needs to actively fight for multilateral solutions  
1699 and the strengthening of international organisations.

1700 We oppose a move towards a world characterised by great power competition and  
1701 the rule of the strongest. It is our responsibility to fight for a fair, rule-  
1702 based international system that protects those who are more vulnerable and gives  
1703 them the power to actively shape their futures. We stand for the strengthening  
1704 of international courts and call for the EU to join the European Convention on  
1705 Human Rights (see Glossary 56) in a timely fashion in order for it to be held to  
1706 account in cases of human rights abuses.

1707 The EU will also advocate for reforms within the International Monetary Fund  
1708 (IMF) (see Glossary 90) and the World Bank (see Glossary 186). Their decision-  
1709 making processes must be decoupled from the financial contributions of Member  
1710 States. These institutions must contribute to a stable and sustainable world  
1711 economy. Multilateral solutions on global issues such as climate change,  
1712 biodiversity loss, migration, weapons, and security should be pursued.

1713 While being strong supporters of multilateralism, FYEG also believes that it  
1714 needs to be deeply reformed. The current system is still institutionalising  
1715 existing power inequalities instead of balancing them. The fact that five of the  
1716 richest countries in the world, who happen to be among the largest military  
1717 powers and weapons exporters, hold permanent seats on the UN Security Council  
1718 (see Glossary 174) and have the right of veto is neither fair nor sustainable in  
1719 the long term. In the short term, this system should be reformed by giving  
1720 permanent seats on the Security Council to more countries, including those who  
1721 have historically been exploited and hindered in their economic development by  
1722 colonial powers, and by ending the right of veto. In the long term, the UN  
1723 should evolve towards a global democracy in which representatives from all  
1724 countries would be democratically elected.

## 1725 **6.2. Feminist foreign policy**

1726 As FYEG, we stand for the development and implementation of a European feminist  
1727 foreign policy. Feminist foreign policy is a political framework that is centred  
1728 around the well-being of marginalised people and invokes processes of self-  
1729 reflection regarding hierarchical global systems.

1730 There is an urgent need for the EU to reconsider the way it conducts its  
1731 external actions. Traditionally, foreign policy thinking tends to focus on  
1732 military force and the security of states. Feminist foreign policy offers us a  
1733 new, intersectional way to think about foreign policy from the viewpoint of the  
1734 most vulnerable. It aims to elevate women's and marginalised groups' experiences  
1735 and agency to scrutinise the destructive forces of patriarchy, neocolonialism,  
1736 heteronormativity (see Glossary 80), capitalism (see Glossary 13), racism (see  
1737 Glossary 141), imperialism (see Glossary 88), and militarism (see Glossary 105).

1738 For European states, this means addressing its history of colonialism. Many  
1739 European states built their wealth on the brutal exploitation of other  
1740 countries. Colonialism and its aftershocks are affecting countries and the  
1741 hierarchies in the international system to this day. A European feminist foreign  
1742 policy must be a decolonial foreign policy. A first step into this direction is  
1743 debt forgiveness (see Glossary 35) and reparations for formerly colonised  
1744 countries. In the longer term, the way the EU conducts development assistance

1745 needs to be rethought and global economic institutions need to be reformed to  
1746 effectively address the situation of formerly colonised countries.

1747 FYEG supports the right to self-determination for peoples. The EU should promote  
1748 the right to self-determination for peoples, in adherence to international law  
1749 and states' territories, and with the prospect of improving the human rights  
1750 situation and democracy.

1751 In terms of peacebuilding, a European feminist foreign policy means that more  
1752 women and other marginalised groups must be brought to the negotiation table.  
1753 Our focus should not be on top-down processes, but rather on community-centred  
1754 initiatives. As part of a European feminist foreign policy, the institutions  
1755 which shape foreign policy, such as the European External Action Service (see  
1756 Glossary 58) and national foreign services, must reflect the diversity of the  
1757 societies they work for. Foreign policy continues to be dominated by old white  
1758 men, and it is the task of institutions to actively take steps to change this.

### 1759 **6.3. Peace and security**

1760 Peace is more than the mere absence of war. Our understanding of peace entails a  
1761 positive peace that includes a commitment to justice and human rights and the  
1762 eradication of poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion, as well as  
1763 tackling the effects of the climate crisis.

1764 Too often security is equated with militarisation. Such a perspective is not  
1765 only false and limiting, but harmful. We need a paradigm shift in terms of  
1766 security, putting more emphasis on crisis preparedness, resilience, and emerging  
1767 security challenges such as hybrid threats and climate change. Further  
1768 militarisation fails to meet today's security challenges. Instead of  
1769 militarisation, we therefore call for an allocation of resources to where they  
1770 can contribute to human security (see Glossary 84) and truly sustainable peace.  
1771 This includes ensuring funding for civil society organisations and humanitarian  
1772 organisations. Human beings, not state security, must be at the heart of all  
1773 security efforts. When it comes to conflict response, humanitarian action and  
1774 dialogue must be prioritised over militarised intervention. Imposing sanctions  
1775 has precedent over militarized intervention as well, yet sanctions must be  
1776 targeted and do no harm to the overall population. Within international  
1777 organisations dealing with security, the EU must actively fight for solutions  
1778 built on the principles of human security. Within the EU, we must put an end to  
1779 the unanimity requirement to impose international economic sanctions. However,  
1780 we recognise that in certain situations dialogue is not enough. When genocide or  
1781 other horrific human rights abuses are occurring, or unprovoked crimes of  
1782 aggression occur and mediation has proven unsuccessful, we through the EU need

1783 to be able to forcefully and militarily respond to protect human life and  
1784 security. To this end, we support the development of rapidly deployable and  
1785 interoperable EU military forces that are able to engage in peace enforcement  
1786 and civilian protection, such as the EUFOR Crisis Response Operations Core, so  
1787 long as they are truly used for this purpose and not as an instrument of  
1788 economic or national interests.

1789 Through the production and export of arms, European States are fuelling  
1790 conflicts across the world. We demand the end of arms exports. In line with the  
1791 principle of human security, we also call on European States and the EU to  
1792 increase efforts to make nuclear weapons illegal under international law and  
1793 join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (see Glossary 168). We  
1794 also advocate for the global prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWs)  
1795 (see Glossary 98).

1796 We support all Stateless Peoples subjected to oppression by other states. We  
1797 highlight the importance of supporting their fight for freedom and recognition,  
1798 and call for international treaties to be respected in context of colonizing or  
1799 apartheid regimes, only as defined by the Rome Statute of the International  
1800 Criminal Court. Military activities, as well as other forms of subjugation, must  
1801 be put to an end under the mandate of international organisations such as the  
1802 United Nations Security Council, or the International Court of Justice.  
1803 Recognition of new borders for these Peoples needs to be respected by all  
1804 parties in order to include them as a rightful member of the international  
1805 community. The climate crisis will only bring more meteorological and  
1806 humanitarian disasters, which can be deadly, create problems for the delivery of  
1807 essential services and risk destroying critical infrastructure. In times of  
1808 peace we support the training and use of military forces for disaster response  
1809 and preparedness, both within Europe and outside of it, in strict accordance  
1810 with international law and solely under mandate.

#### 1811 **6.4. Migration**

1812 We believe in the unrestricted right to travel and migrate for education,  
1813 economic, security, freedom, peace, climate, and other reasons. Freedom of  
1814 movement should be considered a human right. Your freedom and opportunities  
1815 should not depend on where you or your parents were born or your ability to  
1816 acquire a certain nationality.

1817 At the same time, we are also conscious of the root causes of forced migration,  
1818 especially from countries in which people are affected by famine, war, climate  
1819 change, exploitation, and various kinds of persecution (ethnic, cultural,  
1820 religious, political, ...). You should not be forced to look for better and

1821 safer conditions in other countries because your situation is deteriorating to  
1822 the point where your life and that of your loved ones are put in grave danger.  
1823 Furthermore, sustainable development cooperation is not only giving aid to those  
1824 who need them. Europe should be proactive in rooting out the causes of forced  
1825 migration, especially when originating from European actor's actions, and  
1826 ensuring human security (cf Feminist Foreign Policy)

1827 Europe must become a safe haven for people seeking refuge. Illegal pushbacks  
1828 (see Glossary 85) of migrants and refugees must stop, and the humane treatment  
1829 of migrants and refugees upon and after their arrival ensured, in particular  
1830 access to sufficient food, clean and safe drinking water, and healthcare. The  
1831 housing of migrants and refugees in mass camps with poor living conditions must  
1832 end, and dignified housing must be provided immediately. Member states and local  
1833 governments should strive to provide secure small-scale housing which will serve  
1834 as a springboard for migrants and their families to be able to rent in the  
1835 private housing market in the medium and long-term. In housing refugees, member  
1836 states and local governments should also put the particular sensitivities into  
1837 consideration including, but not limited to, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQ+  
1838 migrants, and migrants with disabilities.

1839 Human rights activists who organise voluntary rescue operations have been  
1840 charged with heinous crimes. Humans have always been migrating and will always  
1841 migrate. Europe should support migration, facilitate secure travel for all  
1842 migrants, especially refugees and asylum seekers, and make sure that all people  
1843 are saved when in distress, as regulated in international admiralty law.

1844 Criminalising and hassling private organisations and commercial ships which do  
1845 so is a breach of international law and must be prosecuted. The European States'  
1846 and the EU's externalisation of border management, through agreements such as  
1847 the ones with the Turkish government and the Libyan authorities and militias,  
1848 has further amplified the violations of human rights at the borders of the EU.  
1849 This must end immediately.

1850 We defend the right to asylum. Europe must create legal and safe channels for  
1851 migration. We demand humanitarian and resettlement visas, allowing refugees to  
1852 come to Europe safely. Administrative procedures to obtain these visas should be  
1853 free of charge for applicants at the point of service. We need a common European  
1854 asylum policy based on the principles of solidarity with migrants, asylum-  
1855 seekers, and refugees. The Dublin system (see Glossary 42) as we now know it  
1856 should be replaced. Refugees and asylum seekers already in the EU should be able  
1857 to effectively register for asylum, have access to asylum procedures, and be  
1858 able to request asylum not in the member state of arrival but in the one of  
1859 their choice. A common system of EU procedures, requirements, and checks must be

1860 implemented, with clear time frames, in order to relieve pressure on the  
1861 individual. We need a common European asylum policy based on the principles of  
1862 solidarity. Additionally, all member states, particularly those who are of  
1863 better financial standing, must welcome more refugees, in order to relieve  
1864 pressure on border countries. In welcoming refugees, member states and local  
1865 governments should also put particular sensitivities into consideration  
1866 including, but not limited to, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQ+ migrants, and  
1867 migrants with disabilities.

1868 Europe does not have a migrant or refugee crisis, Europe has a militarisation of  
1869 migration and border policies crisis. FYEG is unequivocally against "Fortress  
1870 Europe". The militarisation of border management, including through Frontex (see  
1871 Glossary 71), has turned Europe into a fortress, causing the death of thousands  
1872 of migrants every year. We demand the abolition of Frontex and the reallocation  
1873 of its budget and resources towards policy and appropriate institutions based on  
1874 the human security framework. Their main objective is to create political,  
1875 economic, social, cultural, and environmental conditions in which peoples' vital  
1876 rights and freedoms are secure.

1877 Current border policies institutionalise racism and social stratification (see  
1878 Glossary 156). Instead, we should make sure that our migration policies serve to  
1879 create a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and peaceful Europe. This means equal  
1880 access to education, job opportunities for all, the recognition of education and  
1881 skills learnt in someone's country of origin, and the provision of language  
1882 training. Moreover, it should be easier to gain study, work, and residence  
1883 permits in Europe and to be granted family reunification. The granting of  
1884 permanent residence permits should be the norm, not the exception.

1885 Across Europe, millions of people live undocumented. The rights of these  
1886 paperless people (see Glossary 118) should be protected. There are millions of  
1887 young people who were born in the EU but are not EU citizens because of their  
1888 parents' migration status. Anyone who is born in the EU is European and should  
1889 receive an EU passport upon birth.

## 1890 **6.5. The geopolitical challenges of digitalisation**

1891 Digitalisation has brought new geopolitical challenges. Digital companies and  
1892 platforms are in an excellent position to use the flaws of the current  
1893 international system to their benefit, for example to avoid taxation or locate  
1894 the country that will offer them the best conditions and the lowest level of  
1895 accountability. At a time when certain companies have become more powerful than  
1896 states, only international cooperation and European legislation can provide  
1897 solutions and protect citizens' personal data and privacy. We support

1898 dismantling the biggest tech companies to allow other actors to compete on a  
1899 level playing field and to avoid the over-concentration of power. We also  
1900 support the development of alternatives to tech giants that must show greater  
1901 respect for people's data and privacy.

1902 Digitalisation has also created new online battlefields. The cyberattacks  
1903 reported by some media outlets, hospitals, and public services show the need to  
1904 reinforce cybersecurity (see Glossary 34). The attempts of some countries to  
1905 influence democratic processes such as referenda and elections, for example  
1906 through disinformation campaigns, also demonstrate the need to take preventative  
1907 measures. We support a ban on targeted advertising (see Glossary 159) and the  
1908 strong regulation of political advertising on social media. Finally,  
1909 digitalisation also has geopolitical consequences in relation to the consumption  
1910 of rare earth elements (REEs). REEs are essential for the manufacture of many  
1911 electronic devices but are only found in sufficient quantities in certain  
1912 countries, which makes them a source of geopolitical tension. We support the  
1913 development of recycling facilities in Europe as well as limits on the export of  
1914 waste containing REEs.

## 1915 **6.6. Trade and global justice**

1916 Sharp global inequalities shape today's international system. Formerly colonised  
1917 countries are suffering from the legacy of colonialism to this day. Global  
1918 inequalities are also apparent in the climate crisis and the biodiversity  
1919 crisis, as those who are the most responsible are not the same as those who are  
1920 most severely affected. Global inequalities are perpetuated by free trade and by  
1921 international trade rules that leave countries powerless to face multinational  
1922 corporations.

1923 FYEG stands for global justice. Global justice entails a rethinking of how we  
1924 conduct both development and trade. The EU should reserve 1% of its GDP for  
1925 development cooperation and should advocate for raising the OECD (see Glossary  
1926 115) standard to 1%. This amount must be fully spent on improving the situation  
1927 of people in poverty-stricken countries providing local aid groups, communities  
1928 or relevant authorities with funds and support to develop initiatives which fit  
1929 their own priorities, in respect of good governance. It should neither end up  
1930 with European companies that receive this as a covert subsidy, nor be spent to  
1931 prevent migration to Europe. The EU and its Member States must fundamentally re-  
1932 design their approach to trade agreements and finance development in order to  
1933 fully comply with highest fair trade and environmental standards. Its  
1934 development banks believe in outdated economic models that result in accumulated  
1935 debt and large corporations stunting the growth of local businesses.

1936 Trade must be fair. This means that trade can never be conducted at the expense  
1937 of human rights, democracy, social and environmental standards, or the fight  
1938 against the climate crisis. We oppose any trade and any trade agreements that do  
1939 not fulfil these criteria. Like development policies, fair trade must  
1940 acknowledge the responsibility of former colonial European states towards  
1941 countries which have historically been exploited and hindered in their economic  
1942 development by them. Fair trade must respect the interests of formerly colonised  
1943 countries and must not counter the objectives of development policies.

1944 The change we are calling for is not limited to trade agreements. We also call  
1945 for regulatory due diligence and transparency in supply chains to prevent  
1946 environmental harm and to ensure social rights. European companies must be held  
1947 responsible in European States and the EU for breaches committed in third  
1948 countries. A human rights due diligence (HRDD) legislation, legally referring to  
1949 all human rights, should apply to all business relations of all companies who  
1950 are making use of the EU's single market (with specific considerations for SMEs)  
1951 to ensure that the entire supply chain is being looked at. We believe that HRDD  
1952 legislation must at least cover, but not be limited to, severe human rights  
1953 violations, and their enforcement must be uniform across the EU.

1954 FYEG stands for a different type of globalisation, one that is based not on  
1955 increasing profits and trade at all costs, but rather on exchanging ideas,  
1956 celebrating cultural diversity, and working together towards a better future.

## 1957 **6.7. A Green European Neighbourhood Policy**

1958 The EU will not become stronger by closing itself off from others. Through the  
1959 European Neighbourhood Policy (see Glossary 59) the EU has since its inception  
1960 tried and failed to guarantee democracy, human rights, fair economies and rule  
1961 of law for states bordering the Mediterranean and to the East of the Union.

1962 Though the expansion of the EU is not an end in itself, EU membership should be  
1963 open to all European countries that are not yet or no longer members of the EU.  
1964 We support the accession of countries who express the wish to join the EU if  
1965 they meet human rights, democratic, and rule of law criteria.

1966 The EU should develop and maintain strong cooperation with neighbouring  
1967 countries who are not members of the EU, including by guaranteeing visa-free  
1968 travel and participation in key programmes such as Erasmus+ (see Glossary 48).  
1969 For non-European states, the entire policy needs an overhaul with enhanced  
1970 conditionality, greater focus and rewards for progress on fundamental rights,  
1971 and cooperation on environmental and climate issues. As greens, we support

1972 measures that secure peace and prosperity, and provide the basis for  
1973 environmental and climate action. The European Neighbourhood Policy has the  
1974 potential to do so, but does not contribute to the achievements of these  
1975 objectives right now.

## 1976 **Glossary**

1977 1. Ableism: Discrimination or prejudice against disabled individuals or people  
1978 who are perceived to be disabled.

1979 2. Alternative text: A written description of an image to help screen-reading  
1980 tools explain the image to visually impaired readers.

1981 3. Antimicrobial resistance: A process through which microbes evolve and develop  
1982 mechanisms that protect them from the effects of antimicrobials such as  
1983 antibiotics and antifungals. This phenomenon is being accelerated by the massive  
1984 use of antimicrobials in intensive animal farming.

1985 4. Antisemitism: A certain perception of Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial  
1986 group, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews or discrimination against  
1987 them.

1988 5. Antiziganism: Hostility, prejudice, discrimination, or racism specifically  
1989 directed at Romani people.

1990 6. Article 7 of the Treaty on EU: Procedure to suspend certain rights from  
1991 Member States of the EU in the event of a breach of EU fundamental values.

1992 7. Artificial intelligence (AI): The ability of a machine to complete tasks  
1993 which ordinarily require human intelligence.

1994 8. Austerity policies: A set of government-imposed economic policies to reduce  
1995 budget deficits. Measures can include tax increases and spending cuts.

1996 9. Autocracy: A system of government in which supreme power over a state is  
1997 concentrated in the hands of one person.

1998 10. Banking regulation: Government rules or regulations on how banks and  
1999 financial institutions should conduct business.

- 2000 11. Bioenergy: Energy produced using biomass or biofuels, including energy from  
2001 wood or other plants, plant-derived biofuels, and organic waste.
- 2002 12. Bodily autonomy: The right to govern what happens to one's own body.
- 2003 13. Capitalism: An economic system in which the means of production are in  
2004 private ownership and operated for profit. It is characterised by the  
2005 accumulation of capital, investments determined by private decision, and the  
2006 fact that prices and the production and distribution of goods are primarily  
2007 determined by competition in a free market.
- 2008 14. Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM): A proposed tax to be imposed on  
2009 certain goods imported from outside the EU, based on their carbon footprint. The  
2010 CBAM would reduce emissions and encourage the use of domestically produced  
2011 goods.
- 2012 4215. Carbon capture and storage (CCS): A process which attempts to prevent the  
2013 release of large quantities of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere from  
2014 fossil fuel use in power generation and other industries. Waste CO<sub>2</sub> is captured,  
2015 transported to a storage site, and pumped into underground geologic formations,  
2016 where it is securely stored away and thus prevented from reaching the  
2017 atmosphere.
- 2018 16. Carbon neutral economy: An economy that operates without releasing more CO<sub>2</sub>  
2019 than can be absorbed by carbon sinks.
- 2020 17. Carbon sink: Anything that absorbs more CO<sub>2</sub> than it emits. Examples include  
2021 areas of vegetation (e.g. forests) and phytoplankton-rich seas, which naturally  
2022 absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> present in the atmosphere.
- 2023 18. Carbon tax: A tax paid by businesses that emit CO<sub>2</sub> in the course of their  
2024 operations.
- 2025 19. Carbon-intensive industries: Industries that emit high quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> and  
2026 are responsible for the vast majority of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- 2027 20. Care income: Remuneration received by non-professional carers such as family  
2028 members for their care work.
- 2029 21. Circular economy: In contrast to the linear economy, a circular economy is  
2030 designed to eliminate waste, promote the continuous use of resources and

- 2031 materials, and use finite resources in a sustainable way.
- 2032 22. Citizen-initiated referendum: A referendum that can be initiated by a group  
2033 of citizens as opposed to referendums that are initiated by government and  
2034 elected bodies.
- 2035 23. Civil disobedience: Active and professed refusal to obey certain laws,  
2036 governmental
- 2037 demands, or commands. Used as a nonviolent and usually collective means of  
2038 political action.
- 2039 24. Clean meat –also known as in vitro or cultured meat– is meat that is grown  
2040 in cell culture, rather than in an animal’s body.
- 2041 25. Common Agricultural Policy: The agricultural policy of the EU, introduced in  
2042 1962. It now consists of a system of agricultural subsidies as well as other  
2043 programmes.
- 2044 26. Commons: Cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a  
2045 society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable earth.  
2046 These resources are held in common as opposed to being under private ownership.
- 2047 27. Comprehensive urban planning: A process that determines community goals and  
2048 development aspirations as a first step. Areas such as transportation,  
2049 utilities, land use, recreation, and housing are all considered.
- 2050 28. Conversion therapy: The use of any of various methods in an attempt to  
2051 change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual, or to change a person’s  
2052 gender identity to correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth. Conversion  
2053 therapy is not based on scientific evidence and is ineffective and harmful.
- 2054 29. Cooperative business model: A membership-based business model in which a  
2055 group of people with a specific need are willing to work together to found and  
2056 operate a jointly owned company that will meet that need.
- 2057 30. Corporate tax: A tax that companies are required to pay on the profits they  
2058 make.
- 2059 31. Corrida: Bullfight.

2060 32. Council of the EU: Decision-making body of the EU made up of ministers of EU  
2061 Member States. Together with the European Parliament, it amends and approves the  
2062 legislative proposals of the European Commission.

2063 33. Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU): The judicial branch of the EU. It ensures  
2064 that the legislation agreed upon is interpreted and implemented identically  
2065 across all Member States, and that such implementation is in compliance with  
2066 that legislation. The CJEU also deals with legal disputes between Member States  
2067 and the EU institutions and, in certain cases, between businesses, organisations  
2068 or individuals and the EU institutions.

2069 34. Cybersecurity: The application of technologies, processes, and controls to  
2070 protect systems, networks, programmes, devices, and data from cyberattacks.

2071 35. Debt forgiveness: The total cancelation of debt owed by individuals,  
2072 corporations, or states.

2073 36. Degrowth: Degrowth is a planned reduction of energy and material use  
2074 designed to bring the economy back into balance with the living world in a way  
2075 that reduces inequality and improves human well-being, at the local and global  
2076 level, in the short and long term. Degrowth is a coherent policy to reduce  
2077 ecological impact, reduce inequality, and improve well-being. In contrast with  
2078 degrowth, recessions are not planned, and do not target any of these outcomes.  
2079 They are not intended to reduce ecological impact, and they are certainly not  
2080 intended to reduce inequality and improve well-being – indeed, they do the  
2081 opposite.

2082 37. De-monopolise: Break up existing monopolies.

2083 38. Dichotomy of binary gender: The classification of gender into two distinct,  
2084 opposite forms of masculine and feminine, whether by social system or cultural  
2085 belief.

2086 39. Digitalisation: The use of digital technologies to improve business  
2087 processes. Digitalisation may change business models and provide new revenue and  
2088 value-producing opportunities. Also the process of moving to a digital business  
2089 model.

2090 40. Dolphinarium: A pool or aquarium for dolphins and other aquatic mammals,  
2091 allowing them to be on public display.

- 2092 41. Doughnut economics: An economic model which places emphasis on balance  
2093 between socio-ecological systems and highlights the importance of serving one  
2094 without excessively damaging the other, remaining within a safe and just space  
2095 for humanity.
- 2096 42. Dublin system: An EU mechanism that determines which Member State is  
2097 responsible for the examination of an asylum application submitted by someone  
2098 seeking international protection within the EU under the Geneva Convention.
- 2099 4443. Economic growth: An increase in the production of goods and services,  
2100 compared from one time period to another.
- 2101 44. Economy for Common Good: A social movement advocating for an alternative  
2102 economic model. It calls for working towards the common good and cooperation as  
2103 values above profit-orientation and competition.
- 2104 45. Electric pulse fishing: A fishing technique sometimes used which uses  
2105 electric shocks to catch fish.
- 2106 46. Embodied energy: Embodied energy is the sum of all the energy required to  
2107 produce any goods or services, considered as if that energy was incorporated or  
2108 'embodied' in the product itself.
- 2109 47. Energy poverty: The lack of access to modern energy services.
- 2110 48. Erasmus: Erasmus+ (formerly known as Erasmus) is a programme to support  
2111 mobility and cooperation opportunities in higher education, vocational education  
2112 and training, school education, adult education, youth work and sport. Best  
2113 known for its university exchange programme.
- 2114 49. Erasmus+: See Erasmus.
- 2115 50. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Legally binding charter that sets out the  
2116 rights and liberties of everyone in the EU.
- 2117 51. EU minimum wage scheme: Proposed EU directive on the introduction of a  
2118 minimum wage for workers in the EU to ensure a decent living.
- 2119 52. EU Rights and Values programme: The programme aims to protect the rights and  
2120 values enshrined in the EU treaties by supporting civil society organisations  
2121 and encouraging civic and democratic participation.

- 2122 53. EU4Health programme: The EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The largest  
2123 ever EU programme within the health sector, EU4Health aims to increase  
2124 preparedness for cross-border health threats, as well as strengthen health  
2125 systems across the EU.
- 2126 54. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML): European  
2127 convention for the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional  
2128 minorities.
- 2129 55. European Commission: The executive branch of the EU. Responsible for  
2130 proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties, and  
2131 managing the day-to-day business of the EU.
- 2132 56. European Convention on Human Rights: An international convention to protect  
2133 human rights and political freedoms in Europe, adopted in the framework of the  
2134 Council of Europe and that is enforced by the European Court of Human Rights.
- 2135 57. European Council: EU institution which defines the general political  
2136 direction and priorities of the EU. It comprises the heads of state or  
2137 government of Member States, the Commission president, and the president of the  
2138 European Council.
- 2139 58. European External Action Service (EEAS): The diplomatic service of the EU.
- 2140 59. European Neighbourhood Policy is the structure that governs the EU's  
2141 relations with states in its immediate neighbourhood.
- 2142 60. European Parliament: Directly elected EU body that has legislative power,  
2143 budgetary power, and control over other EU institutions such as the European  
2144 Commission.
- 2145 61. European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO): Independent office responsible  
2146 for investigating, prosecuting, and bringing to judgment crimes against the EU  
2147 budget.
- 2148 62. Federal Europe: The transformation of the EU from a confederation (union of  
2149 sovereign states) to a federation with a central government.
- 2150 63. Feminism: A range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies  
2151 that aim to establish gender equality in society.

2152 64. Fish aggregating devices: An object used to attract fish such as marlin,  
2153 tuna and dolphins. Widely used in the industrial fishing of tuna, it is accused  
2154 of increasing the fishing of juveniles, bycatches of sensitive species as well  
2155 as creating marine litter.

2156 65. Food security: The ability for all people, at all times, to have physical,  
2157 social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets  
2158 their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

2159 66. Food sovereignty: A concept developed by farmers based on the right of  
2160 people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically  
2161 sound and sustainable methods, and the right of communities to control the way  
2162 food is produced, traded, and consumed. It could create a food system that is  
2163 designed to help people and the environment rather than to generate profits for  
2164 multinational corporations.

2165 67. Force-feeding: A feeding technique used in the production of foie gras. A  
2166 nutritional substance is given to the goose by means of a small plastic feeding  
2167 tube passed through the nose or mouth into the stomach. As a result, their  
2168 livers become massively enlarged.

2169 68. Fracked gas: Gas obtained through the use of fracking. Fracking is the  
2170 process of drilling down into the earth before a high-pressure water mixture is  
2171 directed at the rock to release the gas inside.

2172 69. Freedom of movement: The right to travel, work, and live in a country, as  
2173 well as the unconditional right to leave and re-enter.

2174 70. Freedom to stay: The right to remain in the country of one's choosing.

2175 71. Frontex: The European Border and Coast Guard Agency. An EU agency, Frontex  
2176 is responsible for border control of the European Schengen Area, in coordination  
2177 with the national border and coast guards of Schengen Area Member States.

2178 72. Gender-based violence: Harmful acts directed at an individual based on their  
2179 gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful  
2180 norms.

2181 4673. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): Animals, plants, or microbes whose  
2182 DNA has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.

- 2183 74. Genital mutilation: A procedure that typically includes the total or partial  
2184 excision of external genitalia. Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the  
2185 partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the  
2186 female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is recognised internationally  
2187 as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- 2188 75. Genuine progress indicator (GPI): A national-level indicator that provides  
2189 information on sustainable economic welfare, rather than just economic activity.  
2190 GPI has been suggested to replace or supplement GDP.
- 2191 76. Geoengineering (also known as climate engineering): The deliberate  
2192 manipulation of the Earth's climate to counteract the effects of global warming  
2193 from greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2194 77. Globalisation: The growing integration and interdependence of the world's  
2195 economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in  
2196 goods and services, technology, and flows of investment, people, and  
2197 information.
- 2198 78. Greenwashing: A superficial or insincere display of concern for the  
2199 environment, usually in order to gain business advantage.
- 2200 79. Gross domestic product (GDP): The market value of all the final goods and  
2201 services produced within the geographic boundaries of a country within a  
2202 specified time period, normally a year.
- 2203 80. Heteronormativity: A discourse which is based on the assumption that  
2204 heterosexuality is the norm and privileges this over any other form of sexual  
2205 orientation.
- 2206 81. Homophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards homosexuality  
2207 or people who identify or are perceived as being lesbian, gay, or bisexual, as  
2208 well as systemic discrimination against them.
- 2209 82. Housing First: An approach to tackling homelessness in which permanent  
2210 housing is seen as a person's first and primary need and is provided without any  
2211 preconditions.
- 2212 83. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV): A virus that attacks the immune system.  
2213 If not treated, HIV can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

- 2214 84. Human security: A security concept that redirects focus from the security of  
2215 states to insecurities in people's daily lives, such as the threat of hunger,  
2216 disease, crime, environmental degradation, and issues related to the labour  
2217 market.
- 2218 85. Illegal pushbacks: Illegal cross-border expulsions without due process.
- 2219 86. Illiberal democracy: A governing system in which, although elections take  
2220 place, citizens are cut off from knowledge about the activities of those who  
2221 exercise real power because of the lack of civil liberties.
- 2222 87. Illiberalism: See "illiberal democracy":
- 2223 88. Imperialism: The policy, practice, or advocacy of extending the power and  
2224 dominion of a nation, especially by direct territorial acquisitions or by  
2225 gaining indirect control over the political or economic life of other areas.
- 2226 89. Informed consent: Agreement or permission to take a particular course of  
2227 action granted in full knowledge of the possible effects or results.
- 2228 90. International Monetary Fund (IMF): A multilateral institution that lends  
2229 money to governments with the aim of stabilising currencies and maintaining  
2230 order in international financial markets.
- 2231 91. Intersectionality: A way of understanding how people's overlapping  
2232 identities impact the way they experience oppression and discrimination.
- 2233 92. Intersex people: Intersex is an umbrella term for differences in sex traits  
2234 or reproductive anatomy. Intersex people are born with these differences or  
2235 develop them in childhood. There are many possible variations in genitalia,  
2236 hormones, internal anatomy, and chromosome patterns.
- 2237 93. Islamophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards people who  
2238 practise Islam or are perceived as Muslims, as well as systemic discrimination  
2239 against them.
- 2240 94. Istanbul Convention: The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and  
2241 combating violence against women and domestic violence. A legally binding treaty  
2242 aiming to put an end to violence against women and domestic violence.
- 2243 95. Just transition: A framework developed to encompass a range of social

2244 interventions needed to secure workers' rights and livelihoods when economies  
2245 are shifting to sustainable production, primarily combating climate change and  
2246 protecting biodiversity.

2247 96. Kerosene: A clear flammable liquid primarily obtained from petroleum,  
2248 commonly used as a fuel for jet engines.

2249 97. Legalisation of drugs: Drug production and commercialisation is legal under  
2250 specific conditions that are controlled by the government.

2251 98. Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs): A type of autonomous military system that  
2252 can independently search for and engage targets based on programmed constraints  
2253 and descriptions.

2254 99. Level playing field: A state in which conditions in a competition or  
2255 situation are fair for everyone.

2256 100. LGBTQIA+: An initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans,  
2257 queer, intersex, and asexual, as well as other gender, sexual, or romantic  
2258 minorities.

2259 101. Linear economy: An economic model based on the assumption of a constant  
2260 supply of raw materials, resulting in a "take-make-dispose" mentality.

2261 102. Mass data retention: The collection and storage of data on individuals and  
2262 their online behaviour by governments and businesses.

2263 103. Medically assisted procreation (MAP): A generic term for any of a range of  
2264 techniques that manipulate an egg and/or sperm to bring about fertilisation.

2265 104. Metadata: Data that provides information about other data.

2266 105. Militarism: The belief that a country should maintain a strong military  
2267 capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national  
2268 interests.

2269 106. Monopoly: A company, person or state that has (near) complete control over  
2270 the supply of or trade in a commodity or service, meaning that it is impossible  
2271 for others to become involved in it.

- 2272 107. Multilateralism: In international relations, multilateralism refers to an  
2273 alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal.
- 2274 108. Neocolonialism: The use of economic, political, cultural, or other  
2275 pressures to control or influence other countries, especially formerly colonised  
2276 ones.
- 2277 109. Neoliberalism: A political and economical ideology, associated with  
2278 economic liberalism and free-market capitalism. It supports privatization,  
2279 deregulation, free trade, austerity and reductions in government spending.
- 2280 110. Net neutrality: The principle that internet service providers (ISPs) should  
2281 treat all data equally. According to this principle, ISPs may not intentionally  
2282 prioritise certain types of online traffic and block or meter others.
- 2283 111. Nuclear energy: Energy that is produced from nuclear reactions.
- 2284 112. Nuclear fusion: A process in which two or more atoms are combined to form  
2285 one or more atomic nuclei and subatomic particles, producing energy. Research is  
2286 being funded into the use of this energy in electricity production, for example  
2287 through the ITER programme.
- 2288 113. Open source-based platforms: Software that is publicly licensed and  
2289 designed with available source code, granting users the right to use, copy,  
2290 study, change, and improve its structure or design.
- 2291 114. Oppression: Unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power.
- 2292 115. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): An  
2293 international organisation with the mandate to stimulate economic progress and  
2294 world trade.
- 2295 116. Own resources: The EU's main sources of revenue comprising duties and  
2296 levies, value added tax, and national contributions.
- 2297 117. Palliative care: Medical and related care provided to a seriously ill  
2298 patient to manage symptoms, relieve pain and discomfort, improve quality of  
2299 life, and meet the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the patient.
- 2300 118. Paperless person: A person who does not have any proof of their legal  
2301 identity or status.

- 2302 119. Parental leave: Time off from employment granted to parents to care for a  
2303 child following its birth or adoption. Employers are required to hold employees'  
2304 jobs for the duration of the leave period. Parental leave is sometimes unpaid.  
2305 FYEG supports fully paid parental leave.
- 2306 120. Paris Agreement: A legally binding international treaty on climate change  
2307 mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. Its primary goal is to  
2308 limit the global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above  
2309 pre-industrial levels, in addition to pursuing efforts to limit the increase to  
2310 1.5 degrees.
- 2311 121. Parliamentary system: A democratic system of governance in which the  
2312 executive has the direct or indirect support of a democratically elected  
2313 parliament, and is held accountable to that parliament.
- 2314 122. Participatory budgeting: A process of democratic deliberation and decision-  
2315 making in which citizens decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public  
2316 budget.
- 2317 123. Patriarchy: A social system in which men hold primary power.
- 2318 124. Pesticide: A chemical substance or biological agent used to deter,  
2319 incapacitate, or kill certain insects, mammals, wild plants, and other unwanted  
2320 organisms.
- 2321 125. Physical communications infrastructure: The network of interconnected  
2322 resources (cables, switches, towers, antennae, etc.) upon which broadcasting,  
2323 telecommunication, and internet services are operated.
- 2324 126. Pink tax: The tendency for products marketed specifically toward women to  
2325 be more expensive than those marketed for men.
- 2326 127. Platform workers: Workers that are put in contact with customers through  
2327 online and are paid for each completed task rather than employed through regular  
2328 work contracts with social protections.
- 2329 128. Pluralistic society: A society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial,  
2330 religious, and social groups are able to maintain and develop their unique  
2331 cultural identities, with the acceptance of the dominant culture, provided these  
2332 are consistent with the laws and values of wider society.

- 2333 129. Poverty line: The minimum level of personal or family income deemed  
2334 adequate in a particular country, below which one is classified as poor  
2335 according to governmental standards.
- 2336 130. Presidential system: A system of government in which the president is  
2337 constitutionally independent of the legislature and holds most executive power.
- 2338 131. Privilege: Special status or advantages conferred on certain groups at the  
2339 expense of other groups.
- 2340 132. Productivism: The theory that increasing productivity is the primary goal  
2341 of socio-economic activity.
- 2342 133. Profit maximisation: The process by which a firm determines the price,  
2343 input, and output level that returns the greatest profit.
- 2344 134. Progressive taxation: A tax system based on the taxpayer's ability to pay.  
2345 Low-income earners pay a lower rate of tax than those with higher incomes.
- 2346 50135. Proportional representation: An electoral system in which the number of  
2347 seats held by a political group or party within a legislative body is  
2348 proportional to the number of votes received.
- 2349 136. Public housing: Low-rent housing owned, sponsored, or administered by the  
2350 state.
- 2351 137. Qualified majority: One of the voting systems used by the Council of the EU  
2352 to take decisions (the others being simple majority and unanimous vote). The  
2353 usual qualified majority is reached when 55% of Member States representing at  
2354 least 65% of the total EU population vote in favour. In special cases, the  
2355 figure rises to 72% of Member States representing at least 65% of the EU  
2356 population.
- 2357 138. Queer: An umbrella term for gender, sexual and romantic minorities who are  
2358 not heterosexual, heteronormative, or gender-binary.
- 2359 139. Quota (diversity and inclusion): A policy requiring a certain number or  
2360 share of minority group members or women on boards, shortlists, etc., in order  
2361 to make institutions and businesses more representative.
- 2362 140. Racialised people: Individuals who have been ascribed a racial identity for

2363 the purpose of continued domination, discrimination, and social exclusion.

2364 141. Racism: The systemic discrimination and oppression of people on the basis  
2365 of their supposed membership of particular racial or ethnic groups, built  
2366 through the perpetuation of prejudices and the belief that there are different  
2367 races, some of which are superior to others.

2368 142. Relocalising the economy: Establishing a network of small businesses in the  
2369 local area to fulfil basic needs rather than relying on national or global  
2370 corporate monopolies.

2371 143. Repairability: The extent to which an object is able to be repaired.

2372 144. Representative recall: A process through which voters can remove elected  
2373 officials before their official terms have ended.

2374 145. Right to be forgotten: The right of an individual to have private  
2375 information on them deleted so that third persons can no longer trace them.

2376 146. Right to challenge: An option offered in some countries allowing citizens  
2377 to call for a referendum challenging a decision taken by the parliament or the  
2378 government.

2379 147. Right to disconnect: The right to digitally disconnect from work without  
2380 facing negative repercussions.

2381 148. Right to self-determination: The right for people, based on respect for the  
2382 principle of equal rights and fair equality of opportunity, to freely choose  
2383 their sovereignty and international political status with no interference.

2384 149. Rule of law: The principle that all persons, institutions, and entities are  
2385 subject to the law, including lawmakers, law enforcement officials, and judges.

2386 150. Rule of law mechanism: Preventive tool to promote the rule of law and  
2387 provide options in the event of breaches by Member States, for example the  
2388 suspension of EU funding.

2389 151. Schengen Area: An area in which all member countries have agreed to abolish  
2390 controls at internal borders and create a single external border.

- 2391 152. Secrecy of correspondence: A fundamental legal principle guaranteeing that  
2392 sealed correspondence will not be opened and the content will not be revealed to  
2393 anyone but the addressee.
- 2394 153. Secular state: A state that is neutral in matters of religion.
- 2395 154. Sixth mass extinction: An ongoing mass extinction event of wildlife on  
2396 Earth as a result of human activity, in particular over the last century.
- 2397 155. Social justice: The objective of social justice is to create a fair and  
2398 equal society in which each individual matters, their rights are recognised and  
2399 protected and in which wealth is fairly distributed.
- 2400 156. Social stratification: The hierarchical structures of class and status in  
2401 any society.
- 2402 157. Speculation (financial): Investment, in particular on the housing market,  
2403 involving high financial risk but also the possibility of significant gain.
- 2404 158. Subsidiarity principle: A principle according to which social and political  
2405 issues should be dealt with at the most immediate (or local) level that is  
2406 consistent with their resolution.
- 2407 159. Targeted advertising: Internet advertising that delivers customised adverts  
2408 to consumers based on their behaviour on the internet.
- 2409 160. Tax avoidance: The arrangement of one's financial affairs to minimise tax  
2410 liability within the law.
- 2411 161. Tax haven: A country or place which offers foreign individuals and  
2412 companies very low tax rates. People choose to live there or register companies  
2413 there to avoid paying higher tax in their own countries.
- 2414 162. Taxation of financial transactions: A tax that is applied to all financial  
2415 transactions, just as tax is paid on all other transactions, services, and  
2416 goods.
- 2417 163. Tech giants: The largest and most dominant companies in the information  
2418 technology industry.

2419 164. Too big to fail: Companies and business, particularly banks, that are so  
2420 interconnected and so large that their failure would have a serious impact on  
2421 the economic system, and that therefore

2422 require rescuing by governments in the event of potential failure.

2423 165. Trade union: An organisation formed primarily by workers in order to  
2424 represent their rights and interests to their employers.

2425 166. Trans people: People who have a gender identity or gender expression that  
2426 differs from the sex that they were assigned at birth. People whose gender  
2427 identity matches the sex that they were assigned at birth are referred to as  
2428 cisgender or cis people.

2429 167. Transphobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards transgender  
2430 people, as well as the systemic discrimination against them.

2431 168. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: An international agreement to  
2432 comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their  
2433 total elimination.

2434 169. Trickle-down theory: A theory according to which financial benefits given  
2435 to large businesses and the wealthy will in turn trickle down to smaller  
2436 businesses and consumers.

2437 170. Two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels: One of the  
2438 objectives of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global temperature rise well  
2439 below this level. Global temperature rises are usually calculated compared to  
2440 "pre-industrial levels", meaning before the unusual rise in global temperature  
2441 observed since the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

2442 171. UN 2030 Agenda: A resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly which  
2443 focuses on achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to end  
2444 poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, and create a peaceful, just,  
2445 sustainable, and inclusive society.

2446 172. UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural  
2447 Areas: Declaration adopted in 2018 by the UN General Assembly which recognises  
2448 the rights of farmers and people living in rural areas. These include the right  
2449 to nature, seeds, land, water, biodiversity, health, education, and housing, as  
2450 well as labour rights and cultural rights.

2451 173. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): An international treaty  
2452 signed in 1992 which sets a framework to address climate change at a global  
2453 level. Regular international negotiations have been organised under the aegis of  
2454 the treaty which led to the adoption, among others, of the Tokyo Protocol and  
2455 the Paris Agreement.

2456 174. UN Security Council: One of the six principal organs of the UN system, the  
2457 UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security. Its  
2458 resolutions are legally binding.

2459 175. Unanimity: The agreement of all.

2460 176. Unconscious bias: An attitude or stereotype that an individual  
2461 unconsciously associates with another person or group of people.

2462 177. Unemployment benefit: A payment made at regular intervals to an unemployed  
2463 person.

2464 178. Unilateralism: An approach in which a country decides on a policy or course  
2465 of action on its own, without regard to the interests of other states, outside  
2466 agreement or support, or reciprocity.

2467 179. Universal basic income (UBI): A periodic payment provided to all on an  
2468 individual basis, without means testing or work requirements.

2469 180. Upload filters: Automated decision-making tools that scan files uploaded to  
2470 a particular platform in order to determine if these violate the platform's  
2471 guidelines and rules.

2472 181. Uranium: A chemical element widely used in nuclear power plants and nuclear  
2473 weapons

2474 182. Vocational colleges: Post-secondary educational establishments that offer  
2475 teaching and practical experience in skilled trades.

2476 53183. Waste heat recovery: The use of the surplus heat produced by processes  
2477 whose main aim is not heat production.

2478 184. Wealth tax: A tax based on the value of the assets owned by a taxpayer.

- 2479 185. White privilege: The societal privilege that benefits white people over  
2480 non-white people in some societies.
- 2481 186. World Bank: A multilateral financial institution that lends money to  
2482 governments and government agencies for development projects.
- 2483 187. Xenophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards foreigners  
2484 or people who are perceived as foreign, as well as systemic discrimination  
2485 against them.
- 2486 188. Zoonotic diseases: Any infection or disease that is transmitted to humans  
2487 from animals.
- 2488 189. Peremptory norms: Also *jus cogens* norms. These norms are rules accepted by  
2489 (almost) all states, which are of fundamental importance for the international  
2490 community, and which have universal application and are always valid and may not  
2491 be derogated from. Examples include the prohibition of genocide, piracy,  
2492 slavery, racial discrimination, the crime of aggression and the unlawful use of  
2493 force.
- 2494 190. Universal human needs: A framework which defines human needs as universal  
2495 which acknowledges that individuals, everywhere in the world, at all times  
2496 present and future, have certain basic needs which must be met in order for  
2497 people to avoid harm, to participate in society, and to reflect critically upon  
2498 the conditions in which they find themselves. One Important distinction made by  
2499 this framework is the distinction between needs and satisfiers. Needs are  
2500 limited, universal, and nonhierarchical and their fulfilment leads to wellbeing  
2501 while satisfiers concern how needs are pursued in specific contexts and range  
2502 from social practices to political models to personal values. Max-Neef  
2503 identifies universal human needs as subsistence, protection, affection,  
2504 understanding, participation, idleness, creation, identity and freedom.