



AGENDA EU 2024+

for a resilient EU in a changing world

INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS BY DEEPENING THE SINGLE MARKET AND AN ACTIVE TRADE POLICY



Strengthening the internal market, increasing its resilience and enlargement

- » **Ensure free circulation of goods, workers and services** even in periods of crisis
- » **Improve enforcement of existing internal market rules** and establish **ex-ante review** procedures for **new national regulations on services**
- » Ensure **technology and product neutrality** in the EU internal market
- » Strengthen the **rule of law** including the **economic dimension**
- » Create a **legally binding** and easily accessible **system of protection for investors within the EU**
- » Further **develop the Schengen area** next to the internal market, eliminate existing restrictions
- » Advocate for a **credible enlargement strategy** and communicate the EU's role in the Western Balkans region more strongly

Cutting red tape for business

- » **Reduce reporting requirements and administrative burden** by consequently implementing the Think Small First and the Once-only principles
- » **Implement the One in - One out principle effectively through:**
 - comprehensible calculation basis
 - avoidance of new burdens
 - clear allocation of new burdens and relieving measures
- » **Comprehensible „impact assessments“** based on data and facts with a „competitiveness check“
- » **Check coherence of EU legislation for duplications**
- » Check **new legislation for trade policy requirements** such as conformity with WTO law and obligations under trade agreements
- » Make more efficient use of **EU funds, reduce funding bureaucracy**
- » New measures must comply with the established principle of proportionality and accuracy - relevant stakeholders must be consulted in this regard

Actively shaping trade policy

- » **No isolation:** EU trade policy must continue to stand for openness and international trade and not for isolationism and protectionism
- » **EU-USA/EU-China is not a question of „either/or but of both/and:** EU trade policy must maintain good trade relations with both partners and actively work against the formation of two blocs (USA+ or China+)
- » **Strengthen WTO:** agree and implement modern trade rules; agree trade facilitation for new technologies, environmental goods and services; restore efficient dispute settlement system; strengthen micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) agenda
- » Agree and implement **new trade and investment (protection) agreements**, accelerate ratification
- » Promote **information** on the **importance of international trade** for prosperity, jobs and resilience
- » **Simplify rules of origin**
- » **Support SMEs:**
 - Provide SME-tailored explanations on international agreements
 - Simplify access to investment dispute settlement
 - Make trade measures/trade agreements more SME-friendly
- » **Strengthen cooperation with third countries:**
 - Promote digital partnerships
 - Set up dialogue on raw materials
 - Establish a Trade and Technology Council (TTC), especially with countries without trade agreements

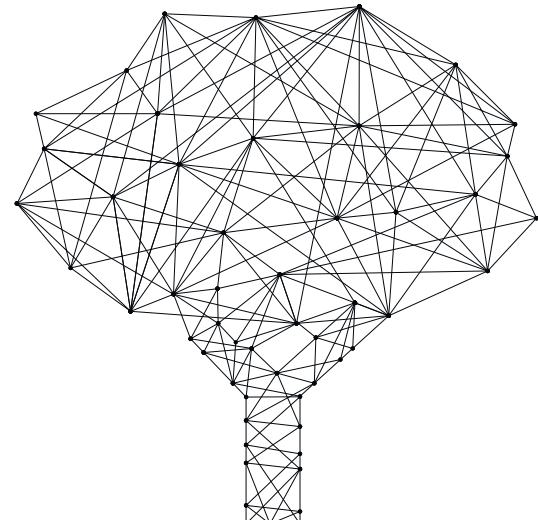
Guarantee open strategic autonomy and security of supply

- » Improve **resilience, security and diversification of international supply and value chains** through partnerships with third countries or investments in strategic sectors
- » **Diversify** and secure **sources of important raw materials** and intermediate products via trade agreements
- » Promote **climate-friendly production** by initiating and developing markets for sustainable products and set up framework conditions at EU level
- » **Reporting and auditing obligations** as well as **liabilities** along the value chain must be implemented **with a sense of proportion** and primarily **on a voluntary basis** in particular for SMEs
- » **Create a level playing field:**
 - Find a European response to economic stimulus programmes in other economic areas
 - Ensure reciprocal access to third markets
 - Combat third-country protectionist measures (e.g. local content regulations)

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ECONOMY WITH AFFORDABLE AND SECURE ENERGY SUPPLY

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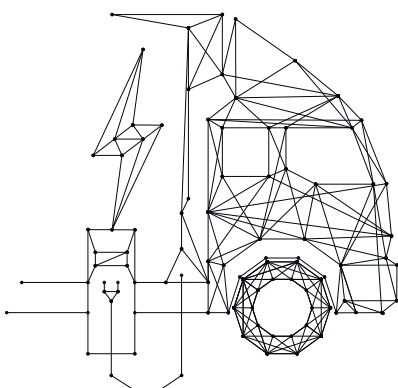
- » **Secure business location** for European (energy-intensive) industry and extraction of raw material
- » Provide **strong incentives for energy efficiency**
- » **Ensure necessary infrastructure** to avoid blackouts and guarantee **affordable energy** for Europe
- » Expand **CO₂** and **hydrogen transport infrastructure**
- » **Decouple electricity and gas prices** without jeopardising security of supply
- » Promote **energy partnerships** in the field of renewable energy and hydrogen **with other economic areas** in order to **reduce dependencies** (oil, gas), expand (renewable) production capacities and ensure massive expansion of electricity grids
- » Further **diversify natural gas supply countries, develop necessary infrastructure** to enable connection to LNG terminals (DE, IT, HR)
- » **Simplify** and accelerate **licensing procedures**
- » Consistently advocate **climate neutrality at global level** and define measures in a business-friendly way, e.g. by introducing a global CO₂ price
- » **Support** companies in their **transformation towards a low-carbon economy**
- » Promote **decarbonisation of transport** through a **technology-open approach** to achieving climate targets (e.g. alternative drive systems and transition technologies, charging and refuelling infrastructure)
- » **Shift transport from third countries** at the EU's external borders **to low-CO₂ or CO₂-neutral modes of transport**, reduce bureaucracy in rail transport
- » **Expand infrastructure** in the areas of **data, energy and transport**
- » Implement a **technology-neutral funding and subsidy policy** in conformity with the WTO



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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AS DRIVERS OF SME AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

- » **Promote international and interdisciplinary RTI-cooperation** between **business** and **research** and develop it further through an even more ambitious and unbureaucratic EU Framework Programme
- » **Ensure Europe's technological sovereignty:** Expand analytical capacities through strategic intelligence and provide targeted support for the development of strategically important technologies
- » **Expand** agreements for **global RTI-cooperation**
- » Continue to pursue **digital and green transformation** of the economy as a **strategic guideline** for European RTI-policy
- » **Further develop** and connect **research, technology** as well as **digital infrastructures** (e.g. HPC, 6G, GAIA-X as a data ecosystem) in Europe
- » **Advance Open Science** (access to knowledge and data for innovation in companies)
- » **Promote digitalisation of companies** (especially SMEs): e.g. through formats to support access to and use of data and the use of AI solutions
- » **Further develop an innovation-friendly environment and attractive research systems & promote talents:** create appropriate regulations, use regulatory sandboxes, build a high level of trust in science and skills - especially digital skills
- » **Strengthen cyber and data security:** create a European know-how base and promote international knowledge exchange
- » Support the **transition** between **research results** and **innovation** (especially for clean tech and deep tech innovation)



DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO SECURE SKILLED LABOUR



- » Introduce a **strategy to secure skilled workers** by promoting intra-European mobility and focusing on vocational education and training (VET)
- » **Expand the EURES platform** - intensify recruitment activities for job and apprenticeship searches in the EU, launch an information campaign for companies
- » Strengthen **vocational education and training**
- » Finance vocational education and training in **close cooperation with the business sector** and with practical training components directly in companies to ensure the green transition of entrepreneurs and workers
- » **Skilled labour offensive in third countries:** establish skilled labour partnerships with countries where there is potential due to the labour and education market
- » **Positioning the EU** as a destination **for international talent** (promote the EU as a place to work)
- » Swiftly introduce the **talent pool** planned by the EU as a **one-stop shop** between employers, job-seekers and public actors
- » Improve immigration conditions for skilled workers from third countries: **simplify**, digitalise and speed up **procedures**
- » Continue and **expand the European University Programme** for university cooperation (incl. division of labour and increased profiling of universities)

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC FINANCES & FURTHER DEVELOP THE CAPITAL MARKETS UNION



- » **Reduce fiscal rules** - with a government debt ratio target as a long-term anchor - **but do not weaken them; no further steps** should be taken by the euro area towards a **debt union**
- » **Use fiscal policy in a growth-friendly way** and do not introduce any new taxes
- » Introduce only **own resources based on member states' economic performance**
- » **Regulate Capital Markets Union in a practical, principles-based and technology-neutral way**
- » **Ensure equality in data access** and data use in the „open banking“ concept
- » **Strengthen the risk capital market** as an important factor for innovation and securing competitiveness
- » **Promote investment for retirement provisions** via capital markets
- » **Secure credit financing** as the main external form of financing for SMEs and preserve the diverse banking structure in Europe
- » **Promote PPP**, encourage equity capital formation by putting debt and equity on an equal footing and increasing venture capital financing
- » **Taxonomy with a sense of proportion**

INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

- » **Maintain the principle of unanimity in sensitive areas**, e.g. taxation including energy taxes, social security and social protection, management of water resources, choice of energy mix and sanctions
- » Pay greater attention to the **principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and the rule of law**
- » Use **delegated acts** and implementing acts **more restrictively**
- » **Strategy-coordinated foreign policy** including trade policy, foreign development policy, asylum and migration policy **to protect Europe**

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