

1 This is enough. We can do better.

2 **SDP's EU ELECTION MANIFESTO**

3

4

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17

18 **Introduction**

19

20 Finland joined the European Union in 1995. Now, almost 30 years later, the European Union can be  
21 viewed as a partner that is more important than ever before. Following the Russian offensive war on  
22 Ukraine, the security situation in Finland has shifted permanently and shown us how important it is that  
23 we are not alone. The COVID-19 pandemic, on the other hand, reminded us of the importance of  
24 European collaboration. These years have shown us that we truly are stronger together.

25

26 The future of the European Union is at stake in these elections. We, the Social Democrats, work for a  
27 European Union that will serve Europeans and Finns even better than before. The EU needs to be  
28 stronger than before and take a greater responsibility for its own defence. The EU must strive for self-  
29 sufficiency in terms of critical materials and guarantee that everyone will have access to vital  
30 necessities, such as medicines and affordable energy. Europe must also actively seek solutions to  
31 combat the rising expenses and improve purchasing power.

32

33 The Social Democrats' EU will be determined at its work in solving issues of climate change and loss of  
34 biodiversity; defending labour force rights and creating a stable operating environment for companies.  
35 Our Europe will stand up for the rights of citizens against big corporations and social media giants and  
36 make sure that technology will be developed in a way that contributes to the well-being and equality of  
37 people. The EU must fight against tax evasion and harmful tax competition.

38

39 The EU will help us secure our borders and support Eastern Finland and other areas affected by the  
40 cessation of Russian trade. The EU produces comprehensive security that is in the best interest of all  
41 Finns.

42

43 In these elections, decisions will be made on Europe's course and its soul. The European Union was  
44 established as a guarantee for peace and to secure equality, democracy and the rule of law. Once  
45 again, the EU is amidst an ongoing battle of values. Respect for the rule of law, democracy and human

46 rights and promotion of equality are some of the things that can no longer be taken for granted, with  
47 some attempting to undermine these values.

48 Traditional right-wing parties are ready to enable this type of development by cooperating with the far  
49 right, if it advances their goals of dismantling the welfare state and weakening labour rights and the  
50 income of ordinary people. We have already had a taste of this in Finland, where the governmental  
51 cooperation of the National Coalition Party and the Finns Party has resulted in increasing inequality  
52 and the division of society. It has also slowed down important climate action and resulted in repeated  
53 attacks against the media, organised workers and other cornerstones of Western democracy. In these  
54 elections, we will decide if we are going to let these same types of trends expand and continue in the  
55 EU.

56 The SDP works against policies that increase inequality and actors seeking to dismantle the rule of  
57 law, both in Finland and in Europe. The SDP and the European Socialists & Democrats are the only real  
58 counterforces to the far right. We will defend democracy, the rule of law, peace and equality. Hate  
59 speech and racism will have no place in our Europe, and the equality of people will also be ensured.

60 We want to build a European Union that will keep everyone included and increase the prosperity of all;  
61 one where security will grow within its societies as internal stability, trust and faith in the future.

62  
63 We are committed to non-compromising work for the purpose of building a strong, open and fair  
64 European Union. We, the Social Democrats, will focus on work for hope and a better future. The kind of  
65 Europe described in this election manifesto. The degeneration of Europe and Finland needs to be  
66 stopped now. We can do better.

67

## 68 Safe and Democratic Europe

69

70 The EU must be better equipped to face security threats and concerns arising from wars and increased  
71 inequality, and the strengthening of extremist movements. Security will be built by strengthening the  
72 defence of Europe and the EU Member States, but also by strengthening democracy and the  
73 sustainability and fairness of societies. Strong societies will be better able to resist hybrid influencing  
74 and exceptional circumstances. Democracy and the rule of law need their defenders. Security is  
75 reinforced by strong democracies.

76

77 Security means comprehensive security. This refers to harmonious societies where the people prosper.  
78 Democracy's voices must be diverse, and everyone must feel included and physically safe in society.  
79 There remains a lot to be done in all these respects in Europe.

80

### 81 **We suggest:**

82

83 We will reinforce European defence and cooperation in defence policy. We will increase and strengthen  
84 the production capacity of the defence industry. We will improve preparedness and response to cyber  
85 and hybrid threats. We will increase Europe's self-sufficiency when it comes to the production of  
86 defence materials and defence technology.

87

88 We will seek to establish the post of Commissioner for Defence and advocating for a Finnish  
89 Commissioner to be appointed for this post. We will strengthen the status of defence policy in the EU  
90 by setting up a Council of Ministers for Defence and a Defence Committee of the European Parliament.

91

92 We will continue to provide support of Ukraine against the brutal and illegal offensive war by Russia.  
93 The battles in Ukraine are not only about the freedom of Ukraine but also the security of all of Europe.

94 We will increase financial, military, political and humanitarian support for Ukraine. We will increase  
95 sanctions against Russia and take more determined action against the evasion of sanctions. We will  
96 prepare for the post-war reconstruction phase.

97  
98 We will work with determination to secure peace in the EU's neighbouring areas and across the world.  
99 As tensions increase globally, competition tightens between superpowers and conflicts emerge around  
100 the world, a Europe is needed that actively engages in peacebuilding and has a more powerful voice.

101  
102 We will improve Europe's security of supply and crisis resilience. We will step up the production of  
103 medicines and vaccines in Europe by engaging in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies. We will  
104 improve the availability of medicines by seeing to the relevant regulations and enabling new  
105 innovations. We will ensure Europe's self-sufficiency when it comes to technology and industries. We  
106 will increase European research and production in vital fields. We will be determined in our actions to  
107 decrease the risks caused by excessive financial and production dependencies on non-EU countries.

108  
109 We will root up hybrid influencing, disinformation, hate speech and racism that weaken security and  
110 enable extremist movements. We will defend the free and diverse media, as it is an unparalleled pillar  
111 of democracy and the rule of law. We will work to promote the freedom of the press.

112  
113 We will hold on to democracy, openness and the principle of rule of law, all of which are fundamental  
114 values of the EU. Violations of the principle of rule of law should mean financial consequences and  
115 sanctions to EU Member States. We will safeguard and reinforce democracy throughout the European  
116 Union and ensure that human rights are respected everywhere and in all circumstances.

117  
118 We must see to it that the EU is capable of making decisions in all circumstances and that a single EU  
119 Member State cannot stand in the way of decisions that are fundamental to the EU, such as questions  
120 related to economy and security. We will increase the use of qualified majority voting in questions of  
121 foreign and security policy, human rights and the rule of law, among other important questions.

122  
123 We will be quicker in our reactions to violations of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in  
124 the Member States. We will ensure timely and comprehensive enforcement of the rule of law  
125 mechanism. We will not make way for violations of the principles of rule of law in the manner committed  
126 by Hungary.

127  
128 The EU must be open to accepting new members, but it must remain strict about fulfilling the  
129 membership criteria both before and during EU membership. During negotiations with candidate  
130 countries, it must be ensured that their legislation corresponds to the norms of the European Union  
131 comprehensively, including working life and employee rights.

132  
133 The EU must continue to build and secure a rules-based world order. It is in the best interest of small  
134 countries like Finland that all states adhere to the rules and regulations on which we have agreed  
135 together. The EU must actively reinforce the institutional functional capacity of global institutions like  
136 the United Nations and their development and invest in work for peace in its neighbouring areas and  
137 globally. Efforts to support the countries of the global south must continue to prevent them from  
138 drifting to the spheres of influence of Russia and China.

139  
140 The internal unity of the EU must be ensured, so that we are sufficiently strong and can influence the  
141 development of the whole world and promote the realisation of democracy and sustainable  
142 development outside Europe as well.

143  
144 The European Union needs a harmonised immigration policy in which the responsibilities of the Member  
145 States are equally divided and which will help maintain societies' stability and secure human rights and  
146 compliance with international agreements. The external borders of the European Union that has no

147 internal borders must be efficiently and comprehensively protected, and action must be taken against  
148 the smuggling of immigrants. The EU must be ambitious in its efforts to promote labour immigration.

149  
150 We must prevent violence in homes and on the streets. We will make an effort to combat domestic  
151 violence and see to the extensive implementation of the Istanbul Convention. We will increase  
152 resources allocated for promoting the well-being of children and young people. We will continue the  
153 work against human trafficking and abuse in cooperation with other European countries, also across  
154 borders.

155  
156 We will combat violence against children both online and offline, by promoting the protection of  
157 children and their rights in digital environments. We will promote comprehensive legislation for the  
158 removal of online materials that display sexual violence against children. We require that social media  
159 platforms improve their efforts at protecting children and young people and providing information for  
160 the purpose of preventing and investigating abuse. We will prevent and combat mental health problems  
161 by taking determined action to regulate how social media works.

162  
163 We will continue the implementation of the European Child Guarantee to cut down child and family  
164 poverty. We will promote the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. We will promote the voices of  
165 young people being heard in decision-making and society. We will encourage young people to get  
166 involved and make a difference in democracy, as this can be a factor that decreases the attraction of  
167 extremist movements. We will promote the EU Youth Initiative.

168  
169 We will promote gender equality and women's rights. We will promote the realisation of the rights of  
170 minorities and ensure that everyone will be able to participate in society without fear of harassment,  
171 cyber targeting or violence. We will put in place legislation against harassment, especially against  
172 women and minorities, including digital violence. We will ensure that all citizens can be included in a  
173 democratic, safe and well-functioning society.

174  
175 We will introduce the themes of decreasing inequality, promoting the rights of women and children  
176 and sexual and reproductive health as the global basis of the EU's common foreign and security  
177 policy. We will direct the development cooperation funding into decreasing inequality, strengthening  
178 democracy and climate action, and promoting human rights. We will continue building partnerships  
179 with developing countries. We will offer support for the development of national economies and  
180 strengthening their societies. We will increase cooperation between companies in the EU and those  
181 in developing countries.

182

## 183 A Europe that defends the labour force

184 The European Union must be the best friend of employees and defend their rights from those seeking  
185 to weaken them. Work must be done at the European Parliament for increasing and extending labour  
186 rights.

187 It is in the best interest of every European that labour rights are guaranteed, and that prosperity  
188 increases across Europe. Thriving, competent and motivated employees are an asset for Europe and  
189 its businesses. Europe is struggling with a serious shortage of skilled workers and competing for the  
190 best employees with other regions. Ensuring fair working life and guaranteeing secure conditions for  
191 employees will be a pull factor for Europe and can ensure the availability of a skilled labour force in the  
192 future.

193

194 **We suggest:**

195

196 We will ensure that all people living in Europe have the right to prosperity, equality, fair working life,  
197 and income.

198  
199 We will ensure that labour rights are fulfilled, and that no one is discriminated due to their citizenship  
200 or permit status. We will guarantee the status of trade unions across the EU and promoting social  
201 dialogue. We will increase employee well-being and investing in work-life management across Europe.

202  
203 We will safeguard employee rights in changes affecting work, whether it means the development of  
204 technology and AI or the expanding platform economy. We will ensure that employees are able to  
205 develop their competence and retrain, so that they will have the skills that correspond to the needs of  
206 the changing working life in the future.

207  
208 We will ensure that entrepreneurship in the platform economy is genuinely voluntary and that the  
209 assumption of employment relationship for parties remains. We will guarantee platform workers the  
210 minimum terms and conditions of employment, the right to annual leave, pension, and social security  
211 payments.

212  
213 We will protect the European market from economic operators who do unfair business. We will exclude  
214 products and services from the market if they were produced in an unethical manner, for example by  
215 forced labour irrespective of their place of production. We will ensure comprehensive corporate social  
216 responsibility regulations means that it is impossible to succeed in the European market by social  
217 dumping.

218  
219 We will continue removing obstacles of labour mobility within the EU and improve the opportunities for  
220 the workforce and jobs to find each other. We will enable cross-border remote working everywhere in  
221 the EU. We will facilitate cross-border remote work by drafting a clear and predictable framework for  
222 the taxation and social security questions involved.

223  
224 We will ensure fair pay and sufficient social security for all employees. We will continue to promote  
225 gender equality in the European labour market and remove pay gaps between genders.

226  
227 We will improve the status of young people in the labour market. We will seek to ensure that all young  
228 people can find a job, a study place or an internship by reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and ensuring  
229 sufficient resources for it. We will continue to develop the international work exchange schemes for  
230 young people and promote the mobility and international experiences of young employees and  
231 students.

232  
233 We will support people with disabilities and partial work ability in finding work, remove obstacles of  
234 employment for them and seek to achieve changes in attitudes.

235  
236 We will narrow health inequalities within the EU. We will tackle key national diseases by preparing  
237 strategic orientation for Member States on how to prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate them.

238  
239 Mental health issues are one of the most significant reasons for premature work incapacity. We will  
240 search for solutions on how to reduce burnouts and mental stress and promote work-life management.  
241 We will reduce the mental health issues of young people by making young people's mental health a top  
242 priority in the EU health programme and investing in the implementation of the strategy of mental  
243 health for the European Union.

244  
245

## 246 Sustainable and competitive Europe

247

248 Creating prosperity, security and work for Europeans must be the goals of the European Union. The  
249 European values, from democracy to equality and the rule of law to human rights, will be best achieved  
250 when the economy develops and prosperity increases. For this to be realised, the economy must be  
251 sustainable. Only an economy that is strong, competitive and renewing can fulfil the promise of  
252 prosperity and continue to promote the European values on a global scale as well. It is important that  
253 vitality and prosperity are increased throughout the EU by developing regions as a part of the EU's  
254 competence-building efforts.

255

### 256 **We suggest:**

257

258 We will reinforce the EU's competitive ability and ensuring that we do not fall behind due to wars,  
259 pandemics or other disasters and accelerated protectionism. We will ensure that competition is fair  
260 and continuing our work to improve labour rights.

261 We will invest in European security of supply, self-sufficiency and competence. We will ensure that  
262 the Europeans will lead progress, whether we are talking about technology, innovation, the green  
263 transition, bioeconomy or industry.

264

265 The increasing competition between superpowers, the need to accelerate the green transition and  
266 demands for strategic autonomy have increased competition on investments. Many EU Member States  
267 unscrupulously take advantage of state subsidies to boost their own industries, which is often harmful  
268 to productive development, fair competition and Finland.

269

270 We should react to the needs of industrial policy and simultaneously restore the strict state aid policy  
271 in the EU. The best way to achieve this is to introduce a common European financial instrument for  
272 supporting investment, used to promote the best projects that comply with clear, commonly set  
273 standards.

274

275 It must be one of the EU's goals to increase the number of high-growth export companies that play by  
276 fair rules and enter new export markets. We will react to the growing risks of world politics by drafting  
277 a strategy for reindustrialisation on the EU level.

278

279 We will ensure that social responsibility, human rights, climate change action and biodiversity will not  
280 be overlooked. We will prepare comprehensive corporate social responsibility legislation that will  
281 guarantee the human rights of employees and consumers. We will invest in circular economy and the  
282 development of new, sustainable products and technologies. We will invest in research and  
283 development and innovations.

284

285 We will ensure that the transition to an ecologically sustainable economy will be a fair process that does  
286 not increase inequality. We will ensure that the EU will make it possible to support low-income  
287 individuals on a national level and support such measures.

288

289 We will make the EU into the leading economy in terms of competence and new technologies. We will  
290 accelerate new breakthroughs in research and  
291 technology by substantially increasing EU investments in research, development and  
292 innovations and combining the resources of the Member States.

293

294 The EU must explore the alternative of collecting funding, for example by introducing environmental  
295 taxes, emission trading fees or taxing the financial markets.

296

297 We will ensure that the share of Finland and Finnish operators receiving EU funding will increase. The  
298 EU regional development funds must be allocated, in line with their original goals, to regions that are at  
299 risk of falling behind without funding. The importance of the EU regional development funds will be  
300 substantial in Eastern and Northern Finland due to the security situation at Finland's eastern border.  
301 We will offer support to tackle the leverage effect of the war in Ukraine weakening the vitality of border  
302 areas.

303  
304 We will make sure that Finland is accessible. We will ensure that Finnish transport projects receive EU  
305 funding by engaging in long-term national transport system planning projects. We will improve the  
306 transport connections between Finland and the rest of Europe by seeing to the extension of the EU core  
307 network (Ten-T) and making sure that Finland receives funding for transport investments.

308  
309 We will secure the security of supply in Finland by seeing to working marine transport and  
310 comprehensive rail connections with the Nordic countries. We will make sure that rising costs of sea  
311 transport do not weaken the relative competitive ability of Finland in the EU.

312 We will develop the economic and monetary union to better react to the needs of the Member States  
313 and potential future crises. We will ensure that the EU will favour public investments in infrastructure,  
314 well-being and education of people and solutions of sustainable development.

315  
316 We will root out tax evasion and combat the shadow economy and harmful tax competition both in the  
317 EU and beyond. We will fight against harmful tax incentives and other forms of harmful tax competition.  
318 We will make tax evasion less profitable by issuing stricter sanctions. We will ensure that the decisions  
319 on measures against harmful tax competition and tax evasion are taken with qualified majority voting,  
320 so that a single Member State cannot stand in the way of combating tax evasion. We will restrict  
321 company tax subsidies and only grant subsidies for green transition measures and other essentials.

322  
323 We will ensure that the implementation of the recently achieved new EU Financial Regulation  
324 framework will take place in a prompt and reliable manner. We will promote each Member State's  
325 responsibility for their own debts and economies. Each Member State must have the responsibility for  
326 the sustainability of their financial policies and the completion of required structural reforms and future  
327 investments, also in the future. The EU economic and budgetary policy must, for their part, make public  
328 investments related to the green transition possible, promote employment and decrease inequality.

329  
330 The EU treaties do not include provisions on common EU forestry policy. We will ensure that decision-  
331 making in forestry questions will remain in the hands of the Member States.

332  
333

## 334 A Europe that protects the climate and nature

335  
336 Climate change and nature loss are global issues and a threat to the societies in Europe. Finland and all  
337 the Nordic countries face these threats first of all in the Arctic areas, which are warming four times  
338 faster than the rest of the world, causing significant problems to the environment and local livelihoods.  
339 The EU must lead the way and take prominent action in its climate and environmental policies.

340

### 341 **We suggest:**

342

343 The EU must adhere to the climate neutrality goal of 2050 and strive for achieving climate neutrality  
344 around 2045. We must ensure the incentives and investments needed to achieve this goal. On the EU  
345 level, decisions must be made to cut down all key sources of emissions and offer incentives for carbon

346 sinks and carbon sequestration, which will also have to apply to environmental damage and nature  
347 conservation. We will promote the circular economy and effective and sustainable use of resources.

348  
349 Ensuring biological diversity and halting nature loss must be one of the EU's top goals. We must take  
350 action to save the seas and other waterways, particularly the Baltic Sea. Biological diversity must be  
351 secured with EU-level regulation that will take special national characteristics into account. We will  
352 ensure that sustainable forestry and clean food production that can be considered as assets in  
353 competition are included in the solutions to the issues of climate and the environment, and do not  
354 become a part of the problem. We will ensure that the ownership of water resources and decisions on  
355 their use remain at the national level. We will promote EU measures to cut pollution and waste that are  
356 harmful to the environment and people's health.

357  
358 We will promote the EU's green transition and make sure that it will contribute to greater employment  
359 and the reform of the industries. We will ensure that the European Union will be a leader in clean  
360 technology. We will guarantee that the transition to a carbon-neutral and sustainable society will be a  
361 fair process, with regard to both people and countries.

362  
363 We must ensure that consumers have access to affordable energy. We will keep developing emission  
364 trading in the EU and decrease the EU's dependency on fossil fuels. We will invest in zero-emission  
365 energy, self-sufficiency in energy resources and security of supply.

366  
367 The green transition offers significant opportunities for Europe and Finland. We will remove obstacles  
368 to sustainable  
369 technology and clean-tech industries. We will make sure that company subsidies are always allocated  
370 in ways that encourage  
371 operations based on clean, sustainable business and new, innovative technologies.

372  
373 We must continue to combat climate change and nature loss at the EU level, also as a part of the  
374 common foreign and security policy and development cooperation. We will ensure that the green  
375 transition will promote the transition to clean and sustainable food production and ensure fair income  
376 for farmers.

377  
378

## 379 A Europe of competence, research, and innovations

380  
381 Europe will succeed with the help of education and competence. Europe has all the qualities needed to  
382 be the continent with the most skilled and prosperous people in the world; one where high-quality  
383 research projects and top innovations see the light of day. By ensuring that the EU is the leading  
384 economy in competence and new technologies, we can guarantee that Europe will be able to shine in  
385 the competition with motivated and innovative employees and the best inventors in the world. This is  
386 how Europe can succeed in global competition.

387  
388 **We suggest:**

389  
390 We will guarantee sufficient investments in research, development and innovations as well as  
391 competence and skilled people. We will ensure that science, research and innovations continue to  
392 penetrate all of our societies. We will base all decisions on researched information.

393  
394 We will reinforce the EU's standing in science and technology and providing funds for ambitions  
395 research, development and innovation work. We will allocate funding throughout research, from basic

396 research to start-up companies. When granting company subsidies, new and growing companies  
397 should become a priority for investment.

398  
399 We will promote research, development and investment by expanding cooperation between various  
400 operators.

401 We will invest in elite research projects and competence. We will strive for closer cooperation between  
402 European universities, both in terms of research and student exchange. We will contribute to mobility  
403 by developing the recognition of qualifications and prior learning. We will ensure that the number of  
404 young people participating in student exchange will grow and encourage greater student exchange in  
405 vocational training.

406  
407 The EU must raise its level of competence. We will set a common, ambitious goal that by the end of the  
408 2030s, 60 per cent of the younger age classes will have completed higher education.

409  
410 The Horizon programme scheduled to end in 2027 is the most significant investment by the EU in  
411 research and innovations in Europe to date, and the programme is a tool for the EU to promote the green  
412 transition and digitalisation. We will ensure funding for this programme in the future and develop its  
413 operations. We will ensure that the research work carried out with public funding and the publications  
414 are accessible to everyone in society.

415  
416 We will ensure that all other shared funds will serve the reform of the economy in a more extensive  
417 manner and its transition towards carbon neutrality. We will set out to make the EU a leader in high  
418 technology and degree of processing as well as a pioneer in innovations on a global scale. We will help  
419 companies in the productisation of their new innovations and becoming more international by creating  
420 new partnerships for them.

421  
422 We will ensure that the advantages of AI are not the right of big corporations only. We will ensure that  
423 EU regulations on AI, data-driven economy and digital giants are sufficient and that they provide  
424 security for individuals, markets and societies, but that they are not too specific in details, as this can  
425 freeze innovation activities or drive companies out of the EU. We will react to the market dominance of  
426 big corporations by drafting a fair set of rules for competition and labour market regulations as well as  
427 through taxation.

428  
429 We will ensure that smaller companies have an equal opportunity to take advantage of technology by  
430 developing the digital infrastructure. We will defend a more liberal market economy with various  
431 operators against the concentration of data. We will ensure that small companies and non-profit  
432 societies will be able to utilise national super computers and similar tools. We will promote the  
433 development of artificial intelligence models based on European languages.

434  
435 We will ensure that the data-based economy will increase well-being by making sure that it is  
436 sufficiently regulated. We will ensure the fair use of AI in creating something new. We will ensure that  
437 artists and other professionals have the rights to the results of their work. We will see to it that new  
438 technology does not risk the status of employees, small companies and others in vulnerable positions.

439  
440 We will ensure that versatile forms of culture and art will remain in the heart of civilisation, development  
441 and innovations in the future. We will take advantage of linguistic, cultural and regional diversity in  
442 increasing competence. We will support the mobility of art and culture professionals in Europe and  
443 increase the cultural budget of the EU.