



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists & Democrats  
in the European Parliament**

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**S&D POLITICAL PRIORITIES AND KEY MEASURES DEMANDED FROM  
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**I. DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

- **RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY; COUNTERING HATE SPEECH**
- **INTEGRATION AND DE-RADICALISATION; YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**
- **DEEPENING EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY AND CITIZENSHIP**

**Key specific measures (deliverables) to be requested from the Commission:**

**To be tabled in 2017:**

- Action on integration and de-radicalisation (*new proposals*)

**To be prepared:**

- Proposal on the democracy mechanism under article 7 TEU (*new proposal*)

**Key existing proposals in need of adoption:**

- Unblock the pending Council Directive on Equal Treatment (*procedure ongoing - adoption of proposed legislation*)

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## **II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL DIMENSION**

- **A EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS - TO BRING SOCIAL EUROPE FORWARD**
- **PUT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AT THE HEART OF EU ACTION**
- **A COMPREHENSIVE AND AMBITIOUS SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT STRATEGY TO UNLEASH NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, COMBINED WITH A REFORM OF THE STABILITY AND GROWTH PACT**
- **ALIGNING EU'S CLIMATE, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND AIR QUALITY AGENDAS**
- **ADDRESS UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
- **PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE GROWTH AGENDA, INCLUDING FISHERIES**
- **ALIGNMENT OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

### **Key specific measures (deliverables) to be requested from the Commission:**

#### **To be tabled in 2017:**

- A strong work-life balance package, including new legislation (*new proposals under preparation*)
- A framework directive on decent working conditions and on access to social protection in all new forms of employment - key initiative in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights (*new legislative proposal*)
- A European Child Guarantee as a key component of the European Pillar of Social Rights (*new proposal*)
- Key socio-economic benchmarks in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights, applied from the 2018 European Semester onwards, notably on living wages, minimum income schemes, access to healthcare and reduction of inequalities (*new tools to be applied in the framework of economic governance*)
- A powerful European investment strategy for sustainable development,<sup>1</sup> based on a European industrial policy and an economic policy that ensures sufficient public and private investment at national and European levels, including

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<sup>1</sup> This European investment strategy should go well beyond the existing Investment Plan for Europe. It should be based on a European industrial policy focusing on key priorities for the future, such as the energy transition, digital connectivity for all, creative industries, sustainable cities and the implementation of the circular economy agenda. This strategy requires an economic policy that ensures sufficient public and private investment at national and European levels to fill existing investment gaps, achieve creation of quality jobs and strengthen citizens' skills to be ready for new challenges. It should be underpinned by a gap analysis on the distance to target in realising the SDGs, comparing SDG targets and indicators against EU reality and identifying additional policies and measures needed to reach the SDGs. Better targeting and a real European scale of the EFSI, full use of the European Structural and Investment Funds, implementation of an expansionary aggregate fiscal stance at the Eurozone level and explicit articulation of a European industrial policy should be the first steps under this investment strategy.

through further steps to reform the Stability and Growth Pact<sup>2</sup> (*new proposals at the beginning of the 2018 European Semester*)

- A new framework for socially fair and clean transport and mobility (fair working conditions and fair transition in the transport sector, review of CO2 emission standards for cars) (*new proposals*)

**To be prepared:**

- Youth Guarantee (*increased funding of the Youth Employment Initiative*)
- EURO 7 emission standards, including new technology-neutral emission limits, CO2 standards for heavy duty vehicles and other measures for better air quality (*review of emissions limits for cars, new proposals*)
- Review of the existing Energy Taxation Directive
- A legislative framework proposal to counter unfair trading practices in the food supply chain (*new proposal*)
- Proposal for a Common Agricultural Policy post-2020 to be fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and with a substantially increased focus on contributing to environment and climate change objectives (*new proposals to revise existing policy*)

**Key existing proposals in need of adoption:**

- Posting of workers (*agreement on the revised directive*)

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<sup>2</sup> Reformed fiscal rules and accounting methodologies should better take into account the long-term depreciation and amortisation of public investments, the corresponding creation of assets and the specific nature of *social investments*, rather than considering public investments as one-off expenditures. They should also enable a more favourable treatment of investments in defence, expenditures related to migration, and certain investments in sustainable development and upward convergence.

### **III. FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR A COMMON EUROPEAN FUTURE**

- **FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF FAIR AND EFFICIENT TAX SYSTEMS THROUGH NEW RULES IN KEY FIELDS, ENDING TAX HAVENS AND COMBATTING TAX FRAUD IN THE EU AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES**
- **GENUINE OWN RESOURCES FOR THE EU BUDGET**
- **COMPLETION OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, INCLUDING A FISCAL CAPACITY FOR THE EUROZONE AND THE FINALIZATION OF THE BANKING UNION, TO MAKE IT RESILIENT TO FUTURE SHOCKS**

#### **Key specific measures (deliverables) to be requested from the Commission:**

##### **To be tabled in 2017:**

- EU black list of tax havens to include strong and automatic sanctions against countries and jurisdictions listed (*proposal to come*)
- Proposal to ensure adequate protection of whistle-blowers (*new proposal*)

##### **To be prepared:**

- Rules on tax advisers and intermediaries, including option to revoke business licenses throughout Europe (*new proposals*)
- Creation of a new Union Tax Policy Coherence and Coordination Centre in the Commission as originally suggested in the TAX2-report
- New genuine own resources for the EU budget (with a European corporate income tax, a Financial transaction tax, a carbon adjustment mechanism at the EU's borders, etc.) (*new proposal*)
- Concrete legislative proposals for establishing a Eurozone fiscal capacity (*new proposal*)

##### **Key existing proposals in need of adoption:**

- Implementation of a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (*procedures pending*)
- Completion of Banking Union (*procedure ongoing*)

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## **IV. BUILDING A REAL EUROPEAN ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION POLICY**

- **A REAL EUROPEAN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY**
- **A WELL-FUNCTIONING SCHENGEN AREA**

**Key specific measures (deliverables) to be requested from the Commission:**

**To be tabled in 2017:**

- A proposal on humanitarian visas (*new proposal*)
- A plan for opening safe routes for asylum seekers and migrants (*new proposal*)

**Key existing proposals in need of adoption:**

- Reform of the Dublin system – a real European asylum policy (*pending - adoption of legislation, full implementation*)
- Implement swiftly the existing decisions on relocation and resettlement (*procedure ongoing - adoption of proposed legislation*)
- Coordinated action on legal migration to develop EU-wide mobility packages to strengthen partnerships with third countries (*new proposals*)
- Renewed international initiative in the fight against smuggling, in particular on the financial side to curtail the business model, including by setting standards and reinforcing international norms in multilateral fora

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## **V. EUROPE AS A LEADING GLOBAL ACTOR**

- **FAIR, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GLOBALISATION AND A PROGRESSIVE TRADE AGENDA**
- **PROMOTING DEFENCE COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNION AND WITH NATO AND ENSURING STABILITY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**
- **THE EU TAKING A LEADING ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS**
- **STRENGTHENING OUR COOPERATION TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WORLDWIDE AND IN AFRICA IN PARTICULAR**
- **DEFENDING MULTILATERALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **Key specific measures (deliverables) to be requested from the Commission:**

#### **To be tabled in 2017:**

- A 2017/2018 European peace initiative to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - making effective use of the EU's existing leverage and instruments towards both parties (*new proposal*)

#### **To be prepared:**

- Set up of a new generation of FTAs after CETA. New trade agreements must be fair, sustainable and transparent. Uphold existing national and European standards and commit the parties to raise these. Fully and unequivocally, protect the right to regulate. Ensure a single voice in trade disputes with third countries. Achieve tangible progress towards a multilateral investment court (*new proposals*)
- Set up an adequate framework and mechanisms to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of EU-Africa relations and beyond (*new proposal*)
- Concrete support to the future of Syria and the region, building on the outcome of the EU-Syria conference (*forthcoming*)

#### **Key existing proposals in need of adoption:**

- Guarantee an efficient Trade Defence Instrument system (*pending*)
- Operationalise the European Defence Fund (*pending*)
- Support a new consensus for development and a new partnership with ACP countries (*ongoing*), including a new initiative on Africa (with a view towards an EU-Africa summit in November)
- Make full use of the EU's external investment fund as a major tool for addressing the root causes of migration by supporting investment and growth in countries of migrants' origin and transit (*ongoing*)