

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**

35 1.1. Diversity and Intersectionality

36 1.2. Anti-racism

37 1.3. Disability rights

38 1.4. Gender

39 1.5 Religion

40 1.6. Cultural and Indigenous Rights

41 **2. A Democratic Europe**

42 2.1. The rule of law

43 2.2. Democracy

44 2.3. An activist Europe

45 2.4. Towards a federal Europe

46 2.5. Public safety

47 2.6. Digital rights

48 **3. A Sustainable Europe**

49 3.1. An urgent and just transition towards climate neutrality

50 3.2. Energy

51 3.3. Water, food and agriculture

52 3.4. Transport

53 3.5. Technological Progress

54 3.4. Animal rights

55 3.5. Protecting our natural environment

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

57 4.1. A degrowth transition towards post-growth economies

58 4.2. Economic structures

59 4.3. A sustainable economy

60 4.4. Fiscal policy

61 4.5. Financial markets

62 4.6. The digital economy

63 4.7. Preparedness and Civil Defence

64 **5. A Social Europe**

65 5.1. Fighting poverty

66 5.2. The future of work

67 5.3. Discrimination in the workplace

68 5.4. Housing

69 5.5. Health

70 5.5. Education

71 **6. Europe in the World**

72 6.1. Multilateralism

73 6.2. Feminist foreign policy

74 6.3. Peace and security

75 6.4. Migration

76 6.5. The geopolitical challenges of digitalisation

77 6.6. Trade and global justice

78 6.7. A Green European Neighbourhood Policy

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 cruelest 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 (CO₂) into the atmosphere from
2014 fossil fuel use in power generation and other industries. Waste CO₂ 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 CO₂
2019 than can be absorbed by carbon sinks.
- 2020 17. Carbon sink: Anything that absorbs more CO₂ than it emits. Examples include
2021 areas of vegetation (e.g. forests) and phytoplankton-rich seas, which naturally
2022 absorb the CO₂ present in the atmosphere.
- 2023 18. Carbon tax: A tax paid by businesses that emit CO₂ in the course of their
2024 operations.
- 2025 19. Carbon-intensive industries: Industries that emit high quantities of CO₂ and
2026 are responsible for the vast majority of CO₂ 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.