

Political Resolution

We live in a time when the European Union is facing many challenges, such as the threat of terrorism, the difficulties in achieving successful cultural integration of immigrants and refugees, a deep social crisis (marked by the perception of rising inequality and international instability), and loss of confidence in national and international institutions alike. Although the relentless efforts made to strengthen and to retain peace, human rights, democracy and security in Europe since the Congress of Europe, which initiated the European project seventy years ago, cannot be denied, new and stronger measures are required to meet the present challenges.

Therefore,

THE CONGRESS:

1. ACKNOWLEDGES that European citizens are becoming increasingly critical of the way in which the European institutions have managed the integration process.
2. RECOGNIZES that it is time to address this concern and to propose a new narrative to European citizens.
3. NOTES that the European Union has proven to be successful in numerous areas, for instance the free movement of people, the promotion of peace, and the protection of human rights.

Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy

4. ACKNOWLEDGES the necessity for setting a limit to enlargement and simultaneously sees that it is in its own interest to bolster its internal socio-economic conditions, in particular to combat poverty, to stabilise the near vicinity, with the aim to increase the opportunities for (young) people on a local, regional and national level.
5. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that the European Union works as a strategic partner with the countries in its near vicinity (for instance, but not limited to, Mediterranean States and Central-Eastern Europe) in order to achieve the following goals;
 - A. Preferential access to the European market (according to the conditions laid out in the Economic and Social Resolution);
 - B. Intellectual cooperation on institutional topics (for instance, but not limited to, public administration, technological transfer, and fighting corruption);
 - C. Introduction of Labour benefits and enabling students to access opportunities of international exchanges, as defined by the Cultural Resolution above;



D. Establishment of mechanisms of mutual diplomatic support.

6. AFFIRMS that, before States can be considered for such a beneficial package, they will have to meet the conditions laid out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and a set of economic criteria which will be established for this purpose.

7. RECOMMENDS to limit the possibility of further enlargement to these countries: the Balkans (Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia), Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland. This measure, in the opinion of the Congress, is fundamental in ensuring an effective decision making process within the Union.

Political Integration

8. CONFIRMS the need to build a long-term project to establish a stronger union of citizens, which will act as a model for the World, based on the values of our countries, our common roots and our shared hope for the future.

9. POINTS OUT that such a community of European citizens will not entail any further transfer of competencies from Member States to the EU, except in the domains listed in the following point.

10. DECLARES that the European Union, respecting the principle of vertical subsidiarity, must have an exclusive legislative competence, in addition to the domains listed in Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, on:

- A. External Border Control (excluding the Schengen Area, whose nature and structure is strictly intergovernmental);
- B. Defence;
- C. Climate and Environmental Protection;
- D. Coordination of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with NATO;
- E. Fiscal Policy;
- F. Foreign Aid;
- G. Minimum Health requirements.

11. URGES the creation of integrated European military units - in addition to existing national military structures - selected via a common procedure among the Member States and trained in shared military facilities, to be employed wherever common European interests are at stake, from peacekeeping missions to border control and collective defence.



12. SUGGESTS to strengthen the integrated European infrastructure of criminal justice in terms of information sharing and judicial cooperation among Member States, completing the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, with special attention to the strengthening and enlargement of the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

13. DEMANDS that the power of the European Council must be restricted to formulating recommendations to the European Commission, which can decide whether to pursue them throughout the ordinary legislative procedure of the European Union or not.

14. ACKNOWLEDGES that the time has come to establish the role of a single president, to be called 'President of the European Union', of both the European Commission and the European Council, in order to have one voice for both institutions. The President will be endowed, together with the members of the European Commission, with the executive power within the European Union's institutional structure.

15. DECLARES that the President of the European Union has to be elected directly by the citizens, and has to be the expression of the party or the coalition of parties which got the majority in the European elections.

16. IS CONVINCED that the Council of the European Union has to turn into the "High Chamber", representing regional institutions in the long-term perspective of a stronger community of States, which guarantees a voice for each and every citizen of the European Union. This new institution should adopt a system based only on majority rule, abolishing completely the rule of unanimity in any voting procedure. The European Economic and Social Council, established for this purpose, would become an advisory body to the new High Chamber.

17. AFFIRMS that each Member of group of Members of the European Parliament and of the new High Chamber should be able to propose legislative measures to the European Parliament and the High Chamber directly, without having to address the European Commission, in order to help overcoming the democratic deficit that tackles the European Union. Moreover, European Citizens' Initiative should be strengthened by lowering the number of signatures required for their official presentation and at the same time allowing citizens to present them directly to the European Parliament and the High Chamber.

18. DECLARES that it is crucial to achieve a common method for the establishment of electoral constituencies for the European elections, accompanied by the creation of transnational electoral lists.



19. CONFIRMS that it is time to establish a code of conduct for Members of the European Parliament and to organize periodical local assemblies with constituencies, where the representatives can encounter the citizens they were elected by, in order to ensure transparency and accountability and in order to bridge the gap between institutions and citizens.

20. SUGGESTS clearer programmes from the political parties and coalitions of the European Union, and clearer communication by European institutions.

21. REQUESTS that double standards are avoided in case of violation of membership criteria and legally binding norms of European Union law.

Role of Europe and Its Values in the World

22. DECLARES that it is important to reach an agreement at philosophical, juridical, and political level about humanist values, especially on the fundamental rights of human beings as established by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

23. DECLARES that it is appropriate to open offices in the Member States in order to give the possibility to apply directly to the European Court of Human Rights.

24. REQUIRES that humanist values should guide international relationships, as well as treaties and negotiations, according to the criteria laid out in the Economic and Social Resolution above.

25. ACKNOWLEDGES that one of the most crucial issues with respect to human rights' violations are contemporary migration movements, which cannot be solved on a national level.

26. DECLARES the need of a common interpretation of the distinctions and definitions used for different types of migration and migrants; this would enable the creation of a centralised migration policy, allowing for fairer distribution of humanitarian efforts, in which people in need of international protection will apply directly to the Union for protection.

27. REQUESTS a stronger coordination, through multilateral regular meetings, between European Union's delegations and Member States' embassies in third States, with the long-term goal that all European transnational issues be handled at the European diplomatic level rather than at the national level.

28. REQUIRES the establishment of a European Union seat at the United Nations' Security Council, following the provision of Point 10 of the present resolution.



Unity in Diversity

29. DECLARES that, in order to build a brighter and more united future for Europe and the world, we must respect and promote our national and local different histories, identities, and aspirations.

Cultural Resolution

As Europe faces new challenges in light of the difficulties of multiculturalism, a greater focus on the cultural issues and values of the European Union is needed. There is an ever-growing need for a stable and high quality educational system. In addition, the need to secure the cultural integrity and identity of the citizens of Europe is becoming more evident every day. Moreover, information exchange has become a tool of great importance, thus the protection of unbiased informational platforms is crucial.

Therefore,

THE CONGRESS:

1. AFFIRMS that the common identity of Europe is an unbreakable spirit enshrined by the Cultural Resolution of the Congress of Europe in 1948.
2. BEARS in mind the endless effort undertaken by our predecessors in order to implement the European dream.
3. REAFFIRMS the strong belief that only strong coordination among the European nations can ensure our continuous well-being and position in the world.
4. STRESSES the importance of the common European cultural heritage, while equally emphasising the great significance of safeguarding national cultural heritage as well.
5. ESTABLISHES a common European framework of cultural inclusion that strengthens multilingualism and multiculturalism.
6. RECOGNISES the increasing role played by the European Union as a normative power on the global stage.



7. REACTS to essentially anti-European developments such as increasing amounts of inaccurate information, rising inequality and political divide.

8. REAFFIRMS and promotes the core and basic principles of the European Union as laid down in the Treaties as well as in the European Convention on Human Rights.

9. BASES its work on equality, regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity – or political ideology.

Education

10. UNDERLINES the important role the European Union plays in the everyday lives of its citizens.

11. STATES the need for the unification of the European Union education system from as early as primary school education, right throughout secondary school, up until university.

12. ACCEPTS the sovereignty of Member States regarding issues concerning the national education systems, but, that said,

13. URGES Member States to further their cooperation in the area of education in order to establish a solid ground for sharing good practices as well as exchanging views on possible improvements to be achieved. A key step in this direction is the full reciprocal recognition of national diplomas across all Member States of the European Union.

14. PROPOSES the establishment in all Member States of project-based courses that provide education on:

(i) European culture and liberal values for young children, in order to deepen and consolidate the European project;

(ii) Safe and responsible IT usage for children;

(iii) Soft skills (such as communication, presentation, debate and public-speaking skills), incorporated in the formal method of education in order to increase employability for youngsters.

15. SUGGESTS an increase of mobility funds for long-term secondary school exchanges, which should be based on cooperation with the civil society in this sector. Projects such as Erasmus+



have been a successful mean to increase opportunities for cultural exchanges which contribute to (re)build a European sense of belonging and to create a new and fairer Europe.

16. PROPOSES the setting up of funds for cross-border training-programmes for school teachers in order for them to have the possibility to gather pan-European experience that they can pass on to their pupils.

17. ENCOURAGES an increased harmonization of school curricula, for example by means of a funded further dispersion of the European Baccalaureate.

Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity

18. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that a cultural inclusion policy among Member States be created in order to enhance linguistic and cultural diversity, whilst striking a balance between national and European identities which facilitates multiculturalism. The policy should include the following points:

(i) Preserving the culture and each of its facets of every autochthonous, national minority and ethnic group in order to ensure cultural diversity within each Member State of the EU.

(ii) Encouraging cultural exchanges and facilitate dialogue between minorities and majorities, by allocating additional financial assistance and promoting intercultural and educational diversity.

(iii) Strengthening social cohesion by engaging expats and temporary residents of every Member State of the European Union by organising civic initiatives with short-term subsidised language courses.

19. SUGGESTS the creation of programmes that would engage more young people (under the age of 25) to visit cultural institutions, such as art galleries or museums, in order to ensure that they have the possibility of getting to know the different cultural elements of each Member State and thus coming to have a better idea of what European cultural heritage consists of.

20. PROPOSES EU-sponsored class-trips to the European Parliament in Brussels and/or Strasbourg to foster the European identity and the longevity of the latter.



Information Exchange

21. STRESSES the importance of unbiased information exchange and the possibility of all citizens of the European Union to be able to gain proper and transparent knowledge on all the actions taken at European Union level.

22. RECOMMENDS the creation of a 'European Union Information Agency' to encourage independent media, the development of legal protection of journalists, and to assure that every European citizen is entitled to access unbiased European news. The tasks of the European Union Information Agency (EUIA) will include:

(i) To research and promote the rights of every European citizen to receive **accurate** information about European politics, current affairs and events in the European institutions.

(ii) To conduct research on the existing legal protection of journalists on the level of the European Union.

(iii) To assist and provide recommendations on current issues concerning the quality of information distribution.

(iv) To initiate, organize, produce and distribute information in the 24 official languages of the Member States on the cultural, political and socio-economic aspects of the European Union.

(v) To encourage the production of news in clear and comprehensible language, accessible to everyone.

(vi) To develop a method to identify and reward reliable and unbiased information channels.



Economic and Social Resolution

Europe is facing growing globalization. Trade routes are becoming more accessible, social and fiscal variables are gaining importance due to the increased focus on equality, and European citizens are becoming more and more dependent on technology every day. Due to these trends there is a need to address, control, and aid the issues they bring with them in order to work towards a sustainable and safer Europe.

Therefore,

THE CONGRESS:

Trade

1. ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of maintaining the current status quo on the abolishment of all import and export tariffs, guaranteeing complete free trade in the European Union.
2. AFFIRMS that, in order to increase the shared economic prosperity of the European Union Member States, it is fundamental that, as a Union, we put our efforts in negotiating trade agreements with different countries, according to our commitment to a value-based trade policy.
3. URGES the European Union, acknowledging that an open international trade system is a priority, to use all the tools available to fight against distortion and unfair trade.
4. AFFIRMS that the European Union should sign bilateral (and, whenever possible, multilateral) trade agreements with all the countries that are in its near vicinity. According to the European Union's objective to promote free and fair trade enshrined in Art. 3.5 of the TEU, particular attention should be dedicated to reach fair trade agreements with African and Middle-Eastern countries, whose regional stability and development would benefit both parts. A system whereby the European Union imports mostly raw materials from those countries and exports mostly finished goods and services to them is not acceptable anymore, in light of the aim to achieve a balanced growth of international trade.

Social Equality

5. SUGGESTS the creation of a comprehensive European social programme to ensure full employment and education for all. The Member States should agree to supply more funds in



programmes aimed at fighting poverty within Member States, and they should more carefully implement European directives on social protection and social inclusion. Social inclusion especially should assume a preeminent importance in the European social agenda, according to the principle that the Union “places the individual at the heart of its activities”, as stated by the Preamble of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

6. URGES the European Union to take additional measures to encourage the reduction of inequalities among European countries, by way of a progressive harmonization of Members States’ fiscal and labour law and particularly on the level of investment in education and soft skills training. Living standards’ convergence represents a crucial long-term objective of the European Union.

7. RECOGNIZES, following the previous point, the need for the European Union to promote the creation of common standards among Member States equalizing the differences on healthcare, education, social security schemes, pensions, unemployment benefits, inclusion of disabled people, housing for homeless people, childcare and long-term care. To ensure the advancement of social protection and inclusion a supervisory body monitoring the implementation of the European standards should be instituted.

8. EMPHASIZES that is the duty of the European Union to ensure and encourage the equal participation of all the categories in social and economic life, fighting against discrimination of gender, religion, ethnicity, and of any other kind.

Economic and Monetary Union

- Monetary Union

9. ACKNOWLEDGES the political and symbolic importance of the euro as a single currency for the present and the future of the European integration process;

10. RECOGNISES that the current structure of the Economic and Monetary Union is not beneficial to all its members to the same extent, and therefore calls for actions to be taken in order to rebalance the role and importance of each Member State in defining and carrying out a common monetary policy.

11. AFFIRMS that standardized requirements for current members as well as admission requirements for applicant countries must be respected.



- **Economic and Fiscal Union**

12. CALLS for the creation of a European Fiscal Union, as the appropriate completion of the Economic and Monetary Union, under the responsibility of a European Fiscal Policy Ministry, which would be part of the European Commission.

13. EMPHASIZES that in order for the European Union to fully serve its purposes, it must become responsible for the public debt of its Member States, ensuring at the same time an appropriate level of expenditure for investments, accompanied by fiscal regulations, under the supervision of the newly established 'European Fiscal Policy Ministry'.

15. STRESSES that the measure of sharing risks among countries of the Eurozone will lead to a more effective contribution of Members to any possible economic crisis.

16. SUGGESTS that the European Central Bank should be a lender of last resort for governments and should issue instruments of economic support and solidarity sharing, taking into account the inflation rate.

Technology

17. RECOGNISES the need for reducing inequality in technological advancement within Europe through the full implementation of the Digital Single Market and the establishment of strong antitrust policies in the technology business. The opinions and advice of young people should be especially relevant to policy-making in this domain.

18. URGES a stronger regulation of data and media protection by the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). This organisation should review, discuss, implement, and reflect upon acts and proposals.

19. CALLS for the establishment of clear policies to ensure a use of technology that does not in any way breach the fundamental human rights of European citizens.

20. STATES that national governments, cooperating with the European Union, should design educational programmes that include a specific focus on the use of technologies in all of its aspects and implications, in accordance with the proposals laid out in the Cultural Resolution below.



Environment

21. STRESSES the need to ensure the sustainability of the European Union's economic system and the urgency to implement concrete measures for the effective protection of climate and environment.

22. AFFIRMS that the Paris Agreement should be held as a binding agreement and a goal for all European countries to work towards.

23. URGES the strengthening of the comprehensive European environment policy framework in order to ensure that all Member States work effectively to achieve the same goals in terms of climate and environmental protection.

24. AFFIRMS the need to comply with all environmental international treaties which have the goal to find a balance between climate and environmental protection and economic development, taking into special account the provisions of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations for Sustainable Development.

Shared Future

25. DECLARES that the six discussed topics are the key for the successful further development of the European Union from an economic perspective. All the thoughts and recommendations aim to ensure Europeans have the possibility to enjoy good conditions of life, both material and cultural, and use the sources of its extensive diversity to achieve the benefits it embodies. This will provide the necessary conditions to tackle future challenges mutually and proactively, and also to enhance the ongoing development of future generation's European identity.

26. STRESSES the fact that a strong and stable Europe will function as a role model for upcoming global demands of diverse societies trying to achieve collective consensus, instead of letting their enormous differences interrupting the process.

