

Shaping Europe's Recovery Draft Policy Priorities 2021-2023

The coming years will be defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting health and economic crises and long-term effects and Europe's recovery. To this end, the European Movement will aim to address and support Europe's recovery, by promoting coordinated responses underpinned by collective action and solidarity. Citizens' voices must be heard in debates that shape Europe's recovery and by promoting our network's views, we can connect citizens' priorities and bridge the gap with the EU in the context of the pandemic, while ensuring that Europe's social and economic recovery leaves no one behind.

Next to Europe's long-term recovery from the pandemic, the green, digital and just transition, as well as the protection of our European democracy, rights and values, have become some of the most defining and challenging issues of our time, remaining high on citizens' agenda. The last European elections made clear, once again, how citizens' passion and commitment to take action together and defend European values encourage them to take part and engage with EU decision-making and to connect across borders.

Keeping an eye on the European elections in 2024, our network will continue to work on connecting citizens across countries, sectors and interests, will amplify citizens' voices on the key issues that shape Europe's future, such as climate action, social rights and democracy, and will promote citizen participation at the local, national and European level. As we work to increase transparency and accountability of decision-making processes and EU bodies, we continue to prioritise protection of European rights, values and freedoms, and promote a vibrant and healthy civil society across Europe.

Last but not least, as Europe experiences the shifting of geopolitical powers in its neighbourhood and in the world, we will rethink Europe's place in world, and highlight our network's views on Europe's role in promoting peace, cooperation, citizen engagement and fundamental rights beyond its borders.

To shape the debate and to facilitate the active participation of citizens and stakeholders in the discussions on Europe's future and to find common solutions to today's challenges, the European Movement International will dedicate its work to the following priorities during the years 2021-2023:

Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values

Bridging the gap between citizens, representative associations, and the EU

- Building opportunities to innovate the EU's democratic governance and legitimacy;
- Fostering citizen's participation in EU decision-making at the local, regional, national and EU level and bringing forward the consolidation of a European public sphere;
- Fostering citizenship education and education about the EU in school;
- Promoting civil society organisations and civil dialogue at all levels in line with Article 11 and enhancing the role of civil society in the Conference on the Future of Europe;
- Increasing transparency of decision-making procedures and lobbying activities at all levels.

Promoting and protecting values, civic space and European unity

- Defending the EU's fundamental values including the rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights and equality across the European continent and connecting these issues with the EU's long-term budget;
- Promoting civil society, diversifying the civic space and strengthening pluralistic and diverse societies in which fundamental rights are protected against all forms of discrimination as well as nationalist and populist movements;
- Protecting sovereign parliaments, fair elections, independent courts and free press during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;
- Enhancing the regulation, transparency and accountability of online platforms and shaping the digital sphere to accommodate inclusive, democratic dialogues while tackling discrimination, hate speech, disinformation and violence online;
- Supporting a long-term, sustainable approach when it comes to the integration of migrants;
- Protecting our borderless Union by ensuring the freedom of movement and the Schengen agreement.

A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe

Promoting a green, digital and just transition

- Promoting effective climate and environmental action in the EU and its neighbourhood;
- Advocating for the full implementation of the European Green Deal, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals by involving stakeholders at all levels and setting an example globally and aligning the EU's recovery from the pandemic with these frameworks;
- Consolidating the EU's energy policy towards a low-carbon economy based on efficiency and renewable energy sources;
- Continuing the development of the circular economy;
- Making sure that all citizens, businesses, sectors, municipalities, regions and Member States are part of the transition.

Investing in better education and jobs

- Advocating for a stronger European social dimension through the implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights;
- Empowering youth through more investment in quality education, internships and jobs;
- Promoting sustainable growth and tackling long term unemployment;
- Fostering European competitiveness and innovation by investing in skills, lifelong learning and digital solutions;
- Promoting a strong digital strategy that balances regulation and innovation when it comes to managing digital platforms, to strengthen businesses and empower and protect citizens;
- Developing the EU's system of own resources and deepening the Economic and Monetary Union and the Banking Union.

Europe in the World

Building a strong and united Europe on the global stage

- Enhancing an effective Common Foreign and Security Policy in particular in the areas of energy security, cybersecurity and counter-terrorism and enhancing role of women in security and defence;
- Building a close and comprehensive partnership between the EU and the UK
- Enhance the dialogue with US organisations and political actors who support transatlantic cooperation on the basis common values;
- Developing a coherent and robust policy on China that takes into account economic as well as human rights aspects;
- Putting in place a common European Immigration and Asylum Policy to protect those in need, improving the joint management of Europe's outer borders and promoting legal migration channels.

Promoting a positive enlargement narrative and strengthening ties with our neighbours

- Supporting enlargement and the involvement of civil society and all spheres of governments in the negotiations with candidate and potential candidate countries. Defend European values in the context of enlargement;
- Strengthening the Eastern Partnership with membership perspectives for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- Developing EU-Africa relations in the context of the Cotonou Agreement and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, addressing political, economic and development dimensions and fostering exchange, security the protection of shared values, sustainable development and civil society dialogue
- Advancing cooperation with Europe's Southern Neighbourhood based on common values and interests including fundamental rights and democracy, migration, security, sustainable development, trade;

Contributing to a better world

- Strengthening Europe's role in conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building and peace-keeping
- Promoting human rights, the rule of law and democracy all over the world
- Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Developments Goals globally
- Fostering open and transparent negotiations on international trade agreements