



**COMPARISON TABLE EZA CONTRIBUTION CoFoE with CONSOLIDATED LIST FINAL PROPOSALS  
PLENARY OF CoFoE.**

<b>EZA CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>PLENARY CoFoE PROPOSALS</b>
<p><u>Preliminary remarks</u> Amendments to the Treaties must not be a taboo.</p>	<p><u>Intro Economy</u> From the recommendations and discussions, it is also clear that we need a comprehensive strategy to ensure better wellbeing for the European citizens in the different aspect of their lives. Some elements of this strategy can be found in already existing policies and can be achieved by making full use of the existing institutional framework at European and national level; others will require new policies and, in some cases, treaty changes. However, new policies and treaty changes should be seen as means to achieve better wellbeing and not as ends in themselves.</p>
<p><u>Values 1)</u> The European Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities (Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)). Promoting peace and reconciliation among the European people was the initial founding principle of European integration. We expect current and future decision-makers of the European Union to take these values as the fundamental elements driving further development of the EU.</p>	<p><u>Objective 25, Measure 1)</u> Ensuring that the values and principles enshrined in the EU Treaties and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights are non-negotiable, irreversible and sine qua non conditions for EU membership and accession. EU values must be fully upheld in all Member States also so they can act as an international standard and pole of attraction through diplomacy and dialogue. Enlargement of the EU should not undermine the EU acquis with relation to fundamental values and citizens' rights;</p>
<p><u>Values 2)</u> European values are coming increasingly under pressure. The return of nationalism as well as the rise of populism, both encouraging Euro-scepticism, together with xenophobia, have weakened the community spirit and cohesion in the EU. The EU needs to react with appropriate firmness and to promote and enforce its values.</p>	<p><u>Objective 38, measure 1)</u> Ensuring the protection of EU values laid down in the treaties, including the rule of law and a strong social model,<sup>124</sup> which are at the core of the European democracy. In its relationship with external countries, the European Union should firstly strengthen common democratic values in its borders. Only after achieving this, the European Union can be an ambassador of</p>

	our democratic model in the countries that are ready and willing to implement it, through diplomacy and dialogue
<p><b>Values 3)</b> Mutual respect and tolerance must be fostered in our multicultural and multireligious societies. The EU has to be human-centred, and citizen-focused and citizen-owned. European citizens find themselves in different circles of belonging, starting with the family, that are drivers for an open and common European space. Grassroot organisations are to be considered vital players in promoting the prosperity of society and in achieving a broad-based, shared understanding among European citizens. Consequently, financial support for grassroots organisations has to be increased.</p>	<p><b>Objective 25, measure 2)</b> Making European values tangible for EU citizens, especially through more interactive and direct involvement. To this end, the European citizenship should be strengthened for instance through a European citizenship statute providing citizen-specific rights and freedoms, as well as a statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations. European values should also be promoted through an “onboarding package” providing didactic elements and information material to citizens. Finally, a European public sphere including audiovisual and online media outlets should be developed by further EU investment, existing EU media hubs improved, and the over 500 local European liaison offices further supported</p>
<p><b>Values 4)</b> The European values and social model must be the fundament of EU foreign policy and trade relations. Among others, the EU should further enhance its support for the transition process in the Western Balkan countries and offer a more concrete accession perspective, including a timeframe.</p>	<p><b>Objective 19) (only for first sentence)</b> We propose that the EU strengthen the ethical dimension of its trade and investment relations through:</p> <p><b>Objective 38, measure 1) (for first sentence)</b> Ensuring the protection of EU values laid down in the treaties, including the rule of law and a strong social model,<sup>124</sup> which are at the core of the European democracy. In its relationship with external countries, the European Union should firstly strengthen common democratic values in its borders. Only after achieving this, the European Union can be an ambassador of our democratic model in the countries that are ready and willing to implement it, through diplomacy and dialogue;</p>

### European Democracy 5)

We underline the need for more participative and deliberative democracy to complement and to strengthen representative democracy, not to replace it. Democratic processes need to be diversified as a complementary part of representative democracy so that policymaking becomes more inclusive with increased acceptance of – especially controversial – political decisions. Citizens should be encouraged to participate actively in both national and EU democracy. People feel more at home in a society where there is broad participation in politics. It is time for the EU to install a permanent mechanism to implement Article 11.1 of the TEU (Art. 11.1: The institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action.) and Article 11.2 of the TEU (Art. 11.2: The institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative organisations and civil society), installing a permanent single Eleven2 platform.

### Objective 36, Measures 1 to 11)

Increase citizens' participation and youth involvement in the democracy at the European Union level to develop a 'full civic experience' for Europeans, ensure that their voice is heard also in between elections, and that the participation is effective. That is why the most appropriate form of participation should be considered for each topic, for example by:

1. Improving the effectiveness of existing and developing new citizens' participation mechanisms, in line with EU acquis, by better informing on them. Ideally, all the information about the participatory spaces should be summarized in an integrated official website with different features. A mechanism should be devised to monitor policy and legislative initiatives, which have emerged from participatory democracy processes; Participatory mechanisms should be inclusive and their combination able to reach a diverse public. Attention should be paid to content material, topics and moderators' skills. They should include an analysis on the impact of the policies discussed on, inter alia, women and vulnerable persons.
2. Increasing the frequency of online and offline interactions between EU institutions and its citizens through different means of interaction in order to ensure that citizens can participate in the EU policymaking process to voice their opinions and to get feedback, and creating a charter for EU officials on citizens' participation;
3. Offering a user-friendly digital platform where citizens can share ideas, put forward questions to the representatives of EU institutions and express their views on important EU matters and legislative proposals, in particular youth. The platform should also allow for online polls;
4. Improving and streamlining existing mechanisms at the European, national, and local level, to make them more secure, accessible, visible and inclusive;
5. Include organised civil society and regional and local authorities and existing structures such as the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in the citizens' participation process;

6. Create a system of local EU Councillors, as a way to reduce the distance between the EU institutions and European citizens;
7. Holding Citizens' assemblies periodically, on the basis of legally binding EU law. Participants must be selected randomly, with representativeness criteria, and participation should be incentivized. If needed, there will be support of experts so that assembly members have enough information for deliberation. If the outcomes are not taken on board by the institutions, this should be duly justified; Participation and prior involvement of citizens and civil society is an important basis for political decisions to be taken by elected representatives. The EU is founded on representative democracy: with European elections, citizens give a clear mandate to their representatives and indirectly express themselves on EU policies;
8. Provide enhanced structural support, financial and otherwise, for civil society, especially for youth civil society and support local authorities in setting up local youth councils; this could be achieved through a specific pillar in the European Democracy Action Plan for involvement of civil society and social partners, and a dedicated civil society strategy;
9. Introduce a "Youth-check" of legislation, including both an impact assessment and a consultation mechanism with representatives of young people, when legislation is deemed to have an impact on young people;
10. Strengthening cooperation between EU legislators and civil society organisations to utilise the link between decision-makers and citizens which civil society organisations constitute;
11. Summarize elements of citizens' participation in an EU Charter for the involvement of citizens in EU affairs.

**Objective 37, measure 5)**

Bringing Europe closer to citizens by improving 120 contact points and dedicated hubs, or "Houses of Europe", at local level to provide resources, information and advice to citizens on EU matters, as well as listen to their concerns and engage in debates with

	<p>associations to help spread citizens' views at European level;</p> <p><b>Objective 39, measure 2 bullit 2)</b>  EU decision-making process should be further developed so that national, regional, local representatives, social partners and organised civil society are more involved. Interparliamentary cooperation and dialogue should be strengthened. National parliaments should also be closer involved in the legislative procedure by the European Parliament, e.g. by way of participation in hearings. In addition, a better involvement of the subnational level and of the Committee of the Regions helps to take better into account the experiences gained with the implementation of EU law.</p> <p><b>Objective 39, Measure 5 + 6)</b>  5. Ensure proper civil and social dialogue mechanisms and processes at every step of the EU decision-making process, from impact assessment to policy design and implementation.  6. Reform the way the European Union works by better involving social partners and organised civil society. Strengthening the existing structures in order to better reflect the needs and expectations of EU citizens in the decision-making process, given their importance in the European democratic life. Within this framework, enhance the institutional role of the EESC and empower it as facilitator and guarantor of participatory democracy activities like structured dialogue with civil society organisations and Citizens' panels. A lively civil society is crucial for the democratic life of the European Union.</p>
<p><b>European Democracy 6)</b>  The balance of power between the EU institutions and the current institutional decision-making process has to be revised:  a. The role of the EP must be strengthened. The EP, as the only directly elected European body, should be placed at the core of the European political system, and must be given the right of legislative initiative. At the same time, the autonomy of the social partners has to be respected.</p>	<p><b>Objective 38, measure 4)</b>  Strengthening links between citizens and their elected representatives, taking into account national specificities and citizens' desire to be closer to them and have a feeling that their concerns lead to specific action by elected representatives in the European Parliament and national parliaments. This is a universal issue and people of all ages should be engaged;  • European citizens should have a greater say on who is elected as President of the Commission. This could be achieved either by</p>

<p>b. The principle of unanimous decisions in the Council must be overcome and the principle of qualified majority decisions expanded.</p>	<p>the direct election of the Commission President or a lead candidate system;  The European Parliament should have the right of legislative initiative, in order to propose<sup>137</sup> the topics to be discussed and, subsequently, adopt the necessary texts to follow up on the recommendations that emerge from deliberations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Parliament should decide on the budget of the EU as it is the right of parliaments at the national level;</li> <li>• Political parties, civil society organisations, trade unions should be more lively and accessible in order for citizens to be more involved and engaged in European democracy. This would also contribute to stimulate the inclusion of EU topics in public debates via political parties, organised civil society and social partners, not only during European elections but ahead of national, regional and local elections as well;</li> </ul> <p>Democracy is embodied in the institutions and in society at large, including in the workplace through the role of social partners.</p> <p><b>Objective 39, measure 1)</b>  Reassessing decision-making and voting rules in the EU institutions, focusing on the issue of unanimous voting, which makes it very difficult to reach agreement, while ensuring a fair calculation of voting 'weights' so that small countries' interests are protected;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All issues decided by way of unanimity should be decided by way of a qualified majority. The only exceptions should be the admission of new membership to the EU and changes to the fundamental principles of the EU as stated in Art. 2 TEU and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.</li> </ul>
<p><b>European Democracy 7)</b>  We see a real threat to democracy in the growing influence of the big economy and multinational enterprises which are being given more and more space in political decision-making. We urge for corresponding awareness at all political levels, with paramount importance being given to transparency.</p>	
<p><b>European Democracy 8)</b></p>	<p><b>Objective 37, measures 1 + 2)</b></p>

<p>The EU has to strengthen the political and democratic knowledge of its citizens (civic education). An understanding of how the EU functions and of its values has to be transmitted to the next generations with greater emphasis on its role in European educational curricula and lifelong learning schemes.</p>	<p>1. Guaranteeing a minimum level of education on the EU and especially its democratic processes, including the history of European integration and European citizenship. People of all ages should be able to benefit from such programmes, which should be designed in an engaging and age appropriate manner, for instance through the development of specific programmes and educational material for children and schools; and civil society organisations active in the field of non-formal education;</p> <p>2. Making reliable information on the EU easily accessible in an inclusive manner to all citizens. EU institutions should use more accessible language and avoid using bureaucratic terms in their communication, while at the same time maintaining the quality and expertise of the given information and adapting the information to different communication channels and audience profiles. It should consider, for instance, creating a mobile application where information concerning EU policies is presented in a clear language. A special effort should be made to reach out to young people through digital media, youth movements and various ‘ambassadors’ (organisations and individuals) explaining the EU project;</p> <p><b>Objective 22, measure 6)</b>  Allocating a specific budget to develop educational programmes on the functioning of the EU and its values that it could propose to the Member States that wish, so that they can integrate them into their curricula (primary, secondary schools, and universities). In addition, a specific course on the EU and its functioning could be offered to students wishing to study in another European country through the Erasmus programme. Students choosing this course would be given priority in the allocation of said Erasmus programmes.</p>
<p><b>European Democracy 9)</b>  The EU must improve regulation of social media to combat hate speech, sedition, disinformation and discrimination in the anonymity of the internet without undermining the fundamental right of freedom of speech, and invest heavily in countering internal and external attacks which undermine democratic</p>	<p><b>Objective 33, measures 4, 5 + 6)</b>  4. Enhancing digital literacy and critical thinking as a way to counter disinformation, online threats and hate speech, as well as dark patterns and preferential pricing; (WG debate)  5. Countering disinformation by legislation and guidelines for online platforms and social media companies to address disinformation</p>

<p>elections and governing processes. New regulation needs to include precautions with respect to privacy in line with GDPR and to avoid the misuse of anonymity in social media. At the same time, media literacy/skills of citizens must be strengthened.</p>	<p>vulnerabilities and implementing transparency measures, including for example AI based algorithms that can highlight the trustworthiness of information on social media and new media, providing the user with sources of fact-checked information. When using algorithms, human beings should remain in ultimate control of decision making processes; (ECP1 recommendation number 46 and WG debate)</p> <p>6. Supporting digital platforms that provide for media pluralism and provide resources and initiatives to assess the trustworthiness and impartiality of information from traditional media (e.g. television, printed press, radio) and other media in full respect of the principle of media freedom and provide citizens with information about the quality of the news.</p>
<p><b>European Democracy 10)</b>  Subsidiarity as a main principle incorporated in the EU Treaties contributes to proper functioning of the European democracy if it goes hand in hand with the principles of solidarity and responsibility. Subsidiarity works best to the benefit of the people in a system of defined, complementary competences, implemented in a model of multilevel governance with close functional cooperation between different governmental levels that support each other. The pandemic as a global challenge has shown the need for joint action on the EU level, despite health not being an EU competence.</p>	<p><b>Objective 40, measures 1 to 5)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active subsidiarity and multilevel governance are key principles and fundamental features for the EU functioning and democratic accountability;</li> <li>2. The EU should review the mechanism allowing national Parliaments to assess whether new legislative proposals at the European level do not intrude on their legal competences and to be granted the possibility to suggest a legislative initiative to the European level. Such mechanisms should also be enlarged to all regional parliaments within the EU that have legislative power;</li> <li>3. Reform the Committee of Regions to encompass adequate channels of dialogue for regions as well as cities and municipalities, giving it an enhanced role in the institutional architecture, if matters with a territorial impact are concerned;</li> <li>4. Systematic use of a subsidiarity definition commonly agreed by all EU institutions could help to clarify whether decisions have to be taken at European, national or regional level.</li> <li>5. Social partners and organised civil society should be better included in the decision-making process, given their importance in the European democratic life. A lively society is crucial for the democratic life of the European Union.</li> </ol> <p>We call on European Union institutions to make the conclusions of this working group a reality</p>



	and effectively implement them. This could be realised through the possibilities the Lisbon Treaty already provides and, when necessary, by triggering the request of launching a European Convention.
<p><b>European Democracy 11)</b>  We refer to the ‘Pisa process’ in education as an example to urge member states to work with a method of voluntary, bottom-up cooperation on the EU 4 level. In areas of national competence (health, climate, energy and others) it is very important to act on the basis of what the citizens need, working with facts and arguments, connecting competences with responsibilities, using multi-level governance as a tool, taking common interests as the basis and building up multi-level cooperation gradually, step by step.</p>	
<p><b>Rule of Law 12)</b>  The basic principle of rule of law is embodied in the division of powers. The EU needs new political and juridical instruments which allow for effective action when EU values are breached by member states. The mechanism provided by Art. 7 TFEU has proven inadequate. It is important that any new tool thereby pursues objectivity and proportionality.</p>	<p><b>Objective 25, measure 4)</b>  Effectively applying and evaluating the scope of the ‘Conditionality Regulation’ and other rule of law instruments, and considering extensions to new areas regardless of their relevance for the EU budget. Any necessary legal avenues, including Treaty changes, should be considered to punish breaches of the rule of law</p>
<p><b>Rule of law 13)</b>  Beyond institutional enforcement, we understand democracy and the rule of law as a multi-level responsibility in civil society as such. We propose to set up regional and local information and reflection points by a European agency to offer citizens a protected platform where they can share their experiences and reflect on how human rights can be protected without the fear of any threat.</p>	<p><b>Objective 25, measure 3)</b>  The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights should be made universally applicable and enforceable. In addition, annual conferences on the rule of law (following the Commission’ Rule of law Report) with delegations from all Member States involving randomly selected and diverse citizens, civil servants, parliamentarians, local authorities, social partners and civil society should be organised. Organisations, including civil society, which promote the rule of law on the ground should also be further supported</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 14)</b>  Democracy in the EU will only prevail if its social dimension is enhanced, achieving social cohesion and effectively implementing the motto of leaving no one behind. In the event of</p>	<p><b>Objective 13, measure 5)</b>  Taking steps to ensure that social rights are fully protected and safeguarded in case of conflict with economic freedoms including via</p>

<p>a conflict, fundamental social rights take precedence over economic goals. This means that the individual must be put in the centre. In consequence, workplace democracy must be enhanced.</p>	<p>the introduction of a social progress protocol in the Treaties.</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 15)</b>  The EU must continue developing its economic model into an eco-social market economy, giving support in particular to those countries which face specific transition challenges. The aim of a climate-neutral economy by 2050 must not be watered down and be reconciled with economic competitiveness. Circular and social economy should be promoted. The European Pillar of Social Rights should become legally binding.</p>	<p><b>Objective 11, measure 2 (Circular))</b>  Working towards a more sustainable and circular economy by addressing the issue of planned obsolescence and ensuring the right of repair;</p> <p><b>Objective 14 (EPSR))</b>  We propose to reduce inequalities, fight social exclusion and tackle poverty. We need to put in place a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy that could include, among other, a reinforced Child Guarantee and Youth Guarantee, the introduction of minimum wages, a common EU framework for minimum income schemes and decent social housing. We need to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including its relevant headline targets for 2030, at EU, national, regional and local level in the area of “social protection and inclusion” with due regard for respective competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and to include a Social Progress Protocol in the Treaties.</p> <p><b>Objective 29, measure 1)</b>  In consultation with experts and social partners, developing transparent quality of life indicators including economic, social and rule of law criteria , in order to establish a clear and realistic timeline for raising social standards and achieving a common EU socio-economic structure, including through implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. These should be integrated in the economic governance framework and the European semester process;</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 16)</b>  GDP-focused economic thinking can be overcome by rethinking and redefining the Stability Pact and must be completed with a new toolbox for measuring wellbeing, social progress and sustainability in Europe. This includes data such as work-life balance, the right to disconnect, coverage of the social</p>	<p><b>Objective 11)</b>  We propose that the EU supports the shift to a sustainable and resilient growth model, considering the green and digital transitions with a strong social dimension in the European Semester, and empowering citizens, trade unions and businesses. The conventional macroeconomic indicators and the GDP could</p>

<p>security system, affordable and accessible healthcare services, equal access to quality education, equal opportunities on the labour market, coverage of collective bargaining, effective labour regulation in multinational enterprises.</p>	<p>be complemented with new indicators in order to address the new European priorities such as the European Green Deal or the European Pillar of Social Rights and to better reflect the ecological and digital transitions and the wellbeing of people.</p> <p><b>Objective 13, measure 6)</b>  Ensuring gender equality, in line with 2020-2025 EU Gender Equality Strategy. The EU should continue measuring the gender equality through a gender equality index (i.e. attitudes, salary gap, employment, leadership, etc.), monitor the strategy yearly and be transparent with the achievements; and encourage the sharing of expertise and best practices and set up a possible direct citizen-feedback mechanism (e.g. an Ombudsperson); (ECP28; IT 5.a.1). There is a need to address gender pay gap and introduce quotas in senior positions. There should be more support for women entrepreneurs in the business environment and women in STEM</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 17)</b>  Transforming the European economy to make it more digital and sustainable must be accompanied by comprehensive measures for a socially fair and just transition in order to make sure that no one is left behind (upskilling and reskilling of workers, lifelong learning, comprehensive reform of educational systems/VET to address new job needs, greater resilience...).</p>	<p><b>Objective 3, measure 8)</b>  Ensure a just transition, protecting workers and jobs, through adequate funding for the transition and further research, through reform of the tax system with fairer taxation and anti-tax fraud measures, and through ensuring inclusive governance approach in policy making at all levels (e.g. ambitious measures to reskill/upskills, strong social protection, keeping public service in public hands, safeguarding occupational health and safety rules)</p> <p><b>Objective 13, measures 3 + 9)</b>  Introducing or reinforcing existing legislation that regulates so-called 'smart working' and incentivising companies to promote it. (ECP 7)  The EU should ensure the right to disconnect, do more to address the digital divide at the workplace and assess the implications of remote work on health, working time and companies performance. There is a need to guarantee fair digitalisation based on human rights, improved working conditions and collective bargaining;</p> <p>Promoting employment and social mobility and, therefore, to have a full chance of self-</p>

realisation and self-determination. (IT 5.a.4 & IT 6.1) There could be a long-term strategy to ensure everyone in our societies has the right skills to find a job and bring their talents to fruition, in particular the young generation (discussions). It is important to invest in people's skills adapted to the changing labour market needs and promoting life-long learning through among others exchange programme at all stages of life and ensure the right to lifelong learning and the right to training. (FR 6; DE 4.1) To this end, there is a need to strengthen the cooperation between businesses, trade unions and vocational, education and training providers

**Objective 32, measure 1 + measure 5**

Ensuring access to formal and non-formal digital literacy and skills training and education, including in school curricula, during all stages of life by building on existing initiatives at European level, with special focus on the inclusion of vulnerable groups and elderly, enhancing digital skills of children in a manner that is compatible with their healthy development and tackling digital inequalities, including the digital gender gap;

Develop training initiatives coordinated at EU level to retrain and upskill workers to remain competitive in the job market, taking especially also account of competences and skills needed in small and medium sized enterprises and to train digital experts;

**Objective 35, objective +measure 1 + 2)**

We propose that the EU promotes digitalisation measures which strengthen the economy and the single market in a fair and sustainable way, increase European competitiveness in technology and innovation, enhance the digital single market for companies of all sizes and make Europe a world leader in digital transformation and in human centric digitalisation,

1. The introduction or reinforcement of legislation that regulates (human-centric) 'smart working', taking into account the impact on workers' physical and mental health for example by ensuring a right to disconnect. A

	<p>'human centric' approach should incorporate the 'human in control' principle; (ECP1 recommendation number 7 and WG debate)</p> <p>2. EU legislation that incentivises companies to be socially responsible and to keep high quality 'smart working' jobs within Europe and thus avoiding the relocation of such jobs to lower cost countries. Incentives may be financial and/or reputational and should take into account internationally recognised environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. To this end, the EU should set up a working group composed of experts from all relevant stakeholders to examine and strengthen this legislation;</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 18)</b></p> <p>A successful single market and labour mobility require further coordination of social security systems and a guaranteed minimum wage on the European level. Wage policies must be coordinated to eliminate social dumping.</p>	<p><b>Objective 13, measure 1)</b></p> <p>Ensuring that statutory minimum wages guarantee that each worker can earn a decent and similar quality of living across all Member States. Clear criteria (e.g. living costs , inflation, above the poverty line, the average and median wage at national level) to be taken into account when setting minimum wages level should be set up. The levels of statutory minimum wages should be regularly reviewed in light of these criteria in order to ensure their adequacy. Special attention should be put on effective implementation of these rules and monitoring and tracking improvement in the standard of living. At the same time, collective bargaining should be strengthened and promoted throughout the EU;</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 19)</b></p> <p>There must be better protection for vulnerable people on the labour market: working poor, young, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+, people suffering from bullying, migrants, platform workers, etc. Inequality in pay must be addressed to lift the low-paid out of in-work poverty. The gender pay gap must be closed.</p>	<p><b>Objective 13, objective + measure 8)</b></p> <p>We propose to improve the functioning of labour markets so that they ensure fairer working conditions and promote gender equality, employment, including that of young people and vulnerable groups. The EU, Member States and social partners need to work to end in-work poverty, address the rights of platform workers, ban un-paid internships and ensure fair labour mobility in the EU. We must promote social dialogue and collective bargaining. We need to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including its relevant headline targets for 2030, at EU, national, regional and local level in the areas of "equal opportunities and access to the labour market" and "fair working</p>

	<p>conditions”, while respecting competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and to include a Social Progress Protocol in the Treaties. While doing so, there should be a respect of national traditions and the autonomy of social partners and a cooperation with civil society.</p> <p>8. Promoting employment of disadvantaged groups (NL 4), in particular among people with disabilities</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 20)</b>  While debating the future of Europe, the EU has to put special emphasis on the future of the young generation. Precarity and instability have already become normal for many young people. The lack of prospects affects their life choices, including starting a family.</p>	<p><b>Objective 13, objective + measure 7)</b>  We propose to improve the functioning of labour markets so that they ensure fairer working conditions and promote gender equality, employment, including that of young people and vulnerable groups. The EU, Member States and social partners need to work to end in-work poverty, address the rights of platform workers, ban un-paid internships and ensure fair labour mobility in the EU. We must promote social dialogue and collective bargaining. We need to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including its relevant headline targets for 2030, at EU, national, regional and local level in the areas of “equal opportunities and access to the labour market” and “fair working conditions”, while respecting competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and to include a Social Progress Protocol in the Treaties. While doing so, there should be a respect of national traditions and the autonomy of social partners and a cooperation with civil society.</p> <p>7. Promoting youth employment, for example through financial assistance for companies, but also by giving employers and workers additional support (NL 4) and support to young entrepreneurs and young self-employed professionals for example through educational tools and courses</p> <p><b>Objective 15, measure 2)</b>  Introducing specific support and protection of work for young people. Such measures towards the working-age population should include access to knowledge for mothers and fathers about their return to work. (ECP 22) Reinforcing</p>

the Youth Guarantee could be an instrument to improve the access of young people under the age of 30 to good quality offers of employment, continued education, apprenticeships or traineeships;

**Objective 47, measures 1 to 8)**

The EU and its Member States have to focus on the specific needs of young people across all relevant policies, including the European Union's regional policy in order to offer them the best possible conditions for study and work and starting an independent life, while engaging them in the democratic life and decision making processes, including at European level. Youth organisations have a crucial role to play. To achieve this objective, we propose to:

1. Offer young people more possibilities and champion existing programmes for participation and representation in the democratic and decision making processes at all levels, including by organising citizens' panels also with children (e.g. 10 to 16 years old) in schools. European representatives could meet schoolchildren in their schools in order to strengthen citizens' closeness to and understanding of Europe from an early age. To ensure that all policy making at EU level is seen through a youth lens, an EU 'Youth Test' should be developed so that all new legislation and policy is subject to a youth focused impact assessment, including a consultation with young people.
2. Voting at European Parliament elections from the age of 16 should be discussed and considered, in parallel to an enhancement of citizenship education and education about the EU. National political parties should ensure that younger candidates are also put on their lists for the elections to the European Parliament.
3. To better prepare young people for entering working life, give high school students (from 12 years old on) the opportunity to have high quality observatory visits in profit and non-profit organisations, in close cooperation between schools, local governments and the organisations and companies concerned,. These visits should be seen as part of a broader career guidance process in formal education to allow

	<p>young people to have a first contact with a professional work environment so they can obtain a professional orientation and or consider becoming an entrepreneur.</p> <p>4. More significant EU financing under NextGenerationEU should also be devoted to the implementation of the reinforced European Youth Guarantee, including more commitment, better outreach, improvements in the quality of the offer, funding and action by all Member States, and the relevant levels of authorities involved . Given youth organisations expertise in the needs of young people, national governments should collaborate in close dialogue with these organisations to ensure the most effective delivery of the Guarantee.</p> <p>5. Ensure that young people’s internships and jobs adhere to quality standards, including on remuneration, putting an end to youth minimum wages and any other discriminatory labour law provisions specific to young people, as well as banning through a legal instrument unpaid internships on the labour market and outside formal education.</p> <p>6. Ensure reasonable living standards for young people including access to social protection and housing. Young people should have access to social protection, equal to other age groups. Access to affordable housing for young people, including through EU funding, should also be facilitated.</p> <p>7. Specific policies are needed to avoid a brain drain from some regions and countries within the EU due to insufficient opportunities being available for young people, while making Europe more attractive to prevent the drain of European talents and workforce to third countries to prevent the hampering of territorial cohesion particularly as regards those areas which have an acute loss of young talent including through EU funding.</p> <p>8. In case of a serious crisis (e.g. health crisis, war) well prepared plans with detailed scenarios should be ready to deploy in a flexible way to minimise the impact on young people in their studies, vocational training, transition to the labour market and mental wellbeing.</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 21)</b> Social dialogue and collective bargaining are part of the European social market economy.</p>	<p><b>Objective 11, measure 3)</b> Reviewing the EU's economic governance and the European Semester in order to ensure that</p>



<p>They strengthen democracy in the workplace and in European society. They contribute to more justice, higher productivity, and competitiveness. Therefore, social dialogue, collective bargaining and coverage by collective agreements, and workers' rights need to be further strengthened.</p>	<p>the green and digital transitions, social justice and social progress go hand-in-hand with economic competitiveness, without ignoring the economic and fiscal nature of the European Semester. In addition, there is a need to better involve social partners and the local and regional authorities in the implementation of the European Semester in order to improve its application and accountability;</p> <p><b>Objective 13)</b>  We propose to improve the functioning of labour markets so that they ensure fairer working conditions and promote gender equality, employment, including that of young people and vulnerable groups. The EU, Member States and social partners need to work to end in-work poverty, address the rights of platform workers, ban un-paid internships and ensure fair labour mobility in the EU. We must promote social dialogue and collective bargaining. We need to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including its relevant headline targets for 2030, at EU, national, regional and local level in the areas of “equal opportunities and access to the labour market” and “fair working conditions”, while respecting competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and to include a Social Progress Protocol in the Treaties. While doing so, there should be a respect of national traditions and the autonomy of social partners and a cooperation with civil society.</p>
<p><b>Social Justice – economic model 22)</b>  The credo of the Union that no one shall be left behind must be mirrored in actions to ensure that no more disadvantaged regions persist anywhere in Europe. Additional initiatives should be developed for redeveloping these territories in order to reduce the brain drain and the exodus of skilled and young people.</p>	
<p><b>Health 23)</b>  The EU needs to develop towards a European Health Union giving more competence to the EU level regarding health issues.</p>	<p><b>Objective 8, measure 3)</b>  Ensuring strategic autonomy at EU level to avoid dependency on third countries [NL2]4 for medicines (in particular active ingredients) and medical devices (including raw materials); in particular, a list of essential and priority, but</p>

	<p>also innovative medicines and treatments (such as biotechnology solutions) should be established at EU level relying on existing European agencies and HERA, to guarantee their availability for citizens. Consider organising coordinated strategic stockpiling throughout the EU. In order to achieve the necessary coordinated, long-term action at Union level, include health and healthcare among the shared competencies between the EU and the EU Member States by amending Article 4 TFUE.</p>
<p><b>Health 24)</b>  Ensuring strategic autonomy at EU level to avoid dependency on third countries [NL2]4 for medicines (in particular active ingredients) and medical devices (including raw materials); in particular, a list of essential and priority, but also innovative medicines and treatments (such as biotechnology solutions) should be established at EU level relying on existing European agencies and HERA, to guarantee their availability for citizens. Consider organising coordinated strategic stockpiling throughout the EU. In order to achieve the necessary coordinated, long-term action at Union level, include health and healthcare among the shared competencies between the EU and the EU Member States by amending Article 4 TFUE.</p>	
<p><b>Health 25)</b>  Everyone in the EU must have the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative healthcare as well as long-term care of good quality.</p>	<p><b>Objective 8, measure 6)</b>  Issuing strong recommendations to the Member States to invest in effective, accessible, affordable, high-quality and resilient health systems, notably in the context of the European Semester. The impact of the war in Ukraine on public health demonstrates the need to further develop resilient health systems and solidarity mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Objective 10, objective, measure 1 to 8)</b>  Establish a “right to health” by guaranteeing all Europeans have equal and universal access to affordable, preventive, curative and quality health care</p> <p>1. Establish common minimum healthcare standards at EU level, covering also prevention and accessibility as well as proximity of care,</p>

and provide support to achieve these standards. [#39, WG]

2. Recognising the need to take full account of the principle of subsidiarity and the key role of local, regional and national players in health matter [NL3], ensure there is the ability to act at EU level when the right to health is best addressed there. To allow faster and stronger decision-making on key subjects and to improve the effectiveness of European governance towards the development of the European Health Union (such as, for example, in the event of a pandemic or for rare diseases). [#49, FR wish11, Digital Platform]

3. Enhance the European Health Union using the full potential of the current framework and include health and healthcare among the shared competencies between the EU and the EU Member States by amending Article 4 TFUE. [#49, FRwish11, Digital Platform, WG]

4. Make sure anyone can access existing treatments, wherever first available in the EU; to that purpose, facilitate cross-border cooperation, notably on rare diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and highly specialised treatments, such as organ transplants and the treatments of severe burns. A European network for transplants and organ donations should be put in place for the benefit of all European patients in need of a transplant. [Plenary and WG]

5. Ensure affordability of care, through stronger investment in healthcare, in particular of dental care including prophylaxis, and ensure affordable dental care is available to everyone within 15 to 20 years. [#48, WG]

6. Ensure that treatments and medicines across the EU are of equal quality and of fair local cost, including through tackling existing fragmentation of the Internal Market. [#40, NL3, WG, Plenary]

7. Fight health poverty by encouraging free of charge dental care for children, low-income groups and other vulnerable groups, such as for instance the disabled. Also consider the impact of poor quality housing on health.

8. Consider the international dimension to health and recognise that medicines should be universally available, including in poorer countries.

<p><b>Health 26)</b>  Against the background of the ongoing global pandemic, the EU has to invest in a strong social security system that is capable of supporting well-equipped health systems under public administration as well as socially oriented or social economy initiatives, ensuring good working conditions and fair pay for medical staff and healthcare workers. RRF national plans should take this into account.</p>	<p><b>Objective 8, measures 2 + 5)</b>  2. Adequate working conditions, in particular through strong collective bargaining, including in terms of wages and working arrangements, and harmonisation of training and certification standards for health professionals; networking and exchange programmes should be developed such as an Erasmus for medical schools, contributing notably to skills development. In order to ensure talent retention, young professionals' knowledge and working experiences, EU exchange programmes need to be established to motivate our best minds in Life Sciences not to be drained by third countries.  5. Investing in the health systems, in particular public and non-for profit, infrastructure and digital health and ensuring that healthcare providers respect the principles of full accessibility, affordability and quality of services, hence ensuring that resources are not drained by profit-oriented health operators with little to no regard for the general interest</p>
<p><b>Health 27)</b>  We ask the EU to take measures based on the findings of the EU-OSHA 2021 Long-Term Care Report, where challenging working conditions are reflected in the significant share of LTC workers facing work-related health issues. Corresponding measures must definitely address the work-life balance, bullying/mobbing and health awareness. Member states should ratify the ILO convention on the prevention of harassment and violence at work.</p>	<p><b>Objective 8, measure 2)</b>  Adequate working conditions, in particular through strong collective bargaining, including in terms of wages and working arrangements, and harmonisation of training and certification standards for health professionals; networking and exchange programmes should be developed such as an Erasmus for medical schools, contributing notably to skills development. In order to ensure talent retention, young professionals' knowledge and working experiences, EU exchange programmes need to be established to motivate our best minds in Life Sciences not to be drained by third countries.</p>
<p><b>Health 28)</b>  The EU must continue to work on a framework that guarantees healthy working conditions. Trade unions and other workers' organisations should help to ensure that companies comply with legal occupational safety and health rules. The role and resources of labour inspectorates should be enhanced.</p>	<p><b>Objective 8, measure 2)</b>  Adequate working conditions, in particular through strong collective bargaining, including in terms of wages and working arrangements, and harmonisation of training and certification standards for health professionals; networking and exchange programmes should be developed such as an Erasmus for medical schools, contributing notably to skills development. In order to ensure talent retention, young professionals' knowledge and</p>

	<p>working experiences, EU exchange programmes need to be established to motivate our best minds in Life Sciences not to be drained by third countries.</p>
<p><b>Climate change – just transition 29)</b>  Failure to take the necessary steps towards a sustainable economy will result in a social graveyard. Belief in the possibilities of a sustainable future can only be generated by working together with the social partners on a just and fair transition, leaving no one behind. The EU must show that change is possible by sharing experience acquired hitherto in turning old unsustainable industrial zones into future-oriented sustainable industrial zones.</p>	<p><b>Objective 3, measure 8 (for working together social partners))</b>  Ensure a just transition, protecting workers and jobs, through adequate funding for the transition and further research, through reform of the tax system with fairer taxation and anti-tax fraud measures, and through ensuring inclusive governance approach in policy making at all levels (e.g. ambitious measures to reskill/upskills, strong social protection, keeping public service in public hands, safeguarding occupational health and safety rules)</p>
<p><b>Climate change – just transition 30)</b>  The EU should support campaigns for active citizen involvement, as the citizens are consumers of energy, food, clothing, services, transport, housing, etc. (from quantity to quality – from ego-personalism to eco-personalism). Trade unions, workers’ organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations must act as multipliers. Environmental education for children and adults should be enhanced.</p>	<p><b>Objective 6, objective + measures 2 to 6)</b>  Foster knowledge, awareness, education, and dialogues on environment, climate change, energy use, and sustainability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Support information campaigns on eco-awareness, including a long-term EU campaign for sustainable consumption and lifestyle. (DE, NL and FR recommendations, Panel 3 – recommendation 7)</li> <li>3. Promote and facilitate dialogue and consultations between all levels of decision making, especially with youth and at the local level (DE, NL and FR recommendations, Panel 3 – recommendations 27, 35, Plenary discussion)</li> <li>4. The development by the EU, with assistance of Member States, of a common European charter targeting environmental issues and fostering environmental awareness among all citizens (Panel 3 - recommendation 7).</li> <li>5. Provide educational courses and teaching materials for all, in order to increase climate and sustainability literacy and to enable lifelong learning on environmental topics (Panel 1 – recommendations 15, 35, Panel 3 - recommendation 24, WG debate)</li> <li>6. Include food production and biodiversity protection as part of education, including the advantage of unprocessed over processed food, and promoting school gardens, subsidizing urban gardening projects and vertical farming. Consider making biodiversity a mandatory</li> </ol>

	<p>subject in schools and raise awareness for biodiversity through the use of media campaigns and incentivised ‘competitions’ across the EU (local community scale competitions)</p>
<p><b>Climate change – just transition 31)</b>  The EU should adopt mandatory due diligence legislation to ensure compliance with environmental aspects as well as human rights along the entire supply chain. Forced labour, child labour, land grabbing, pollution, etc. must be eradicated. Due diligence legislation must apply to EU and non-EU suppliers, and products need to be labelled accordingly (traceability).</p>	<p><b>Objective 3, measure 11)</b>  Increase EU’s leadership and taking a stronger role and responsibility to promote ambitious climate action, a just transition, and support to address the loss and damages, in the international framework with the United Nations at the centre</p> <p><b>Objective 5, objective + measures 1,2,13)</b>  Enhance the use and management of materials within the EU in order to become more circular, more autonomous, and less dependent. Build a circular economy by promoting sustainable EU products and production. Ensure all products placed on the EU market comply with common EU environmental standards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stricter and harmonised production standards within the EU and a transparent labelling system for all products sold on the EU market regarding their sustainability/environmental footprint, as well as longevity, using a QR-code and eco-score, or the Digital Product Passport (Panel 3 – recommendations 8, 13, 20, 21, P1 - 16, Panel 4 - recommendation 13)</li> <li>2. Review global supply chains, including in agricultural production, in order to reduce dependency of the EU and shorten the chains (MDP)</li> </ol> <p>Objective 19, objective + measures 1 to 5)  We propose that the EU strengthen the ethical dimension of its trade and investment relations through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. preserving and reforming our multilateral rules-based international trade architecture, and partnership with like-minded democracies</li> <li>2. effective and proportionate EU legislation to ensure that decent work standards are fully applied along the global value chains, including EU production and supply processes and that goods which are imported comply with qualitative ethical standards, sustainable development, and human rights standards including workers’ and trade union rights,</li> </ol>

	<p>offering certification for products abiding by this EU legislation and engage in an EU wide dialogue process that seeks to inform and educate on the environmental and ethical effects of policy changes in international trade</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. restrictions on the import and sale of products from countries that allow forced and child labour, a periodically updated blacklist of companies, and promoting consumer awareness on child labour through information made by official EU channels.</li><li>4. following up and enforcing Trade Sustainable Development chapters (TSD) in EU Free Trade Agreements (FTA) including the possibility of a sanctions-based mechanism as a last resort.</li><li>5. reforming the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) to include strong conditionality provisions and effective and appropriate monitoring, reporting and dialogue processes in order to improve the impact GSP can have on trade, human rights and development in partner countries with trade preferences to be withdrawn in case of non-compliance.</li></ol>
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