

A New Start for Europe: My Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change

Strasbourg, 15 July 2014



“As candidate for President of the European Commission, I see it as my key task to rebuild bridges in Europe after the crisis. To restore European citizens’ confidence.”

*“My agenda will focus on **ten policy areas**. My emphasis will be on concrete results in these ten areas. Beyond that, I will leave other policy areas to the Member States where they are more legitimate and better equipped to give effective policy responses at national, regional or local level, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.”*

“I want a European Union that is bigger and more ambitious on big things, and smaller and more modest on small things.”

1 A NEW BOOST FOR JOBS, GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

“We must make use of public funds available at Union level to stimulate private investment in the real economy. We need smarter investment, more focus, less regulation and more flexibility when it comes to the use of these public funds. In my view, this should allow us to **mobilise up to € 300 billion in additional public and private investment** in the real economy over the next three years.”

“**We must not stifle innovation and competitiveness** with too prescriptive and too detailed regulations, notably when it comes to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of our economy, creating more than 85% of new jobs in Europe and we have to free them from burdensome regulation.”

2 A CONNECTED DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

“**By creating a connected digital single market, we can generate up to € 250 billion of additional growth in Europe in the course of the mandate of the next Commission**, there by creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs, notably for younger job-seekers, and a vibrant knowledge-based society.

To achieve this, I intend to take, within the first six months of my mandate, ambitious legislative steps towards a connected digital single market.”

3 A RESILIENT ENERGY UNION WITH A FORWARD-LOOKING CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

“I want to reform and reorganise Europe’s energy policy into a **new European Energy Union**. We need to pool our resources, combine our infrastructures and unite our negotiating power vis-à-vis third countries. We need to diversify our energy sources, and reduce the high energy dependency of several of our Member States.”

“I want the European Union to lead the fight against global warming ahead of the United Nations Paris meeting in 2015 and beyond in line with the objective of limiting any temperature increase to a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. We owe this to future generations.”

4 A DEEPER AND FAIRER INTERNAL MARKET WITH A STRENGTHENED INDUSTRIAL BASE

“It would be naïve to believe that growth in Europe could be built on the basis of services alone. **We need to bring back industry’s weight in the EU’s GDP back to 20% by 2020, from less than 16% today.**”

“Over time, I believe we should complement the new European rules for banks with a **Capital Markets Union**. To improve the financing of our economy, we should further develop and integrate capital markets.”

“We need more fairness in our internal market. We should step up our efforts to **combat tax evasion and tax fraud**, so that all contribute their fair share.”

5 A DEEPER AND FAIRER ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

“I want to launch first **legislative and non-legislative initiatives to deepen our Economic and Monetary Union** during the first year of my mandate.”

“We need to re-balance the way in which we grant conditional stability support to Euro zone countries in difficulties. In the future, we should be able to replace the “**troika**” with a more democratically legitimate and more accountable structure, based around European institutions with enhanced parliamentary control both at European and at national level. I also propose that, in the future, any support and reform programme goes not only through a fiscal sustainability assessment; but through a **social impact assessment** as well.”

6 A REASONABLE AND BALANCED FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S.

“Under my presidency, the Commission will negotiate **a reasonable and balanced trade agreement** with the United States of America.”

“I will also be very clear that I will not sacrifice Europe’s safety, health, social and data protection standards or our cultural diversity on the altar of free trade.”

7 AN AREA OF JUSTICE AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST

“Combating cross-border crime and terrorism is a common European responsibility. We need to crack down on organised crime, such as human trafficking, smuggling and cybercrime. We must tackle corruption; and we must fight terrorism and counter radicalisation – all the while guaranteeing fundamental rights and values, including procedural rights and the protection of personal data.”

“**Data protection** is a fundamental right of particular importance in the digital age. In addition to swiftly finalising the legislative work on common data protection rules within the European Union, we also need to uphold this right in our external relations. The United States must convince us that the current safe harbour arrangements really are safe if they want them to continue. They must also guarantee that all EU citizens have the right to enforce data protection rights also in U.S. courts, whether or not they reside on U.S. soil. This will be essential for restoring trust in transatlantic relations.”

8 TOWARDS A NEW POLICY ON MIGRATION

“The recent terrible events in the Mediterranean have shown: Europe needs to manage migration better, in all aspects. This is first of all a humanitarian imperative. I am convinced that we must work closely together **in a spirit of solidarity** to ensure that situations such as the one in Lampedusa never arise again.”

“I want to promote **a new European policy on legal migration**. I want Europe to become at least as attractive as the favourite migration destinations such as Australia, Canada and the USA. As a first step, I intend to review the “Blue Card” legislation and its unsatisfactory state of implementation.”

“I also believe that we need to deal more robustly with **irregular migration**, notably through better cooperation with third countries, including on readmission.”

9 A STRONGER GLOBAL ACTOR

“Yes, Europe is chiefly a ‘soft power’. But even the strongest soft powers cannot make do in the long run without at least some integrated defence capacities. The Treaty of Lisbon provides for the possibility that those Member States who wish to can pool their defence capabilities in the form of a permanent structured cooperation.”

“Member States should create more synergies in defence procurement. In times of scarce resources, **we need to match ambitions with resources** to avoid duplication of programmes.”

10 A UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

“**I want to have a political dialogue with you, not a technocratic one.** I intend to always send political representatives of the Commission to important trilogue negotiations and I expect the Council to do the same.”

“I also intend to review **the legislation applicable to the authorisation of Genetically Modified Organisms**. To me, it is simply not right that under the current rules, the Commission is legally forced to authorise new organisms for import and processing even though a clear majority of Member States is against.”

CONCLUSION

“Gender balance is not a luxury; it is a political must and should be self-evident to everybody, including to the leaders in all capitals of our Member States when it comes to their proposal for the choice of members of the next Commission. This is in itself a test for the commitment of the governments of Member States to a new, more democratic approach in times of change.”

“On the basis of my Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change and its ten priorities, I am today seeking election by the European Parliament. The larger the majority that supports me and my agenda today, the stronger will my hand be in forming the next Commission, and the more effective I will be in delivering swiftly on this agenda.”

“**“This time it’s different”** was the European Parliament’s motto for the election campaign. Let us jointly show that we are able to make this promise a reality. That together we are able to really change and renew Europe. And that we will jointly work to re-gain citizens’ trust in the European project. **I will do my utmost to make this difference.**”