



Preamble

This political programme comprises the status quo of political debates led within the Young European Federalists Maastricht. It portrays the current stance on European affairs taken by JEF Maastricht and serves as a guide of orientation for members as well as non-members in the goals and visions of JEF Maastricht. JEF Maastricht is cross-partisan and not bound to any particular party or ideology.

The Political Programme is adopted by the General Meeting of JEF Maastricht. It can be amended at any time through the General Meeting.

I. Democracy

The current European Union shall develop into a United European Federation founded on the values of democracy, subsidiarity, solidarity and individual liberty. A European Parliament with one seat shall be elected by the European Citizens every 4 years; one half through European party lists and the other half through winning seats within local constituencies. The constituencies shall be laid out taking into concern regional cultural identities and spoken languages of the majority of the population.

The European government shall be elected by the European Parliament itself after the constitution of the Parliament. The allocation of ministries and division of tasks shall be chosen by the government. Ministers, including the European President, shall be subject to a constructive vote of no confidence and are accountable towards the European Parliament.

II. Citizens' rights

It is of utmost importance that the civil rights of Europe's citizens are safeguarded. This entails the responsibility for the European Commission to both promote and monitor fundamental freedoms and fundamental rights of the citizens. In case these rights are limited in an unacceptable manner on a state level or a regional level it must take effective countermeasures against any such activities. At the same time, it is important that these countermeasures are directed towards the responsible actors and not towards the population itself. This is why, next to an improvement of the Art. 7 TFEU procedure, the European Commission should have measures at its disposal to allow for an alternative distribution of the resources for subsidising projects with EU funds other than through national governments.

In the 21st century, we consider free access to the internet as a fundamental right of the European citizens. Internet access is crucial for building social relationships and educational purposes. This is why internet infrastructure should be provided by all municipalities in Europe.





III. Equality and equity

The European Commission should establish a common minimum percentage and create incentives for women employability at public administrations in all the Member States.

The Commission should counteract any discrimination on the base of gender, religion, sexual orientation or nationality.



IV. Unification process in Europe

V. Education and research

VI. Finishing the Single Market

Free movement of services

The European Union must adopt initiatives in relation to the sharing economy and circular economy.

Digital Single Market

The Union must become a forerunner in data transmission and storage by supporting digital infrastructure projects. Once 5G connectivity becomes commercial, Europe must be the first one to adopt and utilize it across the Single Market. The Digital Single Market must also be attractive for content producers, artists, and entrepreneurs who should be able to trust in the market to protect their rights to their work and receive a fair remuneration. The Union must have stricter legislation on net neutrality.

VII. Unified fiscal policy

VIII. Expanding the budget

The European Union should enlarge its budget to a larger share of the European GDP in order to fulfil its tasks.

IX. Monetary policy

The European Union should establish a common Eurozone minister of Finance and Economy approved by the European Parliament.

X. Foreign policy

As a global actor, primarily the European Union must represent the interests of its Member States in international settings.





The current European Union requires an integrated defence and security policy in order to promise safety for its citizens. First of all, and most pressing, decisions concerning foreign policy should be made by a qualified majority instead of unanimity in the Council. Next to that, a seat of the European Union in the Security Council of the United Nations on behalf of the current Member States would display unity and strength. Likewise, the current national armies and defence forces need to unify and build one common European Defence Force. Examples for first steps towards a common European Defence Force are granting all EU citizens the permission to serve in an army or defence force in a Member State of their choice and coordinating military or community services across the European Union.



XI. Migration policy

The European Union should have a common migration and asylum policy. The European Commission should create an EU Green Card system.

XII. Sustainability

All new policies and legislation adopted on a European level should be framed according to the Sustainable Development Goals and tested on the grounds of the compliance with the SDGs. Upholding international agreements and taking care of the future while acting in the present is crucial for that. The sustainable transition from fossil fuels to renewable power plants has to be performed through close cooperation between the states of the European Union and through the smart implementation of dynamic energy grids. Public investments need to be made to improve the renewable energy technology for Europe to become a global leader in renewable energy.

Taxation in a green economy has to be used as a means to foster both sustainable development and sustainable growth. This is why we call upon the current states of the European Union to start levying flights. The absence of taxes on international flights as well as on substances such as kerosene while applying full taxation to trains, such as applied in Germany, is ridiculous. Taxation on environmentally harmful goods and services should be reinvested in programmes benefiting the environment and the climate.

Harmonising current taxes on environmentally harmful substances is central for attaining the goals set by international climate agreements. Also, the introduction of taxes on e.g. plastic could constitute a powerful source of a sovereign European budget.

Environmentally harmful subsidies have to be discontinued.





XIII. Areal policy

Urban planning

Strengthening the rural areas

In order to deliver for its citizens, a united Europe must not forget the citizens who are not benefitting from a globalized world in the first place. The problems which regions off the developmental centres are facing are the same all across Europe. In order for citizens in rural areas to participate in the public and social life, a strong infrastructure is a key component. Fast internet and a high frequency of public transport are rights European citizens should not be deprived of. In order to counter the trend of people fleeing rural areas, the attractiveness of such has to be strengthened through the support of cultural initiatives and subsidies for small businesses who are crucial for a self-sustaining village (e.g. bakeries and grocery stores).

XIV. Transport & infrastructure

The EU must provide extensive and affordable public transport.

