

15 Points for a Social Europe

1. We support a **free, democratic and solidarity-based Europe**. We need the EU in order to improve and equalize the working and living conditions of European workers. That is why **we oppose the populist, right-wing positions** that want to destroy cooperation in Europe. We want a social Europe and, therefore, we would like to appeal to workers to participate in the European elections on 23-26 May.
2. In order to win back the support of its citizens, Europe has to aspire to be more than just a single market in the future. Europe has to develop further to become a **social union** which will shape economic changes for the benefit of workers, retract social stop lines, and provide good jobs for workers across Europe.
3. We plead for a **social stability pact** that would stipulate minimum conditions for social protection. Such minimum conditions should apply to all workers regardless of their employment relationship. The diverse starting levels in the old and new EU countries should be taken into account. There should be an equivalent to the deficit procedures under the Stability and Growth Pact – in the form of a **procedure against social imbalance** that would aim to introduce more balance to social security.
4. **Fundamental social rights** in Europe should be raised to constitutional level.
5. Competition in Europe must not be held taking advantage of low wages. **An equalization of the wage levels** in individual countries can help prevent a downward trend in the wage levels. We appeal to governments to provide an adequate standard of living by introducing a **higher minimum wage**. Political representatives should aim to enforce high-quality labour, curb precarious jobs and limit temporary employment. Equal pay for equal work on an equal workplace has to become EU standard that should aid in preventing the decline in wages brought about by migration.
6. **Attacks on free collective bargaining, as well as on social and labour market systems, have to stop**. Such policies of the European Commission, European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund (“the Troika”) have recently cast a shadow of doubt over the European social model. As a result, citizen support of the European Project has declined. The trade unions still carry out the demand-driven wage policies on their own. We advocate for an advancement of a Europe-wide coordination of collective bargaining policies. The EU has to introduce a legal framework that would allow this. In addition, we appeal to the political representation to promote this role of the trade unions by means of **strengthening autonomous collective bargaining and coverage by collective agreements**.
7. For many years now, employees in Europe have suffered from an increasing **flexibilization of working hours** and concentration of their labour. We condemn such legislation as the so-called **“slave law” in Hungary** because it legalizes exploitation of workers. In order to counter such action, we need **better and more efficient protection regulations** for workers. This also includes a restriction of working hours and definition of rest times. It will help foster health protection and improved compatibility of work and private life. Common **European standards** will allow the EU to prevent conditions when competition requires employees to work increasingly longer

hours. Productivity progress brought about by digitalization can also be used to reduce working hours.

8. All countries in Europe have to provide for a good life in old age by implementing **solidarity-based pension systems** for all employees. Their objective should be **to prevent old-age poverty**. An existence-securing pension level should be a guarantee of basic income in old age. Employees working in physically hard jobs must be able to retire sooner without losing their claim to full pension.
9. In the EU, we need **an active, coordinated and democratically legitimate sectoral and industry policies**. Government-run investment policies should enforce an ecological transformation of the economy. In order to achieve this, we need incentives for private investment in education, qualification, research and development, as well as in infrastructure. Strengthened European structural funds should aim to work against regional disparities and social division.
10. In particular, **the automotive industry** requires **an agreed European industry policy** to encourage massive investments in new technologies. The European automotive industry will only be able to maintain good long-term prospects if it becomes a leader in introducing new technologies. Politics and business are responsible for carrying out the transformation of the automotive industry together with **the workers**. The goal should be to prevent the workers from becoming **the losers in the transformation process**.
11. **Digitalization** is going to change the labour world massively. It can (and will have to) be shaped so as to contribute to a higher quality of jobs. In this regard, qualification, continuing education and training of workers are essential. We advocate for a personal **right to paid continuing education** in the EU.
12. Democracy in the workplace has to become reality. We demand **an extension and strengthening of worker participation** across Europe. This includes an improvement of the directive for European works councils. We need a **European framework directive** that would set high standards for informing and consulting employees, as well as minimum standards for corporate co-determination.
13. The European **social dialogue** has to be strengthened and developed. We invite employers to give up their blockade mentality of the recent years. We also invite the Commission to improve the rights of social partners. Representatives of employers need more opportunities to participate in social dialogue.
14. The EU needs a **common tax policy** in order to counteract with the race for lower corporate taxes. A unified European minimum taxation could be an appropriate instrument to achieve this.
15. We need **a more democratic EU** as well as more democratic decision-making procedures in which the European Parliament will play a stronger role. The Parliament should be granted the rights to initiate legislative processes and be able to elect commissioners. This would make the EU generally more democratic and transparent.

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