

PEOPLE'S EUROPE

The European Union has developed into a significant economic and political body to promote well-being and increase interaction between people, states, and companies, as well as our universal values: democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Union and current international cooperation is built on a principle, where rules and agreements are followed. We must hold on to this. International problems can only be solved through cooperation.

Finland's place in the EU is at the forefront. We must be actively involved in shaping the EU's future and building a stronger Europe. Finland will hold the EU Presidency in the summer of 2019, and this gives us the opportunity to influence the direction of the EU in the coming years.

We want that, in the 2030's, the EU is a global leader in values and technology, a place where a high level of competence brings wealth to all. In the coming decade, respect for the EU as a protector of the well-being of every European will be more stable among its citizens.

We want that all Europeans can be proud of both their own home country as well as the entire continent that bears its responsibility and promotes unifying leadership in the entire world.

SDP wants to build a more sustainable world. That is why our election programme is built on the principles of sustainable development. With this programme, SDP wants to highlight the key actions, through which we can defend European values, strengthen European security and promote well-being both within the Union and more widely.

A socially sustainable Europe builds well-being

The EU can only be justified by generating better well-being and a more stable environment for people. It must be possible for everyone to feel confident about their own future and the future of their community, too.

SDP considers diminishing inequality the key objective of European cooperation.

- All Europeans must have the right to humane work, livelihood and basic security, education, political rights

and an equal society with equal opportunities. We must strive toward a better balance between economic and social goals. This may also mean a reconsideration of the division of competences.

- Competitive advance cannot be sought through trampling human rights, working conditions or environmental standards. In its legislation and the agreements it makes, the EU must require that companies follow human rights and international environmental standards. Corporate responsibility legislation must be promoted actively on the EU level and globally.
- The EU must guarantee all workers strong minimum rights, such as decent working conditions, social security, occupational safety, balance between work and family life and equality in the working life. We need ground rules for the most insecure work forms, such as zero-hour contracts.
- In the digital single market, the principles of fair competition and labour legislation must be followed and the realisation of consumer rights must be protected.

The EU has the chance to be a superpower of competence and new technologies. The Union must generate growth that benefits everyone in the coming decades. This can be reached by increasing investments in competence and innovations rapidly.

- A significant share of EU investments must be made in the skills of the citizens. The international mobility of students, teachers and researchers and, in particular, those in vocational education and training must be promoted. The funding of the Erasmus+ exchange programme must be doubled in the coming multiannual financial framework period.
- The basis of European economy is in a functioning Europe-wide infrastructure from roads to information networks. Their adequate EU funding must be guaranteed.
- The EU's investments in research, development and innovations (RDI) must be increased significantly. New significant breakthroughs in science and technology require joining the resources of the member states.
- A network-based European super university would strengthen the effectiveness of the Union's science policy.
- Significant and rapid actions are needed from the EU to ensure the reliability, security and privacy of the digital environment. Citizens must be protected from information misuse and cyber attacks. The monitoring of and ethical rules for companies gathe-

ring large masses of data from individual information must be built on the EU level. Masses of data gathered by the society of individual people must not be transferred to private control.

Asylum and immigration issues have been globally prominent in recent years. The right to protection is a basic human right and it must be granted to those who need it. Human dignity is indivisible, and people in need must be helped. In migration issues, international protection and immigration based on, for example, work must be kept separate.

- The causes of refugee movements must be influenced in the countries of origin and globally. Climate change, impossible living conditions, lack of livelihood, insecurity, human rights violations, and the threat of violence get people on the move. The EU must remain a leader in development cooperation.
- A common refugee policy must be drafted for the EU, with every member state carrying their share in helping the people most in need. Common rules and practices in the EU are needed because without them, there is a risk of a spiral where member states try to shift responsibility to others.
- The refugee quota system targets help to those most in need, and that is why SDP is ready to increase the refugee quota.

Ecological sustainability – a world for the next generations, too

Ecological sustainability and intergenerational justice are at the centre of SDP's thinking. It is our responsibility to ensure the Earth's survival also for future generations.

The EU must take a leading role in combating climate change. EU leadership signifies preparedness to set higher goals for the reduction of greenhouse gasses, the use of renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Sticking to the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change must be promoted both in and outside of Europe.

- The EU must increase investments in new sustainable development technologies and ensure that the emissions trading system works as a true incentive to reduce emissions and implement new technologies.
- Common, EU-level environmental criteria must be created in taxation, and the implementation of border carbon adjustments or a carbon tax must be looked into. The tax system must be reformed to support

sustainable development.

- Production and consumption must be steered to function according to the principles of circular economy. The possibilities of European companies to succeed in these fields in the global market must be secured with adequate funding and ambitious policies.

From south to north – the particular needs of both the rising Africa and the Northern Dimension must be taken into account in EU policies.

- The Union's relations to Africa must be based on an equal partnership that supports the ability of African nations to generate economic growth and jobs themselves and builds fair trade.
- The Union must keep its market open to companies from developing countries. The EU must strengthen its African dimension and support, in particular, the development of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Because of the increased importance of the Arctic region, it is in the interests of both the EU and Finland to have a strong influence in the development of the region. All activities in the Arctic Region must be based on the environmental carrying capacity and the principles of sustainable development.
- Based on the Northern Dimension partnership model, we can proceed in matters regarding the environment (e.g. work against black carbon), social and health partnership, transport and logistics and culture alike. Investments in profitable transportation and network connections in the north increase the unity and functionality of the European Union.

Financial sustainability secures development

A socially and ecologically sustainable, equal Union is based on a strong economy that works fairly and according to clear rules within its own single market. The EU must promote rule-based and fair trade also globally.

- Socially and ecologically sustainable free trade must be promoted further, and the regulations of trade agreements concerning the environment and the human rights of employees must be sanctioned as severely as other contractual clauses.

According to SDP's view, we must continue to develop the economic and monetary union to better respond to possible future crises. The connection between employment and growth and well-being is clear and it must be taken into account in the structures and actions of the Union.

- European economic governance must emphasize social and employment-related indicators so that it also supports the well-being of member states.
- EU regulation must not have procyclical effects. The room for manoeuvre of member states during economic downturns is too limited due to the regulations of the EU's Stability and Growth Pact. Too strict short-term expenditure discipline during an economic downturn prolongs the recession and weakens people's well-being.
- Every member state is responsible for its own economic policy and debts and for making the necessary restructuring and investments in the future. During an upturn, the pursued policies must be responsible and moderate.
- In the future, tax payers must not have to bear the responsibility for failing banks. Finland must be active in finalising the Banking Union.

The welfare state is maintained with health care and education that are funded through taxation. Tax revenue lost due to tax evasion and harmful tax competition are lost from the funding of key services. This must change, and also the readiness of the European Right to make changes is measured during the next term.

- In the EU, corporate tax competition between member states has resulted in the decline of tax revenues. To prevent this, decisions must be made on the Union level about the EU's common consolidated tax base and a minimum community tax rate. The sanctions for tax evasion must be increased and the EU's list of tax haven countries must be supplemented.
- The authorities must make enough investments in digital services that support citizens and companies. This not only ensures the efficient use of information but also reduces the risk of black economy.

The world needs a strong EU and the EU needs strong values

The social democrats want the European Union to play a stronger role in defending common values within Europe and globally.

- The UN 2030 Agenda is a cross-cutting theme in the Union's various sectors. The Union's actions must be in line with the principles of economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development.
- The right of a member state breaking the EU's fundamental rights to participate in EU decision-making and to receive EU funding must be limited.

- The EU must implement a new sanction system to bring people violating human rights to justice. Qualified majority voting must be enhanced within the Treaties.

The EU's security and defence cooperation and effective external relations generate stability and sustainable development. In recent years, the European Union's defence cooperation has increased and permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) in defence policy must be deepened resolutely. Every member state is, primarily, responsible for defending its own area but mutual assistance between member states must be developed.

- Protection from and preparation to various threats posed by hybrid operations call for tight cooperation between member states.
- The EU's joint border control must be strengthened so that the freedom of movement within the Schengen area may continue and increase security and generate economic growth.
- The Union must support the political and economic development of its neighbouring regions. Peace and stability must be broadly supported also through the means of diplomacy, trade and development policy, and environmental and climate policy.
- The prospect of EU membership and enlargement promote peace and stability in the neighbouring regions. Aspiring member states must meet the membership criteria set for democracy, the rule of law, and the development of their economic system.

SDP wants to build a strong European Union that brings well-being and security to its citizens.