

Platform Cooperation statement between EPP, S&D, and Renew Europe

The European People's Party (EPP), the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), and Renew Europe agree to cooperate for the 10th legislative period of the European Parliament. We recognise the challenges posed by the geopolitical situation, Europe's competitiveness gap, security issues, migration, and the climate crisis as well as socio-economic inequalities.

We, therefore, reaffirm our pledge to work together with a constructive approach to advance an agenda of reforms based on the 18 July 2024 Political Guidelines of the European Commission President, in the best interest of European citizens.

- 1. Uniting Europe: leading Europe based on shared values.** We are determined to work together to strengthen the European Union. The EU is founded on values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. We believe that solutions will come from the cooperation of our political groups and all those who want to continue building a Union based on these values and are ready to address global challenges while upholding democratic institutions. The rule of law, a pro-Ukraine stand and a pro-European approach are core aspects of our cooperation.
- 2. Delivering on prosperity: a bold agenda for sustainable growth, competitiveness, preparedness and digital transition.** We commit to follow-up on the Draghi and Letta reports. We will adopt a New Industrial Deal to enhance competitiveness in strategic industries and accelerate decarbonisation in heavy industry. We will develop fair trade agreements and circular economy tools. To bridge the investment gap, we will support boosting both public and private financing, and promoting dynamic capital markets. We will foster a business-friendly environment, suppress administrative burden and red tape without compromising agreed policy objectives, such as the Green Deal, introducing an SME Passport, and modernising the single market. We commit to contribute to an economy that works for the people.
- 3. Effective migration policy and Securing Europe: advancing defence and security.** We want to boost European defence, including towards a true European Defence Union complementary to NATO. We look forward to strengthening our defence industrial base and joint defence procurement instruments based on a "Buy European First" principle. Equally, we want to advance on cyber defence capabilities, including the European Democracy Shield. We are fully committed to ensure the integrity of the Schengen area, the proper management of our external borders and a -swift, efficient and full implementation of the EU Pact on migration and asylum.
- 4. Empowering people: strengthening societies and upholding our social model.** We commit to developing a Quality Jobs Roadmap to establish high-level standards on health and safety at work, ensuring an individual right to training for all workers.. We will invest in strategic skills through quality training, education, reskilling, and upskilling. We will also continue to promote a cohesion policy that serve all the Europeans, and leaves nobody behind. The social market economy must remain a core fundament of EU economic growth: fostering quality work, collective bargaining in line with national practices, providing affordable housing and quality healthcare are key features for a fair society that leaves nobody behind. In this respect, we are committed to the implementation of the recent La Hulpe Declaration and to a strong European Pillar of Social Rights.
- 5. Preserving our future: ensuring food security, water, and a sustainable environment in an inclusive manner.** The protection of Europe's natural resources is essential for sustaining the well-being of current and future generations. We must ensure quality food and food security and a level playing field for farmers and fishers,

offer them long-term sustainable and fair working conditions, and accessible and affordable solutions and redress the balance of power between producers and retailers. Agriculture policy remains a strategic sector for the EU that we will continue to promote and defend. Our biodiversity strategy will protect and reverse degraded ecosystems, ensure air quality and protect the Oceans..

6. **Defending democracy: Upholding values and strengthening the rule of law.** We commit to protecting democracy by restoring the rule of law where it has been weakened. We insist that EU toolbox must be fully used to this end. We will work together to protect women's rights and ensure gender equality.
7. **Leveraging our power: Europe as a global leader.** We remain fully committed to strengthen the EU's role in the world, to defend a rule-based international order and human rights. In these efforts, the EU must use all of its instruments at disposal including sanctions. We remain committed to the enlargement strategy based on merit and agreed criteria. We reiterate our unwavering support to Ukraine to retain its sovereignty and regain its territorial integrity. We remain committed to the Sustainable Development Goals as a key tool for EU external policy instruments and actions. In the aftermath of the US Elections, we commit to review the transatlantic relations with a pragmatic and future oriented approach ensuring Europeans' interests are protected and promoted.
8. **Building the future: Investing in a modern budget aligned with our ambitions.** The next EU budget must be ambitious, results focused and strategically aligned with the goals of the European Union. To improve living conditions for everyone. Funds should be simplified and better organised to reduce unnecessary complexity. The budget should also be more flexible to respond quickly to crises. The EU budget must be protected from misuse in cases where Member States violate the principles of the rule of law. The next EU Budget should be supported by adequate levels of public and private investment. New Own Resources will be needed to ensure sufficient and sustainable financing for our common priorities.
9. **Deepening our Union: Reforming the EU to enhance its capacity to act.** We commit to advance necessary reforms, including Treaty changes towards an 'ever closer union' and ensure the best representation possible of EU citizens. We will continue to protect and promote Parliament prerogatives, in particular through the newly negotiated framework agreement.

For the EPP group

Manfred Weber

For the S&D Group

Iratxe García Pérez

For the RE Group

Valérie Hayer

