

WHAT WE'VE DELIVERED FOR YOU

2019–2024 ACHIEVEMENTS



renew europe.

**YOUR VOICE IN
THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT**

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OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DELIVER

In 2019, millions of voters across Europe voted for a liberal, centrist, democratic or progressive party, making Renew Europe the third political force in the European Parliament. With more than 100 Members in the European Parliament, and under the successive leadership of Guy Verhofstadt, Dacian Ciolos, Stéphane Séjourné and myself, our group embodied for five years the central pro-European force in European political life. As Kingmakers, we have been the decisive dealmakers throughout the mandate. Our political leadership made us the decision-driving third force, overcoming the decades lasting duo of conservatives and social democrats. Renew Europe established itself successful as game-changer: Only with us on board, EPP and S&D reached needed policymaking majorities. With this crucial lever of influence, Renew Europe was able to design and shape its ideas, defend its values and fight to offer citizens the concrete solutions they deserve.

Since 2019, we have been brutally tested. The pandemic, the atrocious and illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and the cost of living crisis it triggered made clear: we need to do more and to be better than before. Our talent to think out of the box was key: to find the right balance and offer realistic solutions.

And we spearheaded this policy. The Renew Europe Group that I chair realized historic achievements during this mandate.

For five years, we have built a more prosperous Europe.

At Renew initiative, we enabled an ambitious recovery plan to react to the pandemic: a united and tailor-made answer to get the economy back on track after months of confinement. We advocated and contributed to ending our dependence on Russian fossil fuels and transitioning to cleaner energy sources, initiating a major movement to rethink our strategic dependencies. At the same time, Renew Europe has championed a package of support measures

for small and medium-sized businesses, which are centers of creativity and innovation. For us as liberals and democrats, innovation is the engine of our growth. To support it, we have worked for five years to offer Europe a secure digital environment, open to innovation and competitive.

For five years, we have also built a Europe that is more protective of the rule of law and individual freedoms.

In 2019, no one knew how to put an end to Viktor Orban's maneuvers in Hungary. We said: we have to hit his wallet. The other groups were skeptical. We built this proposal and we won: European funding is now more conditional on adherence to democratic principles and the rule of law.



Renew Europe is and will remain the champion of the fight against discrimination, against violence against women, against hate speech. Every corner of Europe must be a place where everyone can have the same freedom: the freedom to choose who they are.

For five years, we have built a safer Europe and a Europe that protects.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has profoundly changed the geopolitical situation and directly threatens the European security architecture. We cannot sit on the sidelines. Since day one, Renew Europe has spearheaded systematic and extensive support for Ukraine. However, the threats are multiple today. Renew Europe advocates a real leap forward in our collective European defense.

Concerning migration policy, we vote for concrete solutions and we take responsibility. The far right inflames, but offers no European solutions, the left is divided on positions that are sometimes purely ideological. We take our responsibility to address this concern for many European citizens.

For five years, we have finally built a greener Europe with the European Green Deal,

this formidable set of texts gives the tools to implement the European Union's carbon neutrality objective for 2050. The Green Deal is not the enemy of farmers. The biggest threat to agriculture is not the Green Deal but climate change. Agriculture and environment are two sides of the same coin. We must support farmers, listen to them when they say that they no longer want to fill out forms, but cultivate the land to feed us.

We are proud of this formidable record.

We have demonstrated that we are doers, and responsible doers. We claim our decisions. We don't turn our noses when the winds rise, we stay the course of our ambitions.

Our strength lies in the fact that we are proud to find common ground where others stir up division. We dare to act in difficult circumstances, to find solutions. To do this, making compromises is necessary to create majorities without extremes, to deliver the laws that Europeans expect. But compromise does not mean undermining our values. At no time have we procrastinated, undermined our principles and our fundamental values and our freedoms. We remained consistent.

Consistent in our rejection of any compromise with the extreme right.

We have made a clear and unequivocal commitment not to build an alliance at European level, with the members of the ID and ECR Groups. ECR is today the Group of Fratelli d'Italia, Vox, Law and Justice, Reconquête and soon Viktor Orban! Are the architects of European disunity on the rise? They are Putin's friends. They are the ones who dragged their feet to defend Ukraine. They are the ones who welcomed Brexit. Renew Europe acts every day as an antidote to populism, illiberalism and extremism in Europe. We will continue like this.

Europe has never done so much as in the last five years. Never has a political group had such decisive influence on a mandate. We have worked hard to change the European Union as we committed to doing at the start of our mandate. This document recalls all our wins. It demonstrates how, since 2019, we have worked to respect our commitments and meet the – numerous – expectations of citizens during this period hit by unprecedented crises. Europe will be created in crises, Jean Monet told us. After these five years, we are stronger, together, thanks to Europe. Thanks to Renew Europe.



Valérie Hayer

Renew Europe group President

OUR MEMBERS IN 2024

MEPs by Member State

1 Austria (AT)	1 Greece (EL)	2 Luxembourg (LU)
4 Belgium (BE)	9 Spain (ES)	2 Hungary (HU)
3 Bulgaria (BG)	3 Finland (FI)	7 Netherlands (NL)
5 Czechia (CZ)	23 France (FR)	1 Poland (PL)
6 Denmark (DK)	1 Croatia (HR)	7 Romania (RO)
7 Germany (DE)	4 Italy (IT)	2 Slovenia (SI)
3 Estonia (EE)	1 Latvia (LV)	4 Slovakia (SK)
2 Ireland (IE)	1 Lithuania (LT)	3 Sweden (SE)



OUR MEMBERS DURING THIS MANDATE



**AL-SAHLANI
Abir**
Centerpartiet
SWEDEN



**ALIEVA-VELI
Atidzhe**
Movement for Rights
and Freedoms
BULGARIA



**AMALRIC
Catherine**
Parti Radical
FRANCE



**ANDREWS
Barry**
Fianna Fáil Party
IRELAND



**ANSIP
Andrus**
Eesti
Reformierakond
ESTONIA



**ARMAND
Clotilde**
Uniunea Salvați
România
ROMANIA



**AUŠTREVČIUS
Petras**
Lietuvos Respublikos
liberalų sąjūdis
LITHUANIA



**AZMANI
Malik**
Volkspartij voor Vrijheid
en Democratie
NETHERLANDS



**BAUZÁ DÍAZ
José Ramón**
Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



**BEARDER
Catherine**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**BEER
Nicola**
Freie Demokratische
Partei
GERMANY



**BENNION
Phil**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**BIJOUX
Stéphane**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**BILBAO BARANDICA
Izaskun**
Partido Nacionalista
Vasco
SPAIN



**BOTOȘ
Vlad-Marius**
Uniunea Salvați România
ROMANIA



**BOYER
Gilles**
Horizons
FRANCE



**BROPHY
Jane**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**BRUNET
Sylvie**
Mouvement Démocrate
FRANCE



**BUNTING
Judith**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**CALENDA
Carlo**
Azione
ITALY

OUR MEMBERS DURING THIS MANDATE



CAÑAS
Jordi
Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



CANFIN
Pascal
Renaissance
FRANCE



CASTALDO
Fabio Massimo
Azione
ITALY



CHABAUD
Catherine
Mouvement Démocrate
FRANCE



CHARANZOVÁ
Dita
CZECHIA



CHASTEL
Olivier
Mouvement Réformateur
BELGIUM



CHRISTENSEN
Asger
Venstre, Danmarks
Libérale Parti
DENMARK



CICUREL
Ilana
Renaissance
FRANCE



CIOLOŞ
Dacian
Reînnoim Proiectul
European al României
ROMANIA



CSEH
Katalin
Momentum
HUNGARY



DANTI
Nicola
Italia Viva – Il Centro
ITALY



DAVIES
Chris
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



DECERLE
Jérémy
Renaissance
FRANCE



DHAMIYA
Dinesh
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



DLABAJOVÁ
Martina
CZECHIA



DONÁTH
Anna Júlia
Momentum
HUNGARY



ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ
Lucia
Jabko
SLOVAKIA



EROGLU
Engin
Freie Wähler
GERMANY



FARRENG
Laurence
Mouvement Démocrate
FRANCE



FEDERLEY
Fredrick
Centerpartiet
SWEDEN



**FERRANDINO
Giuseppe**
Azione
ITALY



**FLEGO
Valter**
Istarski demokratski
sabor – Dieta
democratica istriana
CROATIA



**GAMON
Claudia**
NEOS – Das Neue
Österreich
AUSTRIA



GADE Søren
Venstre
DENMARK



**GARICANO
Luis**
Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



**GHEORGHE
Vlad**
ROMANIA



**GHINEA
Cristian**
USR-PLUS
ROMANIA



**GIBSON
Barbara Ann**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**GLÜCK
Andreas**
Freie Demokratische
Partei
GERMANY



**GOERENS
Charles**
Parti démocratique
LUXEMBOURG



**GOZI
Sandro**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**GROOTHUIS
Bart**
Volkspartij voor Vrijheid
en Democratie
NETHERLANDS



**GROŠELJ
Klemen**
Gibanje Svoboda
SLOVENIA



**GRUDLER
Christophe**
Mouvement Démocrate
FRANCE



**GUETTA
Bernard**
FRANCE



**HAHN
Svenja**
Freie Demokratische
Partei
GERMANY



**HAYER
Valérie**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**HLAVÁČEK
Martin**
ANO 2011
CZECHIA



**HOJSÍK
Martin**
Progresívne Slovensko
SLOVAKIA



**HOOK
Antony**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM

OUR MEMBERS DURING THIS MANDATE



**HORWOOD
Martin**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**HUITEMA
Jan**
Volkspartij voor Vrijheid
en Democratie
NETHERLANDS



**IJABS
Ivars**
Attisibai/Parl
LATVIA



**IN 'T VELD
Sophia**
NETHERLANDS



**JOVEVA
Irena**
Gibanje Svoboda
SLOVENIA



**KARLESKIND
Pierre**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**KARLSBRO
Karin**
Liberalerna
SWEDEN



**KATAINEN
Elsi**
Suomen Keskusta
FINLAND



**KAUCH
Michael**
Freie Demokratische
Partei
GERMANY



**KELLEHER
Billy**
Fianna Fáil Party
IRELAND



**KELLER
Fabienne**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**KNOTEK
Ondřej**
ANO 2011
CZECHIA



**KÖRNER
Moritz**
Freie Demokratische
Partei
GERMANY



**KOVAŘÍK
Ondřej**
ANO 2011
CZECHIA



**KYRTOS
Georgios**
GREECE



**KYUCHYUK
Ilhan**
Movement for Rights and
Freedoms
BULGARIA



**LAVOCAT
Guy**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**LOISEAU
Nathalie**
Horizons
FRANCE



**LONG
Naomi**
Alliance Party of
Northern Ireland
UNITED KINGDOM



**LØKKEGAARD
Morten**
Venstre, Danmarks
Liberale Parti
DENMARK



MELCHIOR
Karen
DENMARK



MIHÁL
Jozef
SLOVAKIA



MIHAYLOVA
Iskra
Movement for Rights and
Freedoms
BULGARIA



MITUȚA
Alin
Reînnoim Proiectul
European al României
ROMANIA



MOHAMMED
Shaffaq
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



MÜLLER
Ulrike
Freie Wähler
GERMANY



NAGTEGAAL
Caroline
Volkspartij voor Vrijheid
en Democratie
NETHERLANDS



NART
Javier
SPAIN



NETHSINGHA
Lucy
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



NEWTON DUNN
Bill
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



OETJEN
Jan-Christoph
Freie Demokratische
Partei
GERMANY



ORVILLE
Max
Mouvement Démocrate
FRANCE



PAET
Urmas
Eesti Reformierakond
ESTONIA



PAGAZAURTUNDÚA
Maite
SPAIN



PEKKARINEN
Mauri
Suomen Keskusta
FINLAND



PETERSEN
Morten
Det Radikale Venstre
DENMARK



PÎSLARU
Dragoș
Reînnoim Proiectul
European al României
ROMANIA



POPTCHEVA
Eva Maria
Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



PORRITT
Luisa
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



POULSEN
Erik
Venstre, Danmarks
Liberale Parti
DENMARK

OUR MEMBERS DURING THIS MANDATE



**RAFAELA
Samira**
Democraten 66
NETHERLANDS



**RASMUSSEN
Bergur Løkke**
Moderaterne
DENMARK



**RIES
Frédérique**
Mouvement Réformateur
BELGIUM



**RINZEMA
Catharina**
Volkspartij voor Vrijheid
en Democratie
NETHERLANDS



**RIQUET
Dominique**
Parti Radical
FRANCE



**RITCHIE
Sheila**
Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS
María Soraya**
Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



**SCHREINEMACHER
Liesje**
Volkspartij voor Vrijheid
en Democratie
NETHERLANDS



**SÉJOURNÉ
Stéphane**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**SEMEDO
Monica**
LUXEMBOURG



**SOLÍS PÉREZ
Susana**
Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



**STRUGARIU
Ramona**
Reînnoim Proiectul
European al României
ROMANIA



**SØGAARD-LIDELL
Linea**
Venstre, Danmarks
Liberale Parti
DENMARK



**ŠIMEČKA
Michal**
Progresívne Slovensko
SLOVAKIA



**THUN UND HOHENSTEIN
Róza**
Polska 2050
POLAND



**TOLLERET
Irène**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**TOOM
Jana**
Eesti Keskerakond
ESTONIA



**TORVALDS
Nils**
Svenska folkpartiet
FINLAND



**TUDORACHE
Dragoș**
Reînnoim Proiectul
European al României
ROMANIA



**TRILLET-LENOIR
Véronique**
Renaissance
FRANCE



**VAUTMANS
Hilde**

Open Vlaamse Liberalen
en Democraten
BELGIUM



**VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA
Adrián**

Ciudadanos – Partido
de la Ciudadanía
SPAIN



**VEDRENNE
Marie-Pierre**

Mouvement Démocrate
FRANCE



**VERHOFSTADT
Guy**

Open Vlaamse Liberalen
en Democraten
BELGIUM



**VOADEN
Caroline**

Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**VON WIESE
Irina**

Liberal Democrats
UNITED KINGDOM



**WIESNER
Emma**

Centerpartiet
SWEDEN



**WIEZIK
Michal**

Progresívne Slovensko
SLOVAKIA



**YENBOU
Salima**

Renaissance
FRANCE



**YON-COURTIN
Stéphanie**

Renaissance
FRANCE



**ZACHAROPOULOU
Chrysoula**

Renaissance
FRANCE



**ZULLO
Marco**

ITALY

OUR INFLUENCE AND POSITION IN EUROPE

In the European Commission



Margrethe Vestager

Executive Vice-President

Europe Fit for the Digital Age



Věra Jourová

Vice-President

Values and Transparency



Thierry Breton

Internal Market



Janez Lenarčič

Crisis Management



Didier Reynders

Justice



Kadri Simson

Energy

In the European Council



Charles Michel

President of the European Council – Belgium



Emmanuel Macron

President – France



Kaja Kallas

Prime Minister – Estonia



Mark Rutte

Prime Minister – Netherlands



Nikolai Denkov

Prime Minister – Bulgaria



Alexander De Croo

Prime Minister – Belgium



Robert Golob

Prime Minister – Slovenia

6 LEADERS

WHAT WE STAND FOR

We believe that Europeans are stronger together. The return of war, the rising cost of living, the climate crisis: we think Europe is best placed to tackle those challenges if it is united. So we joined political forces from across the continent to strengthen Europe.

We believe in Europe but we acknowledge it is not perfect. We strive for a more democratic Europe, a more liberal Europe, a Europe that spurs growth and delivers concrete results for you. We want to renew Europe; this is our name, this is what we stand for. And we have results to show for it.

We supported the joint EU purchasing of vaccines. We fought to protect jobs during the pandemic by putting together a historic €750bn recovery plan. In the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we put all our strength into concretely helping Ukraine.

We are leading Europe's response to climate change. We constantly look for answers to the cost of living crisis caused by Putin's war.

We are making Europe more powerful to safeguard your security, your jobs, your energy, your health and to reduce our dependance on third countries. We are determined to improve European competitiveness, support innovation and secure good jobs and incomes for everyone. Safeguarding your individual freedoms and rights as well as the rule of law is at the heart of what we do. While others nurture divisions, we campaign for a European approach to migratory challenges, based on solidarity and responsibility.

Those who believe in responsible government from the centre, those who are pro-European, have a political home in the liberal and democratic, Renew Europe, family.

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

**CREATING
A THRIVING
ECONOMY**

**THINK
GLOBAL**

**FUTURE
GENERATIONS**

**PROTECTING
THE PLANET**

**INVESTING
IN OUR
HEALTH**

**DIGITAL
SINGLE
MARKET**

VALUES
Respect for
fundamental
rights

14

Vice-Presidents in the European Parliament

3



Jan-Cristoph Oetjen



Martin Hojsík



Dita Charanzová

5

Quaestors in the European Parliament

1



Fabienne Keller

28

Committees and Sub-Committees in the European Parliament

6

Chairs



Pascal Canfin

Environment, Public Health and Food Safety



Pierre Karleskind

Fisheries



Nathalie Loiseau

Security and Defence



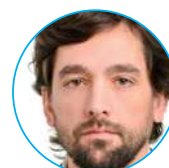
Dragoș Pișlaru

Employment and Social Affairs



Dragoș Tudorache

Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age



Adrián Vázquez Lázara

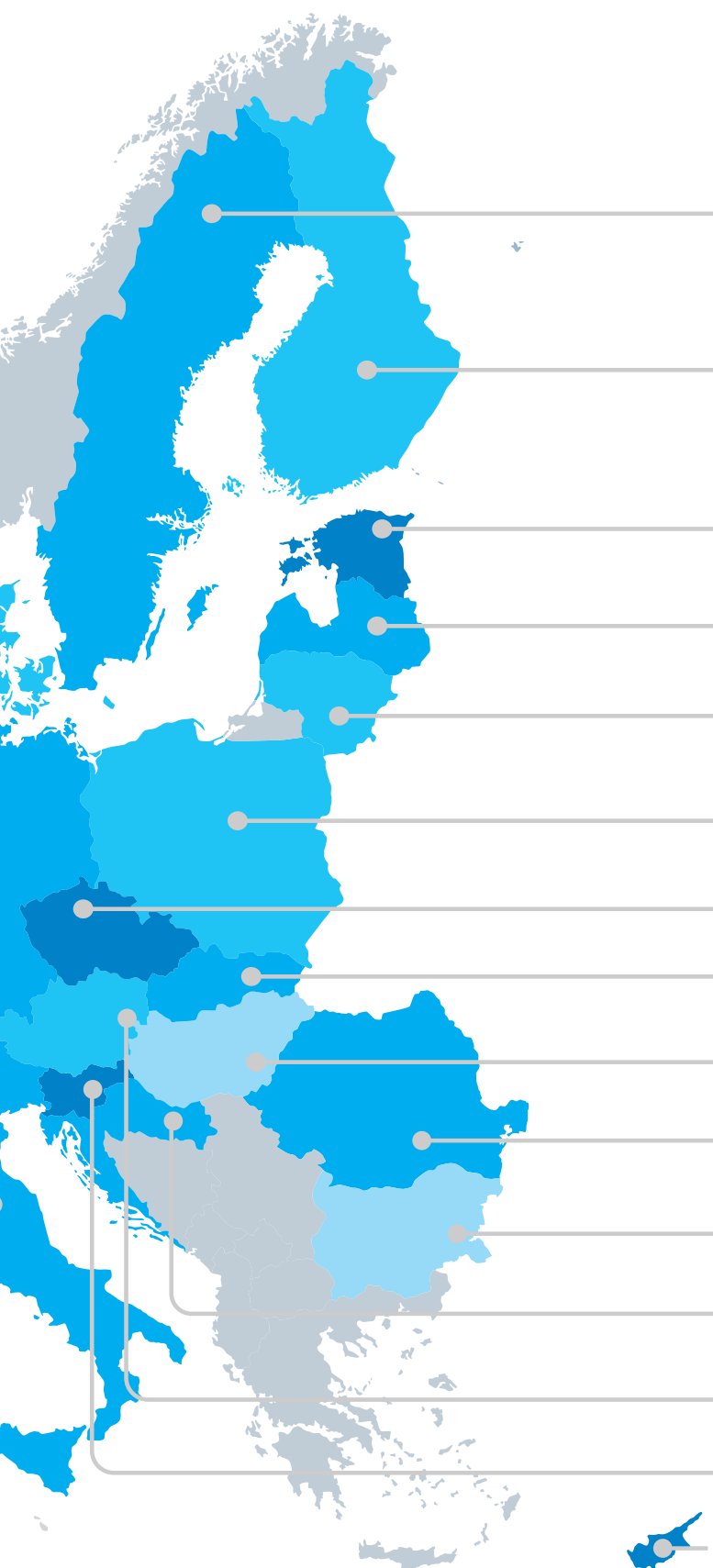
Legal Affairs

17

Vice-Chairs

OUR NATIONAL PARTIES




SWEDEN

FINLAND

ESTONIA

LATVIA

LITHUANIA

POLAND

CZECH REPUBLIC

SLOVAKIA

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

BULGARIA

CROATIA

AUSTRIA

SLOVENIA

CYPRUS




**STRONGER
TOGETHER!**

renew europe.



FOSTERING PROSPERITY & INVESTING IN EUROPE'S DIGITAL FUTURE

1.1

WE BUILT A STRONGER EUROPE IN THE FACE OF THE PANDEMIC: THE RECOVERY PLAN

The global COVID-19 pandemic could have brought the European economy on its knees. Instead, Europeans stood united, put old disagreements aside and built together a historic recovery plan, initiated by Renew Europe, to restart the economy after months of lockdowns.

Born out of a call for solidarity and unity in response to the pandemic, the recovery plan represents the EU's largest-ever financial instrument – no less than €723.8 billion. Its primary goal was to address the economic and social fallout of the pandemic, and gear investments towards green and digital transitions so we would not pour money into old sectors but start anew. Almost 40% of the recovery plan goes to climate expenditure and 20% on digital projects.

The EU borrowed money jointly on the markets and the money is disbursed when national governments can prove they achieved specific targets (structural reforms, green and digital projects).

The recovery plan brings tangible benefits to EU citizens. For instance, Belgium launched new rail infrastructure projects, it rolled out electric buses and installed new charging stations for electric cars. In Latvia, students enjoy better access to

learning resources and improved remote learning through investments in school computer facilities.

Renew Europe shaped the recovery plan. One of our Members was lead negotiator on the details of the Recovery Plan. We advocated for investments in people, research, and future-proof infrastructure to promote long-term productivity and skills development.

The EU Parliament now oversees the implementation of the plan and our Members make sure that the money delivers results. We make sure that the use of funds is protected against fraud, corruption and conflict of interest. We also used the recovery money as leverage to uphold European values. Renew Europe ensured the European Commission is withholding funds in Hungary and Poland to achieve real reforms, be it on fighting corruption or making the judiciary more independent.



1.2

DELIVERING A GREEN ENERGY BOOST FOR EUROPE'S FUTURE: THE *REPOWEREU* INITIATIVE

We campaigned and helped to deliver the move away from using Russian fossil fuels and the transition towards cleaner, greener energy sources.

The EU is committed to a clean energy future. And this can only happen if we are independent of Russia's fossil fuels and are not exposed to energy blackmail. Russia's invasion of Ukraine highlighted the need for a rapid EU-wide plan to achieve energy independence and promote green energy.

REPowerEU is that plan. It provides extra cash (€20 billion, no less) for making homes and industries more energy-efficient, helping people who struggle with energy costs as well as small businesses. Each country can use this money in their own way, as long as it is targeted to reach the EU's energy and climate goals.

In Romania, for instance, families got help to install solar panels and heat pumps, making their energy use cleaner and less costly. In France and Spain, the money was used to finish a gas pipeline linking the two countries, which improved energy supplies and reduced costs.

In conclusion, REPowerEU is a vital initiative that empowers Europe to transition towards cleaner and more sustainable energy sources.



1.3

EU'S LONG-TERM BUDGET: SHOW ME YOUR BUDGET, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU VALUE

Thanks to Renew Europe, the European Parliament achieved additional investments of €16 billion for EU programmes. Something never seen in history before, MEPs tripled funding for health and a minimum of 30% of EU funds will be spent on climate and 10% on biodiversity. Renew Europe ensured the establishment of a Rule of Law conditionality mechanism that now protects the Union's budget and our values.

The EU long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027) sets EU spending ceilings for seven years and pools resources from Member States to deliver on common challenges that most individual EU countries could not finance on their own, such as fighting climate change and environment protection, digital challenges, space, defence and border security, social rights and jobs, for the benefit of all EU citizens.

The current MFF was agreed at €1,074 billion, to be spend primarily on investments across the Union: 93% of the EU budget benefits citizens, regions, cities, farmers, universities and businesses, only 7% is spent on administration.

Renew Europe mobilised the Parliament and ensured reinforcement of its key priority areas:

- The Health EU budget was tripled to ensure Europe learns lessons from the COVID pandemic by better supporting our healthcare professionals,
- Rights and Values budget was doubled to better defend our values, Erasmus+ was increased to support our youth,
- InvestEU was reinforced to support our entrepreneurs,
- Research and Innovation programmes were brought closer to the 3% GDP ambition,
- Budget for the border and coast guard was strengthened to better protect our borders.

In order to protect taxpayers and EU financial interests, Renew Europe ensured that EU financing should be conditional on the respect of EU law.

In line with Renew Europe's desire for a genuine transition to tackle climate change and protect the environment, a minimum of 30% of the EU budget will be spent on climate and a new target for biodiversity expenditure reaching 10% (as of 2026) was set.

During the negotiations, most groups were united, with the exception of the far right. Renew Europe led efforts to ensure that EU funds are not given to those who do not respect the Rule of Law.

The EU budget creates jobs, supports health, education, transport and energy projects, strengthens border security, fights climate change and supports the digital transition.

To respond to crises, the Commission has proposed a €100 billion boost to the current EU budget. It covers Ukraine, migration, global challenges, disasters and the recovery plan debt. The Parliament aims to have the revised budget in place by early 2024, working with the Council and Commission.

1.4

FUNDING EUROPE'S FUTURE: TAXPAYERS ALONE SHOULD NOT FOOT THE BILL!

In 2020, the EU launched a €750 billion recovery plan. That money was borrowed and it will have to be paid back. We found new sources of revenue ("own resources") to pay back parts of this debt.

The EU budget is mainly financed through transfers from the treasuries of EU countries into the budget of the European Union. Ultimately, this is taxpayers' money. Renew Europe advocated for new resources to be found, genuine European ones, i.e. money that can only be levied at EU level. We scored some victories in that regard.

In 2021, we set up an EU tax on plastic waste. More sources of income, such as taxes related to carbon emissions and profits of large multinational companies are now being considered. These new

sources could bring in over €36 billion per year. We also argue we should be bolder and have taxes on digital giants to pay off the debt incurred by the EU recovery plan.

The goal is to ensure that regular citizens will not have to foot the bill for increased EU investments needed for the digital and green transitions. Our plan for new EU taxes make big polluters and multinational companies pay their fair share. It is a matter of tax fairness and social justice.

One of our Members is lead negotiator on this file. The aim is to have these resources in place by 2028 when the EU needs to start repaying the borrowed money. The European Parliament has leverage: it votes on the budget. And we said it loud and clear: we won't vote on the future budget if the cost falls on the citizens only.



1.5

WE CRACKED DOWN ON CROOKS AND LED THE FIGHT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

After several scandals, it was time to step up the fight against money laundering.

Europeans have been left dismayed by a series of scandals that put economic self-interest above justice and fairness, affecting their hard-earned money. Every EU citizen loses €5 a day due to money laundering. That is almost €1,800 a year. This is unacceptable. Moreover, this money is used to finance wars and terrorism. This has to be stopped.

The European financial system is as strong as its weakest link. Money launderers, terrorism and war financiers for years have used loopholes in the non-harmonized system across Member States. Uniform European rules were needed to cast the net wide and make sure white collar criminals do not slip through it. Renew Europe was at the forefront of the negotiations to deliver them to European citizens.

The new rules will set up an EU-wide Anti-Money Laundering watchdog - AMLA- that will be a game changer to crack down on dirty

money in the EU. Among many of its tasks, it will supervise the riskiest financial entities and check non-financial sectors. It will also make sure that sanctions against Russia are implemented and Russian oligarchs cannot launder dirty money by buying jets, cars and boats.

The new rules help making sure that data on the rule breakers are shared more effectively between Member States. It also fosters maximum transparency on who controls the companies and penalties for those who hide or give misleading information.

The new law also recognised the outstanding work of investigative journalists uncovering scandals and tries to further help their work by granting them access to company registers so they can dig for suspicious flows of money.



1.6

WE PIONEERED CRYPTO REGULATION

We have witnessed a surge in cryptocurrencies, a digital form of currency that has taken the financial industry by storm. The European Union is the first region of the world regulating this new digital frontier.

The European Union has put in new laws to ensure that, when it comes to the regulation of Cryptocurrencies, there is a new sheriff in town. Thanks to a new EU regulation, investors are given clarity as to what they really buy on crypto platforms. Crypto dealers must now disclose information. Consumers are given rights so they can no longer be misled. Furthermore, the regulation includes provisions to address market abuse.

But crypto isn't a bad thing per se. It's a new way of investing and transacting. Renew Europe Members ensured that this regulation does not stifle innovation in the crypto sector. The regulation strikes a balance between providing oversight and fostering growth in this innovative industry. This shows the way Renew Europe approaches new technologies and emerging phenomena: we want to make sure fraudulent behaviour is eliminated and consumers are protected while celebrating entrepreneurship and innovation.



1.7

WE MADE THE INTERNET SAFER AND FAIRER

What is illegal in the physical world should also be illegal online.

The connected world we live in has brought many benefits. But it also poses challenges. Manipulative algorithms have been used to spread misinformation and large platforms have wielded disproportionate power in digital markets.

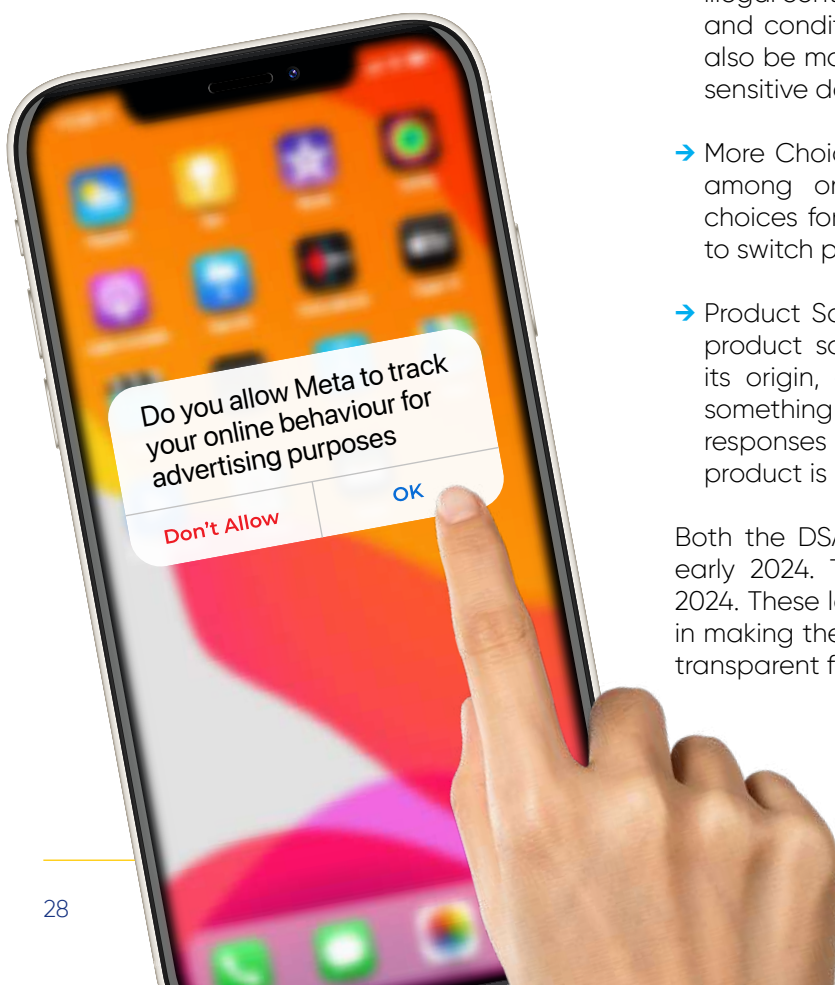
The adoption of two important laws, the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA), along with the new General Product Safety Legislation (GPSR) create a safer and more transparent online environment while offering more choices for consumers.

These have two main goals. First, Protecting Your Rights: The DSA and DMA are designed to safeguard your fundamental rights while using digital services and to allow for more opportunities for businesses, promoting innovation and competitiveness. Second, Ensuring Product Safety: The GPSR ensures that all consumer products in the EU are safe, including new digital products, regardless of how and where they are sold.

What is in it for you?

- Better Protection for you and your family: With the DSA, you will have better tools to challenge the removal of content by tech giants, report illegal content or goods, and understand terms and conditions on online platforms. There will also be more transparency in advertising, and sensitive data use will be restricted.
- More Choice: The DMA promotes competition among online platforms, giving you more choices for innovative services and the ability to switch platforms easily.
- Product Safety: The GPSR ensures that every product sold in the EU is safe, regardless of its origin, and holds someone responsible if something goes wrong. It also ensures quick responses and choices for consumers if a product is recalled.

Both the DSA and DMA will come into force in early 2024. The GPSR will follow in December 2024. These laws mark a significant step forward in making the online world safer, fairer, and more transparent for you, the citizen.



1.8

ENSURING FAIR AND TRANSPARENT AI: THE NEW RULES YOU NEED TO KNOW

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming a part of our daily lives, influencing how we work, play, and access essential services like food delivery, finance, and healthcare. These evolving technologies bring numerous benefits but also carry risks if not properly regulated. The ground-breaking action we have led to regulate AI will help shape the future by providing a framework for responsible AI use.

Artificial intelligence is all around us, offering exciting possibilities and opportunities. While it is a fascinating field, it can also be a source of concern due to its opaque inner workings, potential for unethical use, and uncertainty about its impact on our jobs. However, we have taken a significant step to address these concerns by adopting the AI Act, which establishes strict rules, transparency, and governance to make AI safer and more responsible.

The AI Act aims to establish consistent regulations for artificial intelligence. It ensures that AI systems entering the market and being used are safe, while also respecting fundamental rights and values. Additionally, it provides legal clarity for companies developing AI, encourages research and innovation, and fosters a robust European market for trustworthy and secure AI.

The AI Act prohibits AI practices that pose unacceptable risks, such as threats to health, safety, or individual rights, including social scoring systems, predictive policing, scraping of facial images and emotion recognition in employment and education. We have obtained strong limitations on the use of facial recognition and increased safeguards for more privacy. The regulation also imposes clear and consistent obligations on AI providers, developers, and users, especially for high-risk AI systems.

As a citizen, you can expect greater transparency from AI providers, stricter information requirements, and thorough checks on data sets. Measures against bias and human oversight will be in place to protect your health, safety, and fundamental rights. If you are affected by an AI decision, you have the right to an explanation and the right to challenge it.

25%

of businesses have already incorporated AI into their operations.

77%

of people use AI-powered services or devices.

Business boost: The AI Act represents a landmark effort to regulate AI in the business world and provide regulatory certainty. It will shape the conditions for innovation and the development of new products and services, helping businesses stay competitive, adaptable, and driving investment into EU tech businesses. By implementing AI responsibly, businesses can thrive in sectors where European companies excel, such as machinery, green economy, farming, healthcare, fashion, and more. The aim is to boost sales, enhance machine maintenance, increase production quality and output, improve customer service, and save energy.

1.9

WE IMPROVED OUR CYBERSECURITY IN A CHANGING WORLD

Renew Europe is at the forefront to define the legislation that is needed to increase cybersecurity throughout the Union, making sure we combat cybercrime effectively and online goods and services are safe for the consumers.

Our lives are increasingly intertwined with technology. Our phones hold our most detailed information. Yet, we tend to overlook the security aspect of our connected lives. This is no trivial matter. Cyber threats are on the rise. Cybercrime doubled in 2019, ransomware tripled in 2020. This is posing risks not only to our privacy but also our economy, and even national security.

This is why the EU adopted a Cyber Resilience Act to make sure that all connectable products on the European market meet high levels of cybersecurity – and if they do not then it is simple: they cannot be sold legally.

This new law also requires manufacturers to provide security updates that are necessary to catch up with the latest threats, those that come up after purchase. Because true cybersecurity can only be achieved via continuous updates throughout a product's lifecycle.

Europe needs to catch up: our companies and institutions are spending 41% less on cyber

security than in the US. Renew Europe Members put cybersecurity at the heart of the EU's agenda. We cannot stop all cybercrime from occurring, but we can protect ourselves better than before and better than others.

We also worked hard high common level of cybersecurity across the Union known as NIS2. This will help Europe to handle cyber incidents pro-actively and service orientated. This European directive is going to help more than a hundred thousand vital entities to tighten their grip on security and make Europe a safe place to live and work. Our political Group's priority was to expand the scope, by adding new sectors and all-important public and private entities, as well as increasing the level of information sharing between relevant actors, a framework of security requirements, supervision and enforcement based on a risk-based and proportionality approach, including harmonised sanctions across the EU.

We are now more than ready to handle potential cyber threats quickly and efficiently, making EU more secure and resilient.



1.10

ACCELERATING CONNECTIVITY ACROSS EUROPE

In a digital age where connectivity is paramount, Renew Europe is spearheading efforts to expedite the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure across the Union.

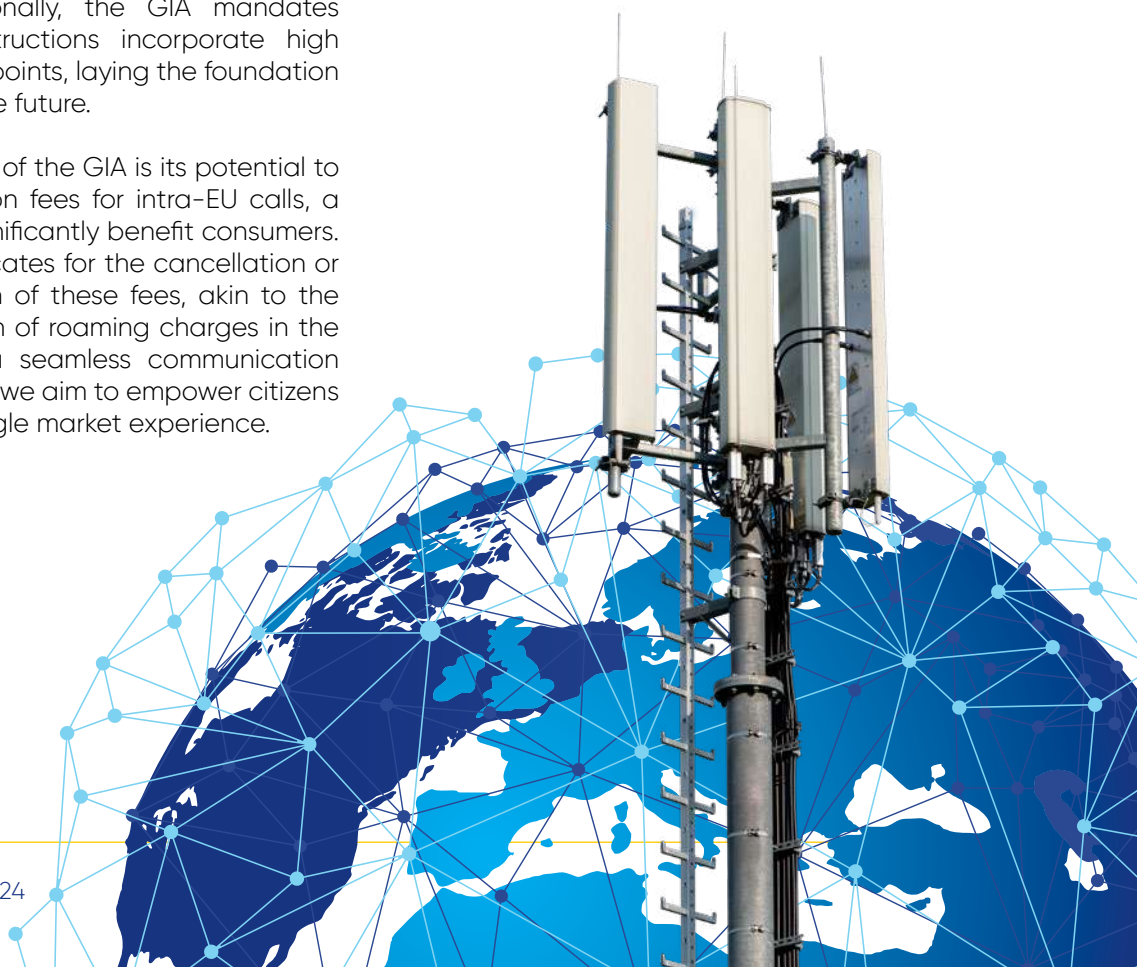
The Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA) stands as a pivotal tool in realizing our ambitious 2030 digital decade targets, ensuring that no citizen or business is left behind in the digital revolution.

At its core, the GIA aims to facilitate the rapid deployment of high connectivity, including fiber and 5G networks, through several key measures. Firstly, it seeks to shorten and harmonize the permit process for telecom network operators, simplifying bureaucratic hurdles and reducing administrative burdens. Secondly, the act promotes better coordination among all network operators, including gas, water, and telecom companies, streamlining civil works and expediting network deployment. Additionally, the GIA mandates that all new constructions incorporate high connectivity access points, laying the foundation for a digitally inclusive future.

An important aspect of the GIA is its potential to amend regulations on fees for intra-EU calls, a move that would significantly benefit consumers. Renew Europe advocates for the cancellation or substantial reduction of these fees, akin to the successful elimination of roaming charges in the past. By fostering a seamless communication market within the EU, we aim to empower citizens and enhance the single market experience.

Technology must work for the people, and connectivity is the cornerstone of this vision. The GIA presents operators with a competitive edge, facilitating easier, faster, and more cost-effective deployment of gigabit networks. We envision a future where every EU household has access to fixed gigabit networks and all populated areas enjoy 5G coverage, ensuring universal connectivity by 2030.

With innovation, determination, and collaboration, we are poised to unlock the full potential of the digital era, leaving no one behind in our pursuit of a prosperous and connected Europe.



1.11

SECURING OUR STRATEGIC AUTONOMY: LAUNCHING AN EU-MADE COMMUNICATION SATELLITE CONSTELLATION

The European Union has made a big step forward to launching its own telecommunications satellite constellation.

Our American counterparts are launching communication satellites worldwide but the EU decided to maintain control over strategic and secure communication. Europe is investing € 2.4 billion to launch the first-ever EU-made communication satellite constellation by 2027. Private companies can also join in and offer additional services, such as internet access in remote areas, on top of the government's offerings.

For the first time, the European Union will have its own telecommunications network in space. Not only that, but we are setting a stellar example by making it environmentally friendly and sustainable.

This constellation will revolutionize communication, offering low-latency mobile broadband, secure military communication, surveillance in conflict

zones, and cloud-based services for everyone. We aim to achieve EU independence in strategic communication technology. This means controlling every aspect, from satellite development to launches and operations.

As a citizen, you will benefit from expanded broadband access in rural areas, enhanced security for military and government communications, and increased crisis resilience. Additionally, this program will boost our economy, creating jobs and business opportunities, particularly for "new space" start-ups and small businesses.

We are gearing up for the development and launch of the first satellite by 2027. This marks a significant step towards a more secure, connected, and independent European Union.



1.12

RENEW EUROPE SECURED NEW ECONOMIC RULES FOR FISCAL STABILITY, COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH

Renew Europe is committed to building a resilient and competitive Europe, ready to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Renew Europe has fought for a significant breakthrough in European economic policy. Following intensive negotiations, an agreement has been on the Economic Governance Review. This landmark agreement paves the way for an updated economic governance framework.

As we come closer to the reactivation of the Stability and Growth Pact in 2024, Renew Europe led negotiations in shaping a new framework. The economic challenges of recent years have been significant, but with this new framework, Member States can work towards sustainable debt levels while also investing in our future and tackling climate change. These investments are crucial for the EU to assert itself as a leading geopolitical force in a world that is becoming increasingly unpredictable.

The new framework is designed to allow fiscal consolidation while addressing investment shortfalls within the EU, allowing for strategic public spending that will bolster the EU Single Market and facilitate the twin transitions. Importantly, this will be achieved without compromising on debt reduction or hindering economic growth.

A notable success of the negotiations led by Renew Europe is the emphasis on national ownership and accountability, which will be supported by the oversight of independent fiscal institutions and the European Fiscal Board. This ensures a robust framework for economic governance that balances national autonomy with European oversight.

Furthermore, Renew Europe has been a strong advocate for enhancing democratic scrutiny within the economic governance process. We have successfully secured a role for the European Parliament that goes beyond oversight, ensuring that economic governance in the EU is not only more transparent but also more accountable to its citizens.

In conclusion, the agreement on the Economic Governance Review marks a significant step forward for the EU, offering a path to sustainable economic recovery and growth. This new economic governance framework is a testament to our dedication to these goals, ensuring that the EU remains a beacon of stability and prosperity on the global stage.



The top left corner of the image features a portion of the European Union flag, showing the blue field with yellow stars.

REGAINING OUR EUROPEAN COMPETITIVE EDGE



renew europe.



**OUR FIGHT FOR MORE
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
AND SAFER CHOICE FOR
CONSUMERS**

2.1

WE ENHANCED CONSUMER SAFETY ON THE EU MARKET

Toys, motor vehicles, cosmetics, clothing, and electrical appliances: we made Europe a safer place, one product at a time.

In an era where online shopping has become an integral part of our lives, ensuring the safety of products has never been more crucial. Renew Europe has taken a significant stride in safeguarding the interests of EU consumers through the adoption of the General Product Safety Regulation. This comprehensive regulation extends its protective umbrella to cover all non-food products, whether they are sold offline or online.

When you buy toys for your children, motor vehicles for your family, cosmetics for your beauty regimen, clothing to express your style, or electrical appliances for your daily needs, you deserve to know that these products are safe. Shockingly, many dangerous products have made their way into the EU market, with a significant portion originating from China. Our mission is to empower consumers to shop with confidence, regardless of where they buy products in Europe or around the world.

Thanks to our relentless efforts, Europeans will be safer. The new law equips consumers with the tools to identify hazardous products swiftly and ensures their removal from online marketplaces

We reduce the value of damage caused by unsafe products by more than

5.5 billion

euro in the next decade.

immediately. Furthermore, consumers will be promptly informed – through an email for instance – about product recalls before these items pose any harm. This is a pivotal step in holding those who peddle unsafe products accountable.

This legislation aims to reduce the value of damage caused by unsafe products by more than 5.5 billion euros in the next decade.

The GPSR also introduces new rules for online marketplaces to level the playing field between online and offline. Small businesses will bear a proportionate burden, and new obligations will focus on sectors that need them most.



2.2

WE DELIVERED A EUROPEAN COMMON CHARGER

Finally one charger for all our electronic devices!

We all have one at home: that drawer filled with cables of different shape – and often none of them fit the need at hand. This will belong to the past.

The European Common Charger is poised to revolutionise the way we power our small and medium-sized electronic gadgets. Under this new regulation, various devices such as mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones, headsets, handheld video game consoles, and portable speakers that rely on a wired cable for charging will be required to have a USB Type-C port, irrespective of the manufacturer.

Not only will this new measure simplify our lives, but it will also play a crucial role in reducing electronic waste. It will prevent the creation of a staggering 11,000 tonnes of unnecessary e-waste each year. It will also save consumers extra-cash. Around 250 million euro a year are spent on unnecessary charger purchases.

It will prevent the creation of a staggering

11,000

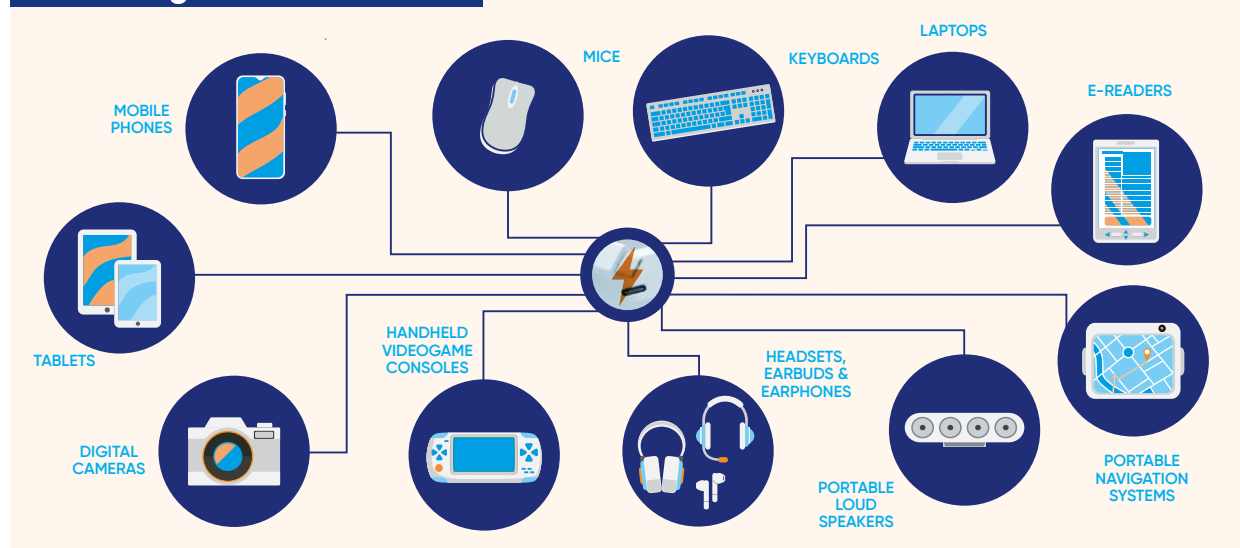
tonnes of unnecessary e-waste each year.

€250 million

It's the average amount spent on unnecessary charger purchases.

The proposed rules come into effect as early as 2024, but we are already seeing the fruits of our work. Apple already announced in September 2023 that the next iPhone will include the USB-C port. Other big companies follow suit.

One charger to rule them all!



2.3

RIGHT TO REPAIR: A STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

In a pivotal move towards fostering sustainable consumption practices, the Renew Europe Group has championed the Right to Repair Act, aiming to empower consumers, extend product lifespans, and reduce environmental impact. This signifies a significant shift towards prioritizing the circular economy and curtailing the pervasive throwaway culture that has long plagued modern societies.

These measures are designed to encourage consumers to utilise products for longer durations through repair and the purchase of second-hand or refurbished goods. Furthermore, they also encompass a spectrum of initiatives, including that repairs should be conducted within a reasonable time period and at a reasonable price. Available spare parts should also be made available to independent repairers and end users. Producers may offer a refurbished product instead of a replacement product should the consumer request it. Moreover, extended warranties and incentives are introduced for consumers who opt for repair over replacement.

Emphasising fixing electronic devices means they last longer thus being more sustainable for the environment. The Renew Europe Group

stands for strengthening consumers' rights and advocating for enhanced product reparability and the fundamental right to repair. This shift, however, must not result in undue financial burdens on businesses or consumers. Instead, it should catalyze the evolution of business models towards sustainability, fostering mutually beneficial outcomes for all stakeholders involved along the production chain.

At its core, the Right to Repair Act embodies a proactive approach towards reconciling economic interests with environmental imperatives. It represents a pivotal moment in the journey towards achieving a harmonious balance between consumption and environmental preservation, setting a precedent for progressive policymaking and collective action on a global scale.



2.4

WE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR CONSUMERS TO MAKE ECO-FRIENDLY PURCHASES

Renew Europe worked to put an end to green washing with new labelling rules and clearer methodologies.

In the ever-changing world of consumer products, Renew Europe is set to make your lives better and safer. We have been working on two crucial directives to make your day-to-day life better without you even realizing. The Product Liability Directive and the directive for Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition bring many benefits to our lives.

With the Product Liability Directive, we want to protect consumers in the digital age – the goal is to protect consumers from harm caused by unsafe products, especially in the digital age. Here's how this benefits you:

- **We are modernizing Liability Rules:** Whether it's a garden chair or a high-tech machine, manufacturers will be held accountable for personal injury, property damage, or data loss caused by their products. If a product becomes unsafe due to software updates, AI, or digital services, manufacturers must take responsibility.
- **Levelling the playing field:** If you're hurt by an unsafe product from outside the EU, you can seek compensation from the importer or the manufacturer's EU representative. This levels the playing field and ensures consumers are not left in the lurch.

Making eco-friendly choices should be second nature for citizens. Renew Europe fought for the adoption of the Directive on empowering consumers for the green transition. The title says it all. This directive will help consumers make

greener choices while protecting them from misleading practices. Here is what it does:

- **Banning Unfair Practices:** It puts an end to unfair practices that mislead consumers about products' green qualities. This includes banning claims based on greenhouse emissions offsetting.
- **Ensuring Durability:** A new label is introduced for products with commercial guarantees of durability lasting more than two years. All products will have a notice reminding consumers about their legal guarantee of conformity.

Consumers increasingly want to buy products that do not harm the environment. We enabled them to do so. Safely and transparently.



2.5

WE MADE POLITICAL ADVERTISING MORE TRANSPARENT

Knowing who pays for which candidates, which parties or which campaigns will enrich the political debate and help citizens make more informed choices.

Whenever elections occur, 400 million of European voters must make hard choices between their ideals and their interests and weigh who best could represent them.

In the digital age, these decisions can be undermined by rumours, falsehoods and deliberate spreading of fake news. We have seen the opponents of democracy use these opportunities. And we have seen the opponents of the European Union use new tools to exploit the democratic process against the very idea of European unity -- think Cambridge Analytica and the Brexit referendum. Now we need to defend the integrity of the electoral process more than ever.

This is what Renew Europe did by leading the negotiations of a new law imposing transparency rules on political advertising. The new regulation will be applicable for all elections in the EU: European, national and local, as well as referenda and legislative processes. Political advertising will need to be transparent about who pays for it, so that voters are only a few clicks away from knowing who is trying to influence their decision. An archive with political ads is set up to provide clarity on how political sponsors and parties have



acted previously so journalists can pick up trends. The use of sensitive data will be prohibited, and the use of inferred and observed data relative to sensitive data will be banned. Reinforced consent will be introduced thanks to the pressure of the Renew Europe Group. Finally, a ban on third country sponsors is put in place to avoid, say, Russia trolls to artificially twist the public debate.

Above all, clarity on the rules of the campaign should open opportunities for constructive debate. Recognising the role political parties play in Europe's democratic process will allow them to campaign across Europe, to promote their ideas to people throughout Europe.

400 million

of European voters must make hard choices between their ideals and their interests and weigh who best could represent them.

2.6

WE EMPOWERED SMALL BUSINESSES IN HARD TIMES

Renew Europe championed the SME Relief Package, a bundle of measures to reduce red tape, provide extra cash and help with training of workers.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make up more than 95% of all businesses in the EU. They are the cornerstone of growth, employment, and competitiveness on the continent. These businesses are hotbeds of creativity and harbor a genuine desire for innovation.

With the presentation of the SME Relief Package by the European Commission, Renew Europe is pleased to see progress finally being made. The package incorporates some of Renew Europe's

key recommendations, such as regulations to combat late payments, particularly by public authorities, and the recognition of the role played by SME Envoys. Renew Europe has consistently advocated for the strict application of the SME Test so the regulators do not adopt new rules without first thinking about their impact on small businesses. We also support simplifying tax rules.

Easing the regulatory environment is key for small businesses. But a little cash helps too. Renew Europe has also championed the cause of SMEs by ensuring that InvestEU, a fund set to mobilise around 372 billion of public and private investment, benefits small businesses, diversifying their sources of financing. We also secured a share of the Small businesses have secured at least 2% of the budget envelope for the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries, sectors most in need.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make up more than

95%

of all businesses in the EU.



2.7

WE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR INDUSTRIES TO GET CLEANER WITHOUT LOSING THEIR COMPETITIVE EDGE

Renew Europe believes that while it is important to support industries, we must invest in a way that is fair to other businesses in the Single Market. That is why we want to create clear rules that make it easier for renewable technologies to grow and help us move towards a net-zero economy.

Renew Europe worked hard on two important laws to achieve that goal: the Net Zero Industry Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act.

The Net Zero Industry Act will help us drastically expand our EU production of clean technologies by facilitating permits and supporting our innovative industries. This means that we will be able to produce more solar panels, wind turbines, electrolyzers, or batteries in Europe and import less of them from, say, China. To achieve this objective, it is essential to ensure that we have a workforce that is well-trained and skilled for using these new technologies. In this respect, Renew Europe has played a critical role in the creation of Net Zero Industry Academies, which will be in charge of developing learning content

and training materials on net zero technologies to be then deployed by education and training providers at the national and local level. In this legislation, Renew has also made sure that the Academies will be as inclusive as possible and can benefit all workers, regardless of their age or level of qualifications. These Academies are one of the very concrete examples on how the Union can foster the mobility of workers through the recognition of qualifications and address skills shortages.

Building more at home does not mean self-sufficiency and protectionism. Renew Europe believes in trade. This is why we lead the negotiation on a Critical Raw Materials Act so the European Union can get the important materials it needs, and that they are affordable and environmentally friendly. These materials are crucial for Europe to meet its climate and digital goals. Right now, with the way the world is, it is very important for the EU to be stronger and not rely too much on unstable sources of materials used for important technologies. We need to become more independent and competitive.

Renew Europe believes that we should reduce the risks by working with other countries in a way that helps everyone. We also need to invest in new ideas and research to find better, more sustainable materials and ways to produce them in Europe. These laws not only support industry growth but also emphasize the importance of a level playing field, strategic independence, and a resilient, sustainable future for the European Union and the world.



2.8

WE FOUGHT FOR AFFORDABLE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TO POWER THE EU ECONOMY

We defended new ambitious objectives, to speed up our efforts in all types of renewables from solar energy to hydrogen.

In 2021, only 21.8 % of the energy consumed in the EU came from renewable energies. This is far from enough to reach our climate goals. The EU also needs to strengthen its strategic autonomy by reducing its dependence on energy imports from other countries and ensure the affordability of energy for people and businesses. Increasing the production of European renewables is a crucial way of achieving this. Renew Europe played a kingmaker role in amending the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) which will make sure that by 2030, Europe's energy use is covered for 45% by renewables (42,5% is the binding target).

In the negotiations on these new rules, we stressed the important role of innovative renewable technologies and we pushed to fast-track permitting procedures for these technologies. This means that administrative processes will be better streamlined and we removed permitting obstacles at both European and national levels. This will reduce the time it takes for renewable energy projects to be deployed. The new rules also set targets for specific sectors including industry, residential heating/cooling and transport. For example, by 2030 49% of energy used in the building sector needs to be renewable.

We will make sure that by 2030,
Europe's energy use is covered for

45%

by renewables.

Types of renewable energy



Wind power



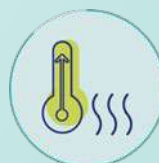
Solar power



Tidal power



Hydro power



Heat pumps



Biofuels



Renewable
part of waste



Geothermal
energy

2.9

WE WANT BUSINESSES TO OPERATE RESPONSIBLY

Big companies will have to publicly disclose their impact on the people and on the planet.

The collapse of the Rana Plaza building onto garment workers in Bangladesh shocked the world. Since then, consumers have been more attentive about how the products they buy are made. And so have investors who no longer want to fund companies who exploit workers or pollute intensively – the reputational damage is too big.

The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive adopted in 2022 will shed some light on big companies' practices. It creates new reporting obligations for businesses of over 250 employees to publicly state, what their impact is on human rights, the environment and social rights. Thanks to the new rules that will be in place by 2025, companies will have to say if their products are made by children in Bangladesh or if their services are causing significant pollution.

This information will be verified and audited by professionals, just like the financial results of

companies are. Having a clean human rights record will be as important as having a clean balance sheet.

The ultimate beneficiaries of better sustainability reporting are not only individual citizens but also savers who want to invest sustainably in stable, transparent and inclusive companies.

One Renew Europe Member led the negotiation and made sure Chinese, Indian and American companies making business in the EU are also subject to the new rule, so European businesses are not at disadvantage and our ethical business rules spread everywhere.

Around 50,000 companies will have to rethink the way they produce their products and services – and let investors and consumers be the judge of that.





OUR FIGHT TO RESPOND TO SOCIETAL AND HEALTH CHALLENGES

3.1

EMPOWERING YOUTH: A MANIFESTO WITH CLEAR POLICY PROPOSALS

In 2022, the European Year of Youth aimed to raise awareness about the problems the youngest generations are facing. As reformists, our commitment is to give young generations a world that works for them.

Renew4Youth Manifesto

Young people face many challenges that previous generations seemingly did not, such as access to housing and employment. The COVID-19 pandemic reduced opportunities and increased mental well-being issues. Despite facing these challenges, young European citizens are strongly mobilized on critical issues like the fight against climate change or against discrimination. They want to be part of the decision-making process.

Renew Europe wants to help them engage more in the political process. This is why, in 2022, the Group brought together young Europeans from across the Union to Brussels, providing them a platform to influence the future of Europe. The goal was to discuss challenges and propose concrete policy solutions.

Practical policy proposals for youth

Unpaid internships can widen the gap between Europeans from different social backgrounds. Renew Europe pushed for better protection for trainees in Europe, making sure they have access to high quality, paid, and inclusive traineeships.

We also supported the recognition of esports players as professionals, while making sure gaming is a safe space for everyone, especially women and minorities.

The Group also played a crucial role in shaping part of the EU budget by introducing a 'Next Generation' Pillar in the Recovery plan, focusing on policies for the next generation, encompassing improved access to education, digital learning, early childhood education, and support for youth employment.

The Renew4Youth Manifesto also proposes the development of a new youth assessment tool. This tool aims to systematically examine the impact of EU legislation on young people and recommend equitable financing for follow-up activities.



3.2

WE SET UP A CHILD GUARANTEE TO NURTURE THE FUTURE

One in 4 children in the EU are at risk of poverty, a trend exacerbated by the increased cost of living, the energy crisis, and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU Child Guarantee aims to provide every child in Europe with equal opportunities.

Europe is one of the richest regions in the world, yet there is a growing number of children and families living with poverty on the continent. Specific groups, including those in single-parent families, large-disadvantaged families, children with disabilities, and those belonging to ethnic minorities, also confront heightened risks. Their total number is close to 20 million people!

In 2019, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in her Political Guidelines the creation of a European Child Guarantee. Since then, a Council Recommendation was adopted in 2021 calling on Member States to guarantee free and effective access to children in need to a set of key services: early childhood education and care, education (including school-based activities and at least one healthy meal each school day), healthcare. In addition, Member States committed to provide healthy nutrition, and adequate housing.

Renew Europe recognises the urgency of investing in our children and young people and promoting real and new solutions for their social inclusion. We successfully fought for a strong Next Generation Pillar in the Recovery and Resilience Facility and for dedicated earmarks to combat child poverty in the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), helping Member States make the Child Guarantee a reality.

We need to invest in children in order to ensure that the current crisis does not hinder the potential of our most valuable resource: our children and young people.



3.3

WE PUSHED FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK!

Renew Europe has been a staunch advocate for equal job opportunities and fair pay for all, achieving a significant milestone in this mandate.

Despite the EU's longstanding commitment to equal pay since 1957, the gender pay gap persists. In the EU, on average, women earn about 13% less than men for the same job, and this gap hasn't changed much in the past decade. Pay discrimination not only influences women's employment decisions but also contributes to a substantial gender pension gap, reaching around 30% difference in pension pay-outs between men and women in the EU. Studies show that the lack of transparency about salaries between employees is one of the key obstacles to closing the gender pay gap.

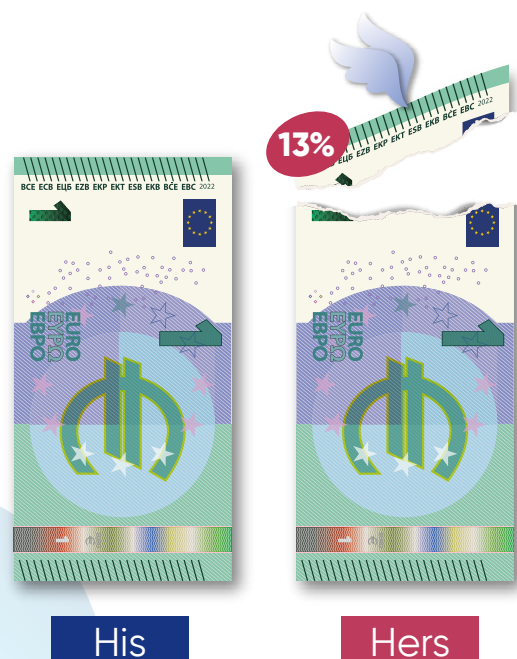
Our group has played a crucial role in supporting legislation on Pay Transparency. This directive is a ground-breaking step toward ensuring equal pay for equal work, granting employees the right to information and the ability to request employers to disclose crucial elements of workers' pay, including the gender pay gap.

We ensured that the administrative burden on companies will be limited and that specific support to SMEs and workers' representatives will be provided. We managed to strengthen the position of employees with disabilities as well as adding the first reference to non-binary people in EU legislation. Last but not least, it was also our victory to recognise intersectional discrimination, which must be taken into account when establishing compensation for the victims.

The legislation also includes provisions on compensation for victims of pay discrimination and penalties, including fines, for employers who break the rules. Striking a balance between empowering female employees with information

and minimizing undue burdens on companies, businesses with over 250 employees must annually report their gender pay gap, while smaller companies will report every three years. Companies exceeding a 5% gender pay gap without justification are obligated to take corrective action.

The Directive came into force in June of this year and Member States have three years to adjust their national laws accordingly. This will be a massive step forward for gender equality, a cornerstone of Renew Europe's priorities outlined in the "Simone Veil Pact". By implementing it, we can soon make equal pay for equal work a reality for women everywhere in the EU.



3.4

WE EMPOWERED LEADERSHIP AND DIVERSITY IN COMPANIES' GOVERNANCE BODIES

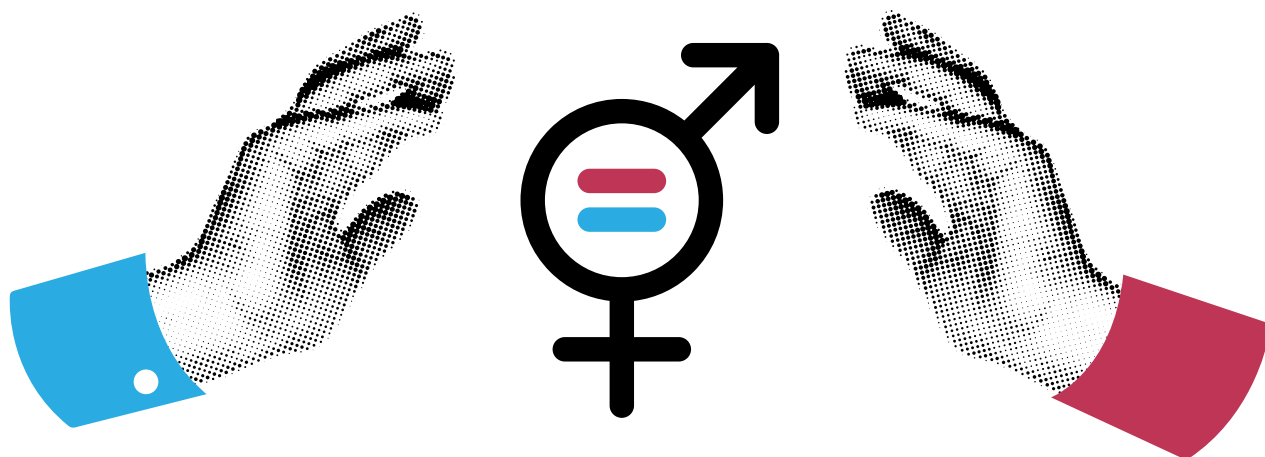
Renew Europe champions gender equality by advocating for increased representation of women in directorial roles within large corporations.

The stark under-representation of women on company boards is a glaring gender inequality in the EU – clearly contradicting European values. Currently, only one third of corporate board members are women, and the disparity is even more pronounced among executive boards lacking female directors. With this directive, we raised the bar on greater gender equality, challenging the status quo.

The new European rules which will be in place by July 2026 require clear and transparent board appointment procedures with an objective assessment based on merit. In cases where candidates are equally qualified in terms of ability, competence and professional performance, priority will be given to the candidate of the under-represented sex. Companies failing to comply will face financial consequences, reinforcing the commitment to gender diversity. At the same time, with the concept of 'faming list' introduced by Renew Europe, companies that are meeting the targets will receive positive recognition.

Renew Europe actively advocated for this legislation not only because we want to advance gender-equality, but also because we believe that empowering women in top managerial positions will positively impact the European economy.

This directive sends a resounding message to women across the European Union: your place is everywhere – including at the top table! Increased representation of women on boards will make our economy more diverse and stimulate creativity, while the leadership of companies will better reflect European citizens. The set targets will pave the way for greater possibilities for women, for equal participation and influence in our economy. With Women on Boards, the new generation gains deserving role models, inspiring girls and young women across the EU to aspire to leadership positions.



3.5

WE FOUGHT AGAINST WORK PLACE CANCERS

In a bid to safeguard workers from hazardous substances like asbestos and other cancer-causing substances, Renew Europe has taken a pioneering role.

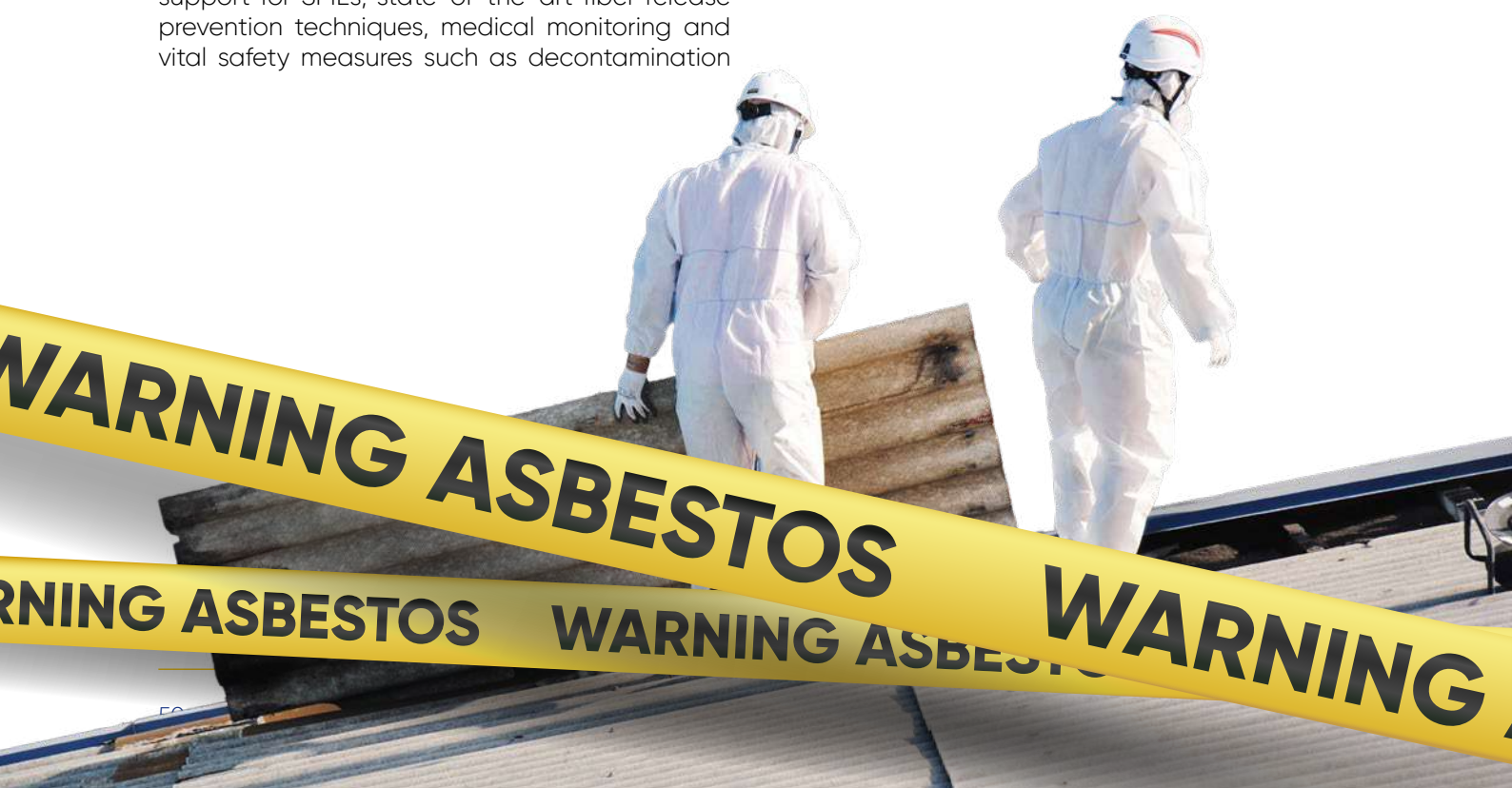
Asbestos remains the primary cause of occupational cancer across Europe. It can take up to four decades for symptoms to emerge following exposure. Staggeringly, as much as 78% of recognized occupational cancers in Member States are attributed to asbestos. Unfortunately, it is not a problem of the past as asbestos persists in many buildings and structures constructed before its 2005 ban by the Union and causing a risk notably to construction workers in the context of the renovation wave of the Green Deal. Renew Europe has spearheaded the revision of the asbestos directive to modernize it and bolster worker protection.

The new rules address key areas such as comprehensive worker training, mandatory asbestos presence checks before starting work, certification for asbestos removal firms, support for SMEs, state-of-the-art fiber release prevention techniques, medical monitoring and vital safety measures such as decontamination

processes. Prioritizing asbestos removal is key to progress toward an asbestos-free Europe and avoid burdening future generations.

To protect workers from other hazardous substances, we have also effectively enlarged the scope of legislation on carcinogens, and mutagens to cover substances toxic to reproduction. During this mandate, our group also added further protection for healthcare workers handling hazardous medicinal products.

Member States will have until 2025 to incorporate the directive into national law, marking a significant step forward in the fight against occupational cancer and ensuring a safer working environment for all.



3.6

BUILDING THE EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

Following the pandemic, the call to address public health threats and challenges at a European level has strengthened. Renew Europe took this call seriously and made public health a priority in the past five years. As a strong supporter of better cross border cooperation in all policy areas, we took concrete steps to improve EU coordination to address existing health inequalities, better preparedness for future health threats and improve healthcare for all.

We feel strongly that quality data is the starting point to better public health in Europe. Data shows us that **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** such as cardiovascular or respiratory problems, cancer and diabetes cause most deaths in Europe, two thirds in total. At the same time 70% of these NCDs are avoidable if we put in place better prevention measures, especially for vulnerable groups. Not only could this save lives, it could also lead to a lower burden on our national healthcare systems. The reality however is that EU countries on average spend 3% of their health spending on prevention. This is why we called for more coordination at a European level to increase the focus on prevention measures, improve early diagnosis and support patient empowerment.

Another important area of healthcare where we lack quality European data is **mental health** in Europe. 84 million people across the EU suffer from mental disorders such as anxiety and panic disorders and depression, and we know that young people increasingly face mental health issues since the pandemic. To give people the right support and break stigmas, we called for a European Mental Health Strategy by launching our own mental health survey to illustrate the data problem that requires our attention.

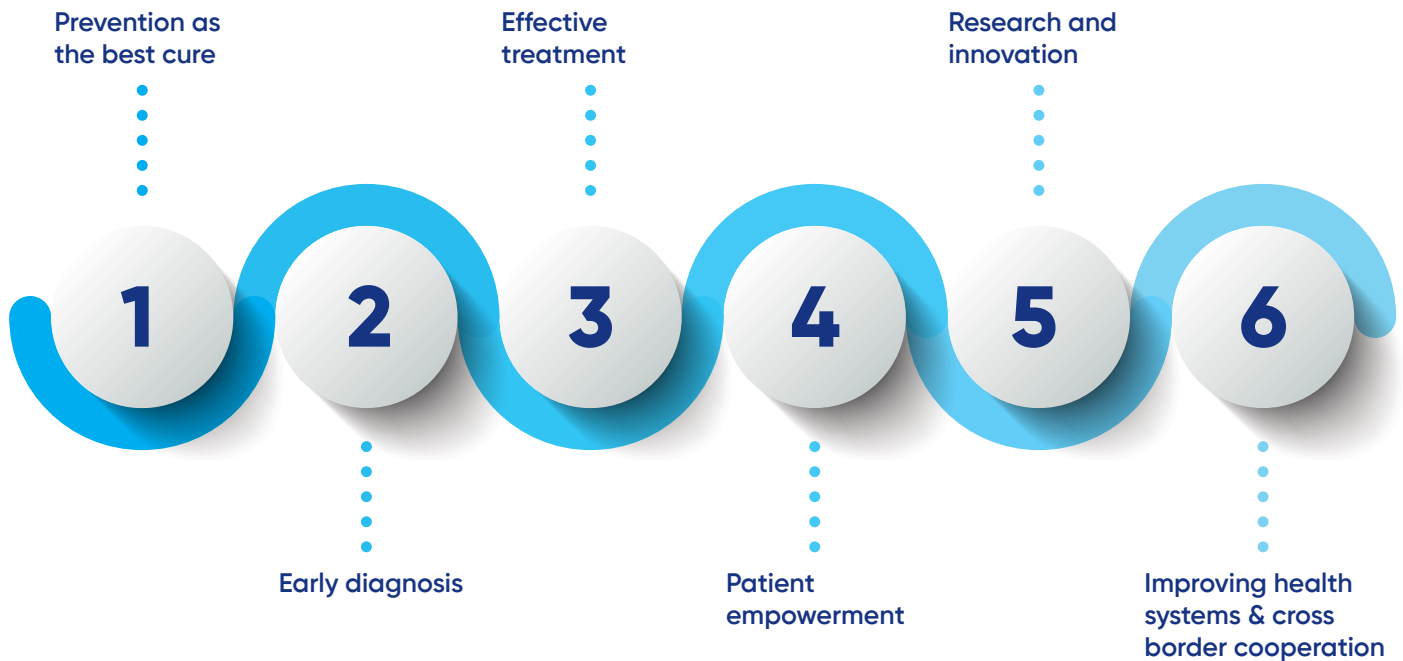
As part of our work to improve healthcare for every EU citizen, we also pushed hard for the realisation of a **Special Committee for Beating Cancer (BECA)** in the European Parliament, whose work fed into the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. This EU wide strategy to combat cancer strongly focuses

on improving early diagnosis through screening. As screening is not equally available in every EU country, leading inequalities in access to care, this was an important achievement for us.

To give people and patients more autonomy over their health decisions, we established the **European Health Data Space**. These new rules aim to give citizens control over their medical data and make it easier to get medical help when traveling abroad. It will equally facilitate the development of new treatments, diagnostics and services. Renew Europe strongly advocated for patient data to be protected in these new rules.

In the area of cross border cooperation, we ensured the safety and quality of **substances of human origin such as blood and plasma** in new EU rules. This will benefit access to care for patients in Europe.





A final challenge is for Europe to be prepared for any type of future health threat. That's why we created new rules on **cross-border health threats**, which will allow for better coordination of national crisis plans. The EU will also be able to ensure better surveillance of the outbreak of infectious diseases and declare an EU health emergency if need be to take quick joint action at EU level when necessary.

We also improve the versatility and operability of the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)**. The mechanism aims to strengthen cooperation between the EU countries on civil protection to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters.

The UCPM has been infused with more funding (over €3bn until 2027), which we supported so that the EU is flexible to respond to any large-scale emergencies such as forest fires, flooding or draughts.



3.7

WE PUSHED FOR EQUALITY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN DISABILITY CARD

Renew Europe stands at the forefront of promoting equality and inclusivity with its commitment to the European Disability Card and European Parking Card for persons with disabilities, a pivotal initiative aimed at fostering free movement, accessibility and equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The European Disability Card and Parking Card emerged as a response to barriers faced by people with disabilities when exercising their rights to free movement and equal treatment in the EU.

The new Disability Card will grant cardholders equal access to any special conditions or preferential treatment offered to people with disabilities by public and private entities when it comes to services, passenger transport and other activities and facilities such as free entry, reduced charge and priority access etc. One of the card's fundamental strengths is its cross-border recognition, as it acts as proof of disability status ensuring mutual recognition so that the benefits extend seamlessly across different EU Member States. The improved European Parking Card will guarantee use of parking spaces and facilities reserved for persons with disabilities in all EU countries.

Renew Europe envisions the European Disability Card and Parking Card as more than just practical tools; it is a symbol of our commitment to creating a Europe where everyone, can equally and actively participate in all aspects of life.

By delivering the adoption of the European Disability Card, before the end of this parliamentary term, we aim to foster a more inclusive and accessible European Union and to deliver a long-standing demand of the disability community. While creating the European Disability Card is a significant step, Renew Europe remains dedicated to ensuring the EU continues to address the issues people with disabilities face and continuous efforts will be directed towards enhancing the scope and benefits of the card as well as more broadly ensuring disability rights remain high on the political agenda.





HER FIGHT IS MY FIGHT

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

renew europe.



**OUR FIGHT FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

4.1

THE GREEN DEAL: A LANDMARK LAW PACKAGE TO BECOME CLIMATE NEUTRAL BY 2050

Renew Europe has played a leading role in raising the European Union's ambitions to reach climate neutrality by 2050. We took bold steps to avoid dangerous climate change, whilst ensuring our ambitions are translated into green growth opportunities. Our goal is to create a more sustainable, healthy and prosperous future for both our citizens and our businesses.

Our first achievement was to help set the main long-term objective for Europe to decouple our economic growth from resource use and cut down to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This ambition to become the first climate neutral continent in the world was laid down in the landmark European Climate Law, which was adopted in 2021.

To reach this long-term goal, concrete action was necessary. This is why Renew Europe put in every effort to finish the European Green Deal. This package of legislative proposals, presented by the European Commission, covers our ambitions to cut emissions (Fit For 55) as well as to reduce waste, achieve zero pollution, improve

public health, protect and restore nature and biodiversity as well as achieve a sustainable food system.

Our motivation to realise a green transition that is just and works for everyone, was a priority in all our work on the Green Deal. We want the green transition to work for people as well as for our businesses. We want to take responsibility for future generations. By creating the jobs of the future, the technologies of the future, the houses of the future, the mobility of the future and the energy sources of the future. Our work on the Green Deal will help make the green transition a European success story.



4.2

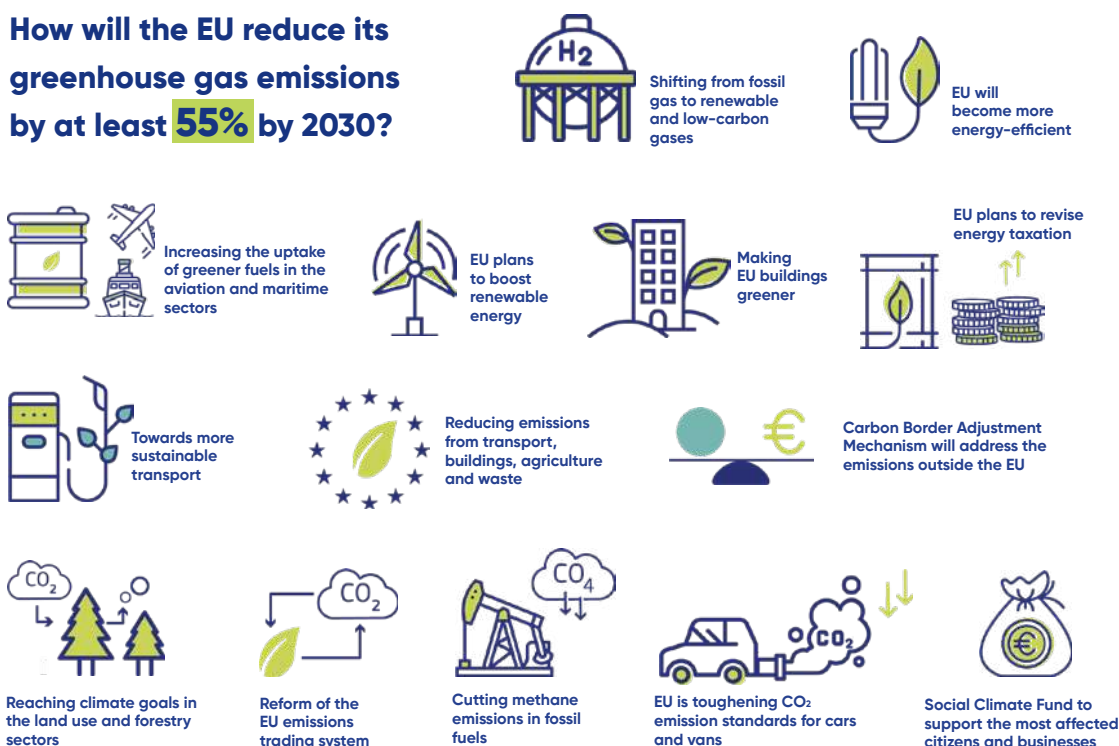
CUTTING OUR EMISSIONS TO CREATE GREEN GROWTH

Cutting down on our emissions is necessary to fight the effects of climate change and limit global warming. Renew Europe strongly felt the responsibility to deliver on the Paris Agreement ambitions and take concrete steps to cut Europe's CO₂ emissions. We successfully raised the reduction target and completed the entire Fit for 55 package.

In 2015, the binding international treaty on climate change adopted by the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, set the target to limit global warming to below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. To reach this goal and keep our planet liveable, it was time to increase our climate ambition and cut emissions drastically. This is why we pushed to set a new 2030 target of at least 55%

emissions reductions in the European Climate Law. To reach this target, and even go beyond it, a large package of EU laws have been adopted or updated. This package of laws is known as Fit for 55 and is part of the broader European Green Deal. Fit for 55 makes sure that all citizens, businesses, sectors and countries take responsibility to cut CO₂ emissions and reach our emissions reduction target.

How will the EU reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least **55%** by 2030?



That is why we adopted the following new EU rules:

- At the heart of Fit for 55 are the updated and strengthened **EU Emission Trading System (ETS)** and the newly created **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**. These two tools will allow Europe to accelerate the speed of emission cuts while protecting fair competition, supporting clean technologies and preventing carbon leakage to countries outside the EU. The ETS system, which puts an EU-wide cap and a price on carbon emissions inside the EU and allows companies to buy and sell emission rights, will now cover a majority of Europe's emissions from sectors including energy, industry, maritime, aviation, and road transport, and buildings and waste. At the same time, CBAM will put a price on carbon emitted in the production of goods that are entering from outside the EU, ensuring a level playing field and stimulating clean production globally. Revenues from both the ETS and CBAM are invested in making the European green transition a success. In parallel to the ETS, we have updated the **Effort Sharing Regulation**, which sets emission reduction targets for each EU Member State, to align it with our climate ambitions. Other steps to reduce emissions are the update of the **land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF)**, which sets rules for emission reductions and carbon removals in Europe's grassland, agricultural land and forests. We also supported new rules to **reduce methane emissions in the energy sector**.
- Increasing our use of **Renewable Energy** is equally a key part of our strategy to reduce emissions, and at the same time help Europe to achieve energy independence. This is why we supported a new target of 45% renewables in Europe's energy mix by 2030. At the same time, we supported the **Hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package**, which is expected to be adopted in Spring 2024. These new rules support the development cross-border hydrogen infrastructure and a competitive hydrogen production and consumption market.
- As the easiest way to cut emissions is by cutting unnecessary energy waste, we took steps to increase **energy efficiency**, also to keep energy bills down. As a result, public administration

bodies in each EU country will have to achieve an energy consumption reduction of 1.9% each year. On top of this, we worked hard to improve the **energy performance of buildings** in Europe, both residential and non-residential, by supporting new agreed rules that are expected to be formally adopted in Spring 2024. They aim to improve energy performance of the existing buildings by means of renovation, focusing on the worst performing part of the building stock, and ensure that all new buildings are zero emission buildings by 2050. All new buildings and those undergoing major renovation, will have to be equipped with charging infrastructure for cars.

- In the area of transport, **emission standards for cars** ensure that all new cars in the EU must be zero-emission after 2035. To support this transition to clean mobility, we supported the creation of an EU-wide network of sustainable charging stations for cars, planes and ships under the new rules on **alternative fuels infrastructure**. We also took steps to reduce emissions in the aviation and maritime sector, through increasing the use of sustainable fuels and by adopting the **FuelEU Aviation** and **FuelEU maritime** rules.
- To support vulnerable people and businesses in the green transition, we supported the establishment of the **Social Climate Fund**. This fund will support investments in transport and buildings, such for instance housing renovation or clean transport.

Having adopted the EU's climate target for 2030, the European Commission is now preparing a proposal for a new EU climate target for 2040. The EU will its new climate target at the beginning of next legislature.

The EU will reduce its total greenhouse gas emissions by at least

55%

by 2030 (compared to 1990).

4.3

A JUST TRANSITION FUND: PUTTING REGIONS AT THE HEART OF SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The ambitions of the Green Deal will not be without economic and social consequences for Europe. The EU wants to keep everyone on board in the green transition by creating the Just Transition Fund.

The energy transition will force many companies to decarbonize their production methods, such as the automobile industry. Other activities, like coal mining, will cease to exist. For entire regions of Europe, this will have an effect, for example on job opportunities, which is naturally a source of concern for businesses and citizens.

The Just Transition Fund has been designed to address these concerns. The fund has €19.2 billion available and is expected to mobilise €25.4 billion in investment, creating a total of €55 billion. The supports initiatives taken on the ground to help with the reconversion of economic activities and the retraining of workers. It is a tool for all local stakeholders, including universities, which can play a leading role in the search for new production methods.

The Just Transition Fund provides targeted support to help mobilise around

55 billion

over the period 2021-2027.

Renew Europe ensured that the objectives of the Just Transition Fund were consistent with the Green Deal by making sure that gas investments were excluded from subsidies, to focus on clean and renewable energy solutions.

Just Transition Fund



Productive investment in SMEs and creation of new firms



R&D, digital innovation and connectivity



Clean and renewable energy



Enhancement of circular economy and land restoration



Retraining of workers and job seekers



Activities in the areas of education and social inclusion

4.4

CLEAN DRIVING IS THE FUTURE

Any new car or van bought after 2035 will be free of emissions. All new city busses will drive zero emission by 2030, thanks to the efforts of Renew Europe. A crucial step to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

As of 2035, all cars and vans rolling off the assembly line should meet the target of 100% zero-emissions. At the same time, new rules expected to be adopted in Spring 2024 will introduce new and stricter CO₂ emission limits on trucks and buses. This transition to zero-emission mobility is expected to bring significant environmental benefits, including a notable improvement in air quality. At the same time, these new rules will ensure that affordable clean cars and heavy-duty vehicles like trucks and busses are brought more swiftly to the market and a great win-win equally for trucks and vans.

The emissions of road transport in Europe count for around 24% of all EU emissions. Transport is the only sector where greenhouse gas emissions have increased in the past three decades, rising 33.5% between 1990 and 2019. We can't reach our climate targets without cutting our transport emissions. This is why we want all cars on the road to be zero-emission by 2050.

Transport of goods is of mayor importance to keep our economies running. As an important manufacturer of heavy-duty vehicles, we want

Any new car you buy in Europe
after 2035 will be

100%
free of emission.

Europe to take the lead in the green transport transition. With the new targets, emissions from new trucks in the EU will be 90% lower than today.

To further stimulate the European car industry to build the clean cars of the future, Renew Europe has made sure to provide the sector with support in the transition and investment certainty. This clarity for the industry will start triggering further investments and stimulate innovation. As a result, purchasing and driving zero-emission vehicles will become cheaper for consumers and businesses, particularly SMEs. We particularly pushed hard to make sure a second hand clean car market will emerge quickly, to make clean driving accessible to everyone.



4.5

THE CHEAPEST ENERGY IS THE ENERGY THAT WE DON'T USE

New efficiency targets will reduce the EU's dependency on Russian gas and other fossil fuels, lower energy bills for citizens and our companies and contribute to the EU's climate and energy goals. Money spent on energy efficiency is not a cost, but an investment into a more sustainable future.

Increasing energy efficiency and eliminating energy waste presents the most straightforward path to reducing emissions. Energy efficiency measures must be intensified to ensure that our economic growth is decoupled from emissions. Importantly, we must make sure to support our SMEs and industries in this process, who are the drivers behind our future green growth.

This is why the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive is one of the central initiatives in the Fit for 55 package. The proposal raises Europe's ambition of the existing legislation to align it with the objective of climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

The new rules set a binding energy consumption reduction target at 11.7% by 2030 for the EU. The European Commission is entrusted to monitor the compliance and take action against European countries if they don't deliver. These rules don't just target countries as a whole, they also create obligations for the public sector at national, regional and local level. Public bodies will have to realise an annual energy consumption reduction of 1.9% by 2030. They will equally need to renovate 3% of their buildings each year to make them more energy efficient.

Renew Europe presented united front with the political centre against supporters of fossil fuels industries, climate change deniers & allies of unreliable third countries..

The Energy Efficiency Directive came into force in all European countries on 10 October 2023.



11.7%

Is the EU energy consumption reduction target by 2030.

4.6

A TRULY EUROPEAN FUTURE-PROOF ENERGY SYSTEM

To protect consumers and businesses from unpredictable energy prices and enhance the uptake of renewables, we paved the way for a more integrated and future-proof EU energy system.

The process of an increasingly integrated European electricity market began two decades ago, giving consumers a better price for their energy and ensuring security of supply. Then, the energy crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic and Russia's weaponisation of gas supply since its war on Ukraine, created the urgent need to revise EU rules governing the electricity markets. Europe needs a truly future-proof energy system that produces, stores and distributes energy more efficiently and across EU borders. Only such an efficient electricity system design, prepared for geopolitical shocks, will guarantee energy supply to European households, businesses and industry at affordable prices, while we reach Europe's climate goals at the same time.

The new rules aim to:

- Enhance the uptake of renewables and the phase-out of natural gas;
- Make consumer bills less dependent on volatile fossil fuel prices and to better protect consumers from future price spikes and potential market manipulation;
- Make EU's industry clean and more competitive.

To achieve this ambition, Renew Europe worked hard to remove red tape and mobilise private capital to accelerate the development of affordable renewable energy solutions. Consumers will be able to invest in wind or solar parks and sell excess rooftop solar electricity to neighbours, not just to their supplier.

We also pushed for the introduction of a wider choice of energy contracts that can bring stability and predictability to people's bills. At the same time, consumers will have the choice of dynamic pricing contracts to take advantage of price variability and use electricity when it is cheaper (for example to charge electric cars, or use heat pumps). To keep bills down, we also supported flexibility instruments, like storage and demand-side response. This will ensure that the lower cost of renewables is reflected in energy bills.

For European industry, we supported the introduction of longer-term contracts, which will provide them with stable revenues and bring down the cost of capital. This will enhance investments in renewables and create jobs, whilst simultaneously boosting European competitiveness.



4.7

EUROPE'S TRANSPORT WILL GO GREEN WITH AN EU-WIDE CHARGING NETWORK

We ensured the rollout of a vast network of charging stations for alternative fuels throughout Europe in the upcoming years. We are a step closer to clean driving, sailing and flying!

Electric driving is on the rise in Europe. With more than 55 million in 2030, the total share of electric cars is expected to be more than a fifth of the total European car fleet. In 2022 this was only 2%. To keep up with this explosive growth, a solid European charging station network is necessary.

This is why the European Union took action by adopting new rules regarding charging stations. By 2026, Member States must ensure there is a charging point at least every 60 kilometres along the European motorways. By 2030, a hydrogen refilling point needs to be available every 200 km too. Electric car drivers must also be able to pay easily, with a bank or charging card. This new law also creates more charging points inland, sea and airports on shore.

This legislation sets out new mandatory national targets for the deployment of sufficient alternative fuels infrastructure in the EU, for road vehicles, vessels and stationary aircraft.

Renew Europe played a crucial role in reaching an ambitious but realistic agreement on the deployment of the related infrastructure, paying particular attention the accessibility and user friendliness of the infrastructure for EU citizens.

For citizens, it means a healthier environment in port and airport areas. It also means they can contribute to the environmental challenge by using cleaner cars, which will be easier to charge.



4.8

THE WAY FORWARD FOR A CLEANER MARITIME TRANSPORT

New EU rules will make transport by water more sustainable and create a healthier environment for EU citizens.

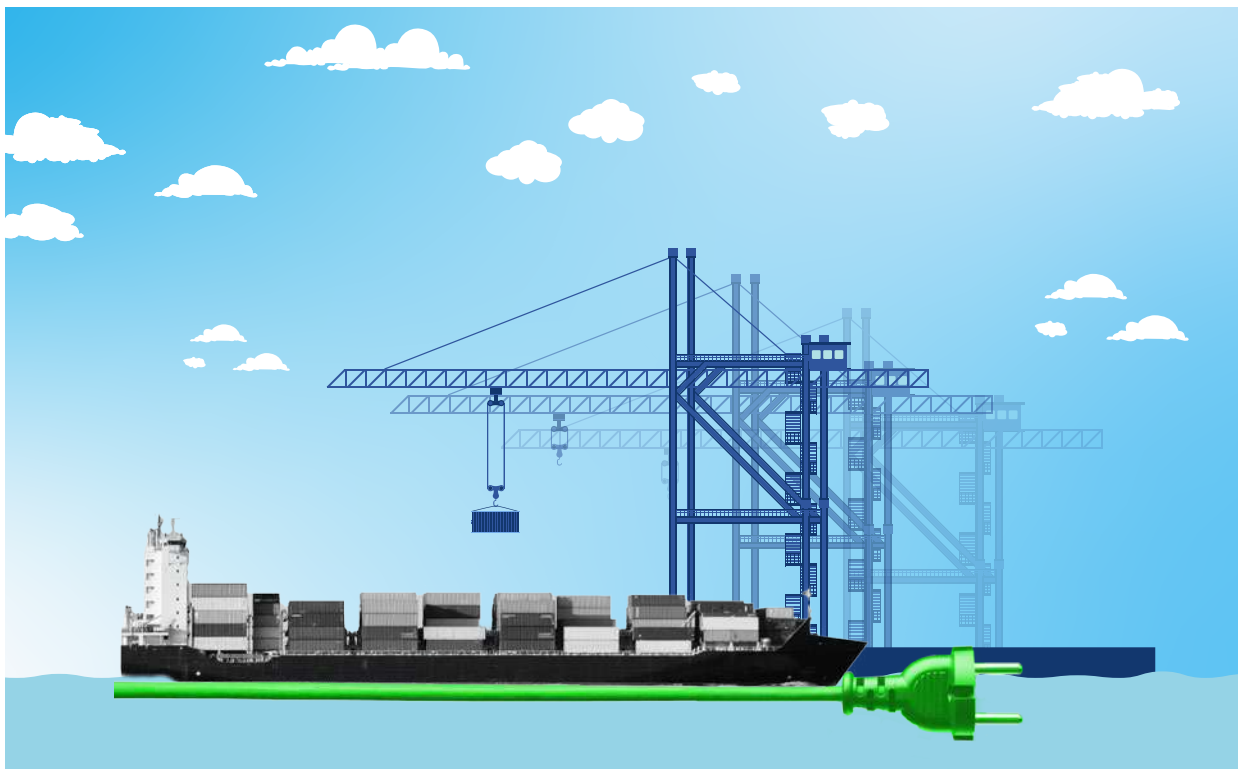
European ships, representing around 55% of the entire EU fleet, are responsible for 90% of CO₂ emissions by the maritime sector. Moreover, around 98% of ships still run on fossil fuels. To reach our climate pollution reduction goals, the maritime sector needs to transform. This is why we created new rules that will give the entire sector a realistic yet ambitious trajectory to make the green transition for shipping a success, whilst supporting innovation and safeguarding European competitiveness.

These rules aim to decarbonise the sector by increasing the use of alternative fuels in ships and onshore power supply in ports. In practice, this means ships will not be able to keep their engines

running while moored in a port. This causes a lot of pollution in and around ports. Instead, they make use of onshore power whilst a ship is in port loading and discharging cargo or passengers.

Renew Europe played a kingmaker role by reaching an ambitious yet balanced agreement on the reduction targets, safeguarding the competitiveness of our EU ports and operators as well as paving the way for technological innovations in the maritime sector.

Citizens will benefit from cleaner ports, which will transform from industrial regions to beautiful places to visit and live close by.



4.9

DIGITALISATION, THE ROAD FOR DECARBONISATION

We make intelligent transport systems available, so that you can enjoy a drive whilst emitting less CO₂!

The European Commission adopted a Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy that proposes a fundamental transformation of the European transport system to achieve the objective of sustainable, smart and resilient mobility. Mobility and transport are essential for European citizens and for the European economy as a whole. The free movement of people and goods across its internal borders is a fundamental freedom of the European Union and its single market.

This initiative is an example of how digitalisation and decarbonisation go hand in hand to improve our lives. Digitalisation is an indispensable driver of this transformation. It will make the entire transport system seamless and more efficient, as well as further increase levels of safety, security, reliability and comfort. These EU rules aim to make essential Intelligent Transport Systems mandatory throughout the EU and solve problems related

to the lack of interoperability and continuity of digital applications and services, such as multimodal information, reservation and ticketing services or communication between motorists and infrastructure.

Roads and motorways within the trans-European networks will have to communicate information such as access conditions to tunnels, bridges, speed limits, overtaking bans for heavy goods vehicles as well as weight and size restrictions. Citizens will benefit from safer roads and a healthier environment. The big data resulting from the digitisation of mobility enables new services and promotes the best transport combinations with maximum efficiency, avoiding saturation. Users make better informed choices and can reward the most sustainable mobility options with their purchases.



4.10

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS FOR CLEANER SKIES

We ensured a progressive decrease of aviation emissions, by increasing the production and uplift of sustainable aviation fuels.

Aviation is the most difficult mode of transport to decarbonise. Unlike some other modes of transport that can leverage electrification for cleaner energy sources, aviation predominantly relies on kerosene, which emits substantial carbon emissions. By increasing the production and adoption of sustainable aviation fuels, the aviation sector can substantially reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

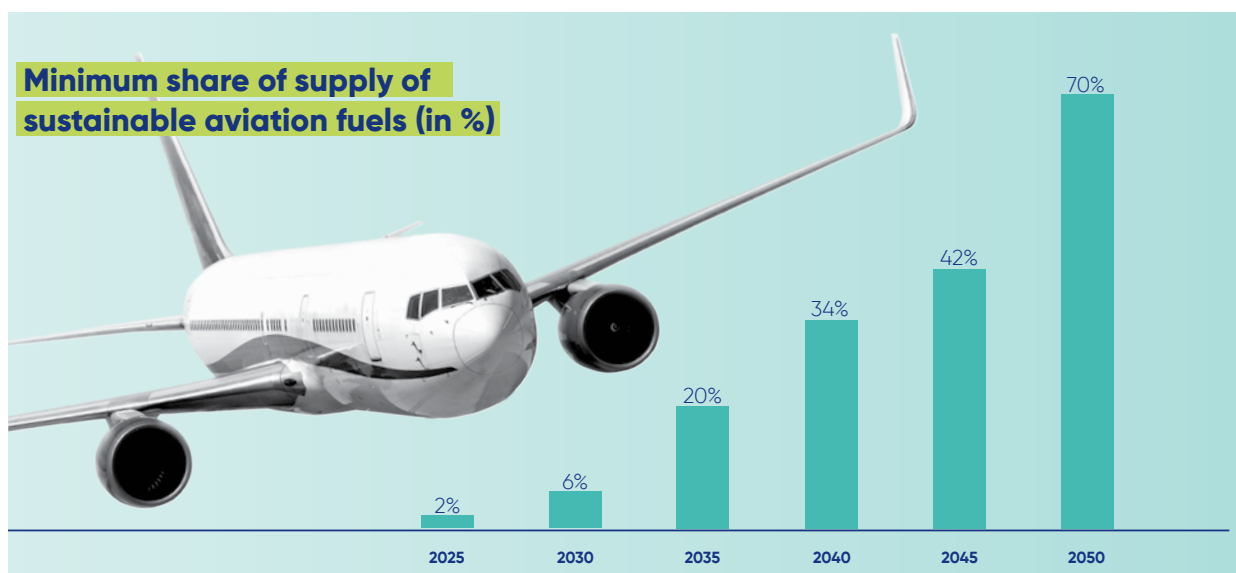
To reduce the carbon emissions from aircraft flying from EU airports, targets were adopted to ensure the production and the gradual uptake of sustainable aviation fuels.

These rules lay down increasing binding targets on fuel suppliers to produce and deliver sustainable aviation fuels at Europe's airports. Moreover, it also obliges air companies to refuel prior to departure from a given EU airport, increasing the amount of sustainable fuels used in aircraft.

The Renew Europe Group has been crucial in defending the development and the ambitious level of production of Sustainable Aviation Fuels across the EU while creating a sound competitive market through wide harmonised rules and preserving EU air connectivity. With this regulation in place, the decarbonisation of aviation is nearer.

As a citizen, not only will you limit your CO₂ footprint when travelling by plane, but you will also be made more aware of the quantity of sustainable fuels used during your flight. This will allow citizens to contribute to the general objective of limiting Europe's CO₂ emissions and will benefit of a healthier environment.

The regulation will enter into force from January 2024. After this date, airlines will progressively increase the quantities of sustainable aviation fuels they use from 2025 to 2050, significantly decreasing the CO₂ emissions of the air sector.



4.11

SUSTAINABLE CHOICES AT THE FINGERTIPS OF CITIZENS

With new European legislation on eco-design, citizens can be confident that products they buy are greener and more sustainable. By stimulating conscious product design, Renew Europe is realising its ambition to drive the transition towards a more circular economy. Europe has the skills, the knowledge and the innovation power to develop the technologies necessary to close loops and build a waste-free society.

These ambitious new rules (expected to be adopted in Spring 2024) will eventually apply to all products on the internal market, with the aim of designing things differently to make them more durable, reusable, repairable, upgradable, recyclable and generally less harmful to the environment. A digital product passport will give citizens information on the origins, performance, maintenance and repair options of a product. This will help them make better informed decisions. Another key part of these rules addresses the growing public concern on the impact and consequences of "fast fashion" and linear lifecycle models of products. As a result, Europe will ban the destruction of unsold goods (starting with textiles and footwear).

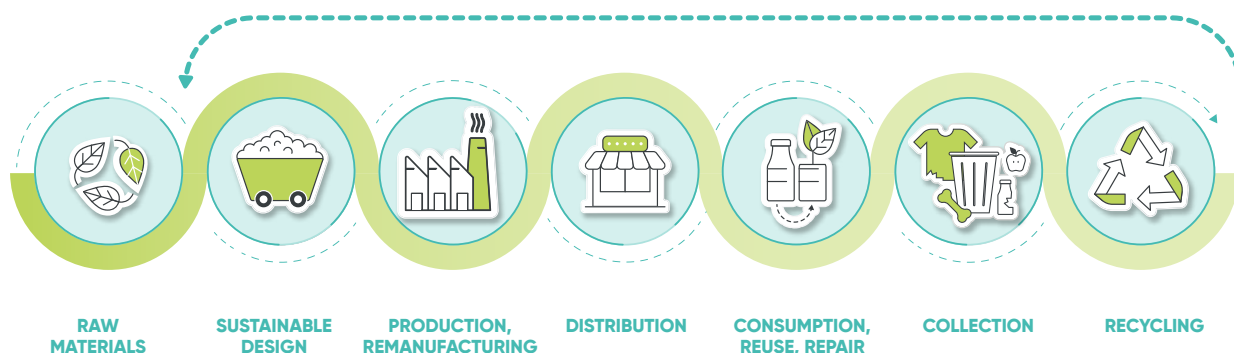
Currently, over 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress are caused by resource extraction

Over 80%

of a product's environmental impact is determined during the design phase.

and processing. Moreover, a majority of global emissions are associated with production and consumption. We need to transition to a more circular economy to reach our climate and environmental goals. At the same time, this transition is an opportunity to create new business opportunities and green jobs. It will encourage innovation and transparency along supply chains and has the potential to deliver reputational benefits for EU products.

THIS IS HOW WE GO CIRCULAR



4.12

SUSTAINABLE BATTERIES SUPPORT THE ELECTRIFICATION OF EUROPE

Access to sustainable batteries is a core condition for electrification and innovation as we leave fossil fuels behind. Europe has created rules for the entire batteries industry to take responsibility for its climate, environmental as well as human rights impacts.

Until a few years ago, it was practical to have metal batteries on hand to use a flashlight or to power the children's remote control toy car. Today batteries play an increasingly more significant role in our daily lives. Not only our smartphones are powered by batteries, but freed from the hassle of power cables, batteries are widely used in home and garden equipment as well as lifesaving medical devices. Battery applications are also key to meeting our climate goals. By 2035, all new cars rolling off the assembly line will get their power exclusively from batteries.

As a result, we have an exponential need for powerful and reliable batteries. Estimates show that we will need 14 times more batteries by 2030. This brings new challenges as well as opportunities for a circular battery industry.

This is why we created rules that set clear targets by 2031 for the safety requirements, waste collection and recycling of raw materials. More recycled content in new batteries will be required,

In 2030 Europe will have

30 million

battery powered & plug in electric vehicles on its roads (vs. 2.8 million in 2019).

which will give a second life to industrial batteries. Instead of throwing out your old electronics, it will become easier to replace the worn out batteries with new recycled ones. Consumers will be able to access all relevant information of the entire lifecycle of the battery via a QR code. By 2027, portable batteries incorporated into appliances (e.g. smartphones) should be removable and replaceable by a consumer.

The new rules on batteries entered into force on 17 August 2023.





**OUR FIGHT FOR
A SUSTAINABLE
ENVIRONMENT AND
MODERN AGRICULTURAL
AND FISHERY POLICIES**

5.1

RESTORING NATURE BY SAVING THE NATURE RESTORATION LAW

The Nature Restoration Law is the EU's ground-breaking law to reverse habitat decline, restore ecosystems, and combat climate change. By revitalising wetlands, forests, and more, it is expected to safeguard biodiversity, provides essential services, mitigates global warming, and strengthens Europe's resilience and food security.

European nature faces a range of acute challenges such as the climate crisis, pollution and overexploitation. Additionally a majority of EU-protected habitats, including forests and ecosystems with intensive agricultural activities, are in poor condition. With the new restoration law, expected to be adopted in the Spring of 2024, we foresee the EU will put measures in place to protect nature by 2030. At least 20% of its land and sea areas must be protected and at least 25.000 km of rivers will be restored to a free-flowing state. Restoration means helping damaged ecosystems recover and bringing more nature and biodiversity back to various places such as farms, forests, oceans, and cities.

Renew Europe played an important role in getting this sensitive law over the finishing line.

Restoration measures include improving soil and farmland by adding natural features, reducing pollution and pesticide use. This will create a healthier environment for citizens as it improves air and water condition and reduces pollution. Diversifying forests into native woodlands will assist in ensuring the protection of a variety of animals and plants. Nature restoration will also help to combat climate change, create new job opportunities and helps industries that rely on healthy ecosystems for their success.



5.2

THE NEW CAP: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND FARMERS

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, between Europe and its farmers. Renew Europe has been at the forefront of the latest CAP reform, which paves the way for a sustainable future for European farmers.

The agri-food sector is one of the biggest economic sectors in the EU and is responsible for:

- 1. Food production:** There are around 9.1 million farms in the EU and 22 million people working in the sector. They provide an impressive variety of abundant, affordable, safe and good quality products for 500 million European consumers.
- 2. Farmers keep the countryside alive:** The farming and food sectors together provide nearly 40 million jobs in the EU while 25% of the EU population lives in rural areas. As farming and activities related to it make up most of the job opportunities in the rural areas, they are crucial for preventing depopulation and widening urban-rural divide. If there were no farms or farmers, our villages and market towns would be profoundly affected.
- 3. Environmentally sustainable farming:** Our countryside has been shaped by farming over the centuries and provides the habitat for a great diversity of fauna and flora. Farmers have to produce food whilst simultaneously protecting nature and safeguarding biodiversity. Using natural resources prudently is essential for our food production and for our quality of life, today, tomorrow and for future generations.

Farming is subject to some unique challenges, which can bring uncertainty and unpredictability in running business in the sector: weather and climate pressures, market instability etc. A stable income for farmers is a safeguard against fluctuating prices and bad crop years, and a guarantee to have high quality food at affordable prices for EU citizens. The CAP support helps EU farmers to bear higher costs to fulfil those requirements that guarantee some of the highest safety, environmental and animal health and welfare standards in the world.

Renew Europe has been at the forefront of the latest CAP reform in favour of a structural modernisation of the CAP so that agricultural production now combines necessary economic competitiveness and the social and environmental objectives of the Green Deal. It will contribute to a genuine transformation towards viable green rural economies. We supported the introduction of eco-schemes that will help enhance the sustainability of EU farms, allowing farmers to turn their businesses into carbon efficient, low input and high-biodiversity food systems. We also stand by our farmers by helping them gain access to the best knowledge and innovation. We proposed to step up knowledge transfer and advisory services to support farmers in the green transition.



5.3

WE DON'T MESS WITH OUR FOOD

The COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather conditions and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have exacerbated the factors responsible for food insecurity threatening millions of people worldwide. This is why food security and the resilience of the global food system are high on our political agenda.

We want to future-proof our food system, by securing its resilience together with food security and affordability in the EU and worldwide. Global agricultural commodity prices have been constantly rising since mid-2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Russia's military aggression against Ukraine has exacerbated the market situation, pushing commodity prices up even further. This has put food security under pressure worldwide, heavily weighing on consumers' budgets.

To address these developments, the Renew Europe Group set up its own Task Force on Food Security and Resilience of the EU Food System to work on short, medium and long-term solutions. The group published an Action Plan on Food Security to address the food crisis. In its position paper, Renew Europe put forward 15 concrete medium and long-term practical solutions to address the food security crisis in agriculture, fisheries and food sectors. These proposals were shared with the Commission and international institutions.

Thanks to a number of debates and hearings, Renew Europe managed to keep the issue of food availability and affordability high on the agenda. This was reflected across many legislative proposals, where food security was included.



5.4

MODERN BOATS FOR GREENER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE FISHERIES

We support Europe's fisheries sector and our fishing communities. Our main aims are to ensure food security, support the sustainable development of the sector and protect ecosystems as well as stimulate the decarbonisation of the sector, in line with the EU's Green deal.

The funds available in the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) will contribute to modernise Europe's ageing fishing fleet. More energy efficient vessels using the latest green techniques are necessary to reach our climate goals, but it will also make the sector more attractive for a new generation of fishers.

The EMFAF for the period 2021-2027 is being implemented by EU countries. In order to access the funds, Member States are putting forward national programmes to implement the measures and make the funds accessible for the fishers and the local fishing communities.

As fish and other aquatic food are a protein source with a low carbon footprint – if produced or fished sustainably – investing in a sustainable and prosperous fishing sector is of great importance to EU citizens. Having sustainable as well as healthier and more locally produced food available will benefit us all.



5.5

TRACK & TRACE OUR FISH TO EMPOWER CONSUMERS

We need to reduce the carbon footprint of our food consumption and eating more seafood and other aquatic foods is one way of doing that. This means we need to know better where our fish and aquatic food come from. That is why we fought for stricter rules on the traceability of these products.

Today it is too difficult for consumers to find out where their fish, shellfish or other aquatic foods comes from. Did a product come from a country outside the EU, was it caught by European fishers or was it perhaps produced in EU Aquaculture farms? EU citizens demand greater transparency and information to enable them to make healthy and sustainable food choices.

We also want the EU to be a champion for sustainable fisheries management in the world and one of the best tools we have are our Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements. These allow the EU to build a partnership with third countries where we support the development of their fisheries sector and fisheries management. It also provides access for EU fishers to fish the surplus that is not being fished by the partner country. These partnerships build more sustainable fisheries also outside of EU waters and help ensure that there are more sustainable fisheries' products for the EU market.

In the updated version of the Fisheries Control Regulation, we have included new obligations for economic operators handling aquatic food products. These companies need to have the traceability information of a product ready to share at all stages in the entire supply chain. This information includes details for example on where a fish was caught, by who, using what type of gear as well as the time of the catch. Having this information will result in clearer labelling of fisheries and aquaculture products in supermarkets, empowering consumers as a result.

After full adoption of the new regulation, it will take 2 years until the rules for fresh and frozen products are implemented, and 5 years until the rules will be implemented for processed products. How visible the information on the origins of a product will be shown on packaging, will be determined by the upcoming proposal from the Commission on labelling in the "Framework legislation for Sustainable Food Systems".

The average EU citizen consume **24 kg** of fish and seafood products per year



5.6

NO DEFORESTATION IN YOUR COFFEE

The environmental impact of coffee can leave a bitter taste in your mouth. Thankfully, new deforestation rules will change this! We made sure you can enjoy your daily morning coffee without contributing to cutting down trees.

These new rules on deforestation-free products aim at cutting down the EU's impact on global deforestation and therefore curbing greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. In practice, the EU has imposed a ban on deforestation-related products and commodities in the EU. Renew Europe successfully pushed for a wider definition of forest degradation, an extension of the scope of the legislation.

This means that the law will apply in particular to everyday products such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya, wood, cattle, as well as derived products such as leather, chocolate and furniture. No specific product is banned, but the EU is closing its doors to the products whose suppliers are not able to demonstrate that they do not come from deforested lands or had not led to forest degradation after 2020. Companies that do not respect the regulation will be fined.

Forests, which cover 30% of the Earth's land area, are vital for both people and the environment, and largely contribute to climate change mitigation. However, deforestation is happening worldwide at an alarming rate, being firstly driven by the expansion of agricultural lands. Over the past 30 years, 420 million hectares of forest have been lost due to deforestation. EU consumption is responsible for 17% of the tropical deforestation.

These rules will apply from end of 2024, putting an end to imported deforestation and ensuring you will be able to enjoy a daily morning coffee without a worry!



There's no planet B
We #RenewPlanetA



renew europe.



**OUR RELENTLESS FIGHT
FOR DEMOCRACY, RULE
OF LAW, CIVIL RIGHTS
AND FREEDOMS**

6.1

LINKING EU FUNDS TO UPHOLDING DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS

Throughout this legislative term, Renew Europe has championed the fight against corruption and illiberalism, the defending the Rule of Law and liberal democracy. Our tireless advocacy has resulted in a significant milestone—the establishment of a groundbreaking tool that ties EU subsidies to a rigorous assessment of the rule of law in each EU country, known as the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism.

This innovative mechanism is a pivotal instrument in combatting fraud, corruption, and safeguarding the financial interests of EU taxpayers in cases of democratic deficiencies within Member States. Governments that undermine democratic institutions or engage in corruption related to EU money will face financial penalties. We believe that governments should face the consequences, not the citizens and other beneficiaries of EU-funded programmes.

While delivering this new tool was a substantial achievement, our immediate focus shifted to ensuring its effective implementation. Leveraging Renew Europe's influence in the European Council and the European Commission we made sure countries like Hungary and Poland could not get away with destroying the Union from inside: No EU funds for governments who disrespect our fundamental values!

Taking our commitment a step further, we advocated creating permanent mechanisms to ensure that the EU remains a bastion of freedom, equality and democracy. This is why we have also campaigned for annual monitoring on the Rule of Law in each country. We secured an agreement on the creation of a single, evidence-based and EU-wide mechanism on democracy, Rule of Law and fundamental rights mechanism with an overwhelming majority. This mechanism is now operational, conducting annual reviews of each Member State, providing country-specific recommendations to uphold our fundamental values. It stands as a robust and effective tool in the ongoing fight against populism, corruption, and illiberalism.



6.2

RENEW EUROPE STANDS AGAINST ILLEGAL SPYING ON EU CITIZENS

Amid a scandal about European governments going after their opposition using increasingly intrusive methods, we campaigned to stop the use of Pegasus and other intrusive hacking spyware.

Certain governments in Europe have resorted to an illicit form of spyware developed in Israel, capable of infiltrating anyone's phone with a single click, deploying a virus that seizes full control over the mobile device. High-level politicians, judges, independent prosecutors, lawyers, journalists and human rights activists were carefully chosen as targets.

Renew Europe ardently fought for the creation of a special inquiry committee, called PEGA that successfully investigated cases of illegal spying across the EU. Our objective was twofold: to lay down a legal framework for the legitimate use of surveillance software and to create an EU Tech Lab for comprehensive oversight.

The resulting Pegasus inquiry report diligently mapped the phenomenon of spyware, the industry surrounding it, and illegal exploitation of spyware by multiple EU governments.

The work of the PEGA Inquiry Committee spanned nearly 18 months, encompassing over 30 meetings and 5 country-missions with nearly 250 individuals providing testimony.

Throughout the process, Renew Europe have been determined to uncover the truth and propose actionable measures to halt governments from spying on their citizens for political purposes. The revelations are stark: several EU governments abused their powers, eroding democratic foundations and flouting the Rule of Law.

We want citizens' privacy to be fully protected in the time of technological revolution where we are all depending on modern technology. Following our legislative proposal, the European Commission is anticipated to present a regulation that incorporates Parliament's demands, ensuring robust safeguards against unwarranted surveillance and protecting the democratic rights of EU citizens.



6.3

YOUR BODY, YOUR RIGHTS!

Safe and legal abortion is a fundamental right. Including this right in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights will make sure that no government can take it away from its citizens.

Globally, the right to safe and legal abortion care is under threat. Even within the EU, abortion is still banned in two countries (Malta and de facto in Poland) and challenging to access in some countries and regions of countries like Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Italy or Croatia.

The overturning of Roe vs. Wade in the United States was a major blow for women's rights worldwide and clearly demonstrated that women's rights should never be taken for granted. To secure this fundamental right and show that the European Union supports the rights of women to make decisions about their own body, it is imperative to enshrine the right to safe and legal abortion in the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**.

The right to abortion is not only a fundamental right, but also a crucial healthcare service. Criminalising abortion does not reduce the number of abortions that take place, it only increases the number of unsafe and clandestine abortions. Guaranteeing this service is also

crucial to fight social and gender inequalities, as restrictive abortion laws and barriers disproportionately harm low-income women. Shockingly, among girls between the ages of 15 and 19, pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death.

The proposal by Renew Europe to include the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights was supported by a solid majority and the European Parliament will continue to push for this right until it is implemented. Once approved by the Council, abortion will be recognized as a fundamental right, immune to infringement by Member States.

While Parliament lacks exclusive power to integrate this provision into the EU Charter, this step is a move in the right direction. We need to reform the treaties and explicitly include this right in the EU Charter. This debate is not about the defence of life, despite the claims of the anti-abortion movements; it's fundamentally about preserving the freedom of women.



6.4

CREATING A EUROPEAN UNION WHERE ALL WOMEN CAN FEEL SAFE

In the pursuit of ensuring the safety of women across Member States, Renew Europe has played a pivotal role in securing adherence to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Women deserve to feel just as safe as men in this world, however this is not currently the case. Legislation on domestic violence and violence against women is often not enforced and it can be difficult for victims to access the services they require due to stigma, fear, and lack of availability among other factors.

In 2023, the European Parliament and the Council voted in favour of the EU ratification of the *Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*. This is an internationally binding agreement to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence. This Convention criminalises psychological violence, stalking, physical violence, sexual violence including rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion, forced sterilization and sexual harassment. It also requires that protection is given to women regardless of age, disability, marital status, association with a national minority, migrant or refugee status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

This Convention is a massive step forward for women's rights. Signed by 21 European Union Member States, it is fully in line with the EU's fundamental principles of freedom and equality. However, six EU countries are yet to ratify the Convention, and the European Parliament's recent endorsement is a forceful call for these nations to act.

The ratification of the Convention not only ensures uniform protection for women throughout the EU but also sends a powerful message to the world about Europe's commitment to taking a stand against violence targeting women and domestic violence.

Simultaneously the European Parliament and the Council are working on a Directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This directive, once adopted, will integrate cyber aspects of violence against women with the criminalization of cyber violence in Europe. This includes addressing issues such as non-consensual sharing of intimate images, cyberstalking, cyber harassment, and incitement to violence or hatred online. The Directive will also criminalise rape based on lack of consent and the female genital mutilation.



6.5

DECLARING EUROPE AN LGBTIQ FREEDOM ZONE

Renew Europe staunchly upholds the rights of all LGBTIQ+ individuals. As the leading advocate for the rights of sexual minorities, our group provided leadership for the European Parliament to push back against discriminatory measures in a number of Member States.

Our Group has traditionally fought for equal rights & opportunities of LGBTIQ+ individuals in the EU and beyond. Although the majority of Member States have legal measures against discrimination, they are not sufficiently implemented, leaving members of the LGBTIQ+ community vulnerable to hate crimes and discrimination in their daily lives.

On our initiative in March 2021, the European Parliament passed a resolution to declare the entire EU an 'LGBTIQ Freedom Zone'. With this act, we reaffirmed that homophobia and transphobia does not have a place in Europe. From East to West, everyone deserves the freedom to live without fear of discrimination or harassment due to sexual orientation and identity. In this act of support for all LGBTIQ+ people in the EU, we have put pressure on the Commission and the Council to take action against any EU government discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The violent clampdown on LGBTIQ+ activists in Poland and the attempt to ban adoption for same-sex couples in Hungary and Italy in recent years have clearly shown that the backlash against LGBTIQ+ rights in some EU countries is very real. Some EU Member States are deliberately making the campaign against LGBTIQ+ rights a central part of their ruling ideology. We believe in a Europe that belongs to all of us, where we can all be free and safe, irrespective of our sexual orientation. In the face of governments endorsing hatred based on who individuals are and whom they love, resistance becomes imperative. The LGBTIQ Freedom Zone declaration is a powerful showcase that acceptance transcends, demonstrating that it is more extensive and robust, destined to prevail.



6.6

FREE MEDIA = FREE MINDS

To counter the diminishing independence of media outlets across Europe, Renew Europe has taken decisive actions to fortify the protection of press freedom and journalists' rights.

The best indicator of a healthy democracy is a strong and independent press. According to the Media Pluralism Monitor 2022, 21 EU Member States are at medium to high risk regarding media pluralism, signaling concerning trends in media freedom. The new legislation aims at advancing the internal market in the media sector and protecting media freedom, pluralism, and independence in the European single market. The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) will benefit all different stakeholders: media companies, public service media, journalists and media professionals.

Media companies cannot be treated as just another business. Their independence is essential as they influence access to information and shape the views of our citizens. Europeans have the right to know who owns the media they consume every day in order to be able to make informed decisions. Citizens need to know the extent to which the state uses its resources to conduct media campaigns in order to understand the influence it has when it comes to viability of the media market.

Under the new rules, media channels are mandated to be transparent about their ownership and share this data publicly. State authorities and state controlled companies will need to inform about how they allocate advertising budgets to media companies. While media owners retain the right to determine the overall editorial line of their outlets, editors-in-chief must work independently, free from undue influence. The freedom to receive and impart information cannot coexist with censorship from media moguls, self-censorship by journalists, or state capture of the media landscape.

These rules aim to better protect journalists against the disclosure of their sources and the deployment of spyware. States will be better equipped to react to propaganda originating from third countries and remove disinformation channels based on a strong legal foundation. Moreover, to combat fake news and misinformation efficiently, established and well-recognised media will be able to protect their content from being taken down by the large online platforms. Once adopted the Regulation will be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.



6.7

A REAL UNION NEEDS TRULY EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

We want to give the European voters the chance to vote for European political parties through European election campaigns on European issues. This will bring citizens closer to the European political level.

Currently the elections to the European Parliament are 27 national elections in which citizens vote for national parties on often purely national themes, while the Members of the European Parliament decide on European issues. Transnational lists will make the European elections truly European by changing the momentum so that we finally get a campaign that crosses national boundaries, and voters know they are electing politicians who truly represent Europe as a whole.

How would this work? Each EU citizen will receive two votes. One vote to cast on the lists in their national or regional constituency as is the case now, and one vote for the European constituency in which the voter can vote for a transnational list. The European political families – Liberals, Conservatives, Socialists, Greens, etc. – will establish their transnational lists of candidates and compete

for the transnational seats in the European Parliament. Transnational lists will automatically mean campaigning on the same European issues across the EU, so there will be no more hiding behind national topics.

What is in it for you as a citizen? You will get a double say in the direction of the EU. You will have one vote for your national or regional party, and one for the European party. On top of that, the transnational lists will be headed by candidates for the president of the European Commission, so finally you will have a say on this important political position as well!

The European parliament has adopted its proposal, it is now up to the Member States' governments in the Council to approve this. A real democracy needs real accountability. This is the way forward!



European Union 2019 - Source : EP / Ph. Bujsin

6.8

PROPOSING FRESH SOLUTIONS TO MODERNISE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EU

We want to renew Europe and make it fit to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. To that end, we need more efficiency in its functioning and a new pact with EU citizens, reinforcing their participation and trust in European politics.

The EU may count more than 30 Member States in the near future. More than ever, a thorough update of Europe's institutions is inevitable to preserve our welfare and agility in a rapidly changing world.

Indeed, we believe that the EU must be updated to more efficiently tackle global challenges like the war in Ukraine, migration and climate change and make it a credible geopolitical actor. That update also means involving citizens more in the decision making process beyond the day of the elections, increasing their awareness and participation in the European project.

True to our name, Renew Europe spearheaded an unprecedented political push to reform the European Union. The Conference on the Future of Europe, laid the groundwork for this reform.

How did it work? The Conference was a citizen-led series of debates and discussions that ran from April 2021 to May 2022 and ended with the publication of specific recommendations in the form of concrete measures.

Many of the proposals presented by the citizens during the Conference would require a change of the Treaties in order to be implemented.

These demands have found a concrete follow-up in the report on the proposals for the revision of the Treaties adopted by the European Parliament last November. The Renew Europe Group assumed a leading role in the drafting of this report.

What are our main proposals? To abolish Member States' veto rights in several key policy areas including foreign policy and sanctions and put an end to political blockades. To introduce the right of initiative for the European Parliament to enable a better representation of citizens. To strengthen the EU's role in addressing challenges regarding public health, migration and education. To further ensure the respect of sexual reproductive health and rights including the right on abortion. To establish a Defence Union to better protect our citizens.

This report is only the first step in the Treaty revision procedure. The ball is now in the court of the Member States, which must decide whether to launch a Convention on the basis of Parliament's proposals. Despite all the recent challenges our Union has been facing, we are never short on fresh ideas to make Europe better!



6.9

CREATING COMMON ETHICS STANDARDS FOR ALL EU INSTITUTIONS

While ethics standards already existed within the European institutions for some time, these rules were very fragmented and the system solely relied on a self-regulatory approach. That is why Renew Europe has been making proposals to improve the system, harmonise ethics rules in the institutions and minimise conflicts of interests.

After the damage caused by Qatargate – the corruption scandal involving a number of Members of the European Parliament from different countries – restoring the confidence of European citizens in our institutions had been added to our list of priorities, with the ultimate aim to create an EU Ethics Body. Renew Europe has been clear and consistent since the outset: the Commission's proposal falls far short of our ambitions as laid down in the Parliament's report and does not meet EU citizens' expectations. Without independence, investigative powers and capacity to recommend sanctions, this ethics body would be toothless, hence pointless.

We tirelessly campaigned for a body with investigative powers to be able to prevent similar scandals. The independence of this body is key for us and our efforts are threefold: Firstly, the EU Ethics body should monitor ethics standards with, for example, the ability to verify the accuracy of the declaration of interests and

to monitor transparency obligations. Secondly, this new body should be a point of reference and give advice on ethical rules and their interpretation for Commissioners, Members of the European Parliament and staff of the EU institutions. Thirdly, the EU Ethics body should have strong investigative powers and be able to initiate procedures in close cooperation with all competent authorities.

Our European dream is precious; we cannot allow it to be tainted by the corruption of some. Moral integrity and ethical rules of conduct are the key to our citizens' trust in our institutions – therefore an independent European ethics body is the only appropriate response to prevent these unacceptable abuses. In this mandate we worked on laying down strict new rules as a first necessary step. In the coming years Renew Europe will work to overcome the still existing opposition to a truly independent ethics body.



6.10

WE DELIVERED A HISTORIC AGREEMENT ON THE EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM PACT

Uncontrolled and illegal migration is a concern for many citizens and it is exploited by extremist and populist parties to spread fear and hatred in our societies. Renew Europe campaigned for and delivered a new, truly European approach. The European Parliament and Council reached a historical political agreement on December 20, 2023 on the reform of the European Pact on Asylum and Migration.

This agreement comes after a legislative process of more than three years. Renew Europe played a crucial role in finding a balanced approach to this complex package, consisting of nine legislative texts. They aim to provide better governance and strategic oversight of the European asylum policy among the 27 Member States. It introduces an unprecedented solidarity mechanism at the European level, aims to improve the control of irregular migration at the EU's external borders, and seeks more harmonized and efficient asylum procedures within the EU.

The aim of these instruments is to better prepare the EU for major challenges in the area of migration,

to adapt national administrations to increasing flows, to combat smugglers and criminal organisations, to counter the instrumentalisation of migration by foreign powers and to deal with pandemics and security crises.

Renew Europe was successful in securing clearer procedures and a shorter time limit of a maximum of 7 days for the screening of new arrivals, with no possibility of extension. In addition, preliminary health and vulnerability checks have been included, as well as an independent fundamental rights monitoring mechanism mandated by Member States, covering all activities from screening to border procedures.



While progress on the issue of minors has been limited, specific guarantees include the provision of a representative for unaccompanied minors, emphasising the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

In terms of solidarity, Renew Europe has contributed to the introduction of a new mandatory solidarity mechanism for Member States facing migratory pressure, involving at least 30,000 resettlements per year. The promotion of streamlined procedures for rapid family reunification of applicants in the EU is also emphasised.

With regard to the crisis regulation, Renew Europe played a crucial role in ensuring a balanced approach. The legislation recognises the exceptional nature of crisis measures and emphasises their temporary and limited application. However, it introduces balanced

derogations to support Member States in crisis, giving them more time to meet their obligations. Finally, Renew Europe supported giving the European Commission a role in encouraging Member States to apply faster procedures for likely well-founded asylum claims.

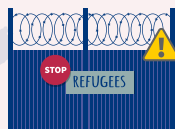
These important reforms have been a challenging journey. Renew Europe's most significant achievement has been our role as a key mediator in achieving a balanced agreement between the different perspectives of the three main groups in the Parliament. The new Pact will ensure that migration linked challenges are better managed together, at a European level.

The formal adoption of the Asylum-Migration Pact is scheduled for February 15 at committee level, followed by a plenary vote in March or April 2024. This article can therefore not reflect the precise final content.

KEY FIGURES (2022-2023)

380 thousand

Irregular border crossings at the EU's external borders in 2023, the highest level since 2016



5 million

People coming to Europe seeking protection in 2022, including 4.3 million Ukrainians under temporary protection



448.4 million

Population of the European Union



1.1 million

New asylum applications in 2023



103 million

Displaced persons worldwide in 2022





**PUTTING EUROPE
BACK ON THE MAP**



7.1

GLOBAL EUROPE IN THE FACE OF MULTIPLE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS

A series of crises in our neighbourhood, from Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, to the seizure of Nagorno-Karabakh, instability in the Western Balkans and the despicable terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas, as well as the loss of civilian lives in Gaza. These developments have shown that a stronger, adequately reactive and more assertive European Union is needed. Throughout the 2019-2024 mandate, Renew Europe has called for unity and collective action, utilising all the instruments at the disposal of the European Union.

Following the invasion of Ukraine, we called for immediate financial and military support for our allies and democratic partners in Ukraine. We spearheaded calls for strong sanctions against Russia, to reduce their ability to wage war against Ukraine. Thanks to our work, the Parliament adopted several robust resolutions urging tough sanctions against Russia and increasing support for Ukraine. This work has continued: we successfully led calls for Ukraine as well as neighbouring Moldova to be considered a candidate country to join the European Union.

In the wake of the heinous terrorist attack on the people of Israel, we stood by their side and their right to defend themselves, as enshrined in and constrained by international law. We also stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza, and called for a humanitarian pause. We organised the first parliamentary mission to the Rafah border crossing since October 7 to understand why humanitarian aid was not

sufficiently reaching the Palestinian people. We repeated that a political agreement based on the two-state solution is the only way forward to resolve this conflict.

We believe that, a stronger, more self-reliant and geopolitical Europe is a necessity. Achieving this requires deep structural reform, in terms of policies and legislation, but also through treaty change, in accordance with the views expressed by the EU citizens in the Conference on the Future of Europe. Unanimity in the Foreign Affairs Council matters should be abandoned, except for issues with executive military implications, because it stands in the way of a coherent and decisive foreign affairs policy the EU must deliver. A stronger, more sovereign European Union will increase our influence and ensure more security for EU citizens in an increasingly fragmented global world order.



7.2

WE SIDED WITH UKRAINE

We deployed all the tools at our disposal to react to Russia's illegal war. In the face of the brutal invasion of Ukraine and occupation of its several regions, Renew Europe puts all its efforts into helping Ukraine restore its sovereignty and defeat Russia.

Renew Europe immediately condemned Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms and worked internally and with allies in the European Parliament to constrain Russia's ability to wage war and to support Ukraine's ability to resist this war of aggression.

Our fight for Ukraine:

- We called for the exclusion of Russian operators from SWIFT, the main messaging network through which international payments are made, the blocking of Russian banks from the international financial system and the freezing of the assets of the Russian Central Bank.
- We called for tough sanctions banning key exports to Russia, in particular technologies, imports from Russia such as oil and gas, and investments. We opposed Russian access to EU airspace, waters and ports. We supported and called for sanctions targeting Russian officials and oligarchs associated with the regime, the regime's proxies and strawmen, as well as those in Belarus linked to Lukashenka's regime. Concretely it meant freezing their assets, seizing their properties in the EU and banning their entry into the EU territory. We also repeatedly called for a complete end of golden passports and golden visas schemes along with the revocation of visas and residence permits for these individuals.
- We also supported the suspension of Russia from international organisations and events, including in the fields of culture and sports. We call for full accountability for all crimes committed by Russia and its allies and proxies during their war of aggression against Ukraine and pushed for the creation of a special international tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression against Ukraine perpetrated by the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation and its allies.
- We supported the EU in its initiatives to provide the largest financial, political and military assistance to Ukraine. All the emergency budgetary measures at our disposal were activated immediately. **We urged the Commission and the Council to finalize the establishment of the Ukraine Facility for the country's recovery, reconstruction and modernisation, with no further delay.** We called for historic steps to be made and for the EU to provide substantial military aid to Ukraine. We support assisting the Armed Forces of Ukraine through the European Peace Facility (EPF), an instrument financed through contributions from Member States that provides EU partners



with military training and equipment, including lethal weapons. We also backed the creation of an EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) which provides training to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Renew Europe has also played a crucial role in the creation of EDIRPA (European Defence Industry Reinforcement through Common Procurement Act) which aims to boost the European defence industry through common procurement as well as in the creation of ASAP, an EU instrument dedicated to boost ammunition production in the EU, notably to reply faster to Ukraine needs.

- We called on the Commission to immediately address the situation of Ukrainian refugees, through the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive and the coordination between all Member States to ensure solidarity and provide displaced persons a status and a shelter in the EU.
- Our members actively addressed the issue of deported and illegally adopted Ukrainian children, as well as Ukrainian civilian hostages taken by Russia, among other human rights violations committed by the occupying forces.
- We guaranteed the support of the Ukrainian youth and vulnerable groups within the Ukrainian society in preparation for the country's EU integration and to empower future generations to be the drivers of the reconstruction and twin transition of Ukraine.
- We acknowledged Ukraine's European aspirations and supported granting Ukraine EU candidate status as well as the speeding up of

its gradual **and merit-based** integration into the EU. To support our Ukrainian neighbours who are undertaking this demanding process while under attack, we recently endorsed creating a specific Ukraine Facility within the EU's long-term budget to sponsor the recovery, reconstruction and modernisation of the country.

- We strongly believed that the EU must remain united and reinforce its capacity to act. We called for a massive increase of the EU and Member States' investments in Defence and for increasing the European Defence Fund, military mobility as well as all EU defence related instruments and wanted to ensure energy security and independence from third countries. We pledged commitment to fight disinformation, propaganda and to strengthen cybersecurity within the EU.
- In parallel, we increased our commitment to the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkans. In the same spirit, we supported the Belarusian opposition forces, in particular publicly declared the European aspirations of Belarusians, and advocated for the immediate and unconditional release of more than 1400 political prisoners in Belarus.



7.3

WE STRENGTHENED EUROPEAN DEFENCE

Angry press release will not scare the likes of Putin. Hard military and sound strategy will. The security of the European Union is under significant threat. Now, more than ever, we must take all necessary steps towards a real European Defence Union.

The need for more EU defence has never been so obvious. Europe must become a credible security provider and strategic partner that is able to protect its own citizens and allies. To this end, Renew Europe has strongly supported the development and implementation of the Strategic Compass, an ambitious but pragmatic action plan for strengthening European security and defence. Europe needs the means to act quickly, from rapid reaction capabilities to European defence headquarters, and solidarity in the face of hybrid attacks.

Since the first day of the Russian invasion, Renew Europe has been at the forefront of supporting Ukraine. We successfully pushed for the creation of an EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) which has provided training to over 30,000 soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The training is accompanied by the provision of equipment for lethal and non-lethal purposes to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Renew Europe has also successfully advocated for strengthening the European Peace Facility (EPF), whose budget has been increased several times and now stands at over €12 billion. The EPF finances EU missions with military implications and provides EU partners with military training and equipment. It has been instrumental in delivering military aid to Ukraine and has furthermore funded operations in the Western Balkans, the Eastern Neighbourhood, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Renew Europe has persistently fought for a stronger and more coherent EU defence policy and played a crucial role in the creation of EDIRPA, a short-term instrument, which boosts the European defence industry by financing the

common procurement of military equipment. To strengthen further Europe's military industrial base, Renew Europe has also successfully pushed for the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP), which stimulates the development of the European defence capabilities, by ramping up the production of ammunition, missiles and their components across Member States.

Besides traditional acts of aggression, the EU is increasingly confronted with new threats, ranging from malicious foreign influence campaigns, to cyber and hybrid attacks, disinformation campaigns and economic coercion. Our European democracies are often still ill-equipped to deal with these risks. To counter these hybrid threats, Renew Europe argues for an urgent rethinking of how the EU and its Member States organize their mutual defence arrangements and has spearheaded the establishment of a Special Committee in the European Parliament dealing with foreign interference in all democratic processes of the EU.



7.4

THE EU MAGNITSKY ACT TO PUNISH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS

The Renew Europe Group campaigned and helped deliver an EU global human rights sanctions regime, the EU Magnitsky Act.

A strong European foreign policy needs appropriate tools to be able to confront and respond to the most horrible crimes of today's world. We believe that unanimity within the EU Council does not help us move forward. Human rights cannot be subject to a veto!

Renew Europe will continue to insist on the need for the EU to also take steps to recognise the close link between corruption and human rights violations, and to target economic and financial enablers of human rights abusers.

We believe EU Member States have to interpret the application and enforcement of sanctions in the same consistent and swift manner and to ensure that national penalties for breaching EU sanctions are effective, proportionate, and dissuasive.

The EU Magnitsky Act has already proven its worth in the defence of democracy and freedom. However, it still needs to be used in a more dynamic and consistent manner. Human rights violations (such as large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uyghurs in Xinjiang in China; repression in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in Libya and Syria; torture and repression against LGBTIQ+ persons and political opponents in Chechnya,

Russia; systematic human rights violations to women in Afghanistan and Iran and torture or arbitrary executions and killings in South Sudan and Eritrea) must no longer remain unpunished. Renew Europe has also successfully advocated for the adoption of sanctions against those responsible in the Ortega regime for repressing the opposition movement in Nicaragua within the specific EU sanctions regime introduced in October 2019 to address Nicaragua's deteriorating political and social situation.

We condemn the counter sanctions imposed by Iran, China and Russia on EU institutions, the Human Rights Subcommittee and Members of the European Parliament, including Renew Europe Members. These retaliatory measures intend to deter the EU from pursuing its global actions to protect human rights.



7.5

HONOURING HEROIC DEFENDERS OF THE FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

Throughout this mandate, Renew Europe has been at the forefront of honouring heroes worldwide, by proposing candidates to the annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

Renew Europe candidate Ilham Tohti won the prize in 2019

Ilham Tohti is a renowned Uyghur human rights defender, economics professor and advocate for the rights of China's Uyghur minority. Following his efforts to foster dialogue and understanding between Uyghurs and Chinese for over two decades, he was sentenced in September 2014 to life in prison at the end of a two-day show trial.

Sakharov Prize for the Belarusian opposition in 2020

In 2020 the prize was awarded to the democratic opposition in Belarus, also a candidate of Renew Europe. The democratic opposition in Belarus was represented by the Coordination Council, an initiative of brave women, among which the main opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and Nobel Laureate for Literature Svetlana Alexievich as well as by political and civil society figures including 2022 Nobel prize Laureate Ales Bialiatski.

Alexei Navalny, the Renew Europe candidate for Sakharov Prize, won in 2021

Alexei Navalny is a Russian opposition politician, anti-corruption activist and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin. He came to international prominence for organising demonstrations against President Putin and his government, running for office, and advocating for anti-corruption reforms. In August 2020, Navalny was poisoned and flown to Germany for treatment. Upon his return to Russia in January 2021, he was promptly detained and has since been held in precarious conditions following a widely criticized trial. On February 27th 2024, Alexei Navalny died in prison.

The brave People of Ukraine won the Sakharov Prize in 2022

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, launched in February 2022, is inflicting enormous costs on the Ukrainian people, who are fighting to protect their homes, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Every day they are also battling for freedom, democracy, the Rule of Law and European values. Their bravery made them worthy of the Sakharov Prize in 2022.

Jina Mahsa Amini and the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement in Iran won the 2023 Sakharov Prize

Mahsa Amini is a hero for all the people fighting for freedom and civil rights. Her cruel and unjust death in the hands of the Morality Police spurred widespread protests in Iran to end oppression, discrimination, tyranny, and dictatorship. For this, Mahsa Amini and the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement were awarded the Sakharov Prize in 2023.





7.6

TRADE NOT ONLY CREATES OPPORTUNITIES, IT IS ALSO A GEOPOLITICAL POWER

Open, fair, and assertive trade has always been in our DNA. Trade offers growth opportunities to European businesses as well as choice for consumers. But trade is not only about economics, it is also a powerful geopolitical lever that enables the EU to shape a world in which our values are permanently anchored.

Renew Europe has pushed for the EU's trade power to be asserted during this mandate to ensure our open strategic autonomy. Renew Europe has played a key role in creating several instruments to set the conditions for fair and reciprocal trade relations and combat possible blackmail and unfair competition from third countries. Renew Europe led the review of the Enforcement Regulation which empowers the EU to act to protect its trade interests when a trade dispute is blocked. Renew Europe was furthermore behind a strong instrument on international procurement, opening foreign procurement markets for our companies. It was also key for us to ensure that the same level of scrutiny applies to subsidies granted by foreign governments, as for our state aid within the EU. Renew Europe also succeeded in giving to the EU every capacity to fend off blackmail from countries seeking to interfere with our interests, as China recently did with Lithuania.

Stronger, fairer, greener as the leitmotiv for our trade and investment agreements

Renew Europe continues to push for fair partnerships throughout the world, particularly with like-minded countries. Multilateralism is the solution, not the problem. We are therefore proud to have ratified trade and investment agreements with Vietnam and the trade agreement with New Zealand. Before the end of the mandate, ratification of an advanced Framework agreement with Chile and an economic partnership agreement with Kenya

are expected. These agreements are ambitious and modern. While creating opportunities for our companies, they contain strong sustainable development chapters including human rights and environmental commitments. In the same logic, Renew Europe has continuously asked for a bilateral investment agreement with Taiwan.

Shaping the world based on our values

Throughout this mandate, Renew Europe has fought to make the world a better place with the protection of fundamental rights and the defense of the environmental cause. According to international estimates, 28 million people worldwide are trapped in forced labor; the Uyghurs in China are amongst them. We cannot let such situations flourish. We lead the fight to ban products made using forced labor from the Internal Market.

We adopted the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to put a fair price for the CO₂ emissions embedded in the products that are brought into the EU. We are fighting to safeguard the world's forests with an ambitious text adopted during this mandate, which aims to stop the import of products resulting from deforestation.

Our Group took the lead on concluding Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with countries like Honduras and Guyana to address illegal deforestation and foster economic relations with these countries.

7.7

DEFEND EUROPEAN VALUES AND INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD

The EU must strengthen its open strategic autonomy to better defend its interests and values.

Investing in a renewed transatlantic partnership

After a period of tensions, Renew Europe has engaged early with the Biden administration to strengthen transatlantic relations, to lead the struggle for a rules-based international order and cooperate on issues such as the fight against authoritarianism, human rights abuses and environmental degradation. Renew Europe welcomed and fully supports the work in the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and expects fruitful dialogue on securing supply chains, AI, and foreign investment among other things. Renew Europe also welcomed President Biden's Global Summit for Democracy bringing together the world's democracies. Renew Europe believes that removing distortive steel and aluminium tariffs while rendering these sectors sustainable, and ensuring European access to the Inflation Reduction Act opportunities would improve and strengthen the Transatlantic influence on global standards even further.

A new approach towards China is needed

China remains a partner, but is increasingly also a competitor, and a systemic rival. As Beijing's assertiveness grows, the EU must strengthen its open strategic autonomy. Thus, Renew Europe has led efforts in the European Parliament to reshape EU-China relations, emphasising that our diplomatic, scientific, economic ties and cooperation on global challenges such as the fight against climate change are essential, but urging a more forceful approach to defend Europe's core interests and values. We therefore insisted that our economic relationship must become more balanced and reciprocal to ensure a level playing field and market access for European companies, especially for SMEs. The EU urgently needs to address the growing security risks from China's control of critical infrastructure in Europe and the threat of economic coercion, including by de-risking our relationship.

On the global stage, the EU is also rightly concerned by China's predatory Belt and Road initiative creating dependency for partner countries, which is why Renew Europe supported





the Global Gateway Initiative as an alternative for smart and clean investments that benefit local communities.

The EU must remind China's leaders that with power come responsibilities. If China wants to be a reliable partner, it must play its role in defending human rights and the Rule of Law, and the rules-based multilateral governance upholding these principles. Renew Europe therefore condemns China's human rights violations in mainland China, Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang, persecution of religious movements, as well as sanctions against Members of the European Parliament, surveillance of the Chinese diaspora within the EU, and engages in a de-risking policy.

Enhancing Europe's role in the Indo-Pacific

Renew Europe fully recognizes the rising strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific. Renew Europe advocates for an enhanced engagement and cooperation with like-minded partners in the region, such as India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and others to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific for all while building strong and lasting partnerships.

Tightening our friendship with African countries

Renew Europe has called for a new strategic partnership between our two continents – on an equal footing and as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. Through the work of the Renew Europe Delegation for the Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean (RENEWPAC) – we successfully organised concrete collaborations major EU and United Nations bodies, the African Union, and other prominent international organizations, as well as with citizens.

Defending our liberal values in Europe's Southern Neighbourhood

The killing of over half a million Syrian citizens, and the destruction that led to 7 million refugees fleeing Syria, is not forgotten by Europe's liberal voices. We have called for the creation of a European fund for victims of serious violations of international law in Syria, led efforts to reform Europe's judicial and foreign policy instruments to ensure the war crimes committed by Bashar El-Assad's regime against its own population do not go unpunished on European soil. Our group also sent a fact-finding mission to Lebanon to empower independent voices fighting for truth and justice in the explosion of the port of Beirut, denouncing the corruption and complicity of many political factions, and particularly Hezbollah.

7.8

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Renew Europe has vocally supported the enlargement process for the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia - based on the established conditions and criteria.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made EU enlargement more important than ever as a bigger EU is a stronger EU. Continued European security and prosperity are linked to bringing in new Member States and advancing peace, democracy, respect for human rights and Rule of Law.

We have also remained clear that EU membership needs reforms in the candidate countries - strong democratic institutions fighting corruption and delivering real solutions for the citizens. Enlargement **is the key to delivering** more political stability **on the continent**, a bigger internal market, and **better opportunities for citizens**, but this will require internal reforms of the EU as well.

Renew Europe has proposed a more gradual integration process, where candidate countries gradually can take part in various forms of EU policies and programmes. This will show the citizens concrete advantages of EU integration - right from the start.

The Renew Europe Group has called for **and welcomes** the granting of an EU candidate status to Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, **Georgia**, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, **and urges the Council to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, as well as with Bosnia and Herzegovina, once the necessary degree of compliance**

with the membership criteria is achieved. We have underlined the need to meet conditions and to align with the EU foreign policy, **as well as the need to make the accession process reversible, should a candidate country no longer abide by our criteria.** Equally, we remain fully committed to the enlargement process for all countries in the Western Balkans. By being part of EU, these countries **and their citizens**, will benefit, and the EU will spread its values and principles.



7.9

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS OUR CORE VALUE

We believe in cooperation based on the Rule of Law, human rights and preserving the environment.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development establishes the global framework for international cooperation on sustainable development. What is in for the citizens? Ending poverty, preserving the planet, and ensuring widespread peace and prosperity.

For Renew Europe, sustainable development is a fundamental principle and a core value. It is also a top priority for both the EU's internal and external policies. Through its daily parliamentary efforts, our Group ardently advocated for increased efforts and tools to implement these goals. Renew Europe has done its utmost to achieve a breakthrough for the new Samoa (also known as Post-Cotonou) Agreement, in line with these values and with a continued strong parliamentary

dimension. This agreement serves as the legal framework for cooperation between the EU and its Member States and 79 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Renew Europe Group also played a leading role in the negotiation of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – the primary financial mechanism of the EU aimed at eliminating poverty and fostering sustainable development, prosperity, and stability beyond the EU's borders. This regulation led to an increased coordination between the EU's external and internal policies and granted the EU the necessary flexibility to respond rapidly to emerging crises and challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine.





**OUR MEMBERS
OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT IN ACTION**

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Abir Al-Sahlani meeting employees at the Scafil factory in Åtvidaberg, Sweden.



MEP Nathalie Loiseau, Subcommittee on Security and Defence chair, in Mariupol, Ukraine, 2 weeks before the Russian aggression.



MEP Javier Nart intervening in front of the Mexican Senate.



MEP Malik Azmani visiting an application centre for migrants in Lampedusa, Italy.



MEP Martina Dlabajová on stage presenting awards to young, emerging designers from both secondary and higher education institutions in her native Zlín Region in the Czech Republic.



MEP Jan Huitema conducts an official working visit to a Dutch farm.



MEP Andrus Ansip discussing the latest economic indicators with entrepreneurs in Tallinn.



MEP Catherine Chabaud departing the 2023 Route du Rhum: "As the world's first maritime power, the EU must make the most of its potential and take the lead to make the Green Deal also Blue!"



MEP Hilde Vautmans empowering women at her Women Up event (with 250 women).



MEP Dragoș Tudorache presenting Renew Europe to Romanian citizens in Bacău.



Vice-President Martin Hojsik, on a fieldtrip to Guđrón Lakes near the village Predajná, in Slovakia, pointing out serious environmental problems in this region.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Olivier Chastel at the "Pôle de la Pierre" in Soignies, a training centre co-funded by the European Union FEDER funds to pass on traditional skills in the stone industry.



MEP Bart Groothuis on mission to Lithuania with the Subcommittee on Security and Defence.



MEP Anna Júlia Donáth together with "Europe for Hungarian Education" in the streets of Budapest.



MEP Frédérique Ries in a field visit for her Packaging and Packaging Waste Report.



Volunteering is an enormously important pillar of our society. This is why MEP Ulrike Müller lent a hand in the "Carla Carlson" clothes store run by Caritas in Sonthofen to find out what framework conditions politicians need to change in order to make the work of charities easier.



The priority of MEP Vlad-Marius Botoș' mandate: Romania in the Schengen Area.



"One day as an MEP" – a two days event with 50 young people from Italy where MEP Nicola Danti proactively engaged them in the works of a Member of the European Parliament with a learning-by-doing approach.



MEP Nicola Beer in conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron.



MEP Svenja Hahn visiting the container terminal of the Hamburg Harbour.



MEP Sophia in "T Veld leading the Democracy, Rule of Law & Fundamental Rights Mission to Slovakia, December 2022.



MEP Christophe Grudler at a nuclear power plant in Temelin, Czech Republic.



MEP Izaskun Bilbao Barandica: "The diversity that unites us in Europe starts by recognising our right to live how we feel, to be free as we are. Being different does not mean being unequal."

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Dacian Cioloș in Sălaj county, Romania, while working on the local wooden church.



MEP Adrián Vázquez during a visit of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to the Spanish primary sector in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) negotiations.



MEP Maite Pagazaurtundúa opening the exhibition "The Sakharov Prize to Basta ya!: a turning moment for freedom", on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the award to the civic platform Basta ya!



MEP Ilhan Kyuchuk right before the start of the "Ever Closer Union: The Bulgarian contribution to full European integration", the first event of the Renew Europe on the Ground discussions with citizens on key European topics.



MEP Fabienne Keller talks to the citizens of Strasbourg to explain her work at the European Parliament.



MEP Bergur Løkke Rasmussen: "I see explaining, informing and communicating about what's going on in the European Parliament as one of the key missions for us as MEP's. Therefore I often make videos of my take on relevant stories and topics to post on my social media to enlighten the Danish people about the agendas in Strasbourg and Brussels."



MEP Iskra Mihaylova in an inspiring moment meeting Bulgarian youth to talk about the future of Europe and Bulgaria.



MEP Engin Eroglu handing over Renew Europe fire helmets to children of the volunteer fire department in Schwalmstadt, Germany.



MEP Catherine Amalric during her mobilisation in the European Parliament for Pink October.



MEP Stéphanie Yon-Courtin in Normandy, alongside Solaal, an association that fights against waste by donating unsold products from farmers to food aid organisations.



MEP Bernard Guetta in a meeting in Laval with our President Valérie Hayer.



MEP Catharina Rinzeema visited Europol for an exchange of views on how to better protect the safety of children online.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Alin Mituța in dialogue with Babes Bolyai University students about the future of the European Union in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.



MEP Ondřej Knotek at the Europe Day at the colonnade in Mariánské Lázně, in Czech Republic.



MEP Sandro Gozi: "Let's give our citizens the power they need to make the change they want!"



MEP Ramona Strugariu interacting with youth from Romania.



MEP Claudia Gaman talking to citizens in Vienna during a Europe-Picnic for Europe Day.



MEP Caroline Nagtegaal in a working visit with Dutch female truck driver Corine.



MEP Marco Zullo field visit to discover innovative agriculture techniques.



MEP Karin Karlsbro campaigning for Ukraine in Stockholm on Europe Day 2022.



MEP Karen Melchior at the premises of the Danish manufacturer Novo Nordisk to learn more about their innovation journey.



MEP Billy Kelleher visiting Kyiv with MEP Ilhan Kyuchyuk, MEP, and Senator Timmy Dooley.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Barry Andrews meeting constituents in Dublin city centre.



MEP Emma Wiesner on top of a turbine, while visiting a wind energy farm in Denmark.



MEP Soraya Rodríguez ahead of the Plenary vote on the Nature Restoration Law calling for a strong regulation.



President Valérie Hayer visiting the port of Antwerp, to discuss how to tackle Europe's strategic autonomy.
Photo: © David Brasseur



MEP Moritz Körner speaking to a group of young liberals in his constituency in North Rhine-Westphalia.



MEP Jan-Christoph Oetjen visits a farm in North Rhine-Westphalia to talk about EU Agricultural Policy.



MEP Jozef Mihál explaining the functioning of the European Parliament as well as legislative changes in the area of social affairs.



MEP Irène Tolleret in a field day with farmers in the department of Tarn-et-Garonne, France, to explain our actions at European level. "It's essential for me to meet the players who can guarantee our food sovereignty, so that we can work together to ensure that our European legislation is coherent and supports all agricultural sectors."



MEP and farmer Jérémy Decerle on his farm in Saône-et-Loire where he breeds Charolais cows.



MEP Salima Yenbou at lycée La Calade in Marseille with high school students during her "Tour de France des lycées".



MEP Morten Helveg Petersen visiting the Danish green industry.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Petras Auštrevičius attending the Bread Festival in Lithuania.



MEP Susana Solis attending the Committee of the Regions to explain her report for a Just Transition Fund as an example of her work and commitment with cohesion policy and regional funds.



MEP Elsi Katainen in a Finnish forest.



MEP Eva Poptcheva engaging with young people about economic policies and reforms for the future.



MEP Dita Charanzová at the Euroscola event in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. She held an interview and Q&A session with young people/students on the title "Safe internet for a stronger Europe: the EU's commitment to cybersecurity".



MEP Urmas Paet, Committee on Foreign Affairs Vice Chair, in Tallinn, Estonia, where more than 30 000 people gathered to protest against Russia's aggression in Ukraine.



MEP Laurence Farreng meeting the young volunteers from Maison de l'Europe of Angoulême during the International Comics Festival 2023.



Unveiling of the plaque of the European Parliament Ambassador School by MEP Ilana Cicurel at the Louis Lumière Vocational High School in Chelles (France) May 20, 2022.



MEP Katalin Cseh delivering crucial aggregators during our mission to Kiev to support Ukrainian communities, amplifying access to electricity and easing daily life through the generosity of compassionate Hungarian supporters.



MEP Pascal Canfin at the Paris Air Show, in June 2023.



Stéphane Séjourné, former President of Renew Europe, at the flagship event of the Group, the Global Europe Forum, held in the European Parliament in January 2024.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Jordi Cañas as Head of the European Union's Electoral Mission in Guatemala, supervising that the elections were carried in a democratic and lawful manner.



MEP Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová speaking to the media during a delegation to Roma settlements in Slovakia.



MEP Max Orville at "Les Outre-mer des solutions" conference in Schoelcher, Martinique.



MEP Sylvie Brunet meeting, in Marseille, with young people participating in mobility training programmes.



MEP Dragoș Pîslaru supporting the European Youth Generation.



MEP Yana Toom speaking at Renew Europe Roundtable on "Ending gender based violence", in Tallinn, on the 27th November 2023.



MEP Vlad Gheorghe visiting Bucha, Ukraine, just a few weeks after the Russian invasion.



MEP Guy Verhofstadt speaking at an event on the Conference on the Future of Europe.



A dialogue with young Europeans is at the centre of MEP Róza Thun und Hohenstein's activities as an MEP.



MEP Charles Goerens, in Luxembourg, discussing the future of Europe with students.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



Great atmosphere at the annual three-day fall hike "Mit Glück auf Tour" with over 70 participants in MEP Andreas Glück's home region, the Swabian Alb.



MEP José Ramón Bauzá after Plenary session simulation with a group of young students from IE University.



MEP Atidzhe Alieva Veli, member of Agriculture Committee, in action.



MEP Stéphane Bijoux in Madagascar during a mission by the Committee on Development, in May 2022.



MEP Ondřej Kovařík participating in a Conference in Czech Republic: "SMEs: Europe's Economic Heartbeat".



MEP Erik Poulsen speaking at a conference about how farmers can contribute to the green transition.



MEP Gilles Boyer speaking at the 2023 'EU Tax symposium' on the future of taxation in the EU.



MEP Pierre Karleskind meeting with fishermen affected by Brexit in Boulogne-sur-Mer, February 2020.



MEP Marie-Pierre Vedrenne during her event "48H Europe" with young participants.



One of the things that MEP Nils Torvalds finds especially interesting and rewarding with being a Member of the European Parliament is the opportunity to learn on the ground about what political decisions lead to in practice.

OUR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



MEP Morten Løkkegaard, vice-president of Renew Europe focussing on European businesses.
Photo: © Liv M. Kastруп



MEP Georgios Kyrtos meeting citizens on the streets, and students at schools to inform them about topical EU issues and his activities in the European Parliament.



MEP Samira Rafaela at the Picnic & Politics event in Leeuwarden, discussing what Europe means to young people.



MEP Giuseppe Ferrandino smiles at his first day in the Renew Europe family.



MEP Martin Hlaváček explaining biogenic emissions in livestock.



MEP Michal Wiezik discussing on European policy and climate protection in Nitra, Slovakia, with students from schools taking part in the Euroscola Programme.



MEP Valter Flego: "Connecting Europe through art and tolerance serves as a tool to boost EU integration."



MEP Asger Christensen at his farm in Denmark where he has 650 dairy cows. Asger has been a farmer most of his life, and he always strives to use that experience and know-how of the real world when making European legislation.



MEP Irena Joveva discussing with the students of the Gimnazija Kranj participating in the EPAS project.



Renew Europe goes local – MEP Klemen Grošelj's priority has been to keep in touch with individuals on the ground, attentively addressing their concerns and embracing their suggestions for a brighter future in the EU.





Renew Europe Group
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 Belgium
www.reneweuropегroup.eu

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Communication Unit of the Renew Europe Group
Marieke Dekker, Deputy Secretary General for Press and Communication
Carole Ulmer, Head of Unit for Communication

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