



The
EUROPEAN
moment
IS NOW

Manifesto

February 2026

The European Moment is Now

Manifesto

The European Union is facing existential challenges at a time in which the multilateral order is drastically eroding.

Now more than ever it is clear that we need to make bold decisions based on our ideas and values, that we have to stand up for them and not abandon them at the first difficulties.

It was by not taking bold decisions and by simply accepting too many “small” concessions that we got ourselves in a state of inertia.

This is the moment for change.

We must move decisively in this make-it or break-it moment:

we choose a fully sovereign Union with a high level of autonomy,

we choose a Europe that is a geopolitical power.

European unity is not a choice — it is a necessity. Only together can we protect our security, our democracy, and our way of life.

Mette Frederiksen

Power requires Europe to move from confederation to federation.

Mario Draghi

Europe must draw the necessary conclusions and react accordingly: it has to be able to protect and defend autonomously its own security, prosperity and democracy and stop depending on its transatlantic relations.

Strategic sovereignty and autonomy is no longer an option but an existential necessity. In defending Greenland, defending Ukraine, the European Union has shown potential for strength through common action. But many existential challenges remain in need for a stronger answer. The European Union must be able to act independently, assume full responsibility for its own defence in order to keep promoting, defending and guaranteeing peace and pursue its interests and values on the global stage with determination and credibility.

A highly competitive and sustainable Europe rooted in our unique values-based socio-economic model is a precondition of geopolitical power. But regaining competitiveness, safeguarding social prosperity and modernizing the budget is not sufficient.

The European Moment is Now

Manifesto



Just like in 1950, we must concentrate on a critical point, which is the establishment of a European Common Defence (article 42 TEU), at least with the willing States, backed up by a stronger political union.

For us, the Spinelli Group, it is clear: only a more federal Europe can cope with these challenges, ensuring the respect of our fundamental values and rights.

EU institutions and leaders must fully exploit the Lisbon Treaty, through a federalist interpretation of it in all domains. This means overcoming the veto in foreign policy, defence, and fiscal policy through the use of Passerelle clauses. In parallel, the European Council must finally follow-up on the Parliament's proposal of 2023 to reform the Treaties thus abolishing unanimity in the EU decision-making system – budget and fiscal, foreign, security and defence policies, and enlargement should all fall within the ordinary legislative procedure – including on future Treaty amendments.

**The road to pursue is
neither easy nor certain,
but it must be followed and
it will be done!**

Altiero Spinelli

**Europe is not only an
economic project.
It is a political and moral
project.**

Simone Veil

This moment must not distract the EU from its commitment to deepening and expanding the Union: through enlargement, strengthening the Schengen area, and advancing the Eurozone. These are tangible pillars of Europe's power.

From Putin's attack on Ukraine to the geopolitical shift of the Trump Administration, Europe finds itself in an increasingly hostile world and faces unprecedented threats to our security, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Europeans, and their leaders, must come to terms with this new reality and take all necessary steps to address our strategic vulnerability and transform it into strategic autonomy.

Only a sovereign, united Europe can achieve this. That is the Europe we choose.

The European Moment is now.



 THE SPINELLI GROUP



WE ARE

87

THESPINELIGROUP.EU