



A Better Tomorrow

Coalition 2030 European
Election Manifesto



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7 June



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2030
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Europe is experiencing climate chaos, vanishing biodiversity, escalating global conflicts reminiscent of the 1940s, rampant poverty, and a surge of exclusionary politics. Human rights are being rolled back in many countries, and according to the latest UN Sustainable Development Report, we are experiencing a 'social recession'.

Yet whether we're in Ireland or on the other side of the world, we all want similar things for our families. We want the people we love to be healthy and safe, with access to education and decent jobs, and a secure and affordable home. We want them to always have good food to eat, clean air to breathe and water to drink. We want to know our loved ones have the same opportunities as everyone else – that they aren't discriminated against because of their income, gender, disability, colour of their skin or any other part of their identity.

And we want to know that not only our children – but all generations to come – can look forward to a good life. That's what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are about – that political decisions take into account the needs of people today, and those of future generations too.

Governments across the world – including our Government here in Ireland and the countries of the EU – agreed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. But we won't meet this target unless our politicians take action for us all, now.

Right now, there is virtually no incentive for politicians – MEPs included – to take a long-term view. Decisions are made based on what will win votes in the next election, not on how they will impact on our collective future. That's why in Ireland we have a housing crisis, a broken healthcare system, and growing inequalities between rich and poor.

Achieving the SDGs requires decisions to be made with a view to how they impact on all policy areas, rather than in isolation. It requires joined-up thinking between EU Committees and institutions. And it requires an understanding that the Goals are not just about the environment; they're about addressing every single area of policy to ensure we can build a world where everyone enjoys a decent quality of life.

To halt the growing politics of disenchantment and exclusion, our new MEPs should stand up for justice, champion the cause of the marginalised, and forge a path towards a future where every individual – both present and future – is afforded the dignity they deserve. They must commit to putting a social protection floor under everyone's feet, protecting workers' rights, reorienting the finances of Europe towards meeting the human rights of all both at home and overseas, and addressing the climate crisis and vanishing biodiversity.

These elections come at a make-or-break time for humanity. The question is, will those elected to represent Ireland in the European Parliament contribute to *abreakdown* or *breakthrough* for a better future?

Imagine the world we'd live in if the SDGs were all achieved.

That world is possible.

We're calling for your support to make it happen.



Overarching asks

1. Lead a fast, fair and just transition to a sustainable economy that supports decent work and operates within planetary boundaries

Maintain a steadfast commitment to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Green New Deal and Agenda 2030

2. Ensure the financial system fully enables SDG achievement by 2030

Go beyond solely focusing on economic growth and reform the European Semester, Multiannual Financial Framework and Stability and Growth Pact

3. Work towards a fairer distribution of wealth and create social protection floors that foster tangible equity, leaving no one behind

Ensure everyone can live a life with dignity and protect worker's rights including through full delivery of the European Pillar of Social Rights

4. Protect human rights and civic space, and acknowledge the critical role of civil society in promoting the values core to the EU

Promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and resist any rollback of human rights and NGO freedoms globally

5. Encourage your European grouping and party in Ireland to lead on the SDGs and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Make sure there are no policy conflicts to implementing the SDGs. Join the MEPs for SDGs Alliance and the new Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) Network in the new European Parliament.

At home, ensure your party includes strong SDG and PCSD asks in their general election manifesto, including moving responsibility for the SDGs to the Department of the Taoiseach.

**Candidates:
Take the pledge**



Structure

Sustainable development is based on three fundamental pillars: **social, environmental and economic.**

Our manifesto is structured around these three pillars.

The following are specific policy areas under each pillar, reflecting specific areas of sustainable development

The QR codes link to the pledges for each policy area.



Social

Poverty and Equality



1. Commit to increasing the number of people protected by social protection floors in all European countries, recognising that this is not only a standalone goal but also an enabler and foundational element for achieving all SDGs.



2. Respond to the grave danger of negative 'Social Tipping Points' (credit: Earth4All) by significantly reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion of European citizens.

3. Work towards eradicating child poverty across the EU.

4. Address the unacceptably high numbers of unsupported older women in the EU who do not have a pension as they worked in the home.



5. Increase funding for National Statistical Organisations so that data gaps can be filled and marginalised groups such as older people; women and girls; disabled people; Traveller and Roma people; and migrants and asylum seekers can be reached.



Gender

1. Take a zero tolerance approach to violence against women by developing a comprehensive EU legislative framework that addresses all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).
2. Include the definition of rape in the EU Directive on VAWG and domestic violence.
3. Guarantee women's bodily autonomy by recognising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
4. Increase women's representation in political and leadership roles. Commit to achieving 50/50 representing through measures including gender quotas for elections, gender quotas for public and corporate boards and introducing family friendly measures at all levels of decision making.
4. Commit to strengthening pay transparency legislation and narrowing the gender pay gap.
5. Appoint an EU Commissioner with sole responsibility for Women's Rights and Gender Equality



Civil society, youth and children

1. Help establish new and permanent mechanisms for structured and meaningful engagement with civil society (including youth and children) within the European Parliament.
2. Work to rescind laws restricting legitimate NGO activities, counter overregulation trends, and safeguard the ability of NGOs and civil society to operate freely.
3. Back the call for the appointment of a Civil Society Envoy to the UN which would serve as a focal point and advocate for civil society within the UN system, fostering dialogue and partnerships between civil society and other stakeholders (the 'UNMute Campaign').
4. See children as agents of change and create pathways for their involvement in the design and implementation of laws and programmes that will directly affect their future.



Education



1. Increase the funding of Global Citizenship Education and adult education across Europe.

2. Increase funding for pro-democracy education and critical literacy education to counter mis and dis information.



3. Fund academic research on alternative economic models and actively engage with new economic models and methodologies, moving beyond flawed green growth strategies that lack empirical foundations.

Environment

Climate, nature and water



1. Commit to policy which keeps us within Europe's legally-binding limits on climate pollution and maintain commitment to the Paris Agreement, specifically the commitment to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C.



2. Strengthen the EU's 'Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism' (carbon border tax) which currently has direct negative impacts on developing countries, including the least developed countries.

3. Rapidly phase-out all fossil fuels, move from energy efficiency towards an absolute decrease of energy use and reject false solutions like nuclear, gas, and carbon capture technologies.

4. Accelerate the just and sustainable transition to a 100% renewable energy supply, which is clean, affordable, supports community ownership and does not lead to energy poverty.

5. Strengthen the Nature Restoration Law, prioritising clean air, clean water, safe and healthy food, protected oceans, restored and diverse forestry, and nature.

6. Phase out inefficient environmentally harmful subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and increase subsidies for green transport.

7. Ensure equal gender representation in the development of climate policy and in all decision-making spaces regarding the climate crisis.



Food and agriculture

1. Support international moves towards agroecology / nature based farming.
2. Ensure that Europe's food production policy promotes global health and greater dietary intake of sustainably produced organic produce and plant-based foods.
3. Increase the agency of women in agriculture to fully participate through increased funding and equal access to resources and schemes such as Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Schemes (TAMS) and LEADER.
4. Reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) so that Europe produces healthier food while giving fair prices to European small scale and organic farmers.
5. Support Fair Trade policies and address unequal purchasing practices, the uneven distribution of value and the lack of living wages amongst smallholder farmers internationally, ensuring all workers in food systems are covered by social protection, have decent working conditions, and the sector is exploitation and child labour free.



Circular economy



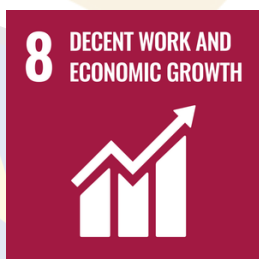
1. Commit to the development of an EU-level post-growth and care-centred economy, transitioning towards well-being as a measure of economic success rather than GDP and prioritising the provision of green, high-quality public services in EU policy and investment for all.
2. Bring European consumption levels in line with the Earth's carrying capacity and capacity to produce including through implementing sufficiency strategies.
3. Follow the Guiding Principles on Textile Waste and Management from the Reuse Network.
4. Curb negative international spillovers (impacts of consumption and production on other countries).
6. Support the EU to reduce its material consumption by introducing a target for reduced material use of 70% across the whole of the EU by 2050.



Economy

Decent work

1. Defend and strengthen trade union and workers' rights, including the universal right to organise, union access to workplaces, the right to bargain collectively, and the right to strike (ILO Conventions 87 and 98).
2. Promote wage increases and support upwards convergence in incomes and working conditions, including through the introduction of a European framework to promote upward convergence on wages.
3. Take stronger action at EU level to eliminate the gender pay gap, including by ensuring swift transposition across the EU of the Directive on Gender Pay Transparency.
4. Increase collective bargaining coverage, including through an ambitious transposition of the Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages, targeting 80% coverage.
5. Improve and expand the EU occupational health and safety legislation and other European initiatives to achieve zero deaths at work or caused by work, including domestic workers.
6. Revise EU public procurement rules to ensure that public money goes to organisations that respect workers' and trade union rights.
7. Guarantee a just digital transformation based on human-centred digitalisation and the effective regulation of AI with the 'human in control' principle incorporated into EU law.
8. Include care and care work (which is inherently green and low-carbon) in Just Transition discourse, policy and plans at EU level, including actions to support care work and the care sector of the economy. Including care in Just Transition plans and policy fulfils a triple role of increasing employment, improving gender equality and meeting climate change targets because of the work's low-carbon nature.



Debt, Tax and Trade

1. Close tax loopholes in the EU that syphon revenue from developing countries and advocate for a UN tax convention or instrument, proposed by the UN Secretary-General, to promote fair taxation practices.
2. Advocate for a comprehensive multilateral legal framework under UN auspices for resolving unsustainable and illegitimate debt.
3. Enhance social investments via grants to Least Developed Countries and Middle Income Countries, ensuring that the EU's external funding via programmes and grants contains the funds for putting in place long-term social protection floors in those countries, avoids measures that undermine social and economic progress, prioritise social investments and implements progressive tax measures.
4. Help design trade and investment agreements to advance wellbeing and the public interest, instead of cost and burden reduction for companies, and advocate for terminating Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and Investor Court Systems (ICS) mechanisms in trade and investment agreements.
5. Advocate for the expansion of the UN Security Council to include countries from diverse regions, particularly from the Global South.
6. Implement the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and actively support legally binding European and international human rights obligations for its businesses that operate overseas including the Treaty on Business and Human Rights.



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Background to the Sustainable Development Goals

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, alerted the world to the urgency of reconciling economic development with the protection of social and environmental balance with the publication of 'Our Common Future' (now more commonly known as the Brundtland Report).

The report defined sustainable development as:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Fast forward to 2015, where Ireland led the way in coordinating the universal agreement of 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are the driving force behind what came to be known as Agenda 2030.

Agreed by 193 countries, the SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They are based on the promise to Leave No One Behind and reach the furthest behind first.

With just over 5 years to go, now is the time to lead with urgency and ambition on the Goals.

Coalition 2030 members

Domestic Anti-Poverty & Equality Organisations

80:20
Akidwa
Alcohol Forum
All Together in Dignity
AONTAS
Baby Feeding Law Group Ireland
Children's Rights Alliance
Community Work Ireland
Create Ireland
Development Perspectives
Disability Federation of Ireland
European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
Global Citizenship Schools
Independent Living Movement Ireland
Irish Family Planning Association
Irish Rural Link
Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
National Adult Literacy Agency
National Women's Council of Ireland (160 member organisations)
National Youth Council of Ireland (membership of over 50 member organisations)
Pavee Point
Simon Communities
Spun Out
Social Justice Ireland
TASC
The Ladder
The Wheel (2,235 member organisations)
The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice

International non-governmental organisations

Aidlink
Action Aid
Childfund Ireland
Christian Aid
Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
Concern
Comhlámh
Dóchas (60 Members and Associate member organisations)
Fairtrade Ireland
Global Schoolroom
GOAL
Irish Development Education Association
Irish Forum for Global Education
Irish Forum for Global Health
Misean Cara
International Presentation Association
Self Help Africa
Sightsavers
Suas (& its STAND programme)
Trócaire
UNICEF
World Vision Ireland

Trade unions

Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland
Fórsa
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (consisting of 44 unions)
Services Industrial Professional Technical Union

Environmental organisations

Airfield
An Taisce
Carrig Conservation
Cultivate (Sustainable Ireland Cooperative)
Environmental Pillar (membership of 29 member organisations)
ECO-UNESCO
Forest Friends Ireland
Friends Of The Earth
Green Foundation Ireland
Global Action Plan
Good Energies Alliance Ireland
Irish Wildlife Trust
Rediscovery Centre
Roscommon Environmental Network
The Environmental Forum
VOICE Ireland
Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

Academic institutions

DCU Centre for Climate and Society
BIOrbic Bioeconomy Research Centre
National University of Ireland Galway
Centre for Youth Research and Development, MU
UNESCO Chair - Munster Technological University

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