

# PARIS DECLARATION

## « LIBERAL DEMOCRACY CAN WIN »

Democracy is under attack. The fight for it is more pressing than ever. Despotic Russia is invading and menacing. Autocratic China is surging. Trump's America is sliding into oligarchy and plutocracy. Extremism is showing its hideous face in Europe again. Many think all is lost, but this is not the end of the story. We can, and must, find the strength from all those challenges to continue the fight. Democracy can win.

We are leaders of political parties. We are Members of the European Parliament. We are leading members of national parliaments. We all belong to a political family with deep democratic roots and liberal values. Together, we say it loud and clear: liberal democracy is still the system of government best placed to advance and defend human progress.

Assembled in Paris today, our parties having a central position in our respective political systems affirm their political alliance to defend democracy and to structure majorities capable of rearming democracy—be it to defend Ukraine, mend the multilateral order or spur economic growth at home.

We commit to fight for democracy at local, national, and European levels and beyond.

We commit to the following:

### **1. An alliance of Liberal Democracies**

The current state of liberal democracy in the world is dire. Out of 167 countries, less than 45% are democracies and 55% are semi or full authoritarian regimes. We will do our utmost to tip the balance the other way. We are resolved to ally Liberal Democracies worldwide.

Our initiative is poised to expand, cooperating with other countries and democratic political forces from across the globe. This Summit marks the foundation of a broader and more enduring effort to safeguard and advance democratic principles worldwide. It will be the first step in allowing us to oppose the illiberal and the “reactionary international” that we are facing.

This initiative stands as a bulwark against authoritarian influences, fostering cooperation and mutual support among member nations.

We recognise that the strength of our democracies lies in our unity and shared commitment to the rule of law, human rights, and the principles of open societies. That is why we are resolved to fight foreign interference and disinformation on social media and elsewhere, because there are no other regimes than democracies where free speech is so much cherished. By standing together, we can better address the complex challenges of our time and ensure that democratic values remain a cornerstone of global governance.

Our political forces agreed to meet again in Brussels in June 2025.

## **2. Ensure Long-lasting Peace and Prosperity**

The cynics say that peace doesn't exist and that peace is just war taking a breath. We will prove them wrong. Long-lasting peace is our paramount political objective and the cornerstone of global stability.

But peace cannot be achieved at any cost. The conditions for peace must respect fundamental rights and uphold the territorial sovereignty of nations and their citizens. In this regard, we condemn any threat against the sovereignty of an autonomous territory of an EU Member State. Therefore, we recall our full support for Greenland and Denmark and the right of Greenlanders to decide about their future.

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, the rule of law, and the protection of human dignity. We are committed to promoting dialogue, diplomacy, and international cooperation as the primary means of resolving conflicts. Because the stronger democracies are, the more peace can be secured; we will work tirelessly to build a more democratic world where the rights and freedoms of all individuals are respected and protected.

Peace and Democracy are the cornerstones of prosperity. We believe that prosperity is a key stabilizer for our societies and economic and social models. We are committed to spurring economic growth by reinforcing our industrial base in all sectors and innovating as much as the 21st-century dynamics require.

This effort will imply ensuring our energy independence, including by phasing out Russian energy imports. In this regard, we welcome the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity grids with Europe's Continental European Network and the cooperation for boosting offshore energy in the North Sea.

## **3. Build a true European defence**

In 1940, Roosevelt declared that America was to be the "arsenal of democracy". The new US administration has given up on that role. Europe needs to take up the mantle, for its own security but also to guarantee a prosperous and sustainable future for human kind.

We commit to taking organised and coordinated political actions in our countries and at European level to prepare our nations, notably, for this necessary defence effort. We will promote and facilitate the instauration of a robust and efficient European defence framework and industrial base.

We also recognize that the current security environment and multiple, complex, and evolving security threats require Member States to spend at least 3 % of GDP on defence , and we are ready to take action to move in that direction. This increase is crucial for ensuring our sovereignty and collective security. We recall that the well-being of Europeans and their security needs are not opposed. Both are needed and essential to our nations.

We also welcome the proposal to discuss the widening of France's nuclear deterrence to other European countries. This deterrent capability will enhance our collective ability to deter threats and ensure peace while maintaining its sole right of decision.

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## **4. Support Ukraine for as long as it takes**

Ukraine embodies the struggle for freedom and democracy. It is an inspiration to us all. We support the Ukrainians and their European aspirations. Today, tomorrow, and as long as needed.

We want to establish legal and financial mechanisms to use frozen Russian state assets to support Ukraine's defence and reconstruction, to compensate victims of Russia's aggression, and to contribute to the funding of the legitimate war reparations due from Russia to Ukraine and its people for its war of aggression.

Furthermore, we wholeheartedly support Ukraine's accelerated accession talks to the European Union, bearing in mind that the future enlargement of the Union requires deep and credible internal reforms for the latter that are crucial to make it a success for all. We want to integrate Ukraine and consider the country as a Member State in certain relevant areas where it and the EU are ready to do so—on a common defence industrial base, for instance.

We want to enable Ukrainian representatives to participate as observers in the European Parliament as soon as possible, and no later than 2026. This unprecedented move will send a strong signal of our solidarity and commitment to Ukraine's European future.

## **5. Defend Human Rights everywhere**

We are committed to promoting democratic values and human rights both within our own countries and worldwide. We will work to strengthen democratic institutions, protect the rule of law, and uphold the principles of open and inclusive societies.

We will advocate for the rights of all individuals, regardless of their background, race, gender, sexual orientation, or beliefs. We will fight discrimination, intolerance, and injustice in all its forms. By promoting democratic values and human rights, we can build a more just and equitable world for all.

We call for fair and free elections in Belarus and stand by the Belarussian people. We condemn Alexander Lukashenko's dictatorial regime and the repression of opponents in the country.

We will stand by all those who fight to defend democracy in their countries, as we do for those in Georgia, Moldova, and others where the democratic and pro-European movement is still more alive than ever.

## **6. Mend Multilateralism**

The post-war order of multilateralism, in which no one acts alone but where nations rely on cooperation, is falling apart. Yet, the need for collaboration has never been so pressing. The challenges we face today are global in nature and require collective action. For the last 50 years, the US dollar has been "my currency, your problem". Reinventing multilateralism will also require a more balanced monetary system. We have to propel the Euro as a reserve currency—a first-class currency for international trade, central bank reserves, and international aid. From climate change to pandemics, from security and economic threats to technological disruption, we must work together to find sustainable and inclusive solutions.

We are committed to addressing these challenges through international cooperation and multilateralism. Liberal democracies must continue working closely together to combat climate change, promote sustainable development, and build resilient and inclusive economies. Working together is our strength to fight autocracies and create a more prosperous, secure, and sustainable future for all. However, we should be prepared and ready to reform existing formats we have built up or look to build new ones in case collaboration fails.

If, by reading those lines, you found some hope at a time when hope is in short supply, join forces with us. **Democracy can and will win.**

Gabriel **Attal**

Valérie **Hayer**

Svenja **Hahn**

Sandro **Gozi**

