



Believe in *People*

Priorities 2014-2019



EPP Group



## Who we are

We are the largest political family in Europe, driven by a centre-right political vision.

We are the Group of the European People's Party in the European Parliament.

## What we believe in

We believe in people's individual potential to create the life they want.

We are pro-entrepreneurs, pro-trade, pro-education, pro-research and pro-innovation.

We create the setting that allows individuals to take the initiative to benefit themselves and society as a whole. We are part of the same team – helping each other, doing whatever it takes, to find solutions to challenges.

We see the European continent as a place where people travel, do business, invest, learn from each other, buy, sell, collaborate and team up. Do you?

## Our people

We believe in people that are dynamic, entrepreneurial, talented, self-motivated and dedicated. People who have bright ideas and are motivated to follow their dream.

We believe in people that try out new ideas, take risks, aren't afraid of failure. People who pick themselves up and keep going till they get there. They adapt, change, learn, reform, grow and create.



We want to help people become successful and to help people when they struggle. We believe in providing a safety net for those who need it and in giving everyone an equal chance to succeed.

People are our economy. The people of Europe are the largest economy in the world. Everybody in Europe benefits from the world's largest market– by way of jobs linked to exports, e-commerce, foreign visitors, investment and competitive pricing. Are you in?

We want our family firms, our small businesses, our innovators, inventors, researchers, scientists and self-employed to be beacons for innovation and excellence across Europe and beyond.

**We believe in people. Are you in?**

Believe in *People*

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# Our views

## 1. Our plan for the Economy

- Our European economies need to become **modern, competitive** and **innovative**, producing know-how, if we're to compete with China, India, Brazil and Russia.
- We believe in making the European continent a leading light for **research and innovation**. European industries must be world leaders in inventing and using low-carbon technologies that guarantee energy independence and create employment.
- We will create an environment in which entrepreneurs and family businesses can thrive and **entrepreneurship** is rewarded. We will ensure better European-wide governance in tax matters to reduce costs and cut red tape.
- We believe the **Single Market** – that is the arena for selling and exporting across borders in the European marketplace – is the best way to jolt Europe into competitiveness. We want to eliminate barriers to trade, intra-EU and worldwide, because free trade and access to other markets for our goods and services stimulates economic growth in every European country.
- Our plan for a **social market economy** ensures entrepreneurial freedom with a parachute. Everyone has a chance to succeed and we help those who stumble to do well again.

## 2. Our plan for Jobs

- We will invest in higher **education** and entrepreneurial education, in training, innovation and research (3% of GDP) for future growth industries.
- We will help businesses create **high-quality jobs**, for workers of all ages, women and men, supported by education that makes people employable and continuous learning and training throughout their entire working life.







- We will get **investment** in the EU back, by attracting private investors and capital. We will provide public funding for research and development, and incentivise public-private partnerships.
- We will **support self-starters** who want to set up their own business, especially businesswomen.
- We will assert our economic interests globally, pursuing **international trade** and investment with foreign markets, without recoiling in protectionism and nationalism. We will make Europe business-friendly and attractive for investors.

### **3. Our plan for Banks and Public Debt**

- Banks must **serve the people and the economy**.  
Their role is to stimulate entrepreneurship and economic development.
- The people we believe in create wealth, not debt. Our people are responsible governors, not irresponsible spenders. We will only spend the money and the resources that we have. By trimming unnecessary costs and expenditures, **we reduce both private and public debt**.
- We will relieve people of sovereign debt and bank bailouts. We will create a European-wide **banking union** with tight supervision of banks, rules on the level of capital banks should hold and on how to recover or wind them up if needed. We will make sure people's savings and deposits are protected.
- We will ensure the euro's **stability** and the stability of financial markets.



#### 4. Our plan for Small Businesses

- We believe **micro, small, and medium-sized businesses** are the foundation of the European economy – they provide two out of three of all private sector jobs. We will help people to set up their own business (in 3 days) and cut the time spent on VAT, taxes and customs.
- We will encourage businesses to hire new employees, **expand and export**, maintain cash flows, access start-up loans from banks, the ECB and the EIB, and get invoices promptly paid.
- We will complete the Single Market. We will create a **Digital Single Market** to develop sales in an open online Europe with one set of rules.

#### 5. Our plan for a safer Europe in the world

- We believe in **managing migration**, allowing legitimate asylum-seekers in and keeping irregular immigrants out.
- We believe in coordinating national efforts to **prevent organised crime** and ending corruption.
- We believe that everyone has the right to **safe food**, with reliable information on ingredients and origin.
- We will work to protect people's **privacy rights** online and to protect their personal data.
- We believe in **human rights for everyone** and we promote this in all our policies, European and global.

**Believe in people. Team up. Are you in?**



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in the European Parliament

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