

EU24 - Engage For The Planet's Report

NAVIGATING CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN EU POLITICS

A Guide for the European Election 2024



Including party positions from France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and Sweden

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If no detailed information could be found on the issues we're interested in we did not mention this particular issue for that party.

Introduction

This report provides a summary of research on EU positions and policies concerning climate and sustainability in general, specifically focusing on local issues.

Throughout the whole EU24 – Engage 4 The Planet project, we study five countries selected for the variety of political landscapes: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. Our goal is to understand the local issues surrounding climate policies as well as their link to the European level. As we organise debates with young EU citizens and migrants in all the five countries, this report was a way for us to understand the local and EU-wide topics related to climate crisis including mobility, food production, energy and social climate justice.

Local issues will be tackled by understanding the countries' political parties and their stands on country level but linked to the European Group and Party they belong to. We define "local issue" as the matters concerning a locality, here the country or specific regions, in terms of policies, challenges faced in the field of climate change (mobility, food production, energy, social climate justice). Local issues can vary widely and may include matters related to local infrastructure, public services, urban development, transportation, education, environment, and local economy. They are often influenced by the unique characteristics, needs, and priorities of a specific locality, and can be shaped by the interactions between local governments and residents within that community.

For context, the European Parliament has 705 seats divided between the seven groups and some non-attached members political groups since 2019. Those groups are themselves composed of political parties. Countries align themselves with specific political parties that belong to these groups. It serves as a means for them to affiliate with the respective political stances. Although groups and European Union (EU) parties are mostly representative of what the local parties think, they have their own specificities that will be studied hereafter.

For context and to help the readers' understand the text, here are the main EU agreements and decisions concerning climate change in the EU.

The biggest known text is the New European Green Deal, a plan by the EU to make Europe more environmentally friendly. It aims to make Europe the first continent to be climate-neutral by 2050 (no net greenhouse gas emission by 2050). The New EU Green Deal includes policies to use cleaner energy, reduce pollution. Some texts below belong to the EU Green Deal (The Clean Energy Package, Circular Economy Action Plan, and Just Transition Mechanism)

- Paris Agreement and Climate Targets (2015) : The EU is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, committing to limit global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to keep it below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The EU has set its own targets, aiming to achieve at least a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.[1]
- Emissions Trading System (ETS) (2021-2030) : The EU ETS is the world's largest carbon market. It puts a cap on the total emissions from certain sectors (e.g., power generation, industry) and allows for trading of emission allowances. This market-based approach encourages emission reductions and provides economic incentives for industries to invest in cleaner technologies.[2]
- Renewable Energy Directive (2018) : The Renewable Energy Directive sets binding (meaning that the European Union countries, often referred to as Member States, must comply with the rules in the Directive) targets for EU member states to increase the share of renewable energy in their energy mix. The current target is for the EU to achieve a 32% renewable energy share by 2030. It promotes the deployment of renewable sources such as wind, solar, and biomass.[3]
- Energy Efficiency Directive (2018): The Energy Efficiency Directive sets binding targets for EU member states to improve energy efficiency. It includes measures to enhance energy performance in buildings, promote efficient heating and cooling, and encourage energy audits and efficiency improvements in industries.[4]
- Effort Sharing Regulation (2018): The Effort Sharing Regulation sets binding national targets for member states to reduce emissions in sectors not covered by the ETS, such as transportation, agriculture, and buildings. Each member state has its own target based on its specific circumstances and responsibilities.[5]
- Clean Energy Package (2018): The Clean Energy Package includes a set of legislative measures aimed at advancing the clean energy transition. It encompasses regulations on energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy market design, and governance of the Energy Union.[6]
- Circular Economy Action Plan (2020): The Circular Economy Action Plan promotes a sustainable and resource-efficient economy. It encourages recycling and reuse, reduces waste generation, and fosters the design of eco-friendly products.[7]
- Just Transition Mechanism (2020) : The Just Transition Mechanism aims to support regions and sectors most affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It provides financial support and technical assistance for economic diversification, job creation, and re-skilling efforts in regions heavily reliant on fossil fuels.[8]

Having provided the necessary context, we will now proceed to examine the EU political groups and parties in relation to climate change. Our analysis will focus on four key topics, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of both local and EU-related issues. Starting from the far-left, we will systematically explore the positions and approaches of each group and party, progressing towards the far-right. This structured approach will provide valuable insights into how different political entities address climate change within the EU context.

I. The Left in the European Parliament (GUE/NGL) : State of the art

The Left in the European Parliament (GUE/NGL) is a left-wing European group that emerged in 1995 through the association of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left. It obtained its GUE/NGL initials from the French name (Gauche Unitaire Européenne).

Since the 9th term of the European Parliament, The Left in the European Parliament holds 37 from 705 seats in the European Parliament. In various countries, they hold a wide-range of left-political parties such as democratic socialists and communists' influences. The group is formed by five European parties: Now the People! (NTP!), Party of the European Left (PEL), Animal Politics EU (APEU), and the European Anti-Capitalist (EACL).

Following, we will go more into details into those political parties to understand their positions and how the EU member states relate to them. The parties are presented according to their political stances (from far-left to a more moderate left)

A. *Now the People! (NTP)*

The party was founded in 2018 in view of the 9th turnover of the EP[2] in 2019. It holds 13/705 seats in the EP and has 6 country members : Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Spain, France and Sweden.

It is a party that “fight for social and climate justice and carry political campaigns in those directions.” It is described as democratic socialism, eco-socialism and left-wing populism. They have a radical approach to tackling climate change, especially directed towards CO2 reduction of emissions and social climate justice: *“We will fight against climate change and for ecological sustainability. Decreased greenhouse gas emissions have to be a main priority. Therefore, we must break with the Union’s market-based approach to climate change. Instead, we need a clear ‘climate’ based approach as well as public investments in clean and safe energies and in green technologies. (...) To save the climate we need politicians ready to take on big business and lobbyists.”*[3]

1. Local issues

a. *France : La France insoumise*



Only France is represented in the NTP through “La France insoumise”. In terms of climate issues, La France insoumise clearly aligns with the radical positions of this European party.

· *Mobility[4]*

La France insoumise wants to limit the use of private cars so that the priority is given to reduce the negative impact it has on health and reduce energy use. Therefore, priority will be given to alternatives to road transport, including rail, bikes, waterway freight and restoration of existing rail network.

In regard to this priority, several goals have been set: to co-finance cycling infrastructures and bicycle parking, make bicycles parking mandatory in all new buildings and renovations in the city and at workplaces, make it compulsory to develop and publicly manage bicycle parking facilities near train and metro stations, as well as places open to the public (public services, schools, offices, shops, markets), helping local authorities to develop park-and-ride facilities at town entrances, support the learning of cycling from primary school onwards in conjunction with associations, implement a national policy in favour of bicycles and electrically-assisted bicycles (EABs), without any windfall effects and by rebuilding a bicycle manufacturing industry in France.

Moreover, there is a will to make compulsory the upgrade of departmental roads in order to make them safer for cyclists (once they exceed a certain level of car traffic).

Finally, the party wants to launch an immediate moratorium on all new roads and airport infrastructures to allow an inventory of ecological alternatives to the construction projects.

· *Food production[5]*

La France insoumise party has also a detail plan on food production relying on adapted production methods, prioritising ecological production and respect for animal welfare while ensuring sustainable and responsible practices.

For the party, it is crucial to support all farmers in their transition to ecological production methods, enabling them to adapt to climate change and

move away from harmful factory farming practices. They want to put an end to animal abuse by doing a complete overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy budget and make sure institutions are aligned on the goal of ecological transformation of agriculture. Citizens should be involved in this whole process.

Through embracing an ecological and remunerative agricultural activity, they want a food production that is sovereign: both environmentally friendly and economically viable.

- *Energy[6]*

The party aims for 100% renewable energy mix by 2050, where the fossil fuels and nuclear power are abandoned. The main reasons of this switch can be resumed in a quote :

"The use of these non-renewable energies is also responsible for fine particle air pollution, which causes hundreds of thousands of premature deaths worldwide every year. In addition, there are the recognised dangers of nuclear energy: the risk of major accidents, the accumulation of nuclear waste for which no solution exists to date, and the destruction of the environment caused by the exploitation of uranium mines. Finally, most of the conflicts of the modern era (Afghanistan, Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa) have their source in energy supply problems. The scarcity of resources will only dramatically increase the intensity of these conflicts if energy (even renewable energy) continues to be produced from non-renewable resources concentrated in certain regions of the world.

Some scenarios show that 100% renewable energy production by 2050 is possible.

This is the case of the megawatt 2022 scenario for the entire energy sector, including the replacement of fossil fuels currently used in various sectors by renewable energy."[7]

- *Social climate justice*

Just like health, education and drinking water, access to energy for basic needs essential to a dignified life must be free for all, regardless of resources. The leader of La France insoumise spoke in favour of the creation of an 'international climate justice tribunal', as well as transforming agriculture for quality food for all and a decent income for farmers as a way to fight for social climate justice.

b. Sweden : Vänsterpartiet (The Left Party) 

The Left Party belongs to Now the People! on EU level. They have one elected Member of the European Parliament (MEP). They also have a Nordic affiliation through: Nordic Green Left Alliance (NGLA)[8]. They are traditionally left-wing with affiliations to socialism, eco-socialism and Euroscepticism.

· *Mobility*

The Left Party views public transport as an efficient and climate-smart mode of transport. In their opinion, it is important for an effective climate transition that people increasingly choose climate-smart public transport rather than the car. The main responsibility for public transport currently lies with the regions, but the Left Party believes that the state should take greater responsibility for increasing travel by public transport.

The ticket price is of great importance in encouraging more people to leave their cars behind and choose public transport instead. Lowering the tariffs in public transport also creates greater opportunities for those with low incomes to travel. The Left Party has presented a proposal that suggests reducing ticket prices in public transport by half for customers. This would be achieved by the state compensating for half of the profit from ticket sales. The proposal also includes an investment subsidy of SEK 5 billion each year, which will go towards the maintenance and expansion of public transport, and towards a transition to fossil-free vehicles.[9]

· *Energy*

In Sweden, hydro, wind and nuclear power are well-developed and continue to produce cheap electricity, exceeding the country's current needs. However, due to increase in prices on the European market, prices have skyrocketed even in Sweden, and the price of electricity has reached new record levels several times. To protect the electricity-intensive industry and the households, the Left Party has proposed Swedish prices, which means decoupling the domestic electricity market from the European one. This would mean first pricing the electricity that is consumed domestically and then exporting the surplus at current European prices. The above-mentioned mechanism would

stabilise the Swedish electricity price at around 40 öre per kilowatt hour. It would not affect the rest of Europe, which would continue to import electricity at the same price that would otherwise apply.

For the sake of the climate transition and ensure protection against rising energy prices, the goal of the Left Party is to achieve a society with a 100 percent renewable energy supply by 2040. Investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy such as wind, solar, bio and geothermal energy can create an ecologically sustainable society. The climate transition of both industry and the transport sector is largely taking place through electrification, which is why electricity demand is expected to increase significantly in the coming decades. It is necessary to invest in renewable energy now, to avoid the electricity shortages and rising electricity prices in the future. Investing in renewable electricity, enables keeping the costs of climate change down. In this way, we take responsibility for future generations.

The energy transition must happen quickly, and wind power is the best way to expand renewable energy production. The Left Party wants to see a strong expansion of both onshore and offshore wind power throughout the country. They also expect investments in renewable electricity production at the local level and support for public buildings to be able to install solar and wind power.

The Left Party says no to nuclear power. Not only is it an unsafe energy source, it is also expensive and makes the transition to renewable energy production more difficult. There is also no safe method for final disposal of the radioactive waste. Therefore, they want to see nuclear power phased out as soon as possible. They also oppose the exploration and mining of uranium in Sweden.

The lack of electricity network capacity means that there can be a power shortage in several parts of the country. Therefore, transmission capacity needs to be expanded quickly. This is best accomplished through public auspices. They critique the market-driven pricing of electricity for leading to high unpredictability in prices. Since the liberalization of the electricity market and network in the 1990s, prices have experienced a significant increase, and there are substantial variations between different regions of the country. The Left Party, therefore, proposes implementing a cap on the electricity network charge and nationalizing the electricity network.[10]

· *Social climate justice*

“For us, the environment is more important than profit. The depletion of biodiversity, the climate crisis and other serious environmental problems mean

that we need to rapidly transform our society.”[11]

The Left Party wants to use Swedish common resources to invest in what is sustainable in the long term, such as renewable energy, sustainable transport and protecting natural areas. They think that justice and the environment are linked. Those who place the greatest burden on the environment and the climate must also make the greatest changes in consumption and lifestyle. Only by reducing the gaps between rich and poor and between men and women can we achieve an ecologically sustainable society and distribute the limited environmental space fairly. Biodiversity is the basis for our prosperity and should be protected by prioritising environmental concerns over short-term corporate profits. Voluntary efforts to protect our nature and environment are insufficient, and stronger regulation and new instruments and measures are therefore necessary to ensure that our limited resources are used sustainably and with respect for people and the environment.

B. Party of the European Left (PEL)[12]

The ideology of the PEL can be summarized through this quote:

"We refer to the values and traditions of socialism, communism and the labour movement, of feminism, the feminist movement and gender equality, of the environmental movement and sustainable development, of peace and international solidarity, of human rights, humanism and antifascism, of progressive and liberal thinking, both nationally and internationally."

It holds 28/705 seats in the EP and has 18 EU country members as well as country members from outside the EU.

PEL has been advocating for a transition that requires a new industrial policy with new concepts of energy and mobility focused on collective mobility concepts. This new socio-ecological transformation, the EU Green New Deal is at the heart of our political strategy as it encapsulates an ecological revolution that goes hand in hand with workers' rights and protects those who are affected by the process. A new model for agriculture through a total reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is essential in order to relocate production and harmonise environmental standards upwards. It should ensure a decent income for farmers as well as a healthy and inexpensive food.

They push for the goals set in the Paris Agreement, which is a 70% reduction of emissions by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

They fight for a social change through redesigning the organisation of production, in order to combat the climate crisis, the depletion of natural resources and ecological disasters.

Furthermore, they call for a redirection of investment, research, and development policies in favour of ecology.

In terms of energy, PEL advocates for the use of more renewable energy, where European electricity markets should grow closer together in order to reduce the proportion of fluctuating renewable energies and be modernised across Europe. However, this discussion deliberately does not touch on the issues of financial redistribution and the democratization of economy, which are essential for just transitions.

"The EU Commission's attempt to label gas-fired power plants and as well nuclear power as green technology shows that the left-wing strategic debate not only has to overcome national differences, but also political resistance in Europe."[13]

In conclusion, PEL advocate for a complete application of the ambitious EU New Green Deal in all the fields we are touching upon in EU24 Engage 4 The Planet (mobility, food production, social climate justice, energy and CO2 goals). It can be summarized through the words of Heinz Bierbaum, President of the Party of the European Left who called on the 5th of June (the World Environment Day) for "collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet". On the occasion, Heinz Bierbaum reiterates:

"The capitalist form of production and the lifestyle it promotes are not socially or environmentally sustainable. Years of competitive practices and austerity have harmed the world severely. We are currently experiencing massive economic, social, and political upheaval because of ecological concerns such as climate change. A sustainable society and economy will be vital to our long-term recovery and well-being during these challenging times."

We must significantly overhaul our economies and societies at a time when climate change threatens the planet's existence. We advocate for a drastic policy shift, calling for a transition that necessitates a new industrial policy based on new energy and mobility principles. This new socio-ecological transformation, or Green New Deal, is at the center of our political approach because it contains an ecological revolution that also safeguards workers' rights and those that are impacted by the transition."

We can only reach the highest standards for our people and the world through a Left Green New Deal that integrates ecological and social concerns. The only way forward is for a socio-ecological revolution to occur in tandem with worker rights and to protect those who are affected by the process."[14]

1. Local issues

From our partnering countries, Germany through Die Linke[15] and France through La Gauche républicaine et socialiste[16] are represented as a full member of PEL.

a. Germany : Die Linke (The Left)

· *Mobility*

Die Linke has a comprehensive program focused on mobility, with several key objectives. First and foremost, they want to develop an app that provides a convenient overview and booking options for all transportation services. Furthermore, they emphasize the importance of enhancing ride-sharing capabilities to complement public transport, thus enhancing overall accessibility.

A core principle for Die Linke is to ensure that public mobility is accessible to all, regardless of their financial situation. To achieve this, they advocate for tax-funded financing, reducing reliance on profit-driven corporations by municipalities. Their vision extends beyond local boundaries, aiming to establish a public mobility platform that encompasses transportation options from all associations across European regions.

They firmly reject pricing systems based on distance and time of day, recognizing their tendency to disproportionately burden the majority of people while favoring private providers. Instead, Die Linke believes in inclusive public transportation, where ticket prices are lowered to finally become free, and the last mile is covered.

Lastly, Die Linke emphasizes the importance of safeguarding good working conditions for employees in public transport. To achieve this, they emphasize the necessity of collective bargaining agreements when awarding public transport contracts to private providers, ensuring nationwide standards are met.

· *Food production*

Their vision for agriculture and forestry is one that protects public ownership of the land and prevents land grabbing. They propose the establishment of a public land fund that would lease land to sustainable, local farms under fair conditions. This will promote cooperative and public use, while capping land prices to ensure accessibility for all.

At the heart of their plan, there is the aim to secure regional food production, promote ecological conversion, and support the future of farmers. To achieve this, they will prioritize rural, cooperative, and organic farming practices. Their goal is to expand organic farming to cover at least 25% of agricultural land by 2030. In addition, they aim to provide special support to producer and marketing cooperatives, as well as solidarity-based agriculture initiatives. They believe that agricultural land should not be owned by investors outside the agricultural sector. To this end, they want to ensure public ownership of agricultural and forestry land, including the Bodenverwertungs-und-verwaltungs-gesellschaft (BVVG) in Eastern Germany, which will be managed by the federal states.

They want to establish a public land fund that will make long-term leases available to young farmers and cooperative concepts. Achieving this will require a comprehensive reform of regulatory, tax, subsidy, and price regulations on land. They want to ensure that the sale of agricultural land is primarily to farmers and non-profit land companies, and at prices that correspond to their capitalised value.

They are committed to ensuring that affordable and healthy food is accessible to all. To this end, they aim to promote regional processing and marketing structures to counteract the market power of slaughterhouses, dairies, and retail groups. They will limit corporate power through effective, public-benefit-oriented antitrust laws, and ensure that connections between business and politics are disclosed through a compulsory lobby registry.

In summary, their food production goal is to promote rural, cooperative, and ecological agriculture to create a sustainable future for all.

· *Energy*

For Die Linke, municipalities should organize and democratize the energy industry, making it more decentralized and accessible to local communities. Energy freezes that affect low-income households should be avoided. To ensure access to basic needs, a low-cost basic quota for electricity, water, and heating fuels should be introduced.

The main priority is to protect the foundations of life and implement the Paris Climate agreement. This includes phasing out coal-fired power generation by 2030 at the latest, in accordance with the Coal phase-out law passed by the Grand Coalition in 2019. The gradual phase-out of coal has already begun, and by 2030 at the latest, the last coal-fired power plant will be off the grid. The

construction of new coal-fired power plants and the expansion of opencast lignite mines will be banned, and the development of renewable energy sources will be actively supported, all with the aim of ensuring a sustainable energy future.

Die Linke is committed to halving greenhouse gas emissions in Germany by 2030 compared to 1990 without preconditions. They want to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90 percent by the middle of the century. The goal is to achieve 100 percent supply from renewable energy sources, primarily by exploiting regional sources, by 2050. This should be achieved by setting limits for CO₂ emissions and not by market-based emissions trading. In this way, jobs can be created in the regions and municipal budgets can be strengthened in a sustainable manner.[17]

· *Social climate justice*

The Global South bears the brunt of climate and environmental degradation, despite being the least responsible for it. Oxfam reports that the richest 10% of the world's population causes as much CO₂ emissions as the poorest 50%. Indeed, climate change has already brought catastrophic global consequences, disproportionately affecting women and children, who often lack the legal or financial means to protect themselves.

According to die Linke, wealthy people need to be held accountable for their contribution to climate change and a change in trade policy and raw material consumption should be initiated. Current agreements made by individual countries are far from sufficient to achieve climate goals. Germany, as one of the largest contributors to climate change, must provide more funds to the Global South for equitable and climate-neutral development. They propose the creation of a compensation fund for climate change and colonialism, financed by industrialized countries, with former colonial powers contributing more.

They believe that environmental and climate protection should be extended to fundamental rights in the constitution and that corporations must adhere to binding climate targets and emissions limits. They also believe that the public transport pricing systems based on distance and time of day should be rejected, as they increase the cost for most people while enabling profit-oriented providers. Therefore, the last mile should be included in public transport tickets and prices should be reduced or even free.

In conclusion, according to Die Linke: *"Socio-ecological transformation must be just and beneficial for all, including affordable energy, mobility, healthy*

food, and a better quality of life. Corporations must align their production with social and ecological goals to achieve this.”[18]

b. France : Gauche républicaine et socialiste (GRS) 

· *Mobility[19]*

The party does not extensively address the topic of mobility; however, it disagrees with implementing a ban on traditional vehicles in the near future. The party believes that such a ban would disproportionately impact individuals who cannot afford electric vehicles, those residing far from their workplaces with limited access to public transportation or alternative means of mobility.

· *Food production*

For the GRS, the policy of regional planning needs to be revitalized to enable families to reside and work in rural areas. Reforms to European or national aids are necessary to address the requirements of all French agriculture. It is crucial to incorporate organic farming systematically into territorial food projects and promote the widespread adoption of organic practices, which is both feasible and desirable. This approach is vital for restoring our food sovereignty. Strong and proactive adjustment measures will be necessary, both to mitigate the short-term effects on yields and to allow the most disadvantaged consumers to access organic food. Finally, income policy must be combined with specific support measures to close the gap between those who can afford to eat organic and those who cannot.[20]

· *Energy*

The GRS wants to tackle the energy problems using three approaches : 1) a hunt for energy waste (better efficiency, insulation), 2) bioclimatic approach to the design of new structures and 3) generating energy (heat, electricity, light) integrated into the building and in relation to its needs. The growing necessity for electricity to decarbonize transportation, heating, and the economy is now more evident than ever, driven by the urgent goal of combating global warming as effectively as possible. In this context, the production of nuclear electricity, a

decarbonised and controllable energy, is central, alongside renewable energy sources (hydro, wind and photovoltaic).

It can be summarised through those words : *“The energy and ecological transition for a decarbonised growth.”*[21]

· *Social climate justice*

For the GRS, political ecology is an additional tool for social progress, as it is a way to rethink society.[22]

C. Animal Politics EU (APEU)

The APEU is a left-party holding one seat (out of 705) in the European Parliament.[23]

APEU wants to combat climate change by supporting a shift towards a plant-based lifestyle, implementing a CO2 tax for companies and speeding up efforts to realise a complete switch to renewable energy. As their name implies, their ideology is linked to animal rights and welfare. They are currently represented in 9 EU Member States, after the resignation of the party representative from Germany (Tierschutzpartei).[24]

APEU wants to realise efficient, affordable, and accessible public transport, as an alternative to air travel. They advocate to phase out farming practices which are harmful to animals and re-direct EU subsidies away from the intensive livestock industry into sustainable, plant-based, and organic agriculture. They want to end legal derogations and subsidies for so-called cultural and religious traditions that involve cruelty to animals, such as bull fighting, non-stun slaughter and foie gras production.

The seat held in the EU Parliament belongs to the Netherlands' Partij voor de Dieren (Party for the Animals).

1. Local issues

a. *The Netherlands : Partij voor de Dieren (Party for the Animals)*



2. Transport

The Party for the Animals encourages more environmentally friendly transport, including bicycle transport. Additional investments must be made in the construction and maintenance of safe cycle paths and in additional bicycle parking spaces in city centres. They oppose the construction of new highways and the expansion of existing roads.

Investments in fossil fuel companies should be phased out as quickly as possible.

The Party for the Animals opts for the necessary reduction of aviation. This is necessary to get aviation within the limits of climate, living environment and safety for humans and animals. Short flights should be replaced by fast, comfortable, and affordable train connections. To achieve that, the number of trains will have to be increased. In addition, the Party for the Animals wants meeting and work facilities to be installed at all junction stations and that each train has toilets, electrical sockets and internet.

According to the Party for the animals, the Netherlands must focus on reliable, affordable, comfortable and fast public transport connections in Europe, with direct connections between important cities. This will reduce air traffic within Europe.

· *Food production*

The Party for the Animals wants more diversity in agriculture, closed cycles and shorter chains between farmer and consumer. Organic, regional, soil-based and sustainable agriculture must become the norm. Sustainable agriculture must not use any poison and everyone on earth should be fed without demanding much from the climate, nature, the environment and our future.

The Party for the Animals wants the Common Agricultural Budget of the European Union to be used to help farmers switch to organic and sustainable agriculture. Agricultural subsidies should be abolished in due course. In addition, the government must actively support the promotion of organic vegetable products, so that farmers can earn a good living without subsidies. The government must set a good example by choosing only organic and plant-based

products and must ensure that employers can offer tax-free organic, plant-based lunches and organic fruit at work.

The costs of global climate change can be cut in half if people refrain from eating meat, fish, and dairy more often and adopt a more plant-based diet. The worldwide production of meat generates 40% more greenhouse gas emissions than all traffic and transportation combined.

- *Energy*

The Party for the animals is against nuclear energy. They consider offshore wind farms as an important option and want to focus on insulation measures.

- *CO2 goals*

The Party for the Animals is in favor of a uniform CO2 tax that applies to all emissions of all types of greenhouse gases and all economic sectors. Given the seriousness of the climate crisis, a strong tax incentive is urgently needed for all sectors to become more sustainable. Without a tax on emissions, the risk of further procrastination remains. The advantage of a uniform tax is that it makes clear that every ton of emissions, regardless of the source, contributes to the climate crisis. By scrapping exceptional positions, large consumers will pay much more and sustainability will be stimulated. As they say : *"The polluter pays."*[25]

With this overview of GUE/NGL, political parties related to them and local issues in our study-countries, we can now move to the other main left-group represented in the European Parliament: The Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA), as they share a lot of common values.

II. The Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA)

The Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) is a leftist political group of the EP. It is mainly composed of 5 green and political parties : European Free Alliance (EFA), European Green Party (EGP), European Pirate Party (PPEU), Volt Europa (Volt) and part of Animal Politics EU (APEU).[1]

A. European Free Alliance (EFA)

The European Free Alliance has supported and defended greater protection of the environment and biodiversity since it was founded. It seeks to limit the impact of human activities on the environment and protect European citizens from all environmental risks to their health, such as the prohibition of genetically modified organisms and glyphosate. Most parties represented in EFA are regional parties.

Policies and measures to promote sustainable development cannot be successfully implemented without appropriate governance. The EFA also supports all the European initiatives and programs aimed at encouraging all players to engage in the decision-making process. This gives the opportunity to develop a more concerted, balanced, and fairer approach to the advancement of Europe's regions and stateless nations.

They hold nine seats in the European Parliament. Therefore, we will study their convictions and will link them to the local issues represented through the unique example of France and its one MEP, as they are minor parties from the fact that they are mostly regional.

· *Food production*

According to EFA more efforts should be made to reconcile the interests of important national and regional agriculture and fisheries industries with the EU's climate change goals. Innovation in regional sectors can boost sustainable and organic agriculture, fisheries and rural development and lead to a more comprehensive regional policy.

· *Energy*

EFA favours an energy policy that prioritizes energy efficiency and renewable generation, where fossil fuels as CO₂-intensive are destined to disappear. European Union is expected to anticipate these changes by creating an ambitious energy policy — in line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — that supports the development of sustainable alternatives to transition away from fossil fuels.

The EFA is also against fracking, as it leaves regions and nations facing the risk of groundwater contamination. It is essential that regions and nations exercise more energy sovereignty, deciding on the forms of alternative energy to generate, at what price, and under which circumstances.

Although they support the wide autonomy of regions in defining their energy production, the EFA calls for the phaseout of nuclear power. The production and storage of radioactive waste remains too great a danger to impose on future generations. During the energy transition, solid guarantees for low prices, abundant supply and safety need to be put in place.

The EFA supports renewable energy research in European regions and nations. It also encourages regions and nations to take part in research so that they can positively influence local and European politics around renewable energy and energy efficiency.

· *Social climate justice*

Social justice and social climate justice are a key priority in EFA's program. They fight against any form of discrimination and promote a more equitable distribution of wealth. The EU should provide more guarantees for social justice, instead of too often taking the side of vested interests, big corporations and large member states.

Establishing equality between peoples is crucial to empowering the European Union's regions and stateless nations, economically, socially, culturally and politically.

The EFA supports the European Pillar of Social Rights, which aims to give citizens new and more effective rights. It includes three main components:

- Equal opportunities and access to the labour market
- Fair working conditions
- Social protection and inclusion

Europe-wide solidarity mechanisms should combat child poverty, the gender gap,

generational poverty and social exclusion in many other policy fields. But this is only possible if all regions and nations improve their fiscal coordination and harmonize their efforts to fight against tax fraud, tax evasion, tax havens and disloyal unethical fiscal engineering.

1. Local issues

a. *France : Régions et Peuples Solidaires (RPS)*

Régions et Peuples Solidaires (RPS) is a French party uniting various regional parties. They have one MEP.

· *Mobility*

RPS wants massive reinvestment in soft transport, especially in small railway lines to be restructured, as well as investment in “intermodality” to reduce car dependency. They advocate endogenous development, construction and development of better functioning daily transport throughout the regions and abandoning centralized transport planning where trains frequently are linked to Paris instead of having direct interregional links.[2]

· *Food production*

RPS supports an agricultural model that respects territories, their structures and production methods, in line with the objectives of the Paris agreements. They stand for elimination of pesticides and support for short distribution channels, including cross-border channels.[3]

· *Energy*

For RPS, massive investment in renewable energy and development of local industry and technology sectors is necessary. France should exit civil and military nuclear power and finally open up to other territories by ensuring European territorial continuity for transport, raw material supply and energy.[4]

· *Social climate justice*

RPS believes that the ecological crisis is the most serious medium- and long-term crisis that the humanity is facing. It requires, in the very short term, measures on a level never undertaken by mankind in a time frame reduced by 30 years of public inaction. A paradigm shift is urgently needed. RPS is firmly on the side of the ecological emergency and fully and unreservedly subscribes to the goals of the Paris and Glasgow Agreements (to contain global warming within 2°C and, if possible, within 1.5°C) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

There is no mention of climate justice per se, but there is talk of the reality of territories, building territorial economies in compliance with environmental imperatives, with territories capable of making their voices heard.[5]

B. European Green Party (EGP)

The European Green Party (EGP) is also referred to as European Greens or even Greens. It is a political party holding 52 seats in the EP. They share “green” values and are considered left-wing to centre-left wing.

EGP considers climate change a key challenge for the planet in this century. They regard the Paris Agreement as a landmark success to fight global warming. Therefore, according to the EGP now is the time to pressure the governments to take every step necessary to reach the commonly agreed climate targets.[6]

Greens hold attainable and credible concepts and strategies for the transition towards a “greener” future and have a proven track record of notable climate policy actions. For them, climate action is not a nice addition to other policy content to appear ecological whenever it is deemed useful. Instead, it is the very substance of the political struggle and they will keep on being uncompromising on the necessity of concrete climate policies :

“We are already facing the consequences of human-made climate change: rising sea levels, the spread of deserts, more severe weather extremes like storms, droughts and floods, and the melting of arctic ice and glaciers. Actions need to be taken, sooner rather than later. The fight against climate change and for renewable energies is part of the Green political DNA. We hold dear the principle of climate justice and our vision of a fossil free future in all our actions.”[7]

- *Mobility*

In order to meet the climate targets, energy efficiency should be increased and sustainable ways of transportation promoted. EGP supports more and better public transport and shared mobility (bike sharing, car sharing) that make us less dependent on motorised mobility. The fight for a better climate and emission-free technologies requires common effort and consistent and feasible political solutions. We already see that many encouraging steps are taken – and even more can be done.

“We are convinced that a transition towards a Greener future is possible!”[8]

- *Food production*

The Greens are committed to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and to promote consumers' rights to sustainable and healthy food. They believe in an agricultural transformation that gives priority to sustainable and organic farming and ends the desolate situation of traditional farming and small farmers in the industrial countries, as well as in the global south. They are working to end intensive factory farming, and promote strong animal welfare standards. Their commitment is to put local farmers, local food cooperatives and consumers first.

Good food is everyone's right. EGP stands for shorter food chains that link consumers and producers together in fair and regional partnerships. High quality standards have to be applied to everything we eat and drink, therefore consumers should know exactly all ingredients and where their produce came from.

EGP thinks that the current agriculture and food production is not sustainable because intensive food production leads to monoculture, soil and land degradation, contamination of the groundwater and the extinction of species. It causes unnecessary harm to animals, which are hardly treated as living creatures. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and the extensive use of pesticides are a threat to health and environment. Therefore, intensive farming should be stopped as it causes damage to Europe's ecosystem and biodiversity.

- *Energy*

“We need to build up renewable energy capacities that will replace, not supplement, fossil fuels and nuclear energy.”

This is why they advocate for concrete measures to phase out old energy sources without causing major disruptions or creating energy poverty. They want to limit the lifetime of nuclear and coal plants, make renewable energy affordable to everyone and encourage investors, funds, and cities to cut their financial ties with the fossil fuel sector by divesting.

- *Social climate justice*

Greens believe that fairness and solidarity is the fabric of our societies and the basis for a prosperous Europe. They are passionate about developing a Social Europe and support policies to restore social justice, reduce inequality and eradicate poverty. They value the contribution of civic associations and local initiatives in helping those in need and making our European societies what they are: open, diverse and welcoming.[9]

It is their aim to strengthen communities and make cities more liveable and likeable for everyone. They want housing to be affordable and cities to be more inclusive. They believe that diverse and green cities are a precondition for social interaction, cooperation and a healthy life.

As we now know that climate change is going to have an impact on migration, the Greens remain uncompromising on defending the rights of asylum seekers and migrants; they believe that the EU has a role to play in this respect, in terms of defining common policies and helping their implementation. Therefore, they advocate for a full use of the existing legal instruments to ensure safe and legal access; for a more ambitious resettlement and relocation scheme; for support mechanisms and funds for countries, cities, and communities that accept to relocate refugees, as well as encouraging the others to reconsider their decision not to participate; for a focus on addressing the root causes of migration by changing trade and development policies that finance authoritarian regimes.[10]

1. Local issues

a. *France : Europe Ecologie les Verts (EELV)*

Europe Ecologie les Verts (EELV) holds ten MEP seats in the EP. Their program gives no specific details on mobility issues, but they are aligned to EGP's measures.

- *Food production*

They think it is crucial to establish an agriculture that restores healthy food, gives meaning to the farming profession, protects natural resources and revitalises rural areas. For them, local peasant agriculture should guarantee a decent income for farmers who protect natural areas and produce quality food for all.[11]

- *Energy*

They support massive policies on energy saving in line with sustainable development. According to EELV, the ecological transition should be done through the massive deployment of renewable energy to preserve the climate. It should also serve as a means of generating new job opportunities.

EELV wants to implement energy renovation to improve living conditions and climate change, a feasible energy policy for a real transition to renewable energies and to structure the necessary industrial sectors for energy transition.[12]

- *Social climate justice*

EELV is very active in social climate justice topic, actively promoting news and implementing measures to address issues such as social justice, the reduction of social inequalities, ecofeminism, and the fight against all forms of human exploitation. They are in favour of equality and protection of population at risk with the climate change crisis.[13]

b. Germany : Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Alliance 90/The Greens) 

Alliance 90/The Greens holds 21 MEP seats.

- *Mobility*

“We prioritize sustainable mobility for a climate-friendly, safe, and equitable transport system.” [14]

Alliance 90/The Greens supports the transition to zero-emission vehicles and new mobility concepts, promoting e-cars, trains, bicycles, and

environmentally friendly options like call buses and car sharing. They also support investment in charging infrastructure and modern batteries, which can accelerate the adoption of efficient e-cars. Also, rail expansion, mobility stations, and improved bike-train integration that would enhance the attractiveness of public transportation. They aim to create a seamless bicycle network, adapt traffic regulations for cyclist and pedestrian safety, and reduce car traffic and discourage blind growth and promote alternative fuels as well as eliminating short-haul flights and reduce medium and long-haul flights. Moreover, they want to add bonus-malus system nationwide from 2030 for cars emissions. To help the transition to softer modes of transportation, it is necessary to align infrastructure development with the mobility transition and prioritize safe bike paths, calm the traffic in city centres, and increase the number of footpaths.

They think that long-term decarbonization of shipping requires replacing fossil fuels with emission-neutral fuels and green propulsion systems.[15]

· *Food production*

To fundamentally transform agricultural policy and safeguard our livelihoods, Alliance 90/The Greens thinks we need an environmentally conscious approach that values nature, resource conservation, fair payment for farmers, and a sustainable food system. The current agricultural policy has led to the degradation of nature, animals, and farmers' incomes. Therefore, we must prioritize climate-friendly agriculture to halt biodiversity loss, with organic farming playing a crucial role.

Animal husbandry should prioritize welfare, providing sufficient space, exercise, light, and occupation. Alliance 90/The Greens aims to break the cycle of relentless production by supporting farmers through subsidies, fair prices, and mandatory farm labels. To ensure animal welfare, it is necessary to provide subsidies for conversion, fair prices, mandatory farm labels, and stricter regulations. Livestock numbers should be regulated based on available space, prioritizing grazing livestock practices. Simultaneously, it is crucial to address and eliminate inhumane breeding practices, amputations without anaesthesia, and excessive antibiotic use in the livestock industry.

According to Alliance 90/The Greens, the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should focus on ecological practices rather than industrialization. CAP's funds should be tied to climate, environmental, nature conservation, and animal welfare measures. Their goals include reaching a 30% share of organic farming, halving pesticide and antibiotic use by 2030, and gradually replacing direct payments with a public welfare premium.

To reduce pesticide dependency and protect biodiversity, the following should be implemented: a systematic reduction strategy, ban toxic substances like glyphosate, and introduce a pesticide levy. Alliance 90/The Greens aims to compensate farmers through the levy and promote robust varieties, organic seeds, and research into alternative breeding methods. Genetic engineering should prioritize safety, strictly following approval procedures and the precautionary principle.

Their goals are ensuring fair prices, tackling land speculation and rural area sell-offs through competition law, and creating a sustainable agricultural system where farmers can thrive from their work.[16]

· *Energy*

Alliance 90/The Greens wants to ensure security of energy supply through renewable energies, which is the foundation of an effective climate policy. They will integrate electricity, heat, transport, and industry, replacing coal, oil, and fossil gas with solar and wind energy. They embrace the use of e-cars, trains, and bicycles for mobility and heat pumps, waste heat, and solar thermal energy for heating.

“The future will be quieter, cleaner, and healthier.”

Their goal is climate neutrality, achieved by a complete transition to renewables. They aim to make all aspects of life, business, and industry more climate-friendly. However, even with renewables, energy must be used sparingly and efficiently. The expansion of renewables should be accelerated to secure Germany's industrial future and energy supply. Onshore wind should increase by 5-6 GW per year, reaching 7-8 GW in the mid-2020s. Offshore wind should reach 35 GW by 2035. Solar expansion should increase from 10-12 GW to 18-20 GW per year. They will provide reliable framework conditions and involve citizens actively, aiming to phase out coal by 2030.

To ensure the success of the energy transition, market design with the right conditions for a climate-neutral energy system should be implemented. It will facilitate rapid and cost-effective renewable expansion, economic operation of storage facilities, and sufficient grid expansion. New gas-fired power plants or infrastructures should be built only if necessary and hydrogen-ready.

Solar energy will play a significant role, with 1.5 million roofs equipped with solar installations within four years. New buildings, public and commercial buildings, and roof renovations will be prioritised. Also, solar installations along highways, railways, parking lots, and in agricultural areas will be integrated.

Wind energy can provide large amounts of clean electricity by establishing a nationwide area target of 2% of the land area, involving citizens early in the planning and permitting process and increasing staff to expedite procedures.

Alliance 90/The Greens supports hydrogen production capacity and ensure fair and ecological import of green hydrogen as it is crucial for decarbonizing industry, shipping, and aviation.

Their climate targets necessitate the end of coal-fired power generation by 2030 through EU emissions trading. They want to ensure no one is displaced due to opencast mines.

They will complete the nuclear phase-out, prioritizing safety and public participation. Dismantling nuclear power plants will occur promptly and at the highest safety level. They aim to close the nuclear factories in Gronau and Lingen quickly and advocate for the EU-wide nuclear phase-out.

They are dedicated to making buildings climate-neutral. High building and refurbishment standards are vital, along with renewable heating solutions. They are launching an investment program for 2 million heat pumps by 2025 and promoting decarbonization of district and local heating with targeted subsidies and fair cost sharing for a socially equitable heat transition.[17]

“Climate neutrality means getting out of fossil fuels. Not only electricity, but also the gasoline in our cars, the kerosene in our airplane tanks, the heavy fuel oil in our ships, the oil for our heating systems and the gas in our industrial operations must be converted to renewable energies. This is nothing less than an energy revolution. First and foremost, this requires a massive expansion offensive for renewables, implemented as quickly as possible.”[18]

· Social climate justice

Alliance 90/The Greens is committed to a sustainable and human-rights-compliant foreign climate policy that promotes global climate justice. Their level of concern is significantly more developed compared to most other political parties.

Their goal is to achieve climate neutrality and mitigate the impact of climate change as a strategic priority in our international political agenda. They recognize Germany and Europe's historical responsibility in addressing climate change and climate justice. Effective international cooperation for climate justice is crucial to achieve sustainable development goals, prevent resource conflicts, and promote peace.

Alliance 90/The Greens want to establish climate and development partnerships that promote innovation for global climate neutrality, support the massive expansion of renewable energy, and strengthen adaptation measures to move towards the 1.5-degree pathway, as the global South countries experience a growing demand for energy. They will work together with employees to shape ecological modernization, creating good jobs through collective agreements, co-determination, and fair wages. They aim to provide comprehensive training opportunities during the transition, including short-time allowances for workers.

To ensure social justice in climate protection, CO2 pricing revenue should be directly returned to citizens and the EEG surcharge reduced. Low-income commuters and others affected will receive support through a climate bonus fund. Homeowners will bear CO2 pricing in heating, with a hardship scheme for small tenants. Expanding local public transport, rail services, and cycling infrastructure should be prioritised benefiting low-income individuals who rely on them. To offset cost increases, the minimum wage and standard rates for low-income individuals should be raised, improving their standard of living.[19]

c. *The Netherlands : GroenLinks* 

They hold 3 seats in the EP since the 2019 election.

· *Mobility*

GroenLinks (GL) aims to make the Netherlands more accessible by public transport, as well as invest more in train, rail capacity, international train connections and renovated stations.[20]

· *Food production*

They want to stimulate organic farming. The protection of Earth, ecosystem and a respectful treatment of animals are at the heart of the party.

· *Energy*

GroenLinks is against nuclear energy and the use of coal and in favour of offshore wind and innovating with green hydrogen. They aim to increase

subsidies for insulation of buildings, and a CO2 tax for large polluting companies.[21]

- *Social climate justice*

GroenLinks position on social climate justice is simple: they want a fair distribution of natural resources between all citizens of the world and between all generations.[22]

d. Sweden : Miljöpartiet de gröna (Green Party) 

- *Mobility*

The Swedish Green Party wants to improve opportunities for cycling and using public transport and reduce car traffic, especially in large cities. They also want to phase out new sales of petrol and diesel-powered cars by 2025 with the last drop of fossil petrol is to be sold in Sweden by 2030. The climate impact of aviation should be reduced by increasing the aviation tax, refurbishing, and expanding railways in Sweden and the EU. Additionally, more freight from lorries and cars should be moved to trains and shipping.[23]

- *Food production*

The Miljöpartiet de gröna favours Swedish organic farming. Half of the agricultural land should be used organically by 2030, as well as climate-smart and organic food in schools, health care and social services should become a standard.

They want to combine strengthened animal welfare requirements and reduced use of antibiotics with policy instruments for reduced and more conscious consumption of meat, and promote plant-based alternatives.

They are in favour of strengthening the efforts to prevent food waste at all stages - from farm to fork, accelerate the transition to fossil-free agriculture, increase resilience and phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

Miljöpartiet de gröna also aims to strengthen Swedish agriculture for increased self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs, and support the transition to organic and sustainable agriculture with fossil-free machinery. Furthermore, they want to provide more support to agriculture for conversion to organic farming, recreation of natural pastures and other environmental initiatives.[24]

- Energy

The Miljöpartiet de gröna wants to invest heavily in expanding renewable energy production, especially offshore wind power, and provide generous support and assistance to everyone who wants to save energy. They aim to phase out all fossil oil, coal, gas and nuclear power.

The party plans to expand smart grids more quickly so that traffic and industry can be powered by electricity throughout the country, and introduce energy efficiency subsidies for multifamily houses. They also aim to remove the tax rebate on electricity for server halls with immediate effect and introduce major subsidies for energy efficiency improvements for Swedish companies. Their goal is to double the number of energy advisers throughout the country and introduce a subsidy whereby the government covers 80% of the cost of all energy efficiency measures. 30 billion SEK of the Swedish power grid's bottleneck revenues will be redirected into financing energy efficiency initiatives.[25]

The Miljöpartiet de gröna also wants to strengthen Sweden's climate targets based on the best available research and a principle of fairness, where emissions from Swedish consumption are also included, and develop a scientifically based emissions budget.

Supporting the climate transition in all parts of society is their goal, in all sectors and throughout the country. In order to do it, they want to convert Swedish industry to become completely fossil-free by 2030 and remove all fossil fuel subsidies. They put an accent into investing in public transport and trains throughout Sweden, with more night trains in Europe and introduce a European train union for easier train journeys in Europe and new high-speed trains. The end goal is to replace fossil petrol and diesel with 100% renewable fuel and electricity in Sweden and the EU, but also invest in climate-smart, organic and locally produced food. The Miljöpartiet wants to develop a Swedish emissions budget that enables us to achieve the climate targets and invest at least SEK 100 billion per year in the transition to make Sweden a fossil-free welfare state by 2030.

Those with the most money, who also cause greater emissions, should contribute more to the transition and welfare through progressive taxation of capital. On the contrary, those with the least resources should receive more public services, lower taxes and more support in the transition. They want to increase the price of emission rights in the EU, include emissions from aviation and shipping in the system and introduce climate duties on goods from outside the EU.[26]

e. *Poland : Partia Zieloni (Green Party)*



Although Poland has no MEP elected from its Green Party, they have 3 members elected locally and the chance to study this country compared to all the others that are represented was interesting. Therefore, a few words will be said on the subject.

· *Mobility*

Partia Zieloni (PZ) advocates for a coherent network of cycling routes in every city funded through a government programme for local authorities. Through this programme, 1000 kilometres of cycle routes would be created per year (it represents about 2 billion PLN, that is to say around 450 million euros). This will also be the opportunity to create subsidies for around 200,000 electric bicycles per year.

The goal for 2030 is that train, bus, tram and bicycles will cover 70% of passenger transport in Poland. For comparison, currently cars cover 50% of passenger transport.

The Partia Zieloni wants to create an extensive network of railway connections which would be more punctual, regular and with a high frequency of connections. Along developing the railway, they aim to restore connections and modernise roads to eliminate existing traffic jams. Ultimately, the goal is to build a medium-speed railway of up to 300 km/h, reaching all provincial cities.

As this point, electric cars will replace gasoline/diesel-powered cars, but it will not be possible to replace them 1 to 1, which is why it is so important to provide alternatives. The car should only be a means of transport for those who have no other way to get to work, medical appointments, school or university.[27]

· *Food production*

Not much is being said in the programme of Partia Zieloni concerning the food production, however, They are aligned with the EU group they belong to and advocate for the protection of biodiversity.[28]

- *Energy*

The Green Party of Poland is for an energy transition expressed through these terms :

"We need to be boldly ambitious in our demands, set clear goals and, above all, start implementing them immediately"[29]

Their goal is the total elimination of energy poverty and a just energy transition thanks to a reduction and stabilisation of energy prices - with a target of 90% down on 2022 price levels. They also want to accelerate the pace of green and clean energy development by unleashing the potential of civic energy and the electrification of the Polish economy.

The goal is obtaining 75% of energy from renewable sources already in 2030, and 100% in 2050. Specifically, through investments in hydrogen stations and prioritizing the use of hydrogen in public transport.[30]

- *Social climate justice*

Poland will benefit from the unlocked Reconstruction Fund, from the EU's RePowerEU plan, from the proceeds of emissions trading. It will be far more expensive to continue to bear the costs of not having an energy transition than to use the billions of euros of EU support they have committed to spend on zero-carbon and transitioning to sustainable energy sources.

According to Partia Zieloni it's time to finally remove the obstructionists to change from power and get to work for a greener, cleaner and modern Poland. They also want to tackle the elimination of transport exclusion of 14 million Polish people (around 35% of the population).[31]

C. European Pirate Party (PPEU)

The European Pirate Party (PPEU) is composed of national Pirate Parties all around the EU. It was founded in March 2014 at the EP in the context of the conference on "European Internet Governance and Beyond". However, Pirate Parties in different European countries started appearing already in 2006. The pirate ideologies rely on supporting civil rights, direct democracy and e-democracy. Through the reform of copyright and existing patent laws, they wish for a more innovative, free, creative future thanks to free and open-source software programs. They oppose mass surveillance, censorship and Big Tech.[32]

From partnering countries, only Germany has a representative elected (MEP). However, the party is not represented on national level in the Council or Parliament. Since the program of the German Pirate Party (Piratenpartei Deutschland) is aligned with this of the European Pirate Party, we will concentrate on their European program.

The PPEU position can be summarized through a quote from their website:

"The Pirates support the aims and principles declared by the EU to safeguard our water, air, soil, natural environment and raw materials for the sake of our health and well-being. We also agree with doing this in a sustainable way by taking account of economic, social and regional aspects and by acting responsibly towards future generations and animal welfare.

The Pirates appreciate the progress made thanks to EU environmental laws. However, while voluntary measures by potential polluters may work sometimes, they cannot be relied upon. Legal loopholes and weaknesses are being used to serve economic interests with the public ultimately having to pay for the environmental and health damages. We, therefore, seek more effective implementation and enforcement of the principles of precaution, prevention, 'polluters paying', as well as tackling problems at their sources. Sanctions in the case of non-compliance need to be strengthened. Environmental whistleblowers play a vital role for the benefit of society. They need to receive more support and compensation arrangements which match more realistically their professional and personal damages.

To increase transparency and reliability, we want to make the scientific approach mandatory in any environmental decision-making process. The public has the right to easy, timely and reliable access to environmental data and the decisions resulting from it. This information should also include methods of monitoring and investigations. The data should be available at all times on governmental websites. Scientific advice and specifications which form the basis for administrative and legal decisions need to be sourced from independent experts. Participation in relevant meetings needs to be affordable. Furthermore, a diverse supply of independent scientists needs to be maintained. This can only be achieved by adequately funding academic research into acute and emerging environmental problems rather than increasingly promoting research with links to industry."[33]

· *Mobility*

European Pirate Party supports the initiative Mobility Principles for Liveable Cities (“where you can walk, you should not drive. Where you can drive together, you should not ride solo.”). As they pointed out: the EU is losing billions of euros daily in productive time when commuters are stuck in traffic jams. Therefore, they promote coworking or work from home wherever applicable, even for the civil service when possible.

They also aim to create legislation which enables consumer to see the complete costs of production supply chains in order to transform EU preferences accordingly, such as the promotion of local waste-free food consumption over overseas imports.

On the long-term they want the use of bikes and public transport to access transport hubs, trains for domestic travel inside EU, and planes to reach primarily overseas destinations. They support innovative solutions like autonomous truck trains, smart roads and parking lots, freight trams or modular buses where appropriate.

They aim to align the existing EU transport rules, which currently contain numerous exceptions, with competitive salary standards and favourable working conditions for all professional drivers throughout the continent. Additionally, they seek to harmonize truck driving bans and establish a single market for locomotives and trams. They also support progressive legislation for autonomous, driverless cars to settle liability issues and keep the EU on the top of the automotive innovation ladder. Different modes of transport should be made legally equal, have a transparent system of subsidies and their cost should reflect all applicable externalities.

They aim for a single, publicly controlled, easy-to-use toll satellite system for commercial transport on highways, allowing the use of open source apps, enabling to process anonymized big data and thus improve both municipal and interstate traffic management. They insist that eCall and other similar movement recording devices should remain optional and their data strictly anonymous. Therefore, participation in any such transport monitoring activity should remain a transparent choice with public benefits, rather than a compulsory means of government surveillance using outsourced contractors and opaque control mechanisms.

· *Food production*

They aim toward a sustainable Europe with unpolluted water, air, soil, and food for everyone. It would be possible thanks to a strong role of the Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development, provided that lessons are learnt from past mistakes in EU agricultural policies. In their vision, the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) supports natural and cultural diversity. They are convinced that multiplicity of food production which is locally adapted and in the hands of many independent and self-determined actors will grant food safety and quality of life in the countryside and cities as well. The CAP must provide the frame which stipulates equal rights, opportunities and commitments.

They also think the role of subsidies in European agricultural politics must change towards a greater focus on diversity and equality. Financial support must be granted according to sustainability criteria. To enhance resilience, Pirates want to preserve and develop small scale farming and subsistence agriculture through smaller fields and without heavy engines. Also urban and suburban agriculture and gardening need to be encouraged to reduce transport, supply nutrition, spread knowledge, satisfy human needs.

The Pirates support the idea that exports of a European surplus food products into third countries should be reassessed if they may damage the markets for local food.

In trade agreements with third countries, the EU shall avoid unfair trade practices based on its trade power.

Finally, they think that the EU program on combating illegal fisheries must be strengthened as fishing quotas must be adjusted according to the scientifically evident sustainability.

· *Energy*

The PPEU holds the belief that cross-border goods' CO2 emissions, arising from activities like power generation, should be assigned to the importing countries. Furthermore, they advocate that the expansion of renewable energy-based electricity production should not face legal restrictions within the European Union countries. Construction of new renewable energy sources must be subject to careful consideration of wider impact on the environment, and that we have to weigh their net environmental benefit.

They want to establish a sustainable and reliable energy infrastructure. The transition from fossil resources to renewables and clean energy sources is

necessary with a use of energy sources that is sustainable and must not conflict with other environmental objectives. Their target is a transparent and decentralized structure of energy suppliers which guarantees participatory options for all citizens and prevents monopolies.

According to the PPEU, the Paris Agreement to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels must be implemented. The necessary concepts and technologies for achieving the climate protection goal have been developed. The Pirates demand the legal conditions for these technologies to be used.

· *Social climate justice*

Throughout all the topics concerning climate change, a clear image of a desired social climate justice is drawn. They insist on a more respectful use of the land, that should be more committed to social and natural welfare, therefore leading to more equality.

D. Volt Europa (Volt)

Volt Europa was created in 2017 using the slogan “Neither left, nor right”. They are considered as centrist or center-left in the European context, they are pro-Europeanism, social liberals, with a strong focus on European unity and integration. They hold one seat at the EP, thanks to the German part of Volt.[34]

For Volt, Europe needs a massive green transformation involving technological, structural, and behavioural revolutions to live in a well-balanced world, where corporations, governments, and citizens take a larger responsibility for future generations and the future of our planet. Volt envisions a transition with the primary objective of stopping anthropogenic global warming as well as achieving a long-term sustainable and prosperous eco-civilization, hand in hand with technological development. They aim to boost progressive policies and to take the ecological revolution to the next level, from the local to the European and ultimately to the global political stage. In addition, they push for a transition that is as social and fair as possible, encouraging citizen empowerment and targeting the biggest polluters.

Volt is committed to working towards climate neutrality in energy production and use by 2035. The required changes will fundamentally alter

society, our economies, and the relationship of humanity to the environment. The current delay of action, however, does not delay the impact of consequences.

Volt recognises that a broad range of impactful policies are required to ensure liveable societies and a humane future worldwide. These include policies to transform our behaviour and our economy, as well as policies intended to speed up the energy transition and reduce the damage done to the environment. Volt aims to fairly distribute the burden of these policies, based on the principle that the responsibility to act should be proportional to the damage done and profit gained by all parties alike, companies, institutions, and people across the world. Climate change is the ultimate cross-border issue that requires collective and forceful action. Volt is uniquely positioned to provide a European response to the unprecedented challenge of halting climate change through climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

· *Mobility*

Volt wants massive investments in infrastructure, introduction of new regulations, taxes, and subsidies, and to induce behavioural changes to obtain a decarbonized transportation system. Therefore, they think there is a need to shift public spending from airports and roads towards sustainable transport infrastructure.

Volt will support all forms of environmentally friendly travel, including bicycles, emission-free and shared mobility, as well as an integrated European rail network. They advocate harmonised regulations for green zones in towns larger than 50,000 people, expand city public transport capabilities, create bicycle-friendly zones and bike lanes; promote sharing solutions; and introduce free public parking slots for electric cars.

Their goal is to ban the use of fossil fuels in road vehicles by 2035 (this does not apply to the sale or use of internal combustion engines if they burn biofuels or synfuels)

They want to redirect subsidies to R&D, purchase, and refuelling infrastructure deployment for zero-emission vehicles and net-zero carbon fuels like sustainably produced synfuels. Furthermore, they want to modernise the transportation systems in Europe for short and long distances and promote innovative road charge solutions as well as the development of coherent re-charging station networks throughout Europe and within the cities.

To reduce congestion and enforce reduced speed limits, they promote smart dynamic road traffic management infrastructure, as well as the use of

public transportation Extend energy efficiency obligations to the transport sector to discourage the use of fossil fuels. They are in favour of more efficiency in the transportation sector including RES integration (biofuels and electric motors). They also propose considerable EU-wide investments and subsidies on all levels of rail transportation. Such as integrated long- and medium distance railway networks for goods and passengers, a European High Speed Rail (HSR) network, as well as regional and local public transport. Finally, they want to harmonise infrastructure across Europe. In particular with regard to the European Train Control System (ETCS), platform height, track gauge and the approval of railway vehicles and expand and improve national and international night train services as a convenient alternative to air travel.

- *Food production*

For Volt, the industrial agriculture must be reformed, as in its current form it destroys ecosystems. The party wants to phase out subsidies for all agricultural practices that degrade soil, cause erosion or load water bodies with harmful chemicals. Subsidies must be directed toward any agricultural practices that improve topsoil, capture greenhouse gasses, protect water bodies, promote biodiversity, and stop or reverse erosion.[35] Subsidies should be used to promote eco-friendly practices that build up topsoil and reduce the need for fertiliser, pesticides and insecticides and diesel use.

Volt sees a lot of potential in current research and development of practices like perennial and polyculture agricultural production systems. They advocate for further support of research & development into ways to build high-yield eco-friendly agricultural systems that extract greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere and deposit them into soils, some of which have already been implemented on other continents. The EU should offer support (financial or otherwise) and education to all European farmers to implement these practices.

Volt encourages more sustainable consumer habits such as a plant-based diet, the promotion of circular economy, and public's education on how the diet and other consumption affects the climate. They encourage shoppers to buy seasonal produce and diversifying the ingredients they use.

They think a new system should be developed for the support of farms that are strongly committed to sustainability and product quality instead of keeping the current unfair and unbalanced subsidy system in agricultural sectors across Europe.[36]

· Energy

“Volt aims to ensure a sufficient supply of cleaner energy and supports the creation of a strategy to achieve the decarbonization of energy supply in the EU.”[37]

This strategy should reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2030 compared to 2019, and 100% by 2040, so that the EU becomes carbon-neutral and contributes its fair share to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, with a 66% chance of success. The strategy should support technological innovation as well as structural and behavioural transformation towards sustainable ways of living and develop and start implementing a long-term carbon negativity strategy to achieve the 2040 carbon neutrality milestone. Thus creating a buffer in case other economies do not contribute their fair share in reversing damaging global warming in the long run. Carbon sinks/carbon sequestering should be its main focus, including technical solutions (such as carbon capture & sequestration) and natural carbon sinks (such as ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture).

To reduce the negative effects on the ecosystem, Volt suggests shifting to green energy sources and engaging directly with citizens to ensure a transition towards more sustainable ways of living and use of energy. It calls for changes in the electricity markets with the use of alternative and carbon-free sources of energy to achieve the full decarbonization of the energy system by 2035. Volt suggests imposing additional EU-wide targets for reductions in fossil energy use to compensate for the loss of energy imports from Russia as early as possible.[38]

· Social climate justice

“Volt is based on the principles of equality for all, equal opportunities, and respect for human rights. Individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) are subject to discriminatory practices, violence, harassment, and so much more in every realm of their lives. Each LGBTIQ+ individual faces different challenges and has different needs; there is no one-size-fits-all policy.

Volt aims to introduce regulations and concrete actions to achieve equality in law and in practise for all.”[39]

This quote summarises the position of Volt Europa on equality and social justice matters. Specifically concerning climate change, they advocate to support farmers who need to change their agricultural practises because of climate

change (climate adaptation); ensure that the climate transition is not overwhelmingly detrimental; as weather patterns change, so too must the types of crops used. To protect the vulnerable population, they think we should all better prepare the agriculture sector for extreme weather events like floods and droughts.

III. Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)[1]

The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) is a political group in the European Parliament of the Party of European Socialists (PES). Founded in 1953, it is one of the oldest EP groups. The S&D holds 143 seats in the EP from 25 EU Member States.

A. Party of European Socialists (PES)

The party's political position is centre-left and its ideologies can be summarised as social democrats, progressivism, pro-Europeanism. For them, SED and the EU in general must be a leader in fighting for the environment and tackling climate change, particularly as some of our international partners are falling behind. Europe must protect biodiversity on our continent and globally, and stop pollution. Their vision combines the protection of our planet with the interest of all our citizens.[2]

- *Mobility*

PES claims that by improving mobility, air quality and providing affordable and energy-efficient housing, it is possible to improve citizens' quality of life. To deliver this, they will promote a Plan for Affordable Housing and Clean Public Transport in Europe.

- *Food production*

PES thinks a reform of the EU's agricultural policy should help meet new societal demands, including sustainable production methods, better nutrition, reduced food waste, better animal welfare, climate protection and the preservation of biodiversity.

- *Energy*

"We will fight energy and water poverty, and guarantee accessible, healthy and good quality food, safe products and an end to damaging exposure to toxic chemicals."[3]

For PES, protecting the environment requires the renewal of European industry to make the EU a leader in renewable energies and become climate-neutral by 2050, at the latest. Therefore, CO2 emissions should be taxed EU-wide in a socially fair way, making polluters pay and supporting investment in affordable clean energy.

- *Social climate justice*

According to PES, we live in an increasingly unstable world where Europe should be a pillar of democracy, peace, and stability, as well as a benchmark for social justice, dialogue, multilateralism, human rights, decent work, the rule of law, sustainable development and gender equality.[4]

All five countries are represented in this party.

1. **Local issues**

- a. *France : Parti Socialiste (Socialist Party)*



The Socialist Party is firmly committed to decarbonisation and achieving the objectives of the national low-carbon strategy. Their focus is on spreading the use of electric vehicles and charging stations, supporting rail transport including short lines, night trains, freight, and river transport. They also emphasize the importance of dual and soft mobility.

Furthermore, they aim to initiate a bioclimatic local urban plan that promotes carbon-neutral cities. This plan is seen as a crucial element of sustainable urban planning, allowing for better anticipation, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change. By establishing an ambitious local regulatory framework, this plan ensures that issues such as achieving net-zero emissions and carbon neutrality are incorporated into all future urban planning operations, regardless of scale.

Additionally, they propose the creation of a circular VAT system that promotes the reuse and recycling of products, giving them a "second life" instead of being discarded. This approach aims to contribute to a more sustainable and circular economy.[5]

- *Food production*

The Socialist Party advocates agroecology as a fundamental model that combines the production of quality food, environmental protection, and fair remuneration for producers. They set a target to achieve, by 2030, two-thirds of the land with the Organic Farming (AB) label and High Environmental Value (HVE) level 3 certification. To achieve this, it is necessary to enhance the existing specifications by incorporating the carbon dimension, thereby aligning agricultural practices with climate change mitigation efforts.[6]

- *Energy*

In line with the Socialist Party's vision, there is a strong commitment to decarbonization and the achievement of national low-carbon strategy objectives. This commitment entails comprehensive planning for energy and electricity needs, including the massive renovation of buildings to improve energy efficiency. Furthermore, they advocate for supporting investments in electricity and gas grids, as well as renewable energy sources.

To actively work towards the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050, the Socialist Party proposes launching a national mobilization effort. This ambitious undertaking will require accelerating renewable energy production and making substantial investments in energy storage, exploring new energy carriers like hydrogen, and enhancing transport and distribution networks. To ensure effective coordination and implementation, these efforts will be consolidated under public control and management.[7]

- *Social climate justice*

The Socialist Party's motto, "More justice, less carbon" captures their core principles and goals. In the face of the climate crisis, the Socialist Party recognizes the interconnectedness of environmental and social inequalities. They understand that the conditions for a successful ecological transition must address and mitigate these injustices. They firmly reject the notion that the ecological and social questions can be resolved through false consensus, as they are fundamentally at odds with individualism, liberalism, and nationalism.

The Socialist Party places a central focus on the well-being of human beings, encompassing areas from work to health. They emphasize that achieving climate and environmental justice is crucial for the sustainability of humanity.

They recognize that our health is directly threatened when the environment is unhealthy, and they highlight the importance of favourable working conditions. Additionally, they stress that meaningful employment for all individuals is essential for empowering people and shaping a more equal society. They firmly believe that without addressing these issues, inequality will continue to rise and jeopardize our democracies.

b. France : Place Publique (Public Place, PP) 

Public Place holds 2 MEPs in the EP since 2019.

No detailed information on food production and mobility could be found in their program.

· *Energy*

The Public Place party advocate for the imposition of a tax on super-profits, which would include companies like Total, to ensure a fair contribution. They strongly urge Total to withdraw from territories governed by regimes that violate human rights, as it is essential to uphold responsible corporate behaviour. It is imperative to halt the most polluting and socially dangerous projects led by Total, such as EACOP, Tilenga, Vaca Muerta operations, and oil extraction at Outeniqua in South Africa, as these projects flagrantly violate human rights. They condemn the repression of journalists and opponents associated with the EACOP project. To promote peace and stability, they call for the cessation of all Total Energies activities in Russia, as their continuation only fuels the war in Ukraine through financial revenue. They firmly believe that the State should cease providing diplomatic support to Total Energies in dictatorial states where the company operates, as it contradicts their commitment to human rights and democracy. They demand that the French State immediately put an end to the expropriation of inhabitants living in territories affected by Total Energies projects, prioritizing the protection of their rights and well-being.[8]

· *Social climate justice*

They express their collective anger towards a government that they deem irresponsible in addressing the challenges faced by our society. They hold the government accountable for the widening inequalities that disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged, as well as its disregard for the climate emergency.

As more and more French citizens struggle to meet their basic needs and extreme weather events become more frequent, they criticize the government's response of reducing production taxes and refusing to impose taxes on super-profits. They believe that such actions are no longer acceptable or viable in the current circumstances.[9]

c. France : Nouvelle Donne (New Deal) 

New Deal is a progressive political party in France, founded in November 2013 by its actual and only MEP : Pierre Larrouturou. Their objective is to revitalize the political sphere by promoting democracy, social progress, ecological sustainability, and economic renewal.

· *Mobility*

New Deal prioritizes the development of public transport and soft mobility as key measures. They aim to reduce reliance on cars and air travel, giving preference to urban public transport, trains, soft mobility options, and carpooling. They propose significant investments in the maintenance and expansion of railway infrastructure, with a focus on priority routes. Furthermore, they support and provide subsidies for European initiatives that aim to rehabilitate train lines, ensuring efficient and sustainable transportation.

They seek to promote low-polluting soft mobility options, encouraging modes of transportation that have minimal environmental impact. They advocate for the support and implementation of bus, tram, and TER (regional express train) projects to enhance public transportation accessibility. New Deal aims to facilitate intermodality in urban transport, making it easier for individuals to switch between different modes of transportation seamlessly.

New Deal strives to limit individual and/or polluting transport, emphasizing the importance of reducing carbon emissions and air pollution. They propose offering alternatives to car ownership, such as car-sharing programs, to reduce the number of private vehicles on the road. Furthermore, they advocate for the development of car-sharing services specifically for electric vehicles, targeting individuals who drive shorter distances. They actively encourage carpooling initiatives, promoting the sharing of rides to reduce traffic congestion and emissions.

They also propose reconfiguring the transport of goods to prioritize more sustainable and efficient methods, such as optimizing logistics and promoting greener alternatives.[10]

- *Food production*

New Deal is dedicated to supporting the farming profession in the transition by actively advocating for measures such as farmers' debt reduction, recognizing the financial challenges faced by agricultural workers. They actively encourage and facilitate the transfer of farms and the installation of new farmers, recognizing the importance of generational renewal and the need to ensure the continuity of agricultural practices. They promote and spread agroecological practices, recognizing their significance in achieving sustainable and environmentally friendly farming methods. The party actively supports the establishment of local cooperation systems, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and mutual support within the farming community.

They advocate for reorienting our diet towards a more plant-based approach, aiming to reduce meat consumption as much as possible to promote sustainable and healthier food choices. They propose halting the importation of soy, palm oil, cocoa, and shrimp from Southeast Asia to prevent imported deforestation and protect the environment. New Deal is committed to protecting farmland and promoting biodiversity, recognizing the vital role of preserving agricultural land for sustainable food production and maintaining ecosystem health.[11]

- *Energy*

New Deal wants to develop the production and use of energy on a territorial scale where relevant (cf. the Climate Workshops). Their objective is sobriety above all.

Their goal is to intensively develop the production of renewable energies throughout the term of office. They aim for a strong increase in the share of renewables in our energy consumption in 5 years and to move away from fossil fuels as quickly as possible to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

Moreover, they want to gradually reduce the use of nuclear power once the stability of the network and the withdrawal of fossil fuels is assured with a clear objective: eventually phase out the use of this energy source, the management of

which presents ongoing challenges due to the hazardous nature of its waste, which remains problematic for thousands of years.

They aim to develop research into the materials used to produce or store energy to make them less polluting and less water consuming.[12]

- *Social climate justice*

For New Deal, these are necessary: eradication of extreme poverty, fight against precariousness and substandard housing, and access to health care.

The societies should be built on the respect and interest of peoples, regardless of their level of “development”. International relations and agreements should draw inspiration from the fight against world hunger. According to New Deal, we must invent a model of society based on the fulfilment and emancipation of the human person and the prosperity of peoples and citizens, as well as respect for ecosystems and living beings. The protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change must be imposed on all.[13]

- d. *Germany : Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD)*



The Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands is a powerful centre-left German party, holding sixteen seats in the EP.

- *Mobility*

The SPD places a strong emphasis on rail transport in their transport policy agenda. Their objective is to make rail travel within Europe more affordable and appealing than air travel. To achieve this, they will invest in expanding and enhancing the rail network, focusing on reducing noise, improving stations, and reactivating old rail lines. They also aim to provide tighter schedules, reliable intervals, and more comfortable trains equipped with nationwide Wi-Fi and seat reservation options. Their vision includes electrifying 75% of the rail network and advancing digitization in rail operations by 2030. They are committed to supporting the use of hydrogen-powered trains on non-electrified lines. The SPD will maintain Deutsche Bahn AG as an integrated group under public ownership, prioritizing fairness in the mobility services market.

In their efforts to combat climate change, SPD will strive to achieve climate-neutral new buses and trains by 2030. They will modernize existing fleets and create more space for public transport, pedestrians, and cyclists in urban areas. They aim to promote sustainable urban mobility by establishing barrier-free mobility stations at intersections and establishing a national mobility coordination centre to assist in developing regional mobility plans.[14]

- *Food production*

The SPD recognizes the crucial role of agriculture in addressing climate change and preserving biodiversity. To support this, they will align agricultural subsidies in a manner that enables environmentally friendly farming practices to remain competitive. They acknowledge that food is not only vital for sustenance, but also for securing the livelihoods of farmers. To achieve this, they emphasize the importance of fair prices for high-quality food. In order to create a level playing field and protect the interests of consumers, farmers, and fair trade competitors, they are determined to put an end to unfair trade practices in the food industry. The SPD is dedicated to ensuring decent wages and good working conditions for agricultural and forestry employees. They also recognize the significance of migrant workers in seasonal farms for maintaining a stable food supply. Consequently, they aim to improve the precarious working and living conditions that migrant workers often face.[15]

- *Energy*

The SPD has set ambitious goals for Germany, aiming to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045 and to source all electricity from renewable sources by 2040. Recognizing the increasing demand for electricity in sectors such as transportation and industry, they emphasize the need for a decisive decade of expanding renewable energies to meet this growing demand. To make the necessary advancements towards a sustainable future, they prioritize key actions such as expanding renewable energy sources, digitizing power grids, improving energy efficiency, developing storage and hydrogen technologies, and modernizing buildings and factories. They consider hydrogen produced from renewable sources as vital in attaining climate neutrality. To support this, they advocate for the expansion of power grids, rail lines, hydrogen pipelines, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Engaging citizens in climate protection and energy policy is a priority for the SPD. They propose creating a pact for the future that includes binding targets for expanding renewable energy sources and launching sustainable electricity bonds as a means of involving the public in their efforts.[16]

- *Social climate justice*

They understand that food is not only essential for survival but also serves as a source of livelihood for farmers. They also recognize the importance of fair prices for high-quality food in sustaining the agriculture sector.

SPD is determined to take decisive action to ensure a level playing field and prevent unfair practices in the food trade, safeguarding the interests of consumers, farmers, and fair-trade competitors. They prioritize promoting decent wages and good working conditions for all employees in agriculture and forestry, including migrant workers. Furthermore, they acknowledge the significant role played by migrant workers in securing their food supply and are committed to improving their often-precarious working and living conditions.[17]

e. Poland : Nowa Lewica (New Left)



- *Mobility*

The New Left party aims to modernize existing and construct new railway lines, renovate and reopen closed stations on active railway lines, establish a comprehensive network of local connections in all district towns in Poland. They plan to construct and renovate 10,000 km of railway lines with a speed of 160 km/h, connecting all voivodeship towns. They also aim to increase the transportation of bulk goods by rail, while discontinuing the construction of the Central Railway Port. Additionally, they intend to provide residents of all communes with access to high-quality bus connections.

These measures will not only eliminate transportation exclusion, but also contribute to reducing CO2 emissions from transport. The party also seeks to decrease car traffic in major cities through initiatives such as constructing car parks on the outskirts of cities and promoting affordable and convenient public transport options. They plan to implement the “Safe Routes to School” program and enhance safe pedestrian crossings, prioritizing the reconstruction of hazardous areas. Furthermore, they propose introducing traffic organization measures that enforce safe driving near pedestrian crossings and intersections.

Lastly, the New Left party plans to introduce free public transport for children and young people.[18]

- *Food production*

The New Left party emphasizes the potential for rapid and effective green modernization in the Polish countryside, taking into account its unique characteristics such as small farms, a significant agricultural workforce, and limited production scale. They believe that by prioritizing the production of healthy, high-quality food and investing in green energy, the countryside can become a prosperous and appealing place to live. Their key objectives include implementing systemic changes that provide legal, organizational, and financial support for the establishment of agricultural cooperatives.

They also propose a comprehensive program to support organic farming in Poland. It involves subsidizing the development of organic farms, providing training for farmers through Agricultural Advisory Centres (ODR), promoting organic food among consumers, and granting funds to Polish universities for the advancement of scientific knowledge related to organic crops and breeding.

Furthermore, the New Left party aims to develop technologies aligned with ecological principles, optimize the utilization of organic waste materials, encourage humane and environmentally friendly animal husbandry practices, promote the cultivation of native protein crops and processing of organic food. They also advocate for reforms in Agricultural Advisory Centres (ODRs) to extend their scope beyond EU fund advice, enhancing their financial and organizational capacity to deliver professional guidance and training to farmers under the supervision of local authorities.

Additionally, the New Left party supports the revitalization of support for farmers and companies producing plant-based meat substitutes, the liberalization of regulations regarding seed hemp cultivation, and the introduction of tax relief and subsidies for investments in renewable energy sources (RES). They believe that the Polish countryside, already a source of food, can also become a significant energy source. Rural residents can achieve self-sufficiency in electricity production and even sell surplus energy to the grid by implementing photovoltaic and windmill installations.[19]

- *Energy*

Moving towards a green middle-class society is a goal for the New Left party. They advocate for a shift away from coal and emphasize the importance of distributed energy production and storage. They believe that every individual has the potential to become an energy producer, not only contributing to saving the planet but also earning income. Their long-term objective is to transition Poland's economy to rely entirely on clean energy sources, eliminating the use of fossil fuels.

The party's key priorities include the development of renewable energy sources (RES) with the aim of reaching a minimum of 40% RES in the country's energy consumption by 2035, or even earlier, by 2030. They propose revising alternative energy development scenarios based on the best available technology at that time. Additionally, they acknowledge the possibility of considering investment in a state-of-the-art nuclear power plant as part of their long-term strategy.

To ensure the stability of an energy system primarily based on RES, Poland must begin the development of large-scale energy storage technologies promptly. The New Left party specifically mentions green hydrogen, which can be produced from surplus RES, as well as Power2Gas and Power2X technologies, which involve the synthetic gas production from RES. These initiatives aim to enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy system while supporting the transition to clean energy.

- *Social climate justice*

The party plans to introduce programs promoting healthy eating and reducing meat consumption, encouraging Polish individuals to adopt organic food consumption habits, and consider vegetarianism and veganism. They aim to involve schools, kindergartens, and public media in an educational campaign. Moreover, they seek to ensure that wholesome vegetarian or vegan meals are available in all schools and government offices, allowing individuals to make choices aligned with their preferences.

The New Left party is dedicated to supporting residents of post-war areas affected by the consequences of political transformation through the establishment of a special cash benefit fund. They also emphasize the social and professional activation of female residents in rural areas and smaller towns, as well as providing financial support for bio-assurance activities of livestock farmers.

To deconcentrate animal breeding, they propose limiting the construction of new industrial farms, reducing subsidies for industrial breeding, and

implementing incentive systems for farmers engaged in organic animal husbandry. The party advocates for subsidizing and strengthening the staff of the veterinary inspectorate to ensure effective supervision and increased control over animal breeding, focusing on treating animals with respect and improving their welfare. They support a program that offers financial and organizational support to farmers practising organic animal keeping, while also advocating for bans on fur farming, cage farming, and the sale of live farm fish. Additionally, they suggest allocating PLN 1 billion annually for crop and livestock insurance, extending the availability of state support throughout the year.

The New Left party aims to reform the subsidy system to incentivize farmers for water storage in ponds and soil, encourage tree planting on unploughed strips of land, provide agrotechnical training to farmers to reduce soil drying, and offer financial support for the planting and maintenance of new forests, which act as natural water reservoirs.[20]

f. The Netherlands : Partij van de Arbeid (Labour Party, PvdA) 

They hold 6 seats in the EP.

· *Mobility*

The Labour Party advocates for affordable, accessible, and sustainable public transport. They prioritize making substantial investments in public transport infrastructure, with a specific focus on improving the probability of finding train seats for commuters.

· *Food production*

The Labour Party aims to alleviate the excessive burden that current food production and farming practices impose on nature, the climate, the environment, animals, and the living environment. They seek to restore balance in the agricultural sector through several proposed actions. These include banning the use of pesticides, supporting sustainable farmers, implementing an active buyout policy, discontinuing subsidies for intensive livestock farming, immediately banning mink farms, reducing import of animal feed, enforcing mandatory camera surveillance in slaughterhouses, prohibiting the trade and exhibition of dogs and cats that are not allowed to be bred in the Netherlands,

distributing agricultural research funds appropriately, and taking measures to prevent overfishing.

- *Energy*

The Labour Party supports the continuation of the current climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Dutch Climate Agreement. They oppose the use of nuclear energy as an alternative power source. The party advocates for the gradual phase-out of coal as a source of energy and emphasizes the importance of prioritizing (green) hydrogen as an energy focus. The Labour Party intends to concentrate efforts on implementing insulation measures to improve energy efficiency. They plan to use the proceeds to relieve households and support companies affected by the CO2 tax with investments in jobs and the development of cleaner energy.

- *Social climate justice*

The Labour Party places a strong emphasis on upholding democracy and the rule of law. They are committed to promoting diversity and emancipation as key values. Sustainability and agriculture are focal points for the Labour Party, as they seek to address environmental concerns and promote sustainable farming practices. In terms of international politics, the party actively engages and takes a stance on global issues.

g. Sweden: Socialdemokraterna (Swedish Social Democratic Party) 

It was founded in 1889, and it is the country's oldest and largest party. The party hold 5 seats in the EP.

- *Mobility*

The Swedish Social Democratic Party aims to improve and enhance the railway system in various ways. They prioritize upgrading railways across the country to ensure reliability and punctuality. The party advocates for the construction of new main lines, which will increase capacity and facilitate faster trains, leading to a more efficient railway system. They also aim to shift a larger

portion of freight transportation from road to rail, promoting sustainability and reducing environmental impact. In terms of infrastructure, the party supports substantial investments in both existing and new railways. They are committed to accelerating the pace of investment to enhance and expand the railway network.[21]

Additionally, they plan to invest 500 million crowns annually in rural road development, with a focus on creating safer traffic conditions and fair working conditions in the transport industry. To promote sustainable transportation, the party aims to significantly increase the number of public charging points for electric vehicles, with the goal of more than doubling the current number by 2030. They also advocate for standardized management of chargers and apps for electric car users.[22]

The Swedish Social Democratic Party is dedicated to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and increasing autonomy. They aim to achieve a fossil-free vehicle fleet by 2030, and they intend to expedite the electrification of Sweden by reforming the travel deduction system to make it more inclusive and simpler, covering a larger portion of the population.[23]

· *Food production*

The Swedish Social Democratic Party aims to strengthen the country's food production by implementing measures to increase output and establish a comprehensive program for organic food production.

They prioritize maintaining and enhancing animal welfare standards while promoting high environmental standards, recognizing them as a competitive advantage. To ensure animal welfare, the party proposes making it mandatory to include high standards of animal welfare and limited use of antibiotics in all food procurement processes involving animal-derived products.

To empower consumers and promote transparency, the party advocates for improved food labelling and increased information regarding the origin of food, including in restaurant settings.

Furthermore, the Swedish Social Democratic Party is committed to continuing their support for Swedish farmers, recognizing their vital role in the agricultural sectors.[24]

· *Energy*

The Swedish Social Democratic Party proposes several measures to address electricity-related issues and promote energy efficiency. They plan to introduce high-cost protection to shield Swedish households and businesses from soaring electricity prices. The party aims to redesign the EU electricity market, separating the price of electricity from Russian gas prices. This move could potentially halve electricity prices in southern Sweden, a negotiation Sweden has successfully persuaded other EU countries to support.

Expanding electricity production is a priority, with a focus on various sources. Offshore wind power has significant potential, and municipalities involved in wind turbine expansion should receive financial assistance. The party also emphasizes the need to protect and utilize hydropower and increase the adoption of solar panels, including on public and commercial buildings. Nuclear power is acknowledged as an important component of Sweden's electricity generation, and the party welcomes initiatives to explore the potential of various energy sources. They aim to conduct energy policy talks with other parties after the election to develop a new energy agreement for the benefit of Sweden.

Removing bureaucratic barriers is a key objective. The party plans to eliminate slow permit processes and at least double the rate of electricity network expansion. Simultaneously, they emphasize the importance of ensuring reasonable costs for electricity customers across the country. A review of electricity price areas will be conducted, and the party intends to utilize revenues from unused capacity charges for network investments, reducing price disparities and overall costs.

To promote energy efficiency, the Swedish Social Democratic Party aims to facilitate improvements for families. They recognize the societal and financial benefits of enhancing home energy efficiency.[25]

· *Social climate justice*

The Swedish Social Democratic Party emphasizes the need to enhance climate preparedness by making significant investments in addressing climate-related challenges and extreme weather events.

They propose introducing financial support to encourage measures that enhance the energy performance of apartment buildings, promoting energy efficiency and sustainability.

The party remains committed to investing in the green transition, aiming to generate tens of thousands of new jobs for ordinary people nationwide. They believe that Sweden's advancement in the green industry will not only benefit society, but also position the country as a global leader.

Furthermore, they prioritize efforts to reduce eutrophication and safeguard the cleanliness of our drinking water, recognizing the importance of protecting this vital resource.[26]

On the spectrum of political centre, we can also find the group Renew Europe.

IV. Renew Europe (Renew)

Renew Europe (Renew) is a EU political group that was formed in 2019 for the ninth term of the European Parliament and is the successor of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe group. It represents roughly 1/7 of the MEPs in the Parliament, as they have 100 out of 705 MEPs. Two parties are part of the group Renew: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE Party) and the European Democratic Party (EDP).

Renew believes that Europe has a crucial role to play in combating climate change, safeguarding the environment, and promoting sustainable development. They are fully supportive of the EU's objective to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. To achieve this, they emphasize the need for practical solutions that facilitate a green transition while generating employment opportunities and fostering economic growth.

Renew advocates for research, innovation, and smart regulation as essential components to drive green growth and the development of new technologies, resources, and raw materials.

They propose utilizing market economy forces to incentivize companies to transition to carbon-neutral and circular economy models.

Renew suggests exploring the possibility of expanding the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to encompass additional sectors. They prioritize investments in renewable and low carbon energy across various forms to effectively decarbonize energy sources and systems.

Renew supports a transition to zero-emissions mobility by phasing out petrol and diesel-powered vehicles.

The party promotes incentives that encourage citizens to adopt climate-conscious behaviours in their daily lives, thus becoming more environmentally aware consumers.

Renew advocates for stronger cooperation among EU member states on environmental protection, both on land and at sea, recognizing the importance of collaborative efforts in safeguarding the planet.[1]

A. Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE Party)



· *Mobility*

ALDE Party advocates for the establishment of competences for the European railway authority to oversee the negotiation and development of a high-speed railway network across the European Union. This network would connect major cities and urban regions within the EU and potentially extend beyond Union territory.

Ensuring accessibility to European regions is a priority for ALDE Party, which entails maintaining and expanding rail networks beyond just major routes. They believe that quality public transport should be guaranteed in all major cities, with a focus on metros, trams, buses, bicycles, and other sustainable modes of transportation. Walking and cycling should also be supported with improved walkways, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian crossings. In rural areas, ALDE Party emphasizes the development of secondary railway lines as a complement to on-demand road or air transport.

Investments are needed to enhance the safety and accessibility of public transport, making it more appealing to the public, including individuals with disabilities.

The standardization of railway gauges between Member States is seen as a progressive priority, particularly on the European axes.

ALDE Party envisions an integrated transport system that enables passengers to easily purchase online tickets for point-to-point travel, integrating various modes of transportation. Data accessibility for all transport companies and service providers would facilitate transnational multimodal ticketing.

They propose the development of a European-wide night train rail network as a sustainable and affordable alternative for interconnectivity and to promote European citizenship and rail tourism. Along major rail routes within the EU, ALDE Party advocates for continuous high-speed internet access to optimize travel time and allow for productive work during the journey.

They support the promotion of rail passenger rights and the gradual decarbonization of long-distance transport. This includes the development of additional high-speed rail routes, exploring technologies such as Transrapid or Hyperloop utilizing electromagnetic levitation and vacuum tube technologies.[2]

- *Food production*

ALDE Party calls for the evaluation of the environmental safety of drought-resistant genetically modified maize varieties that have already been imported into the European Union. If these evaluations yield positive results, they urge the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to authorize their cultivation.

They also advocate for the evaluation of health and environmental safety of drought-resistant genetically modified wheat varieties. If these evaluations demonstrate positive outcomes, they urge the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to authorize their cultivation and use as animal feed.

ALDE Party supports allowing the cultivation of genetically modified glyphosate-tolerant soybeans within the European Union, starting from the upcoming sowing season in 2022. Furthermore, they encourage Member States to permit the cultivation of genetically-modified maize varieties that are resistant to borer insects, which have already been approved by the European Union.

They also advocate for simplified authorization procedures to allow testing of RNAi technologies and genetically-modified plants in open experimental fields. This would enable citizens to witness first-hand the benefits and solutions implemented to enhance the resilience, productivity, and safety of European agricultural supply chains, and to engage with research experts directly.

ALDE Party proposes simplifying the authorization procedure for genetically edited plants that do not contain exogenous genetic material, except for short insertions, by exempting them from the provisions outlined in Directive 2001/18.

To achieve these objectives, ALDE Party, along with national liberal parties, aims to mobilize politically and work collaboratively.[3]

- *Energy*

ALDE Party recognizes the need for a wide range of solutions to effectively address climate change and align with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. These solutions encompass various areas such as building materials, greener production methods, and smarter transportation. They aim to achieve more efficient energy utilization and cleaner energy production, providing structural support for innovative energy solutions. ALDE Party believes that this approach will enhance the stability and affordability of the European energy supply,

fostering the competitiveness of industrial start-ups. They advocate for the EU to conduct auctions for all quotas until achieving net-zero emissions.[4]

1. Local issues

a. France : *Parti Radical (Radical Party)*

They were founded in 1901, making them the oldest still active political party in France. They currently hold one seat in the EP.

· *Mobility*

In their program, there is a brief mention of the necessity to transition to only electric vehicles.[5] They align themselves with the goals of the ALDE Party.

· *Food production*

The Radical Party actively engages in discussions and initiatives concerning food production, regularly publishing news and updates on the topic on their website. They are determined to pursue the battle for the full enforcement of "mirror clauses," which mandate that all imports from outside the EU strictly adhere to the community's existing rules. They emphasize the importance of vigorously pursuing this objective at both the European and national levels.

As a staunch advocate for farmers and a firm supporter of a robust and accountable environmental policy, the Radical Party has consistently backed the positive actions taken by successive Ministers of Agriculture. They consider it crucial for France to ensure, in the best interest of its citizens and farmers, the diligent implementation of the mentioned provisions and exert its influence within the European Union to ensure their rigorous enforcement.

In line with their commitment to responsible ecology, the Radical Party strongly urges the government to take necessary measures to support and assist farmers who are facing significant challenges and difficulties.[6]

· *Energy*

The Radical Party intends to promote the development of insufficiently exploited solutions, such as the recovery of incidental heat from industrial activity

close to an adequate urban density for urban heating. In addition, it suggests rethinking the doctrine of design, use, and financing of alternative energies, considering their effective yield and holistic environmental impact.

Radical Party calls for a genuine renovation of the French nuclear industry. First, by implementing a pricing policy that guarantees the sustainability and renewal of facilities, with a greater capacity for investment in research and development, processing and safety. Secondly, by prioritizing the development of micro power plants, alongside the continued development of renewable energies, to be able to meet the future increase in demand, particularly linked to the development of electric vehicles. Finally, this modernization of the nuclear energy sector must naturally be accompanied by a policy of research and support for electrical storage solutions.[7]

b. Germany : Freie Demokratische Partei (Free Democratic Party) 

The party was founded in 1948 and currently holds 5 seats in the EP.

· Mobility

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) opposes excessive restrictions on mobility, as they are not sustainable. Instead, they advocate for the expansion of CO2 emissions trading as a means to incentivize the adoption of environmentally friendly engines and alternative fuels. The FDP rejects blanket bans on internal combustion engines and prioritizes investment in innovation and infrastructure to facilitate the transition towards environmentally friendly traffic flow. A technology-centred approach, in conjunction with an effective emissions trading system and modern infrastructure, plays a crucial role in achieving secure, clean, and affordable mobility.

They propose the separation of rail infrastructure and operations, privatization of operations, and an increase in competition, digitization, and reduction of track access charges. These measures aim to facilitate the transportation of more people and goods by rail.

Furthermore, the FDP advocates for increased investments in all transportation routes and the expansion of nationwide fast-charging stations, ensuring non-discriminatory access to charging providers.

Simplifying approval and testing procedures is also a priority for the FDP, as it promotes the emergence of leap innovations and facilitates faster and more cost-effective service provision.

The FDP envisions establishing hydrogen and synthetic fuels as the second pillar of the future energy system, replacing fossil fuels across various sectors, including industry, power for cars, ships, and aircraft, as well as heating buildings.

To improve air quality, the FDP focuses on innovative local solutions such as enhancing local public transport, implementing intelligent traffic management systems, and allowing the use of synthetic fuels to enhance air quality in existing vehicle fleets.

Lastly, the FDP rejects driving bans as they can lead to increased bypass traffic and contribute to higher climate and air pollution levels.[8]

· *Food production*

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) aims to increase economic opportunities for farmers by embracing digital advancements in agriculture and enabling farmers to take charge of their own risk management against escalating weather risks. To alleviate farmers from excessive bureaucracy and make them less dependent on agricultural payments, the FDP proposes a shift away from area-based direct payments towards more future-proof investment support and research.

The FDP advocates the implementation of uniform competition standards within the EU and a gradual dismantling of agricultural subsidies at the EU level. In order to promote fair competition on a global scale, the FDP suggests reforms to cooperative laws. Trade barriers for farmers and winegrowers should be dismantled, according to the FDP's stance.

To help agricultural and forestry businesses better cope with drought and other climate change consequences, the FDP proposes the establishment of tax-exempt risk compensation reserves in good years. A paradigm shift in hydraulic engineering is necessary to ensure sufficient water supply for crop growth in the future, as per the FDP's perspective. The FDP emphasizes the importance of ensuring the availability of effective and modern crop protection products throughout Europe.

Responsible animal husbandry should be implemented, with robust controls under the rule of law and effective modernization measures, even accommodating small and medium-sized farms, according to the FDP. Transparent, mandatory animal welfare labels throughout the EU and eventually uniform animal welfare standards across Europe are part of the FDP's vision to enable consumers to make responsible choices when purchasing animal

products. Regular inspections of animal welfare standards on farms should be conducted, at least every five years, according to the FDP's stance.

To foster reduced food waste, the FDP proposes implementing transparent nutritional information and early nutrition education in daycare centres and schools. They also suggest exploring alternatives to rigid best-before dates, such as dynamic spoilage limits for certain products, and promoting intelligent packaging and reduced liability for food donations.

The FDP advocates for sustainable development principles in fisheries, including limitations on bottom trawling and adapting fishing techniques to specific species. Bycatch should be considered in catch quotas, according to the FDP. Competitiveness of fishermen and aquaculture producers should be strengthened through cooperative measures based on scientific findings, according to the FDP's perspective. The FDP supports the "multi-use approach" for offshore wind farms, allowing fishing activities in these areas. The FDP recognizes fishing as an important connection to nature that fosters community and rejects blanket bans or restrictions on angling, particularly night fishing bans or zero-use bans on waters.

According to FDP, modern wildlife management is needed to allow hunting of wolf, cormorant, nandu, and beaver for game acquisition, disease prevention, and minimizing game damage, according to the FDP's stance. They also aim for uniform regulations on the legal use of silencers and night aiming devices for noise reduction and precise targeting.

The FDP sees digitalization as an opportunity for agriculture and supports the adoption of "smart farming" to optimize farms and modernize animal welfare, environmental practices, and work processes. Promoting solutions and increasing incomes in a modern agricultural policy without unnecessary restrictions is a key objective for the FDP.

The FDP embraces openness to technology for sustainable agriculture, including scientifically based approval criteria for genetically modified crops. The swift approval of in vitro meat in the EU is advocated by the FDP. The FDP supports exploring new options in feed supply for omnivores, such as processed animal proteins, including those derived from insects, as long as there are no health concerns. This approach saves protein importation and conserves resources. Addressing public concerns through education is an important aspect of the FDP's perspective.

The FDP advocates for a diverse range of production systems that align with society's sustainable production ideals, recognizing that organic and conventional farming are not mutually exclusive.[9]

- *Energy*

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) advocates for the promotion and simplified certification of alternative fuels to help achieve Germany's climate targets by 2030. They highlight the availability of synthetic fuels that can be used in conventional internal combustion engines without modifications.

The FDP emphasizes the need for accelerated expansion of storage facilities, considering them as an independent pillar of the energy system alongside producers, grids, and consumers. They propose tax exemptions for storage facilities to ensure their economic viability.

Investment in geoengineering, including the development of innovative technologies and effective policies, is seen as crucial by the FDP to minimize the risks of climate change and create new opportunities.[10]

- *Social climate justice*

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) suggests implementing measures to address the social costs associated with climate protection. They propose the introduction of a climate dividend and a significant reduction in energy taxation to alleviate these costs.

In order to prevent potential price increases and excessive government revenues resulting from certificate scarcity, the FDP recommends abolishing the Renewable Energy Sources Act. Additionally, they propose reducing the electricity tax to the minimum permissible rate under current EU law and ultimately working towards its complete abolition.

To ensure revenue neutrality, the FDP suggests calculating a flat-rate amount to be annually repaid to every citizen as a climate dividend. This approach aims to offset the costs of climate protection and provide a fair distribution of financial benefits.[11]

c. The Netherlands : Democraten 66 (Democrats 66 or D66) 

Democrats 66 party was founded in 1966 which explains the choice of name. Its first objective was to democratize the Dutch political system. Over time, as we can see now, it developed into a broader social liberal ideology. D66 has one MEP.

- *Mobility*

Democraten 66 (D66) places high importance on accessibility and sustainability in their approach to investing in mobility. Their objective is to make public transport in urban areas more appealing than using cars. They are committed to investing in faster public transport connections to the northern and southern regions of the Netherlands, as well as neighbouring countries in the east. Additionally, D66 is actively supporting significant innovations in cleaner and self-driving transportation. They aim to provide travellers with a wider range of transportation options and seamless transfers, such as bicycles, electric scooters, and shared cars. D66 acknowledges that substantial investments are required for these initiatives, but they consider them essential for improving air quality and achieving cleaner transportation alternatives.

- *Food production*

According to Democraten 66 (D66), the current state of agriculture and horticulture in the Netherlands is deemed unsustainable. They identify several key issues, including excessive imports of animal feed from distant locations, excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, and a dire state of biodiversity. D66 asserts that a major systemic change is necessary to address these challenges and transform the bulk of food production.

D66 advocates for the circular utilization of agricultural land. This entails allocating more land for plant-based food production for human consumption, increasing the use of residual products for animal feed, and reducing meat consumption. In order to establish a sustainable cycle of manure and food, D66 proposes halving the number of chickens and pigs in the Netherlands and significantly reducing the cow population. They also envision the Netherlands taking a leading role globally in the more efficient use of nitrogen to mitigate emissions.

- *Energy*

D66 supports the continuation of existing climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Dutch climate Agreement. They oppose the use of nuclear energy, but are in favour of offshore wind energy. D66 aims to increase subsidies for building insulation as part of their efforts to combat the climate crisis.

D66 is committed to taking decisive action to address the climate crisis. They prioritize green and innovative entrepreneurship to generate economic growth and create new job opportunities. D66 proposes implementing measures to ensure that polluting companies bear greater financial responsibility.

A key goal for D66 is to establish the Netherlands as the largest producer of wind energy in Europe. They envision achieving this through the development of a vast offshore wind farm consisting of thousands of wind turbines. Additionally, D66 aims to reduce the use of natural resources by 30 percent by 2025.

- *Social climate justice*

Democraten 66 (D66) believes that climate issues should not be undermined by a global economy driven solely by seeking the lowest prices. They advocate for the transition towards circular agriculture as the new standard, and they aim to reduce the cattle population by half.

D66 encourages companies to shift their focus from solely pursuing financial gains to emphasizing societal values. They support ambitious companies that strive for both economic success and contribute value to society. Such companies will be provided with a favourable climate to establish themselves and contribute to innovation and digitalization. D66 extends this support to small and medium-sized enterprises as well, recognizing their role as the driving force behind creating quality jobs for everyone in the Netherlands, both now and in the future.

d. *The Netherlands : Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, VVD)* 

The VVD is a centrist political party in the Netherlands, holding 5 seats in the EP.

- *Mobility*

VVD strives to minimize traffic congestion through smart solutions while maintaining high standards for public transport. They prioritize safety and comfort for all travellers within the Netherlands.

VVD believes in addressing pollution at its source. Rather than implementing complex environmental zones in various municipalities, they advocate for the development of clean cars and trucks. If municipalities choose to

establish environmental zones, it should be done gradually and in consultation with the relevant industry. To ensure clarity for motorists, uniform categories and signage are necessary.

The VVD aims to create more transfer points where different modes of transportation intersect. This enables seamless transfers from, for instance, trains to shared cars, facilitating convenient journeys.

In non-urban areas, VVD seeks to enhance the customer-friendliness of public transport. They prioritize meeting the demands of travellers, shifting the focus from the supply of carriers.

VVD also advocates for increased competition in public transport. They believe that public tenders can lead to improved and more extensive services, ultimately benefiting travellers.

- *Food production*

The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy emphasizes the importance of achieving a balance between the agricultural economy and nature preservation. They prioritize reducing emissions through innovative approaches, extensification of agricultural practices, or even the conversion of certain activities. The VVD recognizes the need to support farmers financially to enable them to invest in sustainable practices or facilitate the transition out of agriculture if desired. By promoting sustainable and responsible agricultural practices, the VVD aims to safeguard the environment while also supporting the economic interests of farmers. They seek to strike a harmonious balance between the agricultural sector and the preservation of nature.

- *Energy*

The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy believes that the existing climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Dutch Climate Agreement, should be upheld to address climate challenges effectively.

They support further exploration and consideration of nuclear energy as a viable option for the energy mix. Offshore wind energy is considered an important and valuable option by them. The VVD advocates for phasing out the use of coal as an energy source by 2030, aligning with their commitment to transitioning towards cleaner and more sustainable alternatives. A focus on green hydrogen is encouraged by the VVD, recognizing its potential as a significant contributor to achieving sustainable energy goals.

Overall, the VVD advocates for a comprehensive approach to sustainability, combining international cooperation, innovative solutions, and a diverse energy mix to effectively address climate change while keeping energy costs manageable for the public.

- *Social climate justice*

The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy is dedicated to actively reducing CO2 emissions and combating climate change. They recognize that international cooperation is essential in this endeavour, as the Netherlands cannot tackle the issue alone.

The VVD places importance on making the country's energy generation more sustainable. While wind and solar power play a crucial role, they acknowledge that innovation is necessary to identify the energy source of the future.

To ensure a sustainable and affordable energy mix, the VVD supports finding a balance. While renewable sources are vital, the VVD also considers nuclear energy as a part of the solution.

- e. *Sweden : Centerpartiet (Centre Party)* 

Founded in 1913, the party is aptly named, as it represents a centrist position in terms of political ideology. It currently holds 5 seats in the European Parliament.

- *Mobility*

The Centre Party believes that individuals should have the freedom to choose their desired location for living and work, with seamless and environmentally friendly transportation options readily available for commuting between home, work, school, and leisure activities. The Centre Party aims for an exclusive sale of electric and renewable fuel-powered cars in Sweden by the year 2030. They advocate for increased investments in transportation infrastructure across the country to enhance connectivity and accessibility. Also, the Centre Party supports the renovation of existing railway systems and the construction of new main lines to facilitate the implementation of high-speed train networks.[12]

- *Food production*

The Centre Party emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the food we consume is both healthy and safe, while also being produced sustainably. They highlight the issue of widespread antibiotic use in animals, even when they are not sick, leading to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. This practice results in cheap meat but poses a significant threat to public health, with an estimated 25,000 deaths occurring annually in the EU as a consequence.

To address these concerns, the Centre Party aims to make it easier for consumers to make sustainable and conscious choices regarding their food. They advocate for setting requirements for sustainable antibiotic use in production, particularly for public kitchens. Additionally, the Centre Party seeks to reduce the environmental and climate impact of Swedish food consumption and actively works towards minimizing food waste.[13]

- *Energy*

The Centre Party believes that to successfully transition to a sustainable society with lower emissions, a significant increase in energy production is necessary. To accelerate climate efforts and reduce reliance on Russian gas, they have presented a roadmap to double Swedish electricity production by 2030. The Centre Party proposes measures that would allow for the addition of 50 TWh of new electricity production as early as the next parliamentary term. Concurrently, they aim to increase electricity exports to Europe, enabling the phasing out of fossil fuel sources on the continent. Their first objective is to establish a planning goal to double electricity production from all climate-smart energy sources by 2030. In the next parliamentary term, they aim to add 50 TWh of new electricity production.

They emphasize the importance of initiating energy discussions promptly to ensure the formulation of a long-term energy policy for Sweden. Another objective is to expand the exportation of green electricity to Europe. This move aims to facilitate the replacement of fossil fuel sources with climate-friendly energy alternatives on the continent.[14]

· *Social climate justice*

The devastating effects of climate change are already being felt in large parts of the world. Famine disasters as a result of prolonged drought, fires, sea level rise and extreme rainfall force people to flee.

The Centre party want to increase national and international funding for climate adaptation. The support needs to be directed to regions where the effects of climate change have already resulted in people's livelihoods being hit hard.

They also want to create better coordination between the EU countries' funding of measures that meet the increased climate threats in developing countries, so that it becomes more efficient and better. [15]

f. Sweden : Liberalerna (The Liberals) 

The Swedish party has 1 MEP since 2019.

· *Mobility*

The Liberals aim to upgrade and expand roads and railways to improve road safety and facilitate longer, heavier trains and lorries, resulting in reduced transportation and positive environmental effects. They prioritize the removal of bottlenecks that cause congestion and queues. The party also supports investments in regional cycling infrastructure, broadband connectivity, digital services, and postal services throughout the country.

As Sweden is the third largest country in the EU in terms of surface area, with long distances between its ends, The Liberals recognize that a competitive Sweden requires a well-functioning infrastructure. They believe that the country's long distances should never hinder its competitiveness.

Infrastructure investments, according to The Liberals, should follow the efficient utilization of state funds through a four-step principle and socio-economic calculation models. They reject the notion of pitting different modes of transportation against each other and emphasize the need for road, rail, air, sea, public transport, and cycling paths to enable commuting, travel, and efficient goods transportation

The party supports technology-neutral legislation that fosters technological development without imposing restrictive requirements. They argue for a focus on functionality rather than technology-specific regulations.

The Liberals acknowledge that expanded public transport is crucial for achieving national climate and accessibility goals. They emphasize that a well-functioning public transport system is fundamental to the overall functioning of Sweden's transportation network and to ensuring easy access to work and education.[16]

- *Food production*

Sweden, being a food nation, prides itself on producing significant export products in the form of food and beverages. The Liberals emphasize the importance of empowering consumers to make informed choices. Trustworthy content declarations and labelling are crucial, and traceability of food should extend throughout the entire supply chain, including restaurants. To combat fraud, The Liberals advocate for frequent checks conducted by the EU's veterinary authority.

Swedish food is recognized for its climate-smart production methods, good animal welfare standards, and environmental considerations, which provide a competitive advantage that must be preserved. Ensuring good animal welfare practices also leads to reduced antibiotic usage. To maintain the climate-smart nature of Swedish food, the focus should be on reducing food waste and increasing consumption of domestically produced food. Any remaining waste should be efficiently utilized, such as for biogas production.

While some argue for promoting organic farming for health and environmental reasons, others contend that conventional agriculture is more efficient and climate-friendly in order to meet the global demand for food. The Liberals support organic food but believe that consumer demand, rather than political intervention, should drive its promotion.

Additionally, The Liberals have actively advocated for a Swedish food strategy. While the strategy now exists, they are critical of the production target that dictates the proportion of agricultural land designated for organic farming. They view such targets as resembling a planned economy rather than a market-based approach.[17]

- *Energy*

In the transition to combat climate change, The Liberals advocate for the cessation of oil, coal, and gas usage while expanding fossil-free energy sources. While biofuels hold importance, solar, wind, and nuclear power are deemed as

the most viable options for scaling up and replacing fossil fuels. All three sources generate electricity, and therefore, the party emphasizes the need to electrify industries and the transportation sector as much as possible to achieve a successful transition.

The party proposes two approaches: direct electricity utilization in vehicles and industrial processes, or using electricity to produce hydrogen. Hydrogen can be employed in industries, used as a fuel, or utilized to produce other fossil-free alternatives such as petrol or diesel.

Over the next 20 years, The Liberals aim to double the production, distribution, and use of electricity. This requires a balanced expansion of various forms of electricity production while strengthening the electricity grid to ensure reliable supply. Access to electricity should be guaranteed to meet the needs of all individuals. To effectively address climate change and foster industrial development, The Liberals assert the necessity of a fundamental shift in energy policy.

Nuclear power is considered to have a crucial role due to its capacity for large-scale expansion and predictable planning. Given the requirement for electricity production that can meet demand irrespective of weather conditions, The Liberals advocate for removing obstacles to the construction of new nuclear power plants to ensure the functioning of the electricity system.[18]

· *Social climate justice*

The climate policy of The Liberals centers around the elimination of carbon dioxide emissions, substantial reductions in methane and nitrous oxide emissions, and the implementation of extensive carbon capture and storage measures. Additionally, carbon sequestration in forests and soils will continue to play a significant role.

The party emphasizes the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, and free trade as powerful catalysts for driving change. Historical experiences with environmental issues have demonstrated that successful transitions occur within growing economies. It is through the endeavours of free individuals in prosperous and expanding economies that environmental challenges are effectively addressed. The pursuit of growth is inherently linked to finding smarter solutions, which is at the core of climate action.

To replace coal, oil, and gas with fossil-free energy sources while ensuring global access to energy, The Liberals advocate for the expansion of solar, wind, and nuclear power. These three energy sources have the capacity for significant

scalability. However, the transition necessitates a dependable supply of fossil-free energy, which is considered a notable weakness in Swedish climate policy.

The Liberals have established ambitious targets for Sweden to capture 10 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2030 and 20 million tons by 2035. Achieving negative emissions through the storage of captured carbon dioxide, particularly when derived from biomass, becomes a crucial element in mitigating climate change. Carbon capture plays a pivotal role in The Liberals' climate action strategy.[19]

B. The European Democratic Party (EDP)

The European Democratic Party (EDP) was founded in 2004. It is a centrist party holding 12 MEPs seats in the EP. The EDP emphasizes the need for Europe to reclaim its leadership in the fight against climate change. The party firmly believes that the transition to a green economy should be viewed as the third industrial revolution, generating millions of jobs both in Europe and globally. To achieve this, the EDP puts forward the following recommendations of implementing a carbon pricing mechanism. Given that coal is the primary contributor to global warming and currently cheaper than less polluting alternatives like gas, imposing a price on greenhouse gas emissions would send a strong signal to companies, encouraging them to shift towards renewable energy sources.

They also believe in the expansion of the financial transaction tax. This innovative and sustainable form of financing can provide a non-discriminatory source of funding. The revenue generated from this tax can be utilized to establish a global investment fund aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

They want the establishment of global mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the commitments made by Member States at COP21. These mechanisms serve as a guarantee that the commitments made will be upheld, fostering transparency and shared responsibility. Additionally, they allow for the periodic increase of commitments every five years to further address the urgency of the climate crisis.[20]

· *Mobility*

Creating an integrated and sustainable mobility system that prioritizes efficiency and operates within an open and competitive market is a primary objective for the EDP. This is essential to ensure the smooth movement of goods and individuals, as well as the proper functioning of the internal market.

Additionally, it plays a crucial role in the success of climate change and energy transition policies. Especially considering that transportation currently accounts for one third of final energy consumption in European Environment Agency member countries, with the majority being derived from fossil fuels. Moreover, one fifth of greenhouse gas emissions in the Union originate from the transportation sector.

Furthermore, developing a robust and efficient mobility system is vital for the competitiveness of the economy. Congestion and mobility challenges result in an annual cost equivalent to 1% of the Union's GDP for companies and administrations, ultimately affecting the final prices of products. Additionally, the current transport model heavily relies on non-renewable fossil fuel imports from politically unstable regions, emphasizing the need for sustainable alternatives.

The EDP proposes the establishment of an integrated mobility system that provides users with control over contractual services, including pricing and scheduling. This system should ensure seamless transportation services throughout the entire journey, enabling automated and intelligent combinations of various transportation modes to facilitate the movement of goods and people.

They also are in favour of the implementation of a homogeneous legal framework that ensures security, deepens the principles of a single sky and railway interoperability, and addresses issues of social dumping contributing to market fragmentation. This entails enacting smart legislation to standardize definitions, simplify processes, reduce administrative burdens, and facilitate performance evaluations.

Finally, they believe in the creation of an industrial policy for the sector that focuses on revitalizing employment opportunities through professional training, entrepreneur support, and investment in research and development. This policy aims to encourage intermodality, manage "big data" related to the movement of goods and people, promote the progressive decarbonization of fuels across all modes of transport, and support the adoption of e-mobility through charging infrastructure, purchase incentives, and renewable charging solutions for households.[21]

· *Food production*

The EDP, while recognising the added value provided by European agriculture, supports the development of a new sustainable, efficient and productive model of agriculture combining ambitious economic and

environmental objectives for the benefit of farmers, consumers, rural communities and the environment.

The EDP would like to see sustainability, innovation, food security in all parts of the Union, competitiveness and tackling climate change as the key drivers of the reform.

Moreover, the budget for the Common Agricultural Policy should be sufficient to ensure adequate funding for its objectives and to avoid any possibility of renationalisation in the future. The EDP supports a Common Agricultural Policy that is fair to all farmers. However, they are aware of the fact that natural conditions, costs of production and general living standards are not the same everywhere in Europe. And this must be taken into account in the redistribution of support. Therefore, an EU flat-rate payment system would not fully reflect EU agricultural diversity. The CAP should also reflect the objectives of the European social pillar in the fight against rural poverty and unemployment.

They support the continuous orientation of the Common Agricultural Policy towards the market and not the return to failed policies, insisting that this should not be made at the expense of food security and quality, animal welfare, the environment or undermine farmers' ability to earn a fair income for the delivery of their products to the market.

The EDP is in favour of a Common Agricultural Policy that promotes a variety of agricultural models and supports a gradual transition towards farming methods that minimize the use of plant protection products and replace them with environmentally friendlier alternatives, ensure high animal welfare standards and increase traceability, ensure sanitary and phytosanitary standards, preserve and restore biodiversity and tackle food waste. These measures should be accompanied by concrete Union targets and indicators, where feasible.

They support a future Common Agricultural Policy which emphasises the importance and encourage the development of food quality schemes such as geographical indications, in recognition of the added value provided by European agriculture. EU quality products are part of EU culture and heritage, represent an enormous European asset worldwide and are key to boost rural economies and SMEs

In conclusion on the CAP, the EDP believes that investment in innovation, digitalisation, education and training are vital for the future of European agriculture - to "link what we know to what we grow".

The Common Fisheries Policy is a key policy for the Union and compliance with all the provisions should be necessary in order to protect our fishermen's jobs and the marine environment. The EDP wants a properly functioning control system that would contribute to the viability of the whole sector; a special

attention should be given to the approval of the new protocols on partnership agreements already applied in the fisheries sector. Brexit is likely to have a significant impact on shared fish stocks and market access, which is why fisheries agreement is a priority.

- *Energy*

Taking inspiration from the successful establishment of the Common Agricultural Policy, there is a proposal to create a Common Energy Policy that would serve as a framework for action. One of the fundamental initiatives within this policy would involve launching a comprehensive climate investment plan, supported by the European Investment Bank, with a budget of 100 billion euros for the period 2019-2024. This plan aims to significantly boost investments in four key areas: energy renovation of buildings, smart grids, energy storage systems, and renewable energy production. The funds provided through this plan would be made available to Member States, local authorities, and companies, enabling them to increase their investments in these areas by tenfold, thus driving the transition towards a more sustainable and greener energy future.

- *Social climate justice*

Europe is facing one of the greatest migration challenges since the Second World War. The causes are known: changing geostrategic interests, armed conflicts, dictatorships, human rights violations, poor governance, environmental degradation, climate change, endemic poverty. The measures adopted in recent years have been unilateral and have yielded few results at a high cost. These are specific measures that have shown that the effects of immigration cannot be treated separately. Migration requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses challenges while exploiting the benefits of immigration. Local and regional levels must be integrated into decision-making processes. Regions and local authorities are indeed close to possible problems, needs and the real situation of the labour market. This knowledge is a key element in humanising migration policy.

That's why they believe in a Schengen reform. The EDP supports the establishment of common standards for controls carried out at the external borders and the establishment of an integrated system for the management of these borders. High seas search and rescue programmes and the fight against criminal networks involved in the trafficking of human beings must be carried out

in a coordinated manner and Frontex's actions through Eurosur (European Coastal Surveillance System) must be intensified, allowing Member States to share images and data on the situation at external borders in real time.[22]

From the EDP, we find MEPs in France and Germany.

1. Local issues

a. *France : Mouvement Démocrate (Democratic Movement, MoDem)*

It is a French party characterised by strong pro-European values. It was founded nationally and presented for the elections on 2007 for the first time. The Democratic Movement holds 5 seats in the EP.

· *Food production*

The Democratic Movement advocates for the empowerment of individuals and communities by supporting their sovereignty, which includes ensuring access to essential resources such as land, capital, water, and other means of production. This will enable farmers to effectively address the significant challenges they encounter. Additionally, emphasize the importance of research, innovation, and investment support to facilitate transformative changes and continual progress in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, promote sustainable agriculture practices and reduce reliance on plant protection products by providing assistance and support to farmers and peasants in adopting sustainable approaches.[23]

· *Energy*

The Democratic Movement aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions, targeting a reduction of four times by 2050 and implement a progressive carbon tax system that adjusts according to the price of fossil fuels and eliminates exemptions for sectors like air and sea transport. They encourage the development and utilization of renewable energy sources such as offshore wind, renewable gas derived from the circular economy, hydrogen, and bioethanol.[24]

· *Social climate justice*

The French party is active on social justice issues but not specifically on social climate justice according to their manifesto.[25]

b. Germany : Freie Wähler (Free Voters) 

This German party is not represented enough on national level and can't fill in our local issues, therefore it will not be tackled deeply. However, it is important to underline that it is winning more and more over the years since 2008.

It is a centre-right party created by association of other umbrella parties present in different German states. They are in for more power to the local institutions.

Humanity can only survive in the long term in an intact environment. Therefore, they demand the highest priority for environmental and species protection, sustainability, and, above all, climate protection through the massive expansion of renewable energies. They are convinced that in the long run, economy and ecology are not opposites but inseparably interconnected.

A healthy environment is not an end in itself. Climate and environmental protection sustainably secure and enhance the coexistence of natural, living, and economic spaces. They aim to preserve the environment and biodiversity and protect the natural foundations of their homeland. They do this not only for their own sake but also out of responsibility for future generations.

They are committed to the obligations arising from the Paris Climate Agreement. Therefore, it is essential to achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050. Through technological innovation, significant changes can be achieved in the energy, mobility, and agriculture sectors, which not only serve emissions reduction but also hold economic growth potential for Germany.

They rely on the power of innovation and technological progress and aim to avoid levies and bans wherever possible. They will not allow the strong support for climate protection to be destroyed by being entangled with an ideological issue. Therefore, they advocate for transparent and objective communication that emphasizes the individual responsibility of all citizens while also highlighting climate-friendly behaviour options. However, the responsibility of each individual must not be understood as a signal to absolve the economy and politics of their responsibilities. We will face the challenges posed by climate change together with the population. Hence, they firmly reject ideological approaches and stand

for objective, technology-neutral discussions with the aim of fulfilling our collective responsibility. The negative consequences of climate change are already evident and tangible. In addition to climate protection measures, we need solutions to combat the effects of climate change. Citizens and municipalities should not be left alone with problems such as floods, devastation, drought, water scarcity, storms, heavy rainfall, and changes in flora and fauna.

Climate protection is the global challenge of our time. Climate protection also entails pursuing effective development and security policies. The search for solutions also offers opportunities for developing countries. A new economic cooperation must be fair and sustainable. Hydrogen production and the export of hydrogen, in particular, can be an economic opportunity for African states.

V. The Group of the European People's Party (EPP Group) (Christian Democrats)

The Group of the European People's Party (EPP Group) is a centre-right political group of the EP. The EPP Group has existed since 1953, which means it is the oldest European-level political group. It is also the largest political group represented in the EP since 1999. The EPP Group is composed of the European People's Party (EPP) which holds 175 out of 705 seats in the EP and the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) which holds 4 seats.

A. The European People's Party (EPP)

Its ideology is linked to Christian democracy, liberal conservatism and pro-Europeanism. It was initially founded by Christian-democratic parties in 1976, but it has since expanded to include parties from the liberal-conservative side and even centre-right political perspectives.[1]

The European People's Party aims to intensify the fight against climate change and significantly reduce the environmental impact of our economy to ensure a cleaner planet for future generations. They firmly support the Paris Climate agreement, relying on scientific evidence, and strive to maintain their global leadership in combating climate change. Their goal is to harmonize environmental and biodiversity preservation with a thriving economy, not only to drive Europe's innovation in clean technologies but also to set an example for the entire world. Europe has the potential to become a pioneer in creating a better and cleaner world, demonstrating the practical implementation of sustainability measures to other nations.

To achieve these objectives, the European People's Party will implement an effective CO₂ pricing mechanism through a well-functioning emission trading system. They will also encourage emission reductions in industries and the energy sector. Furthermore, they will facilitate investments and innovation in all low-carbon mobility solutions, recognizing the need for all forms of transportation to contribute to greenhouse gas reduction efforts. Embracing self-driving vehicles and connected mobility solutions will further contribute to reducing transport emissions, while establishing European charging standards to position the EU as a global leader in e-mobility. The European People's Party is committed to establishing a genuine Energy Union that enables seamless cross-border electricity and gas flow, ensuring affordable living costs for citizens, promoting the

cost-effective expansion of renewable energies, and safeguarding Europe's energy security from external threats.[2]

- *Mobility*

The European People's Party is committed to facilitating investments and promoting innovation in all low-carbon mobility technologies. They emphasize that every mode of transportation should play a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, they recognize the potential of self-driving vehicles and connected mobility solutions in further decreasing transport-related emissions. By establishing European charging standards, they aim to position the EU as a leading global force in e-mobility.[3]

- *Food production*

European farmers play a vital role in preserving the rural landscape, sustaining rural communities, and producing high-quality food. The European People's Party recognizes the importance of maintaining these rich traditions and standards in food production, ensuring that future generations can enjoy European-grown food that reflects our heritage. They acknowledge the global demand for agricultural products and are dedicated to supporting the growth and prosperity of rural areas. To achieve this, they advocate for a modern and well-funded Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that is fair, sustainable, and results driven. The focus is on assisting small- to medium-sized family farms in facing challenges such as globalization, climate change, and food security, while providing incentives for young and female farmers. The European People's Party aims to reduce bureaucratic burdens for farmers by embracing digital solutions and simplifying administrative processes. They are committed to defending agricultural, fisheries, and food quality standards, as well as protecting public health from lower-quality imports. They will fight against unfair trade practices to maintain competitiveness and ensure that European customers continue to enjoy the highest standards in the world, rejecting any form of dual food quality within Europe.

- *Energy*

They want to ensure an effective price on CO₂ with a well-functioning emission trading system. They also aim to further incentivize emission reductions

in our industries and the energy sector. This is done by building an Energy Union where electricity and gas can cross borders without any obstacle. The goal is to bring down citizens' living costs, support the cost-effective expansion of renewable energies, and make sure no external power can undermine Europe's energy security.

- *Social climate justice*

Europe is characterized by its rich diversity and unique cultural heritage, which includes a common presence of Christian churches in every town and city. The European People's Party recognizes the shared experiences and traditions associated with holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. They believe that safeguarding the European way of life involves preserving the core Christian values and fundamental principles that unite us. These principles, such as democracy, human rights, human dignity, freedom, responsibility, equality between men and women, solidarity, rule of law, justice, pluralism, and tolerance, form the foundation of European civilization and guide our collective identity.

1. Local issues

- a. *France : Les Républicains (the Republicans)* 

The party was formed in 2015 and is present a lot both on national levels and European level, with 7 MEPs. It is aligned to the EPP Group in terms of political stance.

- *Mobility*

The Republicans aim to decarbonise transport by setting a target of 15% biofuels by 2030 and 20% by 2050 (compared to 8% today) and creating a genuine French biofuel production and distribution sector for air transport. They want to double the share of rail freight from 9% to 18% by 2030 and aim for 25% by 2050 as well as support major multimodal transport infrastructures from road to rail and waterway, such as the Lyon-Turin.[4]

- *Food production*

For them, France is seen as the leading agricultural power in Europe. This is why they think we should develop research and innovation in agriculture to meet food demand and produce more and better, while respecting the environment, particularly with new breeding technologies.[5]

- *Energy*

The Republicans want to make France the world leader in hydrogen through a major plan to support the industry. This includes stopping the closure of nuclear power plants planned by the government, extending the life of reactors to 60 years, building second-generation EPRs (European Pressurized Reactors), and implementing a moratorium on onshore wind power when projects do not meet local political consensus.[6]

- *Social climate justice*

In contrast to a punitive ecology that promotes a surfeit of taxes and standards and pits the French against each other, they defend sustainable development based on three pillars: economic growth, social progress and environmental protection. Research, innovation, and companies have a decisive role to play in the wanted circular economy.[7]

b. Germany : Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands (Christian Democratic Union, CDU) 

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is a division inside the CSU, they share lots of views together, the difference is that the CDU is more oriented to address the issues in Bavaria as it was created for this state.

CDU is a centre-right, Christian democratic and liberal conservative political party in Germany. They have 23 MEPs.

· *Mobility*

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) strategy includes incorporating emissions trading and targeted relief in housing and mobility.

They aim to enhance rail transport for both freight and passengers, with a wide range of services from Deutsche Bahn and infrastructure expansion, including digitization of rail and rolling stock. Their goal is to maintain Germany's role as a mobility and logistics hub in Europe and invest in rail infrastructure to support Europe-wide connections, including night trains. They also prioritize reducing congestion on highways by shifting freight traffic to rail and waterways, investing in clean vehicles, efficient infrastructure, and charging stations for inland waterway vessels.

They support the use of synthetic fuels in addition to electromobility in road transport, and remain open to new technologies for commercial vehicles and heavy trucks. They propose extending the fleet renewal program for trucks and providing special depreciation allowances for cab companies, driving and delivery services transitioning to zero-emission cars. They oppose diesel driving bans and general speed limits on highways, instead opting for innovative and modern traffic control.

Their focus is on expanding the charging infrastructure for electrified transport, integrating it into new commercial and public buildings, and improving it in parking garages. Their aim is to make charging options a reason to switch to electromobility with fast-charging stations accessible throughout Germany within ten minutes and simplified and standardized payment systems and connections.[8]

· *Food production*

The CDU insists on high animal welfare standards and resource-conserving production in their animal husbandry. They will continue to improve animal welfare by quickly implementing innovations and investing in animal welfare. They will enact an Animal Welfare Stable Promotion Act, develop low-emission model stables, and support farmers in their efforts to improve animal welfare. With the results of the Borchert Commission, they will secure financing and planning security for farmers to convert livestock farming to improve animal welfare. They will strengthen the willingness to invest in agriculture and ensure reliability and security with a 15-year grandfathering period for new barn construction investments. They are continuously improving animal welfare and

phasing out the killing of chicks. CDU also needs more reliable regulations for animal transport and aim to transport meat instead of live animals because for them, animal welfare must not stop at EU borders.

CDU also wants to modernize agriculture by promoting adapted cultivation methods, resource-saving irrigation technologies, and improved water management. They support horticultural businesses with CO2 savings and the development of climate-friendly peat substitute products. Digitization and new breeding technologies can make agriculture more environmentally friendly and competitive. Their goal is to enable responsible use of new breeding technologies based on clear rules and continue to promote the digitalization of agriculture.

They will provide reliable support for organic agriculture, strengthen research funding, and reduce the difference in yields between organic and conventional farming. They want to make sustainability in agriculture and forestry visible, measurable, and affordable. Farmers can earn money with carbon storage in the soil and particularly sustainable forms of management such as agroforestry systems, peatland-compatible agriculture, and domestic protein crops. They will support the adaptation of fisheries to climate change, strengthen their competitiveness and ecological sustainability, and promote regional production of fish as a climate-friendly and high-quality food.[9]

· *Energy*

The CDU aims to align energy-related taxes with CO2 emissions as part of a climate efficiency reform.

They are committed to accelerating the expansion of renewable energies while ensuring public acceptance, planning security, and reducing bureaucracy. Their focus is on developing and implementing energy storage systems to compensate for fluctuations in renewable energy. They are determined to speed up the construction of power lines and support research and development of new energy generation processes. They also aim to reduce regulatory costs to make electricity more affordable and create a digital energy register to enhance investment security and simplify approvals.

CDU emphasizes obtaining raw materials domestically and utilizing recycled materials to protect the climate and reduce dependence on imports. They incentivize waste reduction and promote the development of low-waste products. Additionally, they invest in power grids and support circular economy ideas for energy and carbon reduction.[10]

Concerning CO₂, their aim is to achieve a significant reduction in Germany's greenhouse gas emissions. They have set a target of 65% reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, followed by an 88% reduction by 2040, ultimately achieving greenhouse gas neutrality by 2045.

As an industrialized country, Germany acknowledges its significant responsibility in ensuring global CO₂ neutrality by 2050, based on the Paris climate targets. Achieving these targets will require the implementation of innovative technologies, economic investments, and coordinated efforts from politics, industry, and society. They emphasize the importance of ensuring the economic feasibility of decarbonization projects.

They view emissions trading as a crucial instrument in their efforts, and commit to providing targeted relief in housing and mobility to compensate for any additional burdens. Their objective is to expand European emissions trading to include sectors such as aviation, mobility, heating, and shipping. CDU aims to establish a comprehensive European emissions trading system with uniform pricing and global connectivity. They prioritize streamlining carbon pricing and expediting the implementation of a European emissions trading scheme for mobility and heat.

Throughout all measures, they are committed to preventing the relocation of production processes to countries with lower climate protection standards, thus avoiding carbon leakage.[11]

· *Social climate justice*

The CDU wants to ensure that the revenue from emissions trading is fully returned to citizens and businesses through electricity rebates. To begin with, they will eliminate the EEG levy.

Moreover, they will implement measures to prevent the relocation of production processes to countries with lower climate protection standards, known as carbon leakage protection, to ensure that emissions are not simply shifted elsewhere.[12]

c. *Germany : Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern (Christian Social Union in Bavaria, CSU)* 

CSU is a Christian democratic and conservative political party operating only in Bavaria in Germany. They are the sister party of CDU, together, they are called the Union. CSU has six MEPs.

· *Mobility*

The CSU aims to enhance mobility options throughout Bavaria by expanding public transport services and promoting cycling. They recognize the continued importance of cars for individual mobility, particularly in rural areas. Their goal is to reduce fossil fuel usage and CO2 emissions while ensuring that access to mobility is not limited for anyone.

They call on the federal government and rail companies to reactivate specific rail lines in Bavaria and Germany. In cases where reactivation is not feasible, they will explore alternatives such as bicycle expressways and autonomous bus routes. They propose a dedicated federal program to upgrade train stations, making them more accessible and reducing noise pollution.

They support the implementation of initiatives like the 365-euro ticket, job tickets for employees, and dynamic commuter allowances to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transportation. CSU is committed to establishing a mobility guarantee for rural areas, ensuring that all residents have access to transportation options.

Improving air quality in cities by preventing particle pollution is one of their priorities.

They will provide special depreciation allowances for zero-emission vehicles and the associated infrastructure used by taxis, driving services, and delivery services. Furthermore, they will expand the federal support program for electric buses in local public transport. To enhance the user experience, they plan to develop a mobility app specifically for Bavaria.[13]

· *Food production*

CSU aims to strengthen regional food cycles and promote locally produced food by implementing a reduced value-added tax. They also prioritize regional origin as a crucial quality factor in public tenders for catering facilities. In addition, they emphasize the importance of diversity and small-scale family farming in agriculture. They intend to reform the Common Agricultural Policy to give priority to environmental and climate benefits. They plan to make eco-schemes appealing for farmers and provide them with financial rewards for their efforts in protecting the environment and promoting biodiversity.[14]

- *Energy*

CSU aims to transform current subsidy programs into a climate bonus, offering tax rebates for climate-saving expenses in homes and providing climate write-offs for companies. They intend to introduce a climate depreciation allowance to encourage investments in energy efficiency and CO2 reduction. Their goal is for Bavaria to become the first climate-neutral German state by 2040. To achieve this, they plan to expedite climate adaptation measures, expand climate protection efforts, restore peatlands, and enhance forest preservation.[15]

- *Social climate justice*

They prioritize climate protection measures that involve everyone and do not overburden anyone, focusing on building, transport, and heating sectors.[16]

d. *The Netherlands : Christen-Democratisch Appèl (Christian Democratic Appeal, CDA)* 

They are represented by 5 MEPs on EU level.

- *Mobility*

The CDA is in favour of a flight tax for all European countries, which discourages short-haul flights. They want to stimulate so-called 'multi-modal' transport: using different transport modalities within one journey. Therefore, CDA wants to make long-distance trains more attractive.

- *Food production*

The CDA will promote modernization and innovation in livestock farming, including reducing emissions through barn adjustments. It's crucial for the sector to embrace these innovations and take responsibility for sustainability and animal welfare goals. The CDA aims to establish European agreements on animal transportation restrictions, accompanied by robust control and sanction systems to address abuses. Efforts will also be made to minimize animal fatalities in barn fires. Through collaboration with farmers, market players, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, the CDA is initiating a covenant for the

development of humane livestock farming. The transition to circular agriculture will be continued, encompassing advancements in animal welfare and associated innovations.

<https://www.cda.nl/standpunten/veehouderij>

The CDA prioritizes a strong and sustainable Dutch fishing industry, ensuring livelihoods and opportunities. We aim to support the fleet amidst growing regulations. As wind farms and nature reserves expand, increasing users in the North Sea, it is crucial to consider the interests of the Dutch fishing fleet. We advocate for maintaining ample fishing grounds and promoting innovation and sustainability within the North Sea Agreement. Additionally, we actively work internationally to bolster the position of the Dutch fishing industry.

<https://www.cda.nl/standpunten/visserij>

- *Energy*

The party thinks that the current climate agreements (Paris Agreement and the Dutch Climate Agreement) should stay in force. They support nuclear energy (or at least further investigation into this option) and considers offshore wind as an important option.

Their aim is to focus on (green) hydrogen and to increase subsidies for insulation of buildings.

The CDA wants an effective price for CO2 emissions at European level. Only then can the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) work as intended.

- *Social climate justice*

The CDA focuses on sustainability, nature, and agriculture without precise mention of climate justice.

e. Poland : Platforma Obywatelska (Civil Platform, PO) 

They represent 11 over 52 MEPs in their country, approximately 1/5 MEP of Poland is from PO.

· *Mobility*

According to PO, their new transportation strategy calls for strengthening rail transit. Over the past decade, the weight of goods to be transported has increased by an average of 50 million tons per year, creating an urgent need to establish new transportation channels and alleviate the burden on Poland's highways and national roads. The proposed solution is to shift container transportation from roads to railroads.

PO believes that hydrogen is the future and likely to serve as the foundation of the world's energy transition. Studies indicate that the hydrogen industry will create nearly 5.5 million new jobs worldwide by 2050 and revolutionize transportation.

The "cab for seniors" program has also received high praise from senior citizens. It aims to make it easier for individuals who have difficulty getting around, such as visiting the doctor or going to the office.

PO aims to acquire support from the European Union budget to produce safe, affordable, and cleaner energy, combat smog in Poland, and invest in public transportation, especially railroads. This will enable the completion of local road and highway construction projects.[17]

· *Food production*

With the perspective of EUR 32 billion, PO envisions a transformative future for the Polish countryside. They recognize the farmers' right to agricultural land and emphasize the importance of a disaster fund and small retention measures. Over the past three decades, the Polish countryside has undergone remarkable changes. Polish farmers, through their hard work, have successfully developed the potential of agriculture while preserving the unique heritage of the countryside.

PO highlights the significance of Poland's membership in the European Union and the funds negotiated by the PO-PSL government. More than 30 billion euros were allocated for the period of 2014-2020 under the Common Agricultural Policy and the Rural Development Program. These funds have facilitated the fulfilment of crucial development needs in Polish agriculture.

However, PO acknowledges that new challenges have emerged, including climate change, unfair competition, and growing trade protectionism. They believe that Polish farmers cannot be left to face these challenges alone and require support to navigate them effectively.[18]

· *Energy*

PO aims to significantly reduce coal power generation by at least 50% by 2030. They plan to achieve this by accelerating investments in renewable energy sources (RES) and replacing half of the energy currently produced by coal-fired power plants with renewable energy. Additionally, they prioritize promoting energy efficiency, recognizing that the most cost-effective energy is the energy that is not consumed.

Another key objective of PO is the development of 700 local energy communities. They intend to achieve this by promoting local energy sources, involving local governments, and expanding the power and heat network infrastructure. These energy communities will consist of citizens, companies, and institutions that produce and distribute green energy and heat for their own use as well as for others.

PO also plans to modernize 150 out of 500 existing district heating networks in Poland to the highest standard. This will support the energy communities by incorporating renewable energy sources, such as heat pumps and large-scale heat storage facilities.

They aim to restore a favorable billing system for prosumers, enabling individuals and communities to benefit from cheaper energy produced from their own solar panels or other renewable installations.

PO intends to unlock the potential of onshore wind power by repealing the restrictive 10h rule that currently limits wind energy investments in 99% of Poland's territory. They also support streamlining permit procedures for wind parks, providing additional benefits to local communities hosting wind turbines.

In addition, PO plans to fully thermally modernize 2 million homes by improving insulation, replacing windows, and installing energy-efficient building systems. They also aim to promote the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of public buildings to generate energy locally and increase overall efficiency.

PO recognizes the importance of nuclear power as a complement to decarbonizing the energy system. They emphasize the need for broad social dialogue and consensus in the development of nuclear power plants. Polish companies and research centers are expected to prepare personnel for the nuclear power industry, and the development of small nuclear reactors (SMRs) is encouraged to provide emission-free heat for cities in the future.

Overall, PO's ambitious plan includes a range of measures to reduce coal power generation and promote renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, district heating modernization, prosumer billing, wind power, thermal modernization of

homes, nuclear power with social consensus, and localized photovoltaic installations.[19]

Nothing is said on the climate justice topic.

f. Poland : Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL or Polish People's Party) 

They represent 3 MEPs in the EP.

- *Mobility*

They want to implement modern, innovative industrial technologies for separating hydrogen from the other substances. The fuel can be used to introduce eco-friendly public transport in the Upper Silesian agglomeration (300 buses by 2023).[20]

- *Food production*

PSL aims to secure an increase in subsidies from the EU to 1,200 z ≥/ha for Polish farmers. They believe that it is the government's responsibility to create conditions that enable Polish farmers to compete on equal terms in the common European market. To achieve this, PSL advocates for subsidies to Polish farmers to be at par with those received by farmers in the so-called old EU countries. In the new government, PSL plans to raise EU subsidies to 1,200 z ≥/ha.

PSL also intends to implement a long-term program for constructing reservoirs that serve multiple purposes, including water storage and electricity generation. They aim to simplify the procedures for building reservoirs up to 5,000 m² and promote the use of appropriate agro-technology and cultivation methods to increase soil water content. Additionally, PSL proposes introducing a subsidy system for irrigation installations, with government funding covering up to 80% of the installation costs.[21]

- *Energy*

PSL is committed to implementing modern and innovative industrial technologies that allow for the separation of hydrogen resulting in fuel. This fuel can be utilized to introduce environmentally friendly public transportation in the Upper Silesian agglomeration, with a target of 300 buses by 2023.

With the recent disruptions in energy supply from Russia, resulting in soaring energy prices, PSL recognizes the need for Poland to reduce its dependency on Russian coal, gas, and oil. They believe it is crucial to explore all possibilities of swiftly replacing these fuels with alternative options to ensure long-term energy security for Poland.

In their plan to achieve affordable energy, PSL highlights several factors, including the utilization of renewable energy sources (RES), providing energy compensation for entrepreneurs and households, offering subsidies for coal, fuel oil, pellets, and ecopowder, and emphasizing the importance of Orlen, a fuel company focused on energy production.

Overall, PSL's approach involves embracing innovative technologies for hydrogen separation, promoting eco-friendly public transport, diversifying energy sources, and implementing various measures to secure Poland's energy independence and affordability.[22]

g. Sweden : Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderate Party) 

They have 4 MEPs seating in the EP.

· *Mobility*

A well-functioning infrastructure is vital for the prosperity of Sweden. It is imperative to have safe roads, punctual trains, and efficient air traffic. Neglecting infrastructure maintenance disrupts daily life and imposes significant costs on society. Thus, the Moderate Party emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive transportation system and embraces the positive impact of technological advancements, particularly in the realm of electrification.[23]

The Moderate Party firmly believes that most individuals are willing to contribute to the climate transition. However, many people in Sweden do not have an alternative to driving gasoline or diesel cars. Not everyone can afford expensive electric vehicles, and there is often a lack of adequate charging infrastructure in various parts of the country. Climate policies must be fair and equitable. Imposing high taxes on petrol and diesel should not penalize those who rely on cars for commuting to work, visiting family and friends, and engaging in recreational activities. In the 2022 state budget, the Moderate Party facilitated a reduction in gasoline taxes. Nevertheless, more measures are necessary to ensure affordable transportation for all. Therefore, the Moderate Party intends to further reduce fuel

taxes and eliminate the excessive taxation on petrol and diesel that was introduced by the previous red-green government.[24]

- *Food production*

Food producers in Sweden must comply with strict environmental and animal welfare requirements. However, authorities, municipalities and regions do not have the same requirements when they buy food. In practice, this means that the public sector buys cheaper and inferior food from other countries with lower animal welfare and environmental requirements. For them, it is unreasonable. All public activities should follow the requirements that apply to Swedish production when purchasing food. This is why they think the government should encourage municipalities and regions to set clearer requirements for purchasing food that meets Swedish requirements for animal welfare and environmental considerations.[25]

- *Energy*

Sweden's electricity production has long been characterized by low emissions thanks to hydropower and nuclear power, supplemented in recent years by an increasing share of wind power.

The Moderate Party want to keep all the existing nuclear power Sweden has today. To enable continued nuclear power production in Sweden, we must create long-term conditions for nuclear power. To do so, they must change the energy policy goal from 100 percent renewable to 100 percent fossil-free by 2040. The Moderates also want energy types, such as nuclear power, that provide important functions to our electricity system to be paid for. We also want to create conditions to enable extended operation of the nuclear power reactors we have today.

The Moderate Party proposes to revise the energy policy objective and work towards achieving a fossil-free electricity system by 2040. They believe it is crucial to ensure that power sources contributing to the stability and reliability of the system pay their fair share.

Additionally, the Moderate Party advocates for increased investment in research and development of small modular reactors, recognizing their potential in the energy sector. They propose abolishing the legislative ban on having more than 10 nuclear reactors in Sweden, acknowledging the role of nuclear energy in the transition to a sustainable future.

To expedite the expansion of the electricity network in Sweden, the Moderate Party aims to simplify the permit processes. This will enable faster development and growth of the electricity infrastructure, ensuring efficient and reliable power transmission.[26]

Nothing is written concerning climate justice in their manifesto.

h. Sweden : Kristdemokraterna (KD or Christian Democrats)

They hold 2 seats in the EP.

· Mobility

KD wants to see public transport expanded to enable more people in smaller towns to use it. To increase growth, employment and prosperity, good communication and a well-equipped road network are important for Sweden. The standard of the road network is therefore crucial for companies to be able to remain in business even in smaller towns. The fine-meshed road network is important for a living countryside, therefore road maintenance in rural areas need to increase. Consequently, they want to increase support for private roads.[27]

· Food production

The KD are in favour of increasing organic farming and adopting new organic methods in conventional agriculture.[28]

· Energy

The KD wants to see an energy policy with long-term and stable rules that enable climate change and secure the energy supply for households and businesses at cost-effective prices. They want to extend the lifetime of existing reactors and start the process of building new reactors. It is important that research funds also benefit nuclear power. They advocate a Swedish roadmap for a new generation of nuclear power, the so-called fourth generation, which includes the issue of a Swedish research facility. The functioning of the market should be reviewed. The current model pays for energy, while there is no incentive to provide quality and power. In a new model, all dispatchable power sources would be compensated for

their contribution to security of supply. Renewable generation such as wind and solar are also needed and complement the dispatchable ones.[29]

The KD want Sweden to have a sustainable and resource-efficient energy supply with no net emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by 2040. All fossil-free alternatives will be needed and KD wants the Parliament's target of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2040 to be changed to 100 per cent fossil-free electricity production.[30]

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They believe that all greenhouse gases should be included in the trading system, that the entire transport sector and other sectors with high emissions should be included and that in the long term the trading system should be a global system. Sweden also needs to prioritise efforts to get more countries outside the EU to join the ETS. This is particularly urgent regarding aviation.[31]

A. European Christian Political Movement (ECPM)

This party is tricky cause it relates both to the EPP Group and the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group.

We will present it now and tackle the national parties that belongs to the EPP Group and ECPM.

The ECPM has 4 elected MEPs in the European Parliament. From the countries we are studying : Germany and the Netherlands represent 3 MEPs out of the 4.

However, the MEP from Germany comes from a party called Familienpartei Deutschlands (Family Party of Germany) that is not represent in the national parliament (Bundestag) and therefore will not be studied as it does not represent local issues.

ECPM considers protection of the environment a very important policy issue of the EU. We have the responsibility to protect the environment not only for the sake of nature but for the sake of our current and future generations.

ECPM believes that technological innovation can be used to protect the environment, minimize the negative effects caused by us and also provide the energy and resources we need to live.[32]

· *Mobility*

ECPM supports and encourages EU advocating green sustainable industries, having a leading role in innovation and ensuring that the polluter pays. ECPM,

therefore, sees the main role of the EU in making sure that all EU members are encouraged to foster clean and green industries.

Regarding the area of transportation, ECPM supports the current policies in place but continues to call for the principle of subsidiarity to be implemented, enabling EU member states to have the freedom to form their own policies for which transport modality they favour or infrastructure they build.

· *Food production*

ECPM believes that sustainability, industry and agriculture of EU member states are clearly interdependent and as such, climate change is a phenomenon that should be dealt with together at EU level.

ECPM believes that wise stewardship is a biblical assignment and that the EU can be a driving force for a sustainable Europe as it can decide on goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions such as CO₂, for energy saving and for renewable energy.

ECPM is in favour of EU support for member state reform of their agricultural sector but believes there should not be conditions placed as to which direction these should take. ECPM, therefore, would like to see the EU reforms to its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) aimed at establishing goals and not focusing on specific methods.

Regarding fishery, ECPM believes that it should be a priority for EU Institutions to deliver on the promise of regionalization and that the powerbase should shift from Brussels to the regions.

· *Energy*

ECPM supports investment in innovation as it believes Europe can further strengthen its position in the world as a technology hub by allocating more to Research & Development.

They are offering support to creative entrepreneurs in terms of coaching and facilities in order to help them survive and grow and enabling the market to adopt innovations.

they want to define several key technology areas in which governments would like to invest, such as through the “cluster approach”, where existing strong business clusters are helped to become even more innovative and worldwide competitive.

They want to implement a “desired direction approach” for innovation focusing on research & development initiatives which make the economy greener, such as

related to sustainable energy, building and production technologies and raising the average education level of citizens.

They also put an accent on combating corruption and implementing governmental accountability.

- *Social climate justice*

Nothing is said on social climate justice per se, they focus more on the value of family.

For them, healthy families are the basis for thriving societies. They believe that stable, loving relationships between parents are crucial for the wellbeing of their children. ECPM recognizes the family as the most important social entity, preceding the state and any other community or group. ECPM calls on the European Union to respect the sovereignty of the family, based on marriage between one man and one woman. ECPM is also weary of the political focus on the 'autonomous individual'. They believe that the quality of life of a human being depends on the quality of his relations with others and the strongest and earliest connection in life is the family.

The family is a micro-society where elementary skills and experiences are being conveyed. ECPM promotes policies which will increase the capability of individuals to create and live in lifelong devoted relationships – in marriage and family. Today more and more families are in crisis. They value counselling and are standing firm for the rights of children in case relationships are ending.

1. Local issues

a. *The Netherlands : ChristenUnie (the Christian Union, CU)*



They hold 1 seat in the EP.

- *Mobility*

Concerning public transport, they focus on shorter travel times, more direct connections and higher frequencies at attractive prices.

They are in favor of using the bicycle for local transport. This use must be made easier, by creating better bicycle parking spaces, for example through bicycle staples.

· *Energy*

The Christian Union (CU) wants to focus on green hydrogen and insulation measures.

The CU proposes the implementation of a CO₂ tax for the industry, which will remain in effect until the European member states adopt and incorporate the European Commission's target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions into the CO₂ emissions trading system. There will be a low, flat tax for all emissions, with exemptions for emissions levels aligned with the requirements of the Paris Agreement. The revenue generated from this levy will be allocated towards promoting innovative sustainability within the industry.

Regarding the storage of industrial CO₂ emissions, the CU recognizes it as a temporary transitional measure towards achieving an emission-free economy. They acknowledge the necessity of constructing a limited infrastructure aimed at basic industries where CO₂ emissions are released during the primary processes, facilitating CO₂ capture in the industry.

The CU also intends to continue providing subsidies for sustainable energy. The existing incentive scheme for sustainable energy and CO₂ reduction, known as SDE++, will be utilized as a comprehensive instrument for achieving CO₂ reduction beyond 2025. While CO₂ pricing reduces the need for operating subsidies, they are still deemed necessary at present. Projects that experience delays in their commencement, such as those related to limited electricity grid capacity, will retain their entitlement to the full subsidy period. Any remaining budget will remain available for future use.

The topic of social climate justice is not tackled in their programme.

VI. European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)

The group emerged for the election of 2009 and has 66 seats in the European Parliament. It is composed mainly of the European Conservatives and Reformists Party (ECR Party) but also has some members from the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM). It is considered right-wing, conservative, and soft-Eurosceptic.[1]

The ECR Group has consistently advocated enhancing both internal and external security in the European Parliament. They emphasize the importance of prompt and comprehensive information sharing among law enforcement authorities of Member States in combating cross-border crime, cybercrime, and terrorism. Ensuring the safety of European citizens from violence and criminal threats is a paramount priority for the European Union.

Since its beginning, the ECR Group has identified shortcomings in the EU's migration system and advocated for reform and change within the Common European Asylum System. This commitment reflects one of the fundamental principles of the ECR Group, that the current EU system is inadequate in addressing the challenges posed by globalization, regional conflicts, poverty, and mass migration.

A. The European Conservatives and Reformists Party (ECR Party)

To understand the climate stance of the ECR Party, we can look at this quote:

"On 14 July 2021, the European Commission (EC) adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport, and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Achieving these emission reductions in the next decade is crucial to Europe becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050, and making the European Green Deal a reality."[2]

Therefore, the ECR Party is deeply concerned about climate change and is committed to upholding the principles of the European Green Deal.

It has MEPs from a minor party in Germany (Bündnis Deutschland, BD or Alliance Germany) which has no members elected in the national Parliament (Bundestag) and therefore will not be tackled. It also has MEPs in the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden that we will study hereafter.

1. Local issues

a. *The Netherlands : Juiste Antwoord 2021 (JA21 or Right Answer 2021)*

They were created in 2021 and have 3 MEPs.

- *Mobility*

JA21 advocates multimodal transport. In practice, train stations must become a transfer point for motorists.

- *Food production*

No information could be found on food production.

- *Energy*

JA21 is against the installation of solar and wind energy and aims to stop subsidies towards these technologies.

- *Social climate justice*

No detailed information could be found on climate justice, but overall the party states that they are against costly climate laws and agreements.

b. *Poland : Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice or PiS)*

Law and Justice (PiS) is a significant political party in Poland, holding 24 out of the 52 available MEP seats, which accounts for nearly half of the total.

- *Mobility*

PiS aims to tackle the problem of inadequate organized public transport in Polish municipalities, which affects approximately 13.8 million residents. Their objective is to restore the total length of the public transport network to the levels

of the 1990s, amounting to approximately 950,000 km. Additionally, the party plans to implement additional measures to revive discontinued rail connections.

The solution proposed by PiS also considers rural municipalities, which currently have the obligation to provide transportation for school children. With additional government support, these gaps will be closed and connections extended, ensuring safe and convenient public transport in rural areas. This solution is expected to benefit at least 4.5 million pupils.

Furthermore, PiS will initiate a program to support the purchase of new long-distance buses. Transport operators, particularly PKS, are currently struggling with the challenge of maintaining an ageing fleet. As the owners, mainly counties, cannot afford to buy new buses, the implementation of the support program will enable them to renew their fleet, leading to improved quality and efficiency of transportation services.[3]

· *Food production*

PiS aims to implement a program with the main objective of significantly reducing the transportation of animals, meat, and feed to farms. This aligns with the EU's priorities of reducing emissions, improving air quality, and enhancing animal welfare. Additionally, the program will promote the availability of healthy, organic food and increase the supply of Polish meat in the local market, leading to lower prices and benefiting consumers. It will also contribute to the sustainable development of local meat processing, supporting economically beneficial growth in the industry.

PiS supports environmentally friendly agriculture that prioritizes biodiversity and animal welfare as an alternative to intensive industrial farming practices. They have increased subsidies for agricultural fuel. In the draft EU Common Agricultural Policy for 2021-2027, there is a provision for allocating at least 30% of rural development funds towards environmental and climate protection. This presents a valuable opportunity, particularly for small family farms that are naturally inclined towards sustainable agricultural practices and environmental preservation. PiS aims to maximize this opportunity, specifically through the implementation of the 'Welfare Plus' program.[4]

- *Energy*

For the Law and Justice party, the goal is to make changes to improve living conditions in the countryside, such as the relegation of wind farms to a safe distance, taking into account the legitimate complaints from villagers.[5]

- *Social climate justice*

PiS advocates social justice and strives to implement it in Poland, drawing inspiration from the social doctrine of the universal Church. In the encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, Pope John Paul II emphasized the need to denounce economic, financial, and social mechanisms that perpetuate wealth inequality and poverty, operating almost automatically. While these words originally referred to relations between states, they can certainly be applied to internal relationships within societies.

Pope Francis has also echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of rejecting an economy of exclusion and social inequality. Just as the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" establishes clear boundaries for safeguarding human life, it is imperative to say "no" to an economy that perpetuates exclusion and inequality, as such an economy has detrimental consequences.[6]

c. Poland : Solidarna Polska (SP or United Poland)



United Poland (SP) has two seats in the EP. Even though some sources to their programme is available: mobility, food production, energy and social climate justice don't seem to be addressed.[7][8][9]

Sovereign Poland politicians oppose the climate package, citing its negative impact on the economy and difficult access to energy sources. They advocate for investment in reliable and inexpensive domestic energy resources. The package imposes emission reduction targets and establishes a permit system for gas emissions, which come with significant costs. Presently, coal capacity cannot be phased out until after 2033 when wind farms or Poland's first wind power plant are established. Sovereign Poland also promotes innovation, endorsing the exploration of new energy sources like hydrogen.

Other topics relevant for our report are not available.

d. Poland : Republikanie (The Republicans)



The Republicans represent 1 seat in the EP. However, the party was dissolved in 2017 and re-established in 2021. Their program does not provide significant insights into their climate-related positions. However, they want to increase energy sovereignty combined with active green deal building and prosumer (they are active participants in the energy markets: they both consume and produce electricity) policy development.[10]

e. Sweden : Sverigedemokraterna (Sweden Democrats, SD)



The Sweden Democrats (SD) have 3 seats in the EP.

· Mobility

SD highlights the issue of a maintenance debt in the road network, particularly in rural and sparsely populated areas, resulting from long-term neglect by those in power. This situation negatively affects citizens who already face long commutes to work, education, and social activities, while rural businesses suffer from decreased competitiveness. The railway network also faces alarming maintenance backlogs, with those in power prioritizing expensive high-speed train projects that primarily benefit metropolitan regions instead of ensuring transportation connectivity across the country. Additionally, the rollout of high-speed broadband and mobile phone coverage is lagging behind targets, creating an urban-rural divide. Postal services are deteriorating, disproportionately impacting the rural population and green industries.

SD's proposed solutions include abandoning plans for expensive high-speed trains that primarily benefit metropolitan regions and instead prioritizing the nationwide upgrade of existing railways and roads. They advocate the preservation of regional airports important for non-metropolitan business activities and the elimination of aviation taxes. SD also aims to address reduced speed limits in rural areas by prioritizing road upgrades and increasing speed limits, rather than relying on speed reductions as a substitute for road maintenance. Recognizing the limited transportation options for young people in underserved rural regions, SD suggests raising the speed limit for EPA tractors to 45 km/h (a type of emergency tractors made from a car or truck in Sweden).

They emphasize the consideration of rural industry needs in infrastructure planning, including upgrading the ore railway and other mining-related

infrastructure, respecting road width requirements for agricultural and forestry machinery, and improving bridges and road sections to accommodate heavy transport. SD also proposes increased investment in expanding the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in rural and sparsely populated areas and prioritizing greater investment in IT infrastructure to achieve nationwide 100% broadband and mobile coverage as soon as possible.[11]

· *Food production*

According to Sweden Democrats, the green and blue modern industries face significant pressure from those in power, both in Brussels and Stockholm, who seek to centralize and heavily regulate these industries while imposing punitive taxes. Many entrepreneurs feel targeted by official activism, as responsible authorities adopt a supervisory and punitive stance rather than a supportive and promotional one. The European Commission unfairly portrays Swedish forestry as environmentally harmful, disregarding the fact that no species have gone extinct due to forestry in Sweden and that Swedish forests store a significant amount of carbon dioxide.

Left-wing governments, especially Sweden, have contributed to this situation by inaccurately reporting the forest area exempt from forestry and inadequately addressing forestry issues within the EU, which should not even fall under EU interference according to current treaties. This results in politically enforced cost increases that distort competition with neighbouring countries and burdensome bureaucracy, leading many forest entrepreneurs and food producers to consider scaling down or exiting the industry. Generational change in these sectors faces formidable barriers.

SD proposes the following solutions: They suggest making the temporary reductions in fuel taxes permanent and minimizing the costly requirements for biofuel blending. They advocate for introducing a directive that prevents authorities from adding new rules without removing existing ones, reinstating the responsibility of civil servants to counteract authority activism, and opposing political proposals that excessively increase regulatory burdens and bureaucracy in Sweden and the EU.

Furthermore, SD aims to maintain high standards for Swedish animal welfare and introduce compensation to offset the additional costs incurred by farmers. They propose reducing the number of inspections by improving coordination between responsible authorities and reassessing inspection fees, which are often unreasonably high. SD supports Swedish food production by prioritizing domestic fish and agricultural products in public procurement,

increasing co-financing for implementing the food strategy, and re-establishing emergency stocks of food, agrochemicals, and seeds. They also explore the possibility of classifying aquaculture as an agricultural industry and expanding Swedish fishing within existing quotas.

SD seeks to strengthen support and facilitate the regulatory framework for generational transfers of agricultural properties, as well as simplify generational transfers in small-scale fishing by streamlining fishing licence transfers. They propose increasing research funding for environmental technology and the bioeconomy in the green and blue industries. Additionally, SD aims to invest in and expand training programs linked to forestry and food production to ensure future skills and nurture the younger generation's interest in these sectors, including the potential introduction of a basic forestry training program in northern Sweden.[12]

· *Energy*

SD emphasizes the need for reliable, sufficient, and competitive energy supply, highlighting the weather-dependent nature of wind power, which leads to fluctuating prices and uncertain availability. They advocate for efficient systems with high security of supply, including the implementation of new nuclear power and long-term measures to bolster energy systems. To address the immediate impact of higher prices, SD calls for short-term measures to mitigate both direct and indirect effects, with particular consideration for those living outside major cities who rely on cars and face challenges related to housing. They stress the importance of protecting and supporting businesses in rural areas, creating incentives for job growth, goods, services, and overall development. SD emphasizes the need to retain resources in rural areas to contribute to local development and growth.

Regarding hydropower, SD believes it is crucial, alongside nuclear power, as a backbone of the electricity system. They argue for increasing, rather than decreasing, hydropower generation and express concern about potential negative decisions based on environmental assessments that could undermine Sweden's hydropower capacity.

To rapidly increase electricity production, SD advocates for strengthening the competitiveness of district heating and combined heat and power systems. They suggest reevaluating the energy policy goal from focusing solely on renewability to prioritizing a fossil-free approach.[13]

In the ECR Party, it is important to underline that only the European Party and Sweden address the climate change under some aspects. All the other parties do not show a clear line on how they stand and what they want in terms of climate goals. It seems that these parties focus more on other aspects of politics rather than addressing climate change.

VII. Identity and Democracy (ID Group)

Identity and Democracy (ID Group) was founded in view of the elections of 2019 after some members of Identity and Democracy Party (ID Party) and some members of the ECR wanted to merge in a new direction. It is considered right-wing to far-right with ideologies such as national conservatism, right-wing populism and Euroscepticism.[1]

Among our study cases, only France and Germany are represented in the Identity and Democracy group. The group comprises a total of 62 MEPs, with 18 from France and 9 from Germany, resulting in a combined total of 37 MEPs.

A. Identity and Democracy Party (ID Party)

The Identity and Democracy party does not seem to address climate change widely. In terms of social climate justice, it is recognised that the parties and individual MEPs of the ID Party base their political alliance on the preservation of the identity of the peoples and nations of Europe, in accordance with the specific characteristics of each people. The right to control and regulate immigration is thus a fundamental principle shared by the members of the ID Party.[2]

1. Local issues

a. *France : Rassemblement National (National Rally, RN)*

The National Rally (RN) holds 18 seats in the EP.

· *Mobility*

RN has proposed a bill to eliminate low-emission zones (ZFE) that restrict access to urban centres for highly polluting vehicles. They also advocate for partially reducing the tax on fuel. Additionally, RN supports the implementation of a circular economy, recognizing its potential impact on micromobility. They aim to prohibit the sale of used goods that cannot be repaired and require product lifespan indications. They encourage the development of a widespread second-hand market and promote repair and recycling, citing the practices of companies like Upway. While RN acknowledges the importance of the Paris

Agreement, they emphasize the need for France to progress at its own pace, aligning with the will of the French people.[3]

- *Food production*

RN aims to secure fair prices for farmers, ensuring their work is respected, and address the exploitative profit margins of large-scale distributors. They suggest prohibiting the import of agricultural products that do not meet French production standards. RN advocates for canteens to be legally required to use 80% French agricultural products. They also propose implementing a comprehensive "slaughterhouse plan" to guarantee dignified conditions for animals and ban slaughter without stunning. Additionally, RN supports the widespread adoption of labelling systems that provide information on the origin and quality of food products.[4]

- *Energy*

RN prioritizes energy independence and recommends revitalizing the nuclear and hydroelectric sectors while investing in hydrogen technology. They advocate for withdrawing from the European electricity market to regain control over pricing and ensure fair rates. Additionally, RN aims to halt new wind power projects and gradually decommission existing wind farms. They propose a substantial expansion of nuclear power, including plans for 20 additional nuclear reactors in their presidential project.[5]

- *Social climate justice*

RN advocates for localism with a protectionist perspective that emphasizes the importance of promoting products made in France and withdrawing from free trade agreements. RN also supports an ecology that values and celebrates the land and the aesthetic appeal of the landscape, while expressing reservations about wind power.[6]

b. Germany : Alternative for Germany (Alternative für Deutschland)



Alternative for Germany (AfD) holds 9 seats in the EP.

To summarize their position, they think that men can not claim to protect the climate or guarantee its preservation and that the climate is not inherently protectable.

· *Food production*

Climate protection cannot be guaranteed by humans, according to the AfD. The AfD is against EU-wide liberalization and commercialization of the water market. They oppose the import of meat from cruelly slaughtered animals and seeks to empower family farms.

The AfD calls for lifting trade restrictions on old crop varieties and strengthening the legal security of small animal husbandry. The party supports GMO-free food and the introduction of a nationwide grazing animal premium to preserve rural structures. The AfD seeks to improve the situation of young farmers, make it more difficult for non-agricultural investors to buy up land, and simplify farm succession.

The party calls for revising the Fertilizer Ordinance, effective plant protection, and consistent implementation of animal protection laws. The AfD advocates for species-appropriate husbandry systems and a network of regional slaughterhouses to reduce animal transport time. Animal welfare laws must apply equally to all, and the AfD rejects the import of meat from cruelly slaughtered animals.[7]

· *Energy*

For them, the climate cannot have any protection postulated by man and certainly not guaranteed, the climate cannot be protected per se. They view the politically-ideologically driven and state-subsidized expansion of renewable energies as both an economic disaster and a burden on their homeland, way of life, and nature.

They oppose non-transparent procedures that allow the expansion of renewable energies without citizen involvement. AfD believes wind turbines should only be allowed in locations where there are no adverse effects on humans, animals, or the landscape. They insist that forest and protected areas should remain untouched. They advocate for a minimum distance of 10 times the total height, or at least 2.5 km, between residential areas and wind turbines nationwide. Furthermore, they point to studies showing the detrimental effects of wind turbines on birds, bats, insects, and the serious health issues caused by

shadow impact, infrasound, and noise emissions. They argue that massive subsidization of the wind industry leads to the destruction of cultural landscapes, forests, and reduces land values through power line construction.

AfD rejects the construction of new photovoltaic plants on open spaces due to high land consumption, negative impact on tourism, heating of the microclimate, and devaluation of agricultural production areas. They claim that photovoltaic systems generally lead to a change in the microclimate and cause temperature increases, but existing plants can continue operating. They stress the need for forest management measures that balance economy, ecology, and local recreation to maintain healthy forests with wildlife, while promoting wood as a building material and energy source. They also aim to reduce excessive bureaucracy in forestry documentation.[8]

The AfD opposes the Federal Government's climate protection plan and decarbonization efforts. The party seeks to cancel the Paris climate agreement and withdraw support from all "climate protection" groups. The AfD calls for open discussion of climate change causes and decarbonization's harmful effects. According to them, CO₂ taxation in any form must be eliminated.[9]

VIII. Non-attached members (NI)

They are MEP who don't belong to any other group, therefore it forms this heterogenous group. This means that all those who belong to NI have, most of the time, no links to each other politically, except from their lack of political grouping.[1]

We will not members with 1 seat which are not represented on national level (for example Germany with The PARTY and the German Centre Party) , as the goal is to study local issues.

1. Local issues

a. *France : Reconquête! (FranceReconquest)*

This new party emerged in 2021 and currently has 3 seats in the EP. It is a far-right party in France.

However, there are not very influencing in France as they hold only 2 seats in the National Senate and none in the National Assembly.

In the EU, Maxette Grisoni-Pirbakas is a MEP from FranceReconquest but in the EU, she is represented as Independent. As her ideas seem to aligned to FranceReconquest she will be included now.

· *Mobility*

They are in favour of developing electric and hydrogen vehicles in public transport that can easily be recharged such as buses, shuttles, coaches.

Their aim is to make France a pioneer in low-carbon aviation by equipping it with the first 100% biokerosene aircraft before 2030.[2]

· *Food production*

FranceReconquest is favouring short circuits by increasing the share of local products in collective catering.[3]

- *Energy*

They want to relaunch the nuclear industry, which must remain the foundation of French electricity supply, as well as relaunching research into the nuclear power of the future, such as 4th generation reactors (ASTRID programme) and nuclear fusion (international ITER project)

Moreover, they want to impose nuclear power on a European scale as the main tool in the fight against global warming.

FranceReconquest also wants to implement a policy to reduce greenhouse gases while stopping all current and future wind turbine projects, both on land and at sea.[4]

Nothing is written in their programme concerning social climate justice.

b. The Netherlands : Forum voor Democratie (FvD Forum for Democracy) 

They hold one seat in the EP. It's a far-right party in the Netherlands founded in 2016, firstly as a think tank.

- *Mobility*

FvD believes that the traditional transport sector holds great importance, but the interests of transporters have been neglected for years. They emphasize the need for good connections with other countries through the implementation of high-speed trains. FvD supports the nationwide availability of super-fast fiber optic internet. They aim to lower road tax burdens.

They are committed to actively combating nuisances along the roadways.

- *Energy*

The FvD supports nuclear energy or, at the very least, advocate for further investigation into this option. They oppose the installation of solar and wind energy and aim to cease subsidies towards these technologies. They oppose the implementation of a CO2 tax and/or CO2 budget. Despite the warming and the potential role of CO2 in it, they argue that there hasn't been an increase in weather extremes such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or droughts. In fact, the number of victims of climate-related disasters has decreased by over 95%. Technological advancements have played a significant role in better protecting

against extreme weather and flooding. They highlight that CO₂ is an essential nutrient for life on Earth, particularly for plants and trees. They believe that CO₂ emissions lead to a greener planet with more trees, plants, and higher agricultural yields.

To conclude, these parties have varying positions on climate and environmental issues, with some emphasizing localism, nuclear energy, and opposition to certain renewable energy sources. Concerning NI and ECR, they rarely touch upon CO₂ goals and when they do, it is the absolute opposite of what the other parties advocate for.

Conclusions

To summarise the global positions of the different groups, you can find a brief list below. Note that the parties inside the group are not uniform depending from their country of origin and that is representing a general idea.

. *Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL):* The GUE/NGL group emphasizes social justice and environmental sustainability. They support climate action, renewable energy, and measures to address social inequality in the transition to a green economy.

. *Greens/European Free Alliance Group (Greens/EFA):* The Greens/EFA group places a strong focus on climate change and environmental issues. They advocate for renewable energy, carbon neutrality, and sustainable agriculture, while emphasizing the urgency of climate action.

. *Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D Group):* The S&D group supports ambitious climate policies, including renewable energy targets, energy efficiency measures, and the transition to a low-carbon economy. They emphasize social justice and job creation in the context of climate action.

. *Renew Europe Group (Renew):* The Renew group prioritizes climate action and supports ambitious measures to combat climate change. They advocate for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the development of green technologies.

. *European People's Party Group (EPP Group):* The EPP group recognizes the importance of climate change and supports the transition to a low-carbon economy. They aim to balance environmental concerns with economic growth and job creation.

. *European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR Group):* The ECR group has varying views on climate change, with some members supporting climate action and others emphasizing economic growth over environmental concerns.

. *Identity and Democracy Group (ID Group)*: The ID Group does not extensively address climate change but focuses on preserving the identity of European nations and emphasizes controlling and regulating immigration.

. *Non-attached members (NI)* : The NI group does not have an homogenous answer to the question, though it seems to be quite far-right and focus on the preservation of nuclear power as well as continue using CO2 at the same pace.

Annexes

Countries pictograms :



FRANCE



SWEDEN



THE NETHERLANDS



POLAND



GERMANY



EUROPE

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