



10 KEY DEMANDS FOR NEW EU TOP-JOB HOLDERS

The EU should work for our planet and for the many - not the few. It is time to end failing neoliberal policies and follow an ambitious roadmap in order to confront the climate emergency and tackle the rise of socio-economic inequalities within the EU. Here, GUE/NGL presents the 10 priorities that the new presidents of the European Commission and the European Parliament should commit to during their mandates.



01 Take action to effectively tackle the climate emergency and restore biodiversity

- Creation of a Special Committee on the Climate Emergency in the European Parliament;
- Start “green planning” at the European level and set a binding target of 70% CO2 reduction by 2030 and 100% renewable energy by 2050;
- Define new objectives for the Common Agricultural Policy in order to support small, local and ethical producers, enhance food safety and consumer protection, and protect animal welfare;
- Use the new Multiannual Financial Framework to massively increase public investment in ecological transition (support renewable energy generation, public transport, rail freight transport, refurbishment of buildings, etc.);
- Evaluate EU policies by measuring their contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

02 End neoliberal austerity policies that increase inequalities and help boost far-right forces in Europe

- Reject any budgetary mechanism such as the European Semester that prevents member states from stimulating sustainable economic development, enhancing regional and social cohesion, strengthening welfare states, securing decent jobs in the real economy and acting against poverty;
- End the 3% deficit rule and the 60% debt rule to allow member states to develop public investments into the real economy, improve public services (schools, hospitals, infrastructure etc.), and tackle environmental issues;
- Create a Pact for Employment and Growth encompassing a new set of economic, social and environmental policies in favour of people and workers. This would replace the current framework, structure and neoliberal priorities of the EU, be enshrined in the EU treaties as well as the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance, the European Semester and the Fiscal Compact;

- Implement active policies against economic inequality and poverty, strengthening the welfare state for the benefit of the people through a Social Investment Plan, an Integrated Anti-Poverty Strategy and a comprehensive Social Protection Programme;
- Increase the budget for EU cohesion policies addressing the specific needs of member states and develop a serious and meaningful proposal for a public investment initiative that has sufficient financial means to address structural economic imbalances between member states.

03 Fight against social dumping in Europe

- Ensure equal pay for equal work at the same workplace for all workers from day one;
- Annex a social protocol to the EU Treaty which guarantees that fundamental social rights shall always take precedence over economic freedoms;
- Establish a common set of minimum social standards. The EU should enter the revised European Social Charter and seek upward social harmonisation and economic convergence between people and territories;
- Support real salary valuations, ensure that workers’ rights are respected and regulate uberised (irregular, gig-economy) activities.

04 Put an end to tax dodging, tax evasion, money laundering and corruption

- Create a genuine EU blacklist of all tax havens, including EU member states and countries currently listed in the ‘grey’ list; revising the criteria and ensuring maximum transparency in drawing up the list;
 - Ensure that big companies are taxed where income is generated and set up a minimum effective corporate income tax to end the race to the bottom on corporate income tax;
 - Adopt tax transparency and public country-by-country reporting for companies.
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05 Take control of market decisions

- End the Capital Markets Union project and start building a robust, diverse and regulated banking sector where no banks are too big to fail;
- Grant political control of the European Central Bank to member states and the European Parliament to make it fully accountable;
- Make financial actors accountable for the environmental and social impact of their investments;
- Ensure that essential public services are protected from any market logic by reforming EU competition law;
- Develop an industrial policy that focuses on high quality jobs and supports small and medium sized enterprises

06 Re-orientate EU trade policy

- Evaluate current trade agreements by assessing their social, environmental and human rights impacts;
- Stop the negotiations on the EU - Mercosur free-trade agreement;
- Forbid new trade agreements that violate the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and ILO conventions, which endanger the planet and workers.

07 Adopt a humane migration and asylum policy that guarantees human rights

- Set up a proactive multinational civil rescue operation in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Open safe and legal access for migrants and asylum-seekers and guarantee the right to asylum on EU territory;
- Shift away from the current Dublin system and increase the sharing of responsibility for the reception of asylum seekers and refugees between member states;
- Stop the outsourcing of EU border management to third countries

08 Defend peace

- Stop using EU defense as a NATO tool;
- Defend peaceful conflict resolution through the UN and respect for international law;
- Push towards disarmament, including of nuclear weapons.

09 Fight for democracy and human rights

- Promote greater democratic accountability and transparency of European institutions by strengthening the role of national MPs and MEPs;
- Allow European citizens to participate in the European decision-making process: review the European Citizen Initiative (ECI) by lowering the threshold and making it compulsory before the European Commission can make legislative proposals;
- Ensure that member states respect the fundamental democratic principles, freedom of press and independence of the judiciary;
- Defend LGBTI rights, protect vulnerable groups and fight against all forms of discrimination;
- Adopt a binding due diligence regulation with corporate duty of care to ensure multinational companies respect human rights across their operations and their supply chains.

10 Take effective action to defend women's rights and achieve gender equality

- Dedicate 5% of the EU budget solely for this purpose;
 - Oblige member states to guarantee effective action for the eradication of gender-based violence and increase the endowment of all public policies that promote gender equality;
 - Promote economic independence for women and equal pay, reduction of working hours to 34 hours without salary loss in a move towards equal redistribution of domestic work and care between men and women; setting new parental leave schemes;
 - Promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, including safe and legal abortion.
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