

E STAARKT ***EUROPA.***

The CSV's European election
programme in 12 priorities



**„HOPE IS NOT A PROGNOSIS.
IT IS AN ORIENTATION OF THE SPIRIT,
AN ORIENTATION OF THE HEART. (...)“**

Václav Havel

ENG RICHTUNGSWAL AM JUNI

War and crises are taking place worldwide and in Europe. Many observers speak of polycrises, caesuras and turning points. Many people doubt there will be a better future. Many also doubt Europe. We do not. Europe is and remains our best option for a better future.

Nevertheless, we need a modernised Europe. A Europe that takes people on board, wherever they stand. What we mean is a Europe not just of principles, but above all an everyday Europe. A Europe that solves problems. A Europe that is a source of confidence.

From peace project to peace power

The peace project must become a force for peace. In Europe, freedom and justice, values and legitimate interests are two sides of a policy with people at its centre. The European house is built on a humanist foundation. Fear is therefore a bad counsellor. We want a new confidence for Europe.

Finally overcoming the permanent state of crisis

Europe must overcome its permanent state of crisis. First overcome the home-made crises with new self-belief, with deeds instead of words. But Europe must not just be a bystander to the global crises that have accumulating since 2008. A strengthened and crisis-proof Europe must become more active, also on the world stage.

This is what the CSV stands for, especially in the upcoming European elections in June. We will do everything in our power to ensure that Europe puts its crises behind it over the next five years. And that Europeans and Luxembourgers can breathe a sigh of relief and go again.

Making the European Way of Life future-proof

Only with a strong Europe can we make the achievements of the post-war period future-proof and sustainable. Only with a strong Europe can we secure our European way of life in the long term. Only with a strong Europe will Luxembourg be strong and remain strong.

The European elections in June 2024 are both a choice of direction and a choice of destiny, for our continent, for our century for our country and people. More than ever, European policy is also domestic policy.

The CSV is and remains Luxembourg's European party. The party of Pierre Werner, Jacques Santer and Jean-Claude Juncker. We return the voters' trust with results for today and responsibility for tomorrow. We act in the interest of Europe and in the interest of Luxembourg.

1. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG STAARK SÉCHERHEET

For the first time since the Second World War, a large-scale war is raging in Europe. 35 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, we are facing a geostrategic «turning point». The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine directly threatens the security of the West, Europe and also Luxembourg.

Defence Union with credible deterrence

For the CSV, one thing is clear: Europe must move out of its security policy comfort zone. The European Union needs a genuine European defence policy that goes beyond enhanced cooperation.

This requires a credible European deterrent, which includes the French nuclear weapons and a strong defence industry. Luxembourg must take more strategic and military responsibility, also in Europe.

Strong EU pillar within NATO

We are also in favour of renewing and strengthening the West as a community of values in an alliance of democracies. NATO and the transatlantic alliance are and will remain the backbone of this alliance, with Europe on a new partnership footing with America. With a strong EU pillar within NATO, which remains indispensable. With a Europe that translates the lessons of history into practical policy. We need a Commissioner for Defence in the Commission.

Europe's intelligence services must also collaborate more closely, both in terms of security and economic policy. The exchange of information must be structured and improved. In the long term, a joint European intelligence service could also make sense.

2. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG STAARK STÄMM AN DER WELT

Europe must once again have a say in the world order of the 21st century, not only as a global payer, but also as a global player. This will only work with a strengthened European foreign policy. With a Europe that speaks with a strong voice in the world. With Europe as a robust value power in a world in turmoil.

EU Foreign Minister and Defence Commissioner

This will only work if we move away from unanimity in foreign policy decisions. We also advocate for a Commissioner for Defence within the Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should be upgraded to a European Foreign Minister.

The CSV is in favour of a common European foreign policy with clear strategic priorities and alliances. The course of Europe's foreign policy is clear: the goal is a multilateral world order. With this in mind, we are also endeavouring to reform the UN. Ideally with an EU seat on the UN Security Council.

Our Transatlantic alliance remains without alternative

We are in favour of a new strategic balance of Europe's values and interests. The first priority must be the European periphery. The strongest alliance is and remains the transatlantic one with the United States of America. However, if necessary, Europe must be prepared to ensure its defence alone.

Capable of acting in the Middle East

Another European priority must be the war in the Middle East. The EU must be able to act and speak with one voice. Especially when it comes to striving for a two-state solution, without which there will be no sustainable peace. This can only be achieved on the ground at the negotiating table.

China as a strategic challenge

China and the Pacific region are Europe's greatest strategic challenges in the long term. We want an open dialogue with the Middle Kingdom. Differences must be addressed openly. Relations must be based on reciprocity. But we are not naive. The screening of foreign direct investment (FDI) must be expanded to include a security dimension. We need more resources for our protection instruments in public tenders and company takeovers. EU companies must be better protected against unfair competition.

Expanding relationships with strategic partners

We also want to expand relations with the EU's strategic partners. First and foremost with India. India is a strategic value partner in the Indo-Pacific region. We are in fa-

vour of the planned India - Middle East - Europe economic corridor. We also want to take action against the attacks by the Houthi rebels with India as a partner. We want to work more closely with the Mercosur states, Australia, Japan and Canada.

Strengthening Africa as a continent of the future

Strategic cooperation should be sought with Africa, the continent of the future par excellence. The recipient-donor relationship between Africa and Europe must become a strategic partnership of equals.

3. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG STAARK UKRAIN

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a litmus test for Europe. In the short term, the first foreign policy priority must be solidarity and support for Ukraine. We will do everything in our power to ensure that Russia does not win its war. War must no longer be a continuation of politics by other means.

Unbroken solidarity with Kiev

Our solidarity with the people of Ukraine remains unbroken. Europe will stand by Ukraine for as long as necessary, with open arms for refugees and with generous financial support for investments and reforms. Europe will also continue to supply Ukraine with weapons and ammunition. We are also in favour of a realistic EU accession perspective for Ukraine once the war is over.

Reconstruction after the war

After the end of the war in Ukraine, we want to help rebuild Ukraine. The investment required will be enormous. Europe must assume its responsibility here. A corresponding investment plan must be prepared now.

4. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG STAARK WIRTSCHAFT

Europe must become strategically stronger and more independent in terms of economic policy. The CSV wants to strengthen and secure Europe as a business location above all against Russia but also against China and other rival powers. Not by turning away from globalisation, but with fair and organised international competition.

Less bureaucracy, more willingness to take risks

Europe's economy is competitive in the world. Nevertheless, our Union still has work to do. We want less bureaucracy and more willingness to take risks. That is why we clearly support the one-in-one-out principle in terms of bureaucracy. If new administrative burdens are decided, existing burdens must be reduced. We want to implement the 25 per cent reduction in bureaucracy announced by the current Commission President.

Specific Commissioner for SMEs

We are calling for a specific Commissioner for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Because Europe's real flagship companies are its SMEs. They employ around 100 million people in our Union. They deserve our special support in the coming years.

Strengthening craft trades and technical professions

We want to train our skilled workers better and promote craft trades and technical professions. With this in mind, we welcome Mario Draghi's report on the competitiveness of the EU.

Europe needs a new economic strategy. A strategy that fits into the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the digital world. And one that resolutely tackles its shortcomings, such as sustainable and social supply chains and a shortage of raw materials. Europe must take on a pioneering role internationally, both in nature and environmental protection and in the social sphere.

Production site and «European Champions»

Europe must remain a centre of industry and production, of innovative ideas and of world-class products. In this context, we are in favour of a new industrial strategy. We want to prevent companies from abandoning production in the EU and Europe from becoming dependent on competing third countries.

We want to make various EU texts more business-friendly, first and foremost, competition law. European companies are often at a disadvantage here. We want to see pioneering companies («European champions») re-emerge. However, the development of these European champions requires a pooling of talent and industrial opportunities, while at the same time promoting essential private investment.

Growth in prosperity and well-being

The CSV is in favour of sustainable and inclusive growth in prosperity and well-being in Europe. The Stability and Growth Pact must therefore deliver both monetary stability and economic growth, in the direction of digital and ecological transition. And create room for manoeuvre for social investments and greater efficiency in the use of social funds. Europe needs new investments and a new growth strategy.

Continuing to lead the way in the financial sector

Luxembourg lives Europe day by day. The Luxembourg financial sector is international by nature as it is based on European rules. These are co-determined by the European Parliament. This set of rules protects customers and controls funds, insurance companies and banks. We will continue to ensure that Europe provides itself with the necessary rules to be able to participate internationally. We want to remain a pioneer as a continent of expertise.

EU agriculture remains a «choix de société»

For the CSV, sustainable European agriculture remains a societal choice. Europe must be strategically independent when it comes to food safety. This is only possible with a strong agriculture that is globally competitive and sustainable. Social, economic and environmental issues go hand in hand. We will also safeguard our agriculture in Europe in the long term. And not place any additional burdens on it.

Increased support for innovative family businesses

We want our farmers to be able to concentrate on the essentials: agricultural production. Here, too, at least 25 per cent of bureaucracy must be cut. Administrative bullying must be a thing of the past. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should increasingly support innovative family farms and be less area-based. EU funds must go to active farmers, not to industrial groups.

5. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR E STAARKE BANNEMAART

The single market is not everything in Europe. But without the single market, everything is nothing. The largest integrated market in the world is of the utmost importance, especially for a small country like Luxembourg. After more than 30 years of success, the CSV wants to secure and complete the barrier-free single market in the long term.

The four fundamental freedoms of the internal market - free movement of persons, free movement of goods, free movement of services and free movement of capital - are non-negotiable for us. Above all, this is true for the free movement of persons.

Single market must adapt

But the internal market must adapt. We want to further reduce barriers to services. We want to deepen the capital markets union and complete the banking union. Europe must also move even closer together in terms of economic and financial policy 25 years after the introduction of the euro. This is the only way for Europe to remain competitive in the long term.

We will campaign against digital geo-blocking. Especially when it comes to application software for smartphones. Europe must become even more consumer-friendly. This is particularly important for small member states such as Luxembourg.

Open trade policy of the EU

We are in favour of the European Union continuing to pursue an open trade policy in the future. With fairly negotiated trade agreements - for example with Australia, Mexico or Mercosur - Europe can use its trading power to promote European interests and values, as well as environmental and social standards.

A multilateral trading system will make globalisation fairer and more sustainable. At the same time, our sensitive sectors - especially agriculture, start-ups and the cultural sector - must be protected with the necessary safeguards.

6. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR E STAARKE SOZIALMODELL

The European social model is one of Europe's greatest strengths. We want to further develop and strengthen it. For the CSV, this is a question of both social conviction and the competitiveness of our Union. With this in mind, we want to further develop the sustainable social market economy - a Christian Democratic invention. Social Europe must remain a global beacon of light.

Strengthening Europe's middle classes

Social cohesion is central to social peace. We want to strengthen this cohesion by prioritising the weakest in our societies. And by strengthening the purchasing power of Europe's middle classes. Especially against the backdrop of rising living and housing costs. Europe is only as strong as its centre, which must not crumble.

Closing the gap between rich and poor

We want to close the gap between rich and poor. Poverty in general and poverty in old age in particular do not fit in with either Europe or Luxembourg.

Strengthening the pillar of social rights

The European Pillar of Social Rights - a long-standing CSV demand - must be further strengthened and made legally binding. To ensure good and secure jobs, social inclusion and equal opportunities. To enhance solidarity, including between the generations.

The CSV wants to advance social Europe. The directive on adequate minimum wages is a good first step. Others must follow. Above all, Europe's social dialogue must be expanded. In the medium term, we want to develop Europe into a social union and act against social dumping. This is also in the interests of the citizens, as recent surveys show.

Crisis-proof in health matters

Europe must also become more crisis-proof when it comes to health issues. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that only a functioning Europe can overcome the major challenges of the present. We are in favour of a Europe that better anticipates the crises of the future. A Europe that is better prepared. In the knowledge that every regional crisis can quickly become global in an interconnected world. And that strategic autonomy is indispensable in the world of tomorrow.

The European Union and the member states must work together more closely in this area. Here, too, we want to further expand the global health strategy - the Health Union. The

political will to cooperate is crucial, especially in border regions. This is true not only in times of crisis, but also in the fight against cancer or in matters of pharmaceutical strategy. Here, too, Europe must become more independent. This must be adequately recognised in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

7. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG STAARK DIGITAL UNIOUN

We want to develop Europe into a digital power in key technologies. Above all, much more needs to be invested in Europe's digital transformation and its cyber security. Above all in the digital infrastructure and in the creation of an innovative environment. In doing so, we also want to build on the positive experiences of the Juncker Plan.

Leadership in artificial intelligence

Europe has passed the first AI law in history. Now it must also take on a strategic leadership role in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). To do this, Europe must join forces.

We want to promote AI more. We want to make AI ready for the market. At the same time, we will ensure that AI works in the interests of people and remains safe. We are in favour of a corresponding global dialogue on minimum standards.

We also see great potential for Europe in quantum computing technology. We are striving to create our own European quantum ecosystem. With coordinated research and funding efforts, we want to build a solid industrial base and a quantum computing infrastructure in Europe.

Luxembourg as a location for technologies of the future

We also want to attract more future technologies to Luxembourg. Together with our partners in the Greater Region, we want to utilise the Net Zero Industry Act to position our economy in a sustainable and future-oriented way. With more favourable conditions for more investment in clean net zero technologies.

8. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR E STAARKEN INNOVATIOUNS-STANDUERT

Europe is a continent poor in raw materials. Our most important raw materials are innovation and imagination, research and education, entrepreneurial and pioneering spirit. The Europe of the future must once again help shape progress. The Green Valleys of the Net Zero Industry Act must quickly become a reality. We want to achieve the goals of the Green Deal under our own steam. And we want to avoid strategic dependence on China and others in the long term.

Europe must become world class again in terms of innovation and key technologies. We want to strengthen, expand and protect Europe as a centre of research and education, also through tax incentives. We want to bring the best minds back to Europe and keep hold of them in the long term.

Pioneering world-class universities

Europe invented universities. But we have lost touch with the world leaders. This must change. Europe needs more pioneering world-class universities. The future must also be conceived and researched in Europe.

Exchange programmes and European courses

We want to better network Europe's universities and schools in the European Education Area. Successful exchange programmes such as Erasmus+ will be expanded. We are also in favour of more identity-building European courses in our schools. There is no future for Europe without a strong collective cultural memory of Europeans.

9. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR E STAARKE KLIMASCHUTZ

Europe must play a leading role in climate protection. We must not leave global climate leadership to others. The CSV supports the overall vision of a European Green Deal. Both as a climate, environmental and biodiversity protection deal and as an opportunity for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Pioneering role for climate neutrality

We stand by the Paris climate targets, also out of solidarity with future generations. Europe must become climate-neutral by 2050. There is still a lot of work to do. We support the European Green Deal strategy and the existing EU initiatives such as Fit for 55, Net Zero Industry Act and Zero Pollution. Luxembourg should play a pioneering role in these initiatives and not just support projects abroad. This applies to climate protection as well as nature and environmental protection and the preservation of biodiversity.

Socially fair and laid-back

We are in favour of cost-efficient, socially balanced and fair climate protection in which everyone is able and willing to participate. Only then will it be supported by the citizens.

We want to take a relaxed approach to climate protection. Fear is not a good counsellor; scaremongering is the wrong method. We want to convince people with incentives. We will only succeed in achieving the urgently needed climate protection if climate protection has a positive connotation and is seen in a positive light. And if it also pays off for citizens and businesses.

We therefore also want to implement climate protection in economic policy. With the further development of an economic agenda. We want to better utilise the potential of ecological change. Europe must be a leader in the green industries of tomorrow.

Energy transition and expansion of renewable energies

The CSV will resolutely focus on more circular economy and a sustainable energy production. We want an ambitious and realistic energy transition. We are in favour of the consistent expansion of renewable energies. In addition to wind power and photovoltaics, hydrogen production must also be promoted in Luxembourg and the Greater Region. We will provide industry with targeted support for decarbonisation. We also support the Commission's wind power package.

Europe must invest more in the development of sustainable battery systems and electric cars. Also to reduce geopolitical dependencies. At the same time, we want to specifically promote European hydrogen technology. For example, by incentivising investment in clean hydrogen. The future of the clean-tech industry must also lie in Europe.

10. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR E STAARKE RECHTSSTAAT

Europe must protect its citizens. This is also a question of trust. The CSV is in favour of a defensive constitutional state. The slow dismantling of the rule of law is the direct path to authoritarianism. We must also prevent this within the Union. For us, freedom and security are two sides of the same constitutional coin.

Expansion of the Schengen control system

Criminal organisations often operate across borders. An efficient European security policy must follow suit. We therefore want to further strengthen and expand cooperation in security and justice policy.

We also want to further expand the Schengen control system. We want to make the control instruments and the Eurodac biometric database more efficient. We are also in favour of Bulgaria and Romania joining the Schengen area.

We also want to expand the tasks of the European Public Prosecutor's Office based in Luxembourg. For us, it is an essential part of the European legal system.

Migration: with heart and common sense

The CSV stands by the fundamental right to asylum. We are in favour of a migration policy with heart and common sense. Europe must remain an open continent for refuge in the future. However, the migration crisis can only be tackled within a European framework and must take place within the framework of the rule of law. We need a clear migration strategy.

We are against a fortress Europe. Nevertheless, we need well-functioning border protection and it must remain humane. We want to further strengthen Frontex and improve border management. We will fight the inhumane business of people smugglers.

Solidarity-based reform of Dublin III

The CSV also favours a reform of the Dublin III system based on solidarity. We want common minimum levels of social assistance. All countries must show solidarity when it comes to financing and relocation.

We support the recently adopted European migration and asylum package. It redefines the reception, management and distribution of irregularly arriving migrants. We need clear standards and more solidarity with the so-called frontline states.

Legal immigration with clear rules

At the same time, our Union also needs legal immigration with clear and simple rules. Especially in times of a shortage of skilled labour.

The primary goal must be to tackle the root of the migration phenomenon. Combating global poverty, dictatorship, political persecution, and climate change is one of Europe's noblest tasks.

11. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR E STAARKT MATENEEN

People first experience togetherness in their families. We want to strengthen Europe's families. We will also work to improve the work-family balance in Europe. Only a family- and child-friendly Europe is a strong Europe. Our Union can make the everyday lives of its citizens noticeably easier. Europe must take on a pioneering role. EU legislation must be implemented and expanded.

«Those who want more, do more»

Strong cooperation also requires strong institutions. Europe's institutions are only strong if they are supported and understood by its citizens. That is why we want to reform the EU institutions, simplify them and make them more efficient. Cautiously and pragmatically. Without entering into a paralysing expert debate. And only with necessary, selective treaty amendments. We want to pragmatically resolve the supposed contradiction between deepening and widening.

Even a Union with more than 30 member states must remain capable of acting. The principle of unanimity must no longer be the rule, it must be the exception. We are in favour of the idea of an open core Europe. We will push ahead with enhanced cooperation in line with the third Juncker scenario «Those who want more, do more». Only in this way will Europe move forward in the interests of its citizens.

Less bureaucracy, more user-friendliness

Europe and its institutions must convince people. With pragmatism and concrete policies. With policies that speak the language of the people. And take their fears and concerns seriously in times of accelerated globalisation. This is the only way we will overcome populism and extremism in the medium term. In general, we are in favour of reducing bureaucracy in Europe. Less is more here. Our Union must become more «user-friendly».

Two fundamental EU principles are central to European co-operation: solidarity and subsidiarity. We want more solidarity between the Member States. However, this must not be a one-way street. At the same time, Europe must be more subsidiary. Each decision-making level should do what it can do best. And every decision should remain as close as possible to the citizen.

EU enlargement: thoroughness before speed

The European Union is not a finished project. It is growing internally and externally. We will press ahead with the enlargement process in the coming years. Thoroughness takes precedence over speed. At the same time, the countries of the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova must be given the prospect of accession in the near future. We also see Ukraine as an EU member state in the medium term.

However, there is currently no prospect of accession for Turkey. Instead of notionally maintaining accession negotiations that have been put on ice, we must negotiate new agreements. We want to put our relations with Ankara on a realistic and healthy footing. Our accession efforts should be directed at those countries whose citizens and politicians really want a place in the EU, in accordance with the rules of the Community.

Strengthening the Greater Region and national parliaments

Co-operation also takes place in our greater region. Results can be delivered more quickly at regional level. We will promote cross-border cooperation more strongly. For example, to find a solution to the deposit system for drinks containers or the territorial distribution networks. The borders of the Greater Region must also remain open in the event of a pandemic.

Making better use of Parliament's influence

The national parliaments should be more closely involved. This is the only way we will achieve greater acceptance among citizens. After all, a large proportion of national legislation is co-determined by Brussels. Today, national parliaments already have the opportunity to exert a major influence on EU legislation. We want to make better use of this opportunity in the Luxembourg Parliament.

Strengthening Luxembourg as European capital

In addition, we will strengthen Luxembourg as the European capital and seat of many EU institutions. We will create more attractive conditions for EU employees, especially in terms of living and housing costs.

12. E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG STAARK WÄERTEMUECHT

Europe has a great history. The Old Continent has a unique cultural mosaic. The social market economy and the single market are success stories. Europe's rule of law and social model are rays of hope for the world. Nevertheless, Europe as a power of values has lost its lustre and lost influence.

Living and defending Europe's values

We want to live Europe's values ourselves and defend them externally. This is the only way to strengthen Europe from within. Only in this way will Europe shine outwards again, without former arrogance, but with new inclusive self-confidence.

Specifically, we want to value Europe's art and culture. Europe is more than a single market. Above all, it is a community of values and a community of ideas and identities. In this sense, the CSV is in favour of community-building projects across the social spectrum.

Culture is the future

We stand for a Europe of unity in diversity. We are in favour of an inclusive identity mosaic of regions and nations, languages and cultures. We stand for a Europe as a global sense of home, together with our nation states.

Europe also has a great cultural future. We will not allow it to become an open-air museum. Europe also has a lot to offer in terms of scenery. We still see great potential for the European tourism industry, especially for cultural tourism. We also see growth potential for Luxembourg and our Greater Region.

E STAARKT EUROPA FIR ENG SÉCHER ZUKUNFT

Europe is a child of hope, hope for lasting peace and a better tomorrow after the Second World War. Not simply out of optimism, but based on the belief in a positive view of humanity and the world.

The CSV stands by this positive view of people and the world, a view which also has Christian roots. We are realistic, and for this very reason also confident. We believe the best is yet to come. Purposeful optimism and historical fatalism are not our thing. We believe in and work for a better future.

The polycrisis as an opportunity for the future

The polycrisis of the present must be utilised as an opportunity for the future.

Europe must simultaneously renew itself and focus on its core competences: on peace and security, freedom and justice, the rule of law and democracy, prosperity and solidarity. But above all Europe must focus on every single person: on their everyday well-being and on the common good of all.

Europe must convince people more with economic and social results in everyday life. Expert debates and bureaucracy will not get us anywhere on the contrary.

Europe must inspire

Above all, Europe must inspire and be a matter of the heart, within and outside the Old Continent. Europe must remain a community of willingness and must not become a mere community of convenience. Europe must inspire young people. Europe can learn a lot from the narratives of the nation states.

For us, Europe is origin, home and future. Europe, nation, and region go hand in hand. Our country is unthinkable without Europe. Our future is even more so.

A better Europe for every single person

For us, Europe is a vision of the possible, of a humane future. It is a realistic promise and a well-founded hope, not only for Europeans. It is above all a political reality today.

We want a renewed European vigour, a Europe with heart and mind, with hard and soft power. We want a better Europe for every single person, with internal security with charisma in the world.

The world needs a strong Europe, with new confidence: A strong Europe for a secure future.

We are ready to make it happen.