



DEMOKRATESCH  
PARTEI

# OUR MANIFESTO FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

LËSCHT  
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#dp2019eu

## SOZIAL. LIBERAL. EUROPÄESCH.

# OUR CANDIDATES



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# SOZIAL. LIBERAL. EUROPÄESCH.

Dear voters,

First and foremost Europe is project for peace that has been successful. In the aftermath of the Second World War the countries of Europe had to regroup, their citizens had to lay aside their fears, resentment and historic animosities in order to discover how to achieve a common understanding. Through working together in the European Union past enemies are now partners and friends. Unhappily there appear to be some for whom the dark times that preceded the origins of the EU, then the European Coal and Steel Community, mean little. Unhappily there are some who appear to have forgotten the lessons of history, of the dark times before the European Coal and Steel Community, which has evolved to become the European Union, was created. Undoubtedly, the European project is still a site under construction. We call upon responsible political forces to mobilise the considerable potential of the EU to address essential challenges demanding a reaffirmation of our fundamental values and respect for human rights. That we have seen a rise in xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism is beyond dispute: this, we must fight together; we must combat the spread of hate speech that is so prevalent across the internet.

Over the next few years, a third post war generation of European citizens will be reaching adulthood. Those whose forefathers had been enemies will unite in partnership to find answers to problems that affect us all. Thus, solutions for issues that member states cannot resolve by themselves, will be found within the framework of the European Union. If the prime concern of the founding members had been to prevent war between states, currently it is social cohesion within states that is under threat.

For the Demokratesch Partei, Europe must be more united, more social and more liberal. The welfare of citizens are at the heart of our concerns. We want concerted action against poverty and insecurity; we have to help our business enterprises meet new challenges so that they may be competitive across the globe. At the same time, we want to ensure that all European citizens have access to quality healthcare.

It is our wish that all European citizens, across all member states, are able to feel at home, preserving their sense of identity, experience and culture. National passports, standardised across the EU symbolises that we all belong to the same space. For the most part, we cross borders without controls nor need to change currency; consumer products comply with high quality standards ratified by the European Parliament and Member States.

Europe opens up a huge market for our business sector, considerably increasing the potential number of customers. The Single or Internal Market provides economies of scale that amplifies export capabilities of our business enterprises. In this and many other ways, Europe is very present in our daily life; for example, European directives ensure that our water supply must

comply with top quality standards and sanitation criteria, and the Erasmus+ programme is valued for promoting the mobility of students, pupils, apprentices, teachers and sportsmen. The Demokratesch Partei is committed to ensuring that the EU exists to serve its citizens.

This is our vision for the future of Europe:  
„SOCIAL, LIBERAL. EUROPEAN.“

Charles GOERENS  
leading candidate

Monica SEMEDO  
leading candidate

Simone BEISSEL

Anne DAEMS

Gusty GRAAS

Loris MEYER

# THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

## 1. Putting dignity first

**Respect for human dignity** is the irreducible, basic principle at the heart of living together in the EU. A country can only be part of the European Union on condition that the core values are respected in full, particularly including, the principles for the rule of law, respect for liberty of expression, for minorities and for religious freedom. Two Member States that at the point of accession had complied fully with these principles are now subject to infringement procedures concerning breaches to EU law. Where serious violations of the EU's founding values have taken place, the European Council can vote to suspend a State's voting rights, however, this vote, excepting the member state concerned, has to be unanimous. But we know with two defaulting states this will not happen. They have already declared support for each other, thereby rendering the statute Article 7<sup>1</sup> ineffective. The unanimity rule has thus become a guarantee of impunity for offending states. So that we may defend our fundamental values, it has become a matter of urgency to discard this rule. To address the issue, the DP supports the imposition of conditions for according Structural Funds in the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. Given that Structural Funds provide the annual equivalent of 2% of the two Member States' GDP, the Union would have very concrete measures at its disposal for enforcing the rule of law.

**So long as respect for our fundamental values cannot be guaranteed, the DP will oppose any enlargement of the Union.** This in no way detracts from our determination to work very closely with States that have EU candidate member status. Nonetheless, they cannot, from our point of view become substantive members of the EU until an amendment to the treaty is able to re-establish respect for European law, wherever it has been violated.

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<sup>1</sup> 1. On a reasoned proposal by one third of the Member States, by the European Parliament or by the European Commission, the Council, acting by a majority of four fifths of its members after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may determine that there is a clear risk of a serious breach by a Member State of the values referred to in Article 2. Before making such a determination, the Council shall hear the Member State in question and may address recommendations to it, acting in accordance with the same procedure.

The Council shall regularly verify that the grounds on which such a determination was made continue to apply.

2. The European Council, acting by unanimity on a proposal by one third of the Member States or by the Commission and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may determine the existence of a serious and persistent breach by a Member State of the values referred to in Article 2, after inviting the Member State in question to submit its observations.

3. Where a determination under paragraph 2 has been made, the Council, acting by a qualified majority, may decide to suspend certain of the rights deriving from the application of the Treaties to the Member State in question, including the voting rights of the representative of the government of that Member State in the Council. In doing so, the Council shall take into account the possible consequences of such a suspension on the rights and obligations of natural and legal persons. The obligations of the Member State in question under the Treaties shall in any case continue to be binding on that State.

4. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may decide subsequently to vary or revoke measures taken under paragraph 3 in response to changes in the situation which led to their being imposed.

5. The voting arrangements applying to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council for the purposes of this Article are laid down in Article 354 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

## 2. The climate

### Fighting climate change: our priority for the coming years

The latest report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is more than alarming. Our very existence is under threat. On this, we must thank young people for their committed engagement. We must make every effort to respond to their call, because our planet's survival has become the top global priority. We have an obligation to become a carbon neutral economy by 2050. It is imperative to go beyond platitudes and agree on the **implementation of necessary strategies for saving the planet**. We have to aim high, strongly determined to achieve this target, bringing about changes in production, storage, distribution and energy consumption well beyond the borders of the Union.

Without international participation, particularly the biggest polluting countries, hopes of limiting global warming to within 1½° of preindustrial levels will remain illusory. To this effect, the EU must **work with the emerging powers**, of whom some are major emitters of greenhouse gases. Without determined commitment from China, the United States, the EU, India and Russia, countries that are responsible respectively for the emission worldwide of 30%, 15%, 9%, 7% and 5% of greenhouse gases and without Africa whose population is on course to outstrip those of India and China before the end of the century, we will not be able to diffuse the climatic time bomb. **The DP demands that a roadmap with clearly defined objectives be set out**, to include funding initiatives and a well-defined timetable for reducing carbon dependency with a transition to other sources of energy.

Reputed experts, such as the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Jeffrey Sachs, believe that an energy transition based on the abandonment of fossil fuels is no longer illusory. It is now technically possible to rely almost exclusively on alternative energies, such as wind and solar.

This is why we expect the mandate of the future President of the European Commission to give the highest priority to developing a common strategy; to work with the largest emitters of greenhouse gases and to announce the principle strategies within the first hundred days of his/her mandate.

The Democratic Party demands that the future Commission brings a dynamic of change into energy policy and a determination to overcome national objections, foot-dragging, pettiness or selfishness. **A carbon neutral economy is no longer a question of technical feasibility but more than anything else, a question of political will and priorities in terms of investment choices.**

We must convince major non-European polluters to apply emission trading schemes that follow the example of European policies in this area.

Concerning the advocacy of solar and wind energy the key questions that need to be answered concern security of supply, funding for large-scale production as well as for distribution and transmission networks.

This is why we should direct every effort, both public and private towards the transitions to a low carbon economy.

### Sustainable, green and socially responsible finance

The DP wants the EU to take a leading role in creating European labels for green financial products. We recommend forming private-public initiatives for the development of **sustainable, green and socially responsible finance**, such as ‘green bonds’, through the establishment of an innovative legal framework at the European level. Such an approach will allow European financial centres, including Luxembourg, to play a leading role on the international stage, in the interests of a worldwide energy transition.

In the wake of the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement (COP 21), world financial agencies are **taking account of the financial impact of climate change** and the need to dedicate significant resources to financing the transition to a low carbon economy. The report of the ‘High-Level Expert Group’ and the Action Plan of the European Commission, published in January and March 2018 provide a framework for this, which addresses both private and public agencies.

The DP supports the objectives undertaken by the Commission in this area. We favour a broad approach that can incorporate socially responsible and sustainable goals. We are pushing for an acceleration of developments that are already underway in the EU, noting the following points:

- establishment of an EU classification that provides precise definitions for what is green, socially responsible and sustainable; in this regard, the DP wants the EU to play a pioneering role in establishing international standards by strengthens the dialogue with its international partners;
- creation of European labels for socially responsible and sustainable, green financial products, to enable investors to invest with confidence in products that meet established criteria;
- greater transparency with respect to socially responsible and sustainable, green financial products, enabling investors to assess each product for its compliance with the aforementioned objectives;
- reinforcement of ‘public-private’ initiatives for the development of socially responsible and sustainable, green finance;
- development of ‘green bonds’, by establishing a new legal framework at the European level.



Such an approach will allow European financial centres, including Luxembourg, to play a leading role on the international stage, to act in the interests of energy transition worldwide and in so doing improve the standard of living for people affected by climate change.

The DP additionally calls for a **reinforcement of the role and scope of the European Investment Bank (EIB)** in the management of climate project funding.

Finally, individuals could be encouraged through tax incentives, to put part of their savings in green investments, by making contributions partially income tax deductible.

### 3. Reconciling economic efficiency with social justice

#### Fiscal and social dumping undermines cohesion of the EU

The European Union still has limited scope to act on social matters. Leaving aside the somewhat symbolic assistance within the framework of the ‘European Globalisation Adjustment Fund’, there is little in the EU budget available for these matters. Nonetheless, EU action in monetary and fiscal areas has a significant impact on the well-being of our citizens. While some Member States consider using tax and social policies as instruments to be more competitive within the Single Market, it is important to oppose tax and social dumping.

Given that Member States have 40 times the budgetary resources of the EU, it is fanciful to envisage that the EU is able to have a significant socially redistributive role.

Nevertheless under the aegis of the EU, **Member States have to comply with standards that respect fundamental social right for all EU citizens**. Additionally we will prioritise access to employment and for a minimum social wage throughout the European Union. Clearly minimum wages cannot be the same everywhere: they would have to be reviewed periodically in the context of each Member State’s specific constraints. The DP believes that **the EU’s social policy should be guided by the principle of upward convergence**.

On social policy, we need **to reinforce inclusive measures for people with disabilities**. The Luxembourg government, led by the DP, has undertaken numerous initiatives to improve the conditions of people with disabilities, including accessibility to buildings, product design, access to services and to means of communication. The DP advocates a rapid implementation of **‘the European Accessibility Act’** directive. The party demands that a European research network be set up to promote the development and use of creative communication strategies to better support those with particular communication requirements.

In respect of **equality and solidarity between men and women**, the reality still falls far short of the principles enshrined in the Treaty, prohibiting any gender based discrimination. We must put this right by urging Member States to adopt measures to end violations of the principle of gender equality. In this regard we can draw inspiration from the 15 years of work achieved by the ‘High Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity’ of the European Parliament.

## Opportunities for young people

Since education, vocational training and employment are the responsibility of Member States, the role of the EU is to complement national policies. In this role, the EU holds regular meetings between national ministers which facilitates the alignment of national regulations and which develop initiatives in social matters such as the ‘**Youth Guarantee**’. For many young Europeans, this measure has provided access to employment or training within four months of completing their education or of losing their jobs.

The EU also has a role in facilitating the mobility of young people. Although the Union is not directly involved in education, it can help remove barriers to the mutual recognition of young people’s qualifications and certification. The Bologna process provides harmonisation at a European level for university studies, however this has not been extended to secondary or pre-secondary basic education. The DP argues for **creating a European educational area** that like Luxembourg’s four European state schools, offers courses that suit the needs of young Europeans whose parents are taking advantage of employment opportunities within the EU internal market. Only the European Commission can encourage Member States to contribute to the construction of such a network of European Schools.

It is in the exchange programmes, however, where the EU has made solid progress. Since its inception, ‘Erasmus+’ has enabled 9 million young Europeans to take part in exchange programmes; this has included, amongst others, many school and college students, apprentices, educators, trainers, jobseekers, members of professional associations and from the world of sport. In view of the very positive experience of past years, **it is essential to commit additional resources to ‘Erasmus +’ for 2021-2027** so that the programme is open to increasing numbers of applicants, particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds. Furthermore, ‘**DiscoverEU**’, the initiative that offers the chance for 18 year olds to discover Europe for one month with a free Interrail pass, should be made available for all young Europeans.

## 4. Defending multilateralism! Protecting ourselves from the excesses of globalisation

Globalisation has a real impact on how we live, work and find information. It is an inescapable reality that creates both wealth and inequality. While globalisation can contribute to reducing disparities in wealth production between states, it cannot assure a decrease in inequality within societies. In fact, in many countries, including some Member States, the gap between rich and poor has widened and this has tended to spread a deep sense of injustice among those who have lost out.

Insecurity and lack of opportunities are affecting a growing number of people, putting the poor most at risk. Moreover, many employees and those self-employed see their professional activities compromised and a material deterioration in their conditions. When the middle

classes suffer, they tend to become more militant. This response that has already taken place before in Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is today accelerated by artificial intelligence and the digital economy. Deep changes are shaking society. The alarming spread of a sense of exclusion presents a challenge to traditional parties, who find it harder and harder to include people at the centre of politics and counter the appeal of populism. This increasing trend, which continues to swell the ranks of populist groups, is being organised, on the European stage, with the support of propagandists from right wing extremists.

Parties of the far right belittle the importance of cooperation between governments. This is apparent in how they disparage our achievements in security issues, political cooperation and of our fundamental freedoms. In contrast to his predecessors who largely sought multilateral solutions, the President of the United States wants to ignore constraints and favour bilateral relations. The current US administration has put in question the commitments and obligations to which the United States has subscribed: the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Atlantic Alliance, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the nuclear deal with Iran are already under threat.

The suspension of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) by the United States and Russia hardly serves European security interests. Meanwhile, the United States demands a substantial increase in the defence budgets of European allies. We are faced with an unprecedented situation where Member States are asked to substantially increase defence budgets when the maintenance of the American security guarantee for Europe has been put in doubt. Put to the wall, Europeans will have to agree on a new political project making **the European Union is the spearhead for multilateral cooperation.**

We oppose a return to protectionism around the world and oppose returning jointly agreed European policies to national control.

## 5. The economy, the financing of the European Union and the Euro

### Strengthening the single market and consumer protection.

The powers enshrined in the Treaty allow the EU to act effectively. The clearest illustration is the Single Market. Single Market standards apply just as much to products imported from outside the European Union. In order to have access to the European market, major manufacturing states such as China, Korea, Japan and other emerging powers are required to meet our standards. Above all, this upward convergence in commercial matters **serves to protect our consumers better.** The Single Market, though one of the most strikingly successful achievements of the European Union, has far from exhausted its potential. We support the recommendations of the Monti report, including making use of the European Union's own resources to strengthen the Single Market.

The DP insists on putting **an end to regional restrictions** that are often imposed by big powerful interest groups. They may stipulate that products are channelled by way of intermediaries, making a product more expensive in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg than in it is in a neighbouring country. The DP demands that traders in Luxembourg can buy their goods directly from producers, without having to go through intermediaries.

Consumers, for their part, would see better protection of their interests if, in particular situations, **class actions** were allowed. Provision for this possibility at the European level would be helpful.

### **A reinforced Economic and Monetary Union capable of meeting crises with rapid and effective responses**

The euro, our single currency is a success story. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and now a mature adult, the DP is delighted that the euro is now one of the world's strongest currencies. To ensure that it remains strong in the future, **the euro needs further reinforcement of its governance and economic resilience**. The political will and determination of those responsible for managing the Eurozone had the better of the Cassandras who prophesied the demise of the euro after the outbreak of the crisis in 2008. The European Central Bank (ECB) demonstrated how indispensable its role is in contributing to the stability of the single currency and recovery within the euro area.

In spirit of an 'ever closer Europe', democratic control of the work of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) needs to be improved. It will naturally fall to the European Parliament to enhance the necessary democratic oversight. However in this context, the rights of parliamentarians representing, primarily, the euro area states should be strengthened. Parliamentarians from states outside the euro area could be called upon to participate in debates and even vote on EMU, but their votes should be purely indicative. This would take into account a rather different interest, while retaining our unique institutional framework.

In the view of the DP the euro area will need its own fiscal instruments to be able to mitigate or even prevent cyclical shocks and better prepare our economies to return to economic growth more quickly. This would appear to be all the more important, in the event of a contraction of our economies on a par with that of 2008, since with sovereign debt of Eurozone Member States is more or less 30% higher than it was in 2008, Member States would have more limited means to manage the challenge.

In this respect, the DP welcomes the idea of **introducing a new fiscal instrument** to foster convergence and competitiveness in the euro area. Such an instrument should be consistent with other EU policies and be subject to the criteria and strategic policies of the Member States. Funds allocated to this instrument would come from the European Budget (Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)) and would have to be used in the front line for the promotion of investment and structural reforms, to achieve competitive and efficient economies for the

benefit of citizens and businesses. This approach would also help States facing economic difficulties, to meet Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) criteria.

Lastly, the DP favours **strengthening the Luxembourg based European Stability Mechanism (ESM)**. In the future, the ESM could play a role of a safety net ('common backstop') to the Single Resolution Fund whose role is to rescue banks facing default. It could also play a greater role in crisis management programs that would contribute to enhancing the resilience of the euro area.

## 6. Security and external relations

### The European Union: guarantor of peace

If there is one area where Europe must assert itself as a united and coherent player, it is security and defence. Rather than continue to put up with the action or lack of action from its neighbours or allies, Europe must act to guarantee that its citizens can **live in safety without excessive military expenditure** for its Member States. For the Democratic Party, the EU needs to strengthen its mandate to ensure its own security and defence. Accordingly, within the framework of a strategic partnership with NATO, a European Defence Union could ensure the security and stability of EU its member states and neighbours. This is not a question of creating new structures but about more effective collaboration between armed forces within the EU.

Concerned to prevent a new nuclear arms race, Member States need to build the basis for cross European security, thereby step by step, **re-building confidence across all European states**.

From this point of view, the current relations between the European Union and Russia has to be rethought. It is not a question of giving up on the annexation of Crimea by Russia, nor of accepting Moscow's actions in what it still considers to be its sphere of influence, but progressively trying to restore confidence. This had been possible at a time when European relations were more tense than they are today. The policy of incremental steps initiated in the 1970s by the Federal Republic of Germany under Brandt, Scheel, Bahr and Genscher, which formed the basis for East-West détente, is still an example for us to follow today. This must not undermine the determination of States to defend themselves against any potential aggressor. By working in this way, the European Union could help to ensure that the problems of European security are considered from a continental approach that takes account of security interests for all, including the legitimate interests of Moscow.

So long as Member States continue to insist on unanimity for foreign policy, security and defence, it can be no surprise that the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is often relegated to second place by one or more member states. Thus, around the negotiating table in Minsk, we saw the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine, the German Chancellor and the President of the French Republic. In this set up there was no real place for the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Some Member



States are reluctant to let go and remain attached to formats in which EU institutional representatives are marginalised. Opinion polls regularly confirm that public opinion is largely in favour of a Union that speaks with one voice of issues of war and peace. From this point of view, citizens are more forward looking than the politicians.

**The DP wants to bring the application of the rule of unanimity in foreign policy to an end.** The same goes for development assistance policy. While the efforts of the Commission and Member States make the EU by far the world's leading player in this area, the overall official development assistance (ODA) of the EU-28 remains well below the target of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI). By devoting 1% of its GNI to development cooperation, Luxembourg sets an example. **The DP fully supports Parliament's report on the 'Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument' (NDICI)**

Despite the tariff war waged by certain states, the DP strongly supports **maintaining open foreign trade**. To this end, it supports the resolve of the Commission to persevere in the preparation of new bilateral trade agreements.

With regard to economic partnership agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP), we must ensure that developing countries are progressively assisted to be able to sell manufactured products that meet our quality standards. Europe will have to push for improved protection for developing countries in the World Trade Organisation (WTO); they are often subject to dumping where imported products are sold below the cost price.

### Tackling terrorism: more cooperation to maximise protection

Only the European Union is in a position to reconcile defending citizens' rights with protection against terrorism.

By **increasing the exchange of information about threats to our security**, the European Union can thwart the liberticidal tendencies of far-right movements whose sole purpose is to undermine the rule of law and impose authoritarian order.

## 7. A better interconnected, more innovative Europe

### Up to date, sustainable infrastructures in Europe

The benefits of free movement of people and the single European market can only be fully exploited once infrastructures for mobility, interconnectivity, including digital technology, and energy are sufficiently developed in Europe.

It takes an hour and twenty-two minutes to travel by train from Brussels to Paris, a little over two hours to get from Brussels to London, but three hours to travel between Brussels and Luxembourg (if the train is on time). This continuing state of affairs represents a major handicap for our country, and even more so for the City of Luxembourg, a European capital. The DP

believes that an improved Luxembourg-Brussels rail link could be back on track with **a new finance structure for the construction and maintenance of railway infrastructure**.

On road transport, the DP wants to see **a new European legal framework for driverless vehicles**. For this, the EU will need to initiate and develop a legal framework to regulate driverless vehicles on European roads.

To limit the presence of polluting cars within urban centres, several European cities have decided to prohibit vehicles that do not have a sticker certifying low emission levels. To make the day-to-day lives of motorists easier within the EU, the DP wants to see **the introduction of a single European vignette** rather than maintaining the current practice of providing a separate certification for each urban centre.

### Innovation, research and the digital revolution: a great opportunity for Europe

The DP believes that high levels of spending on research must be maintained. We want to see an acceleration and simplification in the procedures for funding innovation and research in Europe.

Today, the role for digital technology is universal. Economic concerns and citizens have to adapt accordingly. While the digital revolution is overturning the world of work, it also provides new employment opportunities. The ambition of the EU is, then, to define a common strategy, providing businesses and people with a **fully-functioning digital single market**, which has to be able to remove barriers that arise from national regulations. In this respect, there is a pressing need to remove barriers that are still part of current ‘**geoblocking**’ regulations. To prohibit access to information services or ‘streaming’ in one Member State while allowing it in another should not even be considered.

In order to maintain the competitiveness of its financial centres, the European Union must champion **financial innovation**. In this spirit, the DP wants a regulatory framework for new products and services, such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, crowd funding, crowd investing, cloud banking, cryptocurrencies, cryptofunds , tokens and initial coin offerings. However, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the DP considers that the authorisation and supervision of the relevant service providers should remain with national supervisory authorities.

The Democratic Party believes it is crucial that the European Commission has an ambitious strategy for the **implementation of a 5G network** across Member States. The guarantee of a fast, highly secure, mobile internet covering its entire territory makes the EU not only more attractive to innovative enterprises, but enables European citizens to be interconnected wherever they may be.

The EU must do what it can to minimise delays in the use of artificial intelligence, in comparison to its main competitors. Divergent policies of Member States are the source of this

delay. It is essential, however, that the EU pay more consideration to the ethical issues relating to the use of artificial intelligence, in accordance to the formulation ‘**we are not offered up to artificial intelligence, but we are open to it**’.

The DP considers equal access to the internet to be a fundamental right for all citizens and will ensure that **network neutrality** remains fully respected.

## 8. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post 2020

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was the first policy to be integrated across European. Having undergone major structural reforms, agriculture has modernised to the point that the sector leads in the application of computer science and robotics. It also has to meet widely varying expectations. Consumers who advocate buying organic products are more numerous than those prepared to pay the price; they want to ban pesticides in European agricultural production, but without being able to ban the importation of food from countries less concerned by the issue.

Farmers thus faced with often contradictory expectations from the consumer must be able to rely on a European framework that allows them to adapt steadily. The progress made in recent years is genuine and does not really conform to the caricature that some make of the sector. **New, kinder farming techniques** are on the agenda, so it is important to test their feasibility and thus allow them to be gradually more widely practised.

To this end, we should prioritise research in order to investigate sensible and practicable alternatives. It would therefore be wise to apply the same quality requirements to imported products. Effectively, prohibiting the application of glyphosate in the European Union but continuing to import foodstuffs from countries which do not have these constraints would create difficulties.

A further consideration is that agricultural price levels are such that continued income support from the CAP budget is a necessity. In principle the CAP budget for 2021-2027 should provide for a level of intervention that is similar to the current budgetary cycle.

We think that maintaining agri-environmental support that can be supplemented by national measures is right and even essential, if our farmers are to have an income that compares with other socio-professional groups.

Every year, millions of animals are transported within the European Union. In June 2018, Luxembourg adopted one of the world’s most modern animal protection laws, putting an emphasis on the dignity and animals rights. Nonetheless, the situation across Europe remains less than satisfactory. The DP is committed to **enhancing animal protection in Europe**, particularly improving conditions (e.g. duration, animal welfare) during transport across borders.

## 9. Luxembourg in a more united Europe

### Migration

Migration policies vary widely across Member States. Some, including Poland and Hungary, oppose accepting refugees outright, rejecting even to apply European law that sets quotas on the number of asylum seekers for each Member State. Others, willing to shoulder most of the burden, have seen public opinion turn against them. A European response to the immigration issue can only be possible by accepting a common, unified approach. Firstly, we must provide the means for **better protecting the external borders** of the EU; this will require logistic and financial support from all Member States. Secondly, an **allocation formula must be applied** that obliges Member States to accept a number of refugees in accordance with their populations.

Such an approach could have prevented what is wrongly portrayed as the ‘refugee crisis’. The refusal to tackle this problem in concert with each other and to act accordingly has led to a political earthquake in most EU Member States. This has been made manifest by a disturbing rise in far-right movements that are hostile to any humanitarian or humane treatment of people, who flee war, torture and barbarism. Luxembourg has every interest in persuading its partners to share the political, administrative and logistical means for dealing with this issue.

### After Brexit

The withdrawal of the UK from the EU is but a matter of time. On one hand, Europe may appear to be weakened, but on the other, it is a renewed call to assert itself as one of the major global players.

It is only through the EU that we can address global challenges. Luxembourg understood the importance of a common concerted approach, well before its neighbours and partners. It is in this spirit that we shall attend to the EU’s institutional issues following the departure of the United Kingdom. As one of the smaller EU countries, we cannot forget that it is thanks to sharing of sovereignty, that we have enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity, freedom and justice unequalled in the history of our country.

For the benefit of future generations, the DP invites all political participants to involve themselves in **the pursuit of European integration**. British youth who are soon to be deprived of what we have built in Europe, will have cause to envy the opportunities conferred upon us through the EU.

## 10. Europe for Health

Although in principle, public health belongs to the responsibility of each Member State, in keeping with the concept of subsidiarity that the European Union can act to complement national policies.

The DP wants to see an **enhanced cooperation at a European level** for improvement in public health in all Member States that optimises the battle against serious diseases with a strengthening of research into their causes, transmission and prevention, and with Europe wide prevention campaigns in health matters. The European Union also needs to stimulate the capacity for innovation and competition within European companies and health-related sectors.

The European Medicines Agency must be able to evaluate and authorise new medicines and medical accessories quickly for the European market.

In view of a worryingly frequent problem of drug shortages, from which Luxembourg is not excluded, the DP favours a European solution that in consultation with the pharmaceutical sector, relocates production sites for active raw materials into Europe.

Sharing of information between those involved in the drug chain, including patients, will need to be optimised, while working towards a harmonisation of regulatory practices at the European level.



Dear voters,

The May 2019 European elections will appoint the members of the European Parliament for 2019-2024.

Weakened by Brexit, the European Union's ability to influence the rest of the world has been reduced. There is a real risk of losing influence economically. While this may seem disconcerting, it is not fatal. EU member countries cannot counter this challenge alone. The sole solution is a stronger and more united Europe, represented as such in the G7.

A more united, more visionary European Union is essential to guarantee the peace, prosperity and freedom of its citizens. The EU has the critical mass to be heard and initiate global projects including the transition to sustainable energy sources and the fight against climate change. United, fortified by its experience and ability to involve its member states in joint projects, it aims to reinvigorate the multilateralism that has been undermined by some powerful countries. Above all we expect the European Union to anchor its Member States in its core values. This, as with its social market economy model, sets it apart from many other regions of the world.

Resolutely SOCIAL, LIBERAL and EUROPEAN, the DP shares in the enthusiasm of citizens, united around the immutable principle of human dignity, and invites them to participate in the great collective venture of the construction of Europe.













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