



# **Communication on Engagement (COE)**

## **Period covered by this Communication on Engagement**

From: 1 July 2023

To: 30 June 2025

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## Part I. Statement of Continued Support

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30 June 2025

### **Friends of Europe's Communication on Engagement to UN Global Compact**

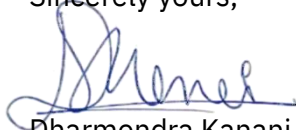
In light of Friends of Europe's mission to "revitalise the European Project and build a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-thinking Europe", I am pleased to confirm Friends of Europe's continued support and commitment to the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and its ten principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

Friends of Europe joined the UN Global Compact (UNGC) in April 2019. We are proud to be part of a global movement of stakeholders taking a principles-based approach to sustainability and taking shared responsibility for achieving a better world. The work we do aspires to meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. By incorporating the ten Principles of the UN Global Compact into our work, we aim to uphold our and our partners' basic responsibilities to people and the planet.

In the accompanying statement, we demonstrate Friends of Europe's commitment to responsible business and programme operations, embedded within our working practices. We also reference our strategic objectives, values approach and policies that ensure Friends of Europe's work is framed around its own value-based guiding principles, as well as the Ten Principles of the UNGC, and describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its ten principles.

We commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dharmendra Kanani".

Dharmendra Kanani  
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Spokesperson  
Friends of Europe

Friends of Europe joined the UN Global Compact in April 2019. We are proud to be part of a global movement of stakeholders taking a principles-based approach to sustainability and taking shared responsibility for achieving a better world. The work we do aspires to meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. By incorporating the ten Principles of the UN Global Compact into our work we aim to uphold our and our partners' basic responsibilities to people and the planet.

In this Friends of Europe's third communication on engagement, we demonstrate how our internal processes, operations and strategies are aligned with the ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption and contribute to advance societal goals including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Friends of Europe is committed to truthful and transparent interactions, based on integrity and our values, amongst our team, with our partners, members and stakeholders. We prohibit any attempt to influence decisions through improper payments, unethical behaviour, favour, privileged access to information including confidential information. We understand that corruption can harm us in many ways, most importantly trust in us and our integrity. Winning and preserving trust every day is more important than any benefit we might get from doing our work improperly.

### **Values-based principles underpin Friends of Europe's mission, objectives, approach as well as its business and programme operations**

Friends of Europe is a Brussels-based, not-for-profit think-tank for analysis and debate. The organisation, established in 1999, has no political or national allegiance and is independent of the EU institutions. We do not represent any national, religious or political point of view and ensure that all viewpoints are represented in our activities. Friends of Europe aims to foster open discussion and to stimulate new thinking on the issues facing Europe and its citizens.

We, at Friends of Europe, seek to revitalise the European Project and build a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-thinking Europe. We believe an EU of partnership and solidarity matters, and we believe globalisation needs global rules to make it work for everyone. We think it's time for a new 21st-century social contract based on peace, prosperity and sustainability. We support a multilateral world where cities, regions, states, supranational institutions, companies and citizens have the opportunity to take an active, transformational role in shaping their environment and designing a renewed social contract fit for today's challenges and those on the horizon. Our work is guided by European values and freedoms.

“Connect – Debate – Change” is our DNA and central to the way we work. Friends of Europe is passionate about good policy making and a driving force for debate. Through our whole-of-society, whole-of-economy approach, we engage and connect critical thinkers, unusual voices and those who are ready to challenge the status quo. We believe that pioneering ideas and effective policies stem from breaking down of silos between policymakers, business leaders, civil society representatives and citizens.

We believe in social justice and equality. We work with stakeholders across Europe and the world to craft bold and innovative recommendations to revitalize the European Project. We believe that good ideas and good policies come from breaking down silos and building communities of trust between policy makers, business leaders, civil society representatives and citizens. This is how to catalyse change.

We foster open, insightful and provocative debates to stimulate fresh ideas and creative thinking. Our portfolio of activities allows us to contribute ideas and leads the debate on a wide range of EU-related issues, including Climate, Energy & Natural Resources, Peace, Security & Defence, Global Europe, Sustainable Livelihoods, Digital & Data Governance, and Democracy.

We believe that real change is achieved through inclusive policies and actions. Through our wide programme of activities – from debates, summits and working groups, to publications and podcasts, citizen focus groups and surveys – we craft bold and innovative recommendations to revitalise the European Project and shape a renewed 21st-century social contract that is based on peace, prosperity, inclusion and sustainability.

### **Our values**

Friends of Europe does not represent any national, religious, political, corporate nor NGO point of view, and will welcome all sides of a debate to defend their points of view. However, Friends of Europe also stands for a basic set of values, and we will therefore not offer speaking slots or partnerships to political parties, governments or corporations that go against the basic values which the EU stands for, and that we as an organisation strongly adhere to. Those values are included in article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union:

“The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.”

Friends of Europe provides its contribution by acting as a driving global force for debate and new ideas, and aims to ensure that decision-making processes and policies across the EU are better informed by and can effectively respond to the needs of citizens. Fundraising through partnerships and projects is of vital importance to ensure the strongest possible impact, participation and reach of our activities. By upholding these principles of ethics,

transparency and operating guidelines as we secure our funding, we are able to maintain our integrity and reputation as one of Europe's leading independent think-tanks.

### Key approaches

Key approaches have been defined and contribute to achieving Friends of Europe's mission and driving toward the vision.

**Partnership.** Effective partnerships are at the heart of our work. We believe that through nurturing mutual trust, learning and collaboration, partnerships bring innovation and influence.

**Transparency.** A policy of openness regarding our organisation and its operations, including partners and participants in our activities and the financing of those activities. Friends of Europe adheres to the following basic principles: transparency; opposing views; editorial independence. For more details, see our [Fundraising Guidelines](#) section available on our website.

**Independence.** We hold the exclusive responsibility of our programme of activities, editorial content and intellectual work.

**Sustainability.** We have joined the UN Global Compact and the global movement of stakeholders taking a principles-based approach to sustainability – upholding the essential responsibilities to people and the planet and contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. This commitment is reflected in how we work, who we work with, and the content of our work. As part of our commitment to carbon reduction, our food policy is vegetarian, prefers seasonal and organic produce and avoids the use of plastic. In addition, as part of our strategic objective to bolster a green transformation, since May 2023 Friends of Europe no longer pursues partnerships with oil producing companies and all companies active in the coal sector.

**Diversity and Inclusion.** Our programming embeds a whole-of-society approach that aims to open up space for diverse voices, work across boundaries and silos, promote social justice and inclusion, and challenge mistrust, polarisation, discrimination and exclusion. We are committed to ensuring equal opportunities in our recruitment processes by providing equal treatment of all job applications received, regardless of applicants' ethnic origins, gender, sexual orientation, disability or health status; we especially encourage applications from those who have been historically excluded or not had fair and equal opportunities to participate in job application processes. Friends of Europe has developed a formal Action Plan on Diversity to obtain a 'diversity label' from Actiris, the Brussels employment office, to further improve the inclusiveness of our activities, hiring and internal approaches. In addition, a key project of Friends of Europe is the citizen engagement unit "Debating Europe", tasked with harnessing the collective intelligence of citizens across the EU to generate and road-test policy ideas for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe by 2030.

**Meaningful and ethical communications.** We are committed to ensuring transparency and honesty, understanding and engaging with our audiences, respecting confidentiality and privacy, and avoiding messaging that could incentivise or perpetuate any form of discrimination.

**Creativity.** We cannot build a forward-looking Europe and sustainable world without tapping into our creative power, developing new ideas, being resourceful and innovative in our approach. Through our inventive European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme, we strive to redefine the concept of leadership in Europe. We are committed to prioritise creativity by engaging with profiles from all over the continent and with a wide variety of backgrounds, including arts, science, the media, sport, and so on.

## Strategic Objectives

Our strategic objectives drive what we do and the way we work.

### 1. Promote New Leadership

- Nurture connections, inspiration and skills for emerging leaders who can cross boundaries, break down silos and challenge polarisation.
- Foster the practice of a more collaborative, diverse, inclusive, intergenerational and impactful model of leadership.

### 2. Regenerate Democracy

- Build trust between citizens and policymakers, as well as improve civic literacy.
- Develop more effective models of governance and encourage a more citizen-centred, flexible, inclusive, networked and multi-stakeholder 'new localism'.

### 3. Challenge Inequality of Opportunities

- Advance effective public and private measures to address social exclusion at the local, national and regional levels.
- Promote and embed programming and policymaking that champion equal opportunities for individual citizens.

### 4. Bolster A Green Transformation

- Support the scaling up of climate finance and incentivising initiatives for a just transition to renewable energy.
- Reinforce more sustainable food systems through systemic policy change at the national, regional and international levels.

### 5. Reframe Europe's Role in the World

## Communication on Engagement



- Guide and increase the capacity of the EU to act as an effective partner in the international arena and with its neighbours.
- Advocate for a more outward-looking EU external relations policy based on enhanced policy coherence and mutuality.

## Part II. Description of Actions

### 1. Environmental principles

We are committed to minimising harmful emissions, waste and use of natural resources throughout our operations and have made a number of efforts in recent years to reduce carbon footprint and waste. Major actions include:

#### 1.1. An eco-friendly catering policy for all Friends of Europe's activities

**No-plastic policy.** Suppliers are requested to refrain from using items made with plastic material and use glass, steel and porcelain instead. This includes all items such as plates and cutlery, bottles, drinking cups, individual biscuit wrapping.

**Vegetarian food policy.** All catering at Friends of Europe events will be vegetarian and wherever possible, suppliers will be requested to use local and seasonal products.

#### 1.2. Friends of Europe is located in a BREEAM In-Use certification building

BREEAM is the world's leading sustainability assessment method for master planning projects, infrastructure and buildings. It recognises and reflects the value in higher performing assets across the built environment lifecycle, from new construction to in-use and refurbishment. Friends of Europe's office building has been certified BREEAM excellent.

#### 1.3. Environmental considerations are incorporated into decision-making processes for the necessity of travel and the mode of transport to be used

Friends of Europe is committed to reducing its overall impact on the environment. All travellers can contribute to this by considering if the journey is absolutely necessary. For example, could the meeting be effectively held in any other way which will result in reduced cost or environmental impact, i.e. telephone / video / web conferencing?

For efficiency purposes, we encourage to avoid the situation whereas several colleagues attend the same meeting. However, in some cases this may not be avoidable; where attendance from more than two employees may be necessary, prior approval from the project director is required. If travelling to the same meeting as colleagues, consideration should be given to car-sharing or train / bus travel.

Concerning our local carbon footprint, we also recognise and encourage the provision of a range of travel options for the staff to promote the reductions in the environmental impact for travelling to and from the building. As of May 2023, Friends of Europe started providing a bike allowance, whereby employees commuting by bike to and from the office, can apply for this allowance.

### **1.4. Friends of Europe has adapted its fundraising guidelines to exclude partnership funding from coal and oil companies**

The transition to a climate-neutral society is both an urgent challenge and an opportunity to build a better future for all and Friends of Europe is committed to play its fair share. The problem the European Union faces, as most other developed economies, is that behind climate ambitions and political declarations, the numbers do not yet add up. Too much time and resources are lost in the attempt to go around a basic reality that only recently was clearly stated with no possibility of misunderstanding in the International Energy Agency's new report, Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap: there should be no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects.

In May 2023, Friends of Europe updated its practices on partnerships with oil producing companies and companies active in the coal sector. This is an initiative to strengthen and reinforce Friends of Europe's commitment to drive the change towards an inclusive, sustainable and forward-thinking Europe.

## **2. Human rights and labour principles**

We are committed to defining and implementing policies that respect human rights at the workplace including the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "The rights of individuals at the workplace, are not to be infringed by any means".

This is exemplified throughout the organisation starting with the hiring processes which is based on equality, diversity, and inclusion. Friends of Europe hires the most qualified and competent employees in the labour market based on specific job criteria, without discrimination or biases based on religion, race, or gender.

We believe that diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are integral to all aspects of our work and our vision for a renewed social contract for Europe. Friends of Europe is proud of its commitment and action to be an inclusive workplace where we celebrate difference, value everyone's contribution and where people of all backgrounds can thrive. We do not accept discrimination or harassment, and all our recruitment decisions are based on fair and open competition, with appointment on merit. We are committed to strengthening our workplace by making sure that the talent pipelines for our roles are as diverse and inclusive as they can be. We welcome applications from everyone and encourage people who have been historically excluded or not had fair and equal opportunities to apply. Friends of Europe encourages participation in its organisation and activities from all parts of our diverse community – irrespective of age, disability, sex, gender identities and expression, marital or parental status, race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin), sexual orientation, religion or belief. We believe that any organisation will be a better, more creative and innovative in what it does and as a workplace if it harnesses the benefits brought on by different perspectives, experiences and ways of thinking. We are an organisation that champions human rights, strives to eliminate discrimination in all its forms, and celebrates our society and all its diversity.

Friends of Europe has developed a formal Action Plan on Diversity to obtain a ‘diversity label’ from Actiris, the Brussels employment office. Awarded to employers who recognise, respect and value differences in the professional environment, the diversity label recognises the organisation’s commitment to and efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). To earn the ‘diversity label’, we held all-staff interactive training sessions on DEI principles. While these principles are already enshrined in our work regulations, working towards obtaining this label will give us the chance to further strengthen our policies and practices on DEI. As part of the Action Plan, Friends of Europe will further improve its diversity and inclusion policy by, for instance, mainstreaming DEI measures across management practices of the organisation and further improving accessibility, establishing consultative processes and mechanisms to enable a DEI impact assessment of structural decisions, and ensuring an inclusive hiring policy.

Friends of Europe is committed to the safety of its employees, property, and equipment; ensuring the health and safety measures are in place and guaranteeing the protection against mechanical work, physical, and other hazards.

Friends of Europe upholds an efficient and fair appraisal system to assess the performance of all employees, helping them identify their strengths and weaknesses, and for the management to evaluate their training needs. Friends of Europe offers its employees training programs to further empower them, build their capacities and enhance their, as well as the overall productivity.

At Friends of Europe, we want to contribute to the personal development and success of all our employees ensuring they feel confident in their roles; while improving our efficiency and productivity. We do this through the Friends of Europe Training Programme throughout the year (mixing in-house knowledge sharing and trainings with external experts and practitioners), and time built into every staff member’s schedule for personal learning and development each week.

### **3. Promoting gender equality at work and within activities**

Friends of Europe is a strong advocate for women empowerment and gender diversity in the workplace (today, 66% of Friends of Europe employees are women) as well as in its activities.

Our aim is to walk the talk on gender equality: through all our events, debates, panels, publications, projects, and in our staffing.

Our internal processes foster gender equality and diversity in our activities:

- When selecting speakers for our panels: gender balance (and diversity) is strongly encouraged with a minimum of 40% women.
- When setting up mailing lists for inviting participants to our events, we strive to get a gender balance and a good mix of nationalities and sectors represented.
- Friends of Europe is a partner of the [Brussels Binder](#) which aims to bring more gender diversity to the debates that impact policy-making and the lives of European citizens.

## Communication on Engagement



During this reporting period, the panels of our activities counted 248 (52.6%) men and 223 (47.4%) women.

Friends of Europe is a founding partner of the Brussels Binder, a go-to resource for improving gender diversity in European policy debates.

In the Autumn of 2023, we have had the last meeting and released a report on our initiative on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans, developed in partnership with UNDP. This project has envisioned the involvement of women from public, private, and civil society sectors.

### **4. Friends of Europe's programmes and initiatives – Activities relevant to the UNGC ten principles**

#### **The Renewed Social Contract (RSC)**

The Renewed Social Contract is Friends of Europe's *fil rouge*, guiding our work since 2022 with the objective of setting out a path towards the inclusive and fair transitions that are needed for Europe to play its part in the world and care for its citizens in the 21st century. It is grounded in our conviction that peace, prosperity, inclusion and sustainability must underpin Europe's future policymaking – guiding values which are also at the core of the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles.

Our dynamic and collaborative approach crowdsources ideas from a diverse community of citizens, experts and changemakers, allowing us to not only shape policy but also mindsets. The future calls for a bold reimagining of governance and economics - one that upholds human rights, improves labour conditions, protects the environment and demands transparency.

2023 was a year dedicated to drafting an initial set of ten policy choices to guide a new cohort of European decisionmakers, taking a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary approach to harvest and crowdsource ideas and thoughts on the key challenges facing Europe in the decades to come. The exercise culminated in early 2024 with the launch of our reports *10 policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe* and *2024 voices: citizens speak up!* The reports complemented each other, with the first setting out policy options for decisionmakers and the latter acting as a repository of citizen sentiments about the challenges they faced. An extensive dissemination campaign put these reports into the hands of policymakers before and after the European parliamentary elections and opened the reports' findings up for discussion and further development through multiple fora, including our annual high-level roundtable State of Europe. As of 2025, we are working to further develop the policy choices, supported by a new round of citizen survey and focus group findings, *Voices for choices: data for decisions that matter*.

#### **Human rights and labour standards**

The Renewed Social Contract initiative echoes the Compact's principles on human and labour rights by championing the importance of reducing inequality and improving social mobility – including through a lifetime approach to social protection and introducing social clauses and community dividends into procurement exercises and public-private partnerships. Through citizen focus groups and multistakeholder working groups, Friends of Europe ensures that diverse voices inform policy choices, promoting inclusive decision-making processes.

#### **Environment**

Environmental sustainability and the green transition are embedded in our policy thinking, recognising that climate action must be woven into the fabric of economic and social planning. Our *10 policy choices* suggest the introduction of carbon taxes, complemented by carbon dividend funds and accelerated decarbonisation. In addition, as part of the ‘[SSH CENTRE](#)’ Horizon Europe research project, the report led by Debating Europe, [Citizen-led recommendations for the Horizon Europe Missions on sustainability](#), addresses the need for a more sustained consideration of citizen perspectives in the EU Missions, by showcasing the views of the 160 citizens from 25 different nationalities who joined our focus groups. For each of the four sustainability-related Horizon Europe Missions, we provide topic-specific recommendations that directly build on the citizens’ exchanges during the focus groups. In addition, this report also provides some crosscutting recommendations to EU Missions more generally in terms of how citizen engagement (e.g. methods, considerations) may be strengthened. **The report findings are integrated in the project output targeting EU institutions, and the EU Missions in particular.**

### Anti-corruption

We also press for greater transparency and civic trust as essential ingredients of democratic resilience. As a way to offer targeted income and welfare support that addresses the different needs of those in both poverty and in-work poverty, as well as those who face a lack of opportunity, our *10 policy choices* call for a new approach to behavioural taxation, including that which supports resolutely combatting tax evasion and increases transparency through measures such as public registers of beneficial ownership and automatic exchange of information on ownership across countries.

### Debating Europe (DE)

Debating Europe is the citizen engagement unit of Friends of Europe, the independent and non-partisan think tank for a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking Europe. Our main long-term mission is to contribute to design a Renewed Social Contract for Europe by 2030, one that reimagines a democracy fit for the 21st century by:

- Encouraging and empowering people to play a greater role in the big strategic and policy decisions that affect their lives, and the lives of future generations.
- Fostering dialogue through which people can develop the skills and confidence needed to be involved in the democratic process.
- Nurturing a healthy public space to enable change to happen by connecting citizens and policymakers.
- Working to redesign the roles and responsibilities of citizens, governments, and businesses to create a fairer and more inclusive society

Realising our objectives will not happen easily or quickly, and we won’t be able to achieve them on our own. That’s why we work together with citizens, foundations, governments,

businesses, and civil society organisations like yours, to strengthen and build the infrastructure of future democracy.

The findings of our latest citizen engagement projects, *2024 Voices* and *Voices for Choices* were published in 2024 and 2025 respectively. These are being socialised and debated locally in various EU countries, and during Friends of Europe's activities in the context of our work around the renewed social contract.

### **European Young Leaders (EYL40)**

With the European Young Leaders programme, Friends of Europe strives to adopt a new form of leadership. A meaningful leadership spearheaded by the EYL community that calls for policies to be actively shaped with a sharp focus on inclusivity. This change of approach to decision-making is ultimately aimed to bring about a more responsive politics and instigate a positive ripple effect with the EYL network in its midst. The European Young Leaders come from the 27 EU countries, the United Kingdom, the six Western Balkans countries, Ukraine and Moldova. We choose real trailblazers: exceptional business and civil society leaders, politicians, (social) entrepreneurs, academics, artists, scientists, journalists and athletes, among others, under 40 years of age. All remarkable in their own right, together they offer a unique multi-dimensional approach to solving the challenges of our time. Through this distinctive network, Friends of Europe aims to nurture a European identity that supports power change across the continent. Working with our EYL40 network, we showcase that we are better equipped to face today's challenges through collaboration.

They also have the right entrepreneurial mindset that will allow us all together to find solutions to the current issues that might seem impossible to sort, from bringing peace back in our continent to fighting climate change and its consequences and ensuring that no one is left behind at a time of accelerating digital changes. Set up in 2012, the EYL40 programme connects accomplished young leaders throughout Europe in a way that builds bonds across nationalities, professional backgrounds and political viewpoints.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To connect established young leaders with one another, promoting understanding and building bonds across nationalities, areas of work and political viewpoints
- To enable young leaders to engage directly with leaders and decision-makers across Europe and beyond to gain an appreciation of leadership constraints, policy and delivery challenges
- To stimulate positive change by devising, developing and implementing thoughtful and creative responses to Europe's challenges through our community of young leaders
- To promote passionate and committed role models who offer leadership and inspiration to Europeans, building a bridge in the broken dialogue between citizens and decision-makers

In the period of reference, three seminars were held as part of the European Young Leaders Programme:

- *The emperor has no clothes*, EYL40 Seminar in Dublin, Autumn 2023
- *Extremities!*, EYL40 Seminar in Paris, Spring 2024
- *How democracy ends (and begins again)*, EYL40 Seminar in Bucharest, Spring 2025

These seminars analysed the current challenges that Europe is facing in the realms of democracy, human rights, technological advancement, the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza, the urgency of climate action and many more. Bringing in leaders from different countries and sectors, the discussions during the seminars were highly aligned with Principles 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

### **State of Europe (SOE)**

The State of Europe programme by Friends of Europe focused on promoting and mainstreaming Friends of Europe's Renewed Social Contract and its 10 Policy Choices. Friends of Europe argues for a Renewed Social Contract as the key to achieving the inclusive and fair transitions, peace and security and social prosperity needed for Europe to care for its citizens and retain its role on the global stage. Building upon the ideas set out in Friends of Europe's recently published '10 policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe', the State of Europe programme was dedicated to sketching the Europe we want.

To promote gender equality at work, the State of Europe program ensured the active participation of women by designing panels with equal representation of men and women, and making efforts to involve more women due to their statistically lower likelihood of public speaking.

In terms of human rights, Friends of Europe, under the State of Europe programme, aligned with internationally proclaimed human rights defenders and emphasised their significance through events and initiatives. Policy insights and podcasts were organised on topics such as gender equality and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as citizens' rights to vote and participate in politics. The program also encompassed the organisation-wide initiative on the Renewed Social Contract, which aimed to foster inclusivity and fairness in decision-making processes by involving citizens, the private sector, civil society, and public institutions.

Regarding the environment, the State of Europe program undertook initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility. All activities within the program observed a vegetarian and local sourcing policy. Additionally, the program highlighted important legislative progress in environmental and climate policy, emphasising the twin transition to meet Europe's climate objectives.

### **Peace, Security and Defence (PSD)**

Friends of Europe's work on Security and Defence supports the EU's ambition of becoming a global actor, particularly aiming to reinforce freedom, democracy, and a rules-based international order. It fosters coherence and impact in EU external action, strengthens security and defence on the continent and in the neighbourhood, prepares for future enlargement, and pursues a comprehensive approach to migration and border management. The programme pursues the objective of making the Union a better and more impactful global actor by providing a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion and leadership. In 2024, the programme developed the Ukraine Initiative with the objective of combatting 'Ukraine war fatigue' in the West and highlight the urgent need to give the Ukrainian people the military, financial and economic support to prevail.

The activities of Friends of Europe's Peace, Security and Defence Programme, with its whole-of-society approach to security, are aligned notably with Principle 1 of the UN Global Compact, the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights. At its core, the Programme recognises that the well-being, dignity, and rights of individuals are intrinsic to sustainable peace and security. Through its extensive work, the Programme actively seeks to address the multifaceted challenges faced by communities and marginalised groups, ensuring that fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, upheld, and advanced.

The Programme's dedication to protecting human rights manifests in several key areas. Firstly, it places a special emphasis on women, peace, and security, recognising the crucial role of gender equality and the empowerment of women in achieving sustainable peace. Additionally, the Programme focuses on the protection of the rule of law and justice as vital tools for conflict prevention, acknowledging the significance of a just and fair legal system in upholding human rights. Furthermore, it actively advocates for the protection of privacy, freedom of expression, and other rights in the digital realm, acknowledging the importance of safeguarding these rights in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Programme also recognises the significance of social and economic rights in building and maintaining safe, secure, and prosperous communities. Its dedicated work on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans aligns strongly with Principle 6 of the UN Global Compact, which calls for the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### **The Ukraine Initiative**

In 2023, in response to the war in Ukraine and the launch of accession negotiations with the country, Friends of Europe opened its European Young Leaders (EYL40) leadership programme to candidates from Ukraine. The first successful nominee was Oleksandra Matviichuk, a human rights lawyer, defender and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who heads the Ukrainian Centre for Civil Liberties. Successful Ukrainian candidates were also welcomed in 2024 and 2025. Those selected include human rights defenders, journalists fighting for press freedom, and civil society leaders fighting corruption, such as Daria Kaleniuk, an EYL40 member since 2025. She is the co-founder and executive director of the Ukrainian

non-governmental organisation, the Anti-Corruption Action Centre, which has been instrumental in Ukraine's efforts to combat corruption. The complete list is available [here](#).

On 14 February 2024, Friends of Europe launched its Ukraine Initiative by hosting an online event, 'Heartfelt Narratives: Strengthening Support for Ukraine' and launched a social media campaign, #DoNotNormaliseTheWar. This campaign is continuously amplified at all Friends of Europe events and in all reports organised or produced under the Ukraine Initiative umbrella.

The Ukraine Initiative aims to complement existing official efforts to enhance short-, medium- and long-term support for Ukraine. It also aims to engage European and transatlantic civil society, businesses and public opinion by activating an expansive, diverse and influential platform to advocate the strategic importance of supporting Ukraine and its Euro-Atlantic ambitions.

A series of events and #CriticalThinking articles will tackle difficult issues such as war, migration and human rights abuses (e.g. the abduction of Ukrainian children by Russia), with contributions from Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, a member of the Latvian Parliament, amongst others, was launched to highlight issues caused by the war.

In May 2024, the inaugural Ukraine Security Forum was held and the report 'The Cost of Inaction' was launched. This study highlights the dire consequences of insufficient support for Ukraine and the risks of allowing non-democratic, aggressive forces to undermine European stability.

In September 2024, a group of European Young Leaders (EYL40) and Friends of Europe representatives visited Kyiv on a two-fold mission: 1) to express solidarity with the Ukrainian people by visiting a country at war, and 2) to identify actions that the EYLs and the EYL programme could take to support Ukraine and address concrete issues and problems.

In October 2024, we have launched a project titled “Frontline Voices: Women Shaping Peace and Security in Ukraine”, to facilitate in-person or virtual discussions on enhancing women’s roles in peace and security strategies amidst the ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine and develop working group meetings, a hybrid panel discussion in Brussels and a comprehensive paper on the importance of women in peace and security in global conflicts.

Under the Ukrainian Initiative umbrella, numerous policy insights, events, podcasts and reports were launched in 2025 in support of peace, Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, respect for human rights, and achieving justice.

### **Balkan Journey**

Friends of Europe's Balkan Journey aims to shift the focus away from stagnated debates on enlargement and instead concentrate on practical advancements for the region through political imagination and forward-looking solutions. By reframing the narrative to prioritize people-centered priorities over political objectives, a fresh policy perspective can be brought

to discussions on strengthening the Balkan region and closing the gap to the EU. This approach acknowledges that the benefits of a robust democracy, stable economy, and social progress should be goals in themselves, creating a foundation for a thriving region rooted in lasting peace, reconciliation, and resilience. The journey will emphasize inclusion, amplify the voices of women and youth, address digital and green transformations, promote regional cooperation, and strengthen democracy and the rule of law. Through various means such as article series, stakeholder conversations, and a working group on women's economic empowerment, the Balkan Journey seeks to gather ideas and recommendations from diverse sectors, informing policy discussions and contributing to the realization of the region's untapped potential.

At the EU-Western Balkans Summit 2022, a wide array of themes were discussed. The role of the twin green and digital transitions in the Western Balkans, and the responsibility of businesses and corporations therein, was extensively addressed as a key issue, and promoted in alignment with Principles 7, 8 and 9. The leaders of Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia also set a special focus on the fight against corruption in order to achieve social cohesion and prosperity in the region, in alignment with Principle 10.

As part of our Working Group on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans, in the Autumn of 2023 we have had the last meeting and released a report on our initiative on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans, developed in partnership with UNDP. This project has envisioned the involvement of women from public, private, and civil society sectors.

In addition, in the context of the Balkan Journey, we have also launched a Working Group entitled "Shared Justice". Justice reform in the Western Balkans will only be effective if it is implemented in earnest and inclusively. The Working Group on shared justice contributed to shed light on the process(es) of justice reform, the effective instruments and tools, examples to be followed and models to avoid in the development of a joint programme of justice reform for the Western Balkan region.

Comprised of three roundtable meetings throughout 2023 and 2024, the Working Group on shared justice has involved national and local government representatives from the Western Balkans, European and international institutions, civil society, academia and other experts, and addressed questions such as:

- Why is it important for countries in the Western Balkans to engage in processes of justice reform?
- What are the priorities when drafting and implementing a process of justice reform?
- What are some of the main lessons learned during this process, and how could things be done differently?
- How can the EU contribute to the establishment of a judicial culture based on independence, impartiality and integrity?

A series of Critical Thinking articles, focusing on a broad set of topics relevant to the Western Balkans, have aligned mostly with Principles 6, 8 and 10.

### **Climate, Energy, and Natural Resources (CLEN)**

The CLEN programme focused on addressing climate and energy challenges in Europe through a series of initiatives that aligned with the principles of the UN Global Compact. These initiatives aimed to promote sustainability, citizen engagement, and policy changes for a climate-resilient Europe.

Environmental sustainability and the green transition are embedded in our policy thinking, recognising that climate action must be woven into the fabric of economic and social planning. Our *10 policy choices* suggest the introduction of carbon taxes, complemented by carbon dividend funds and accelerated decarbonisation. In addition, Friends of Europe is part of the '[SSH CENTRE](#)' Horizon Europe research project consortium, a project that engages with a large community of stakeholders across research, policy, business, and citizens, to strengthen social innovation, collaboration between STEM and SSH subjects, interdisciplinary policy advice, inclusive engagement, the connection between communities of scholars from social sciences and humanities across Europe, with the goal of accelerating the European transition to climate neutrality. Our organisation has been involved in the creation of such a centre by organising hybrid activities and events in line with Principles 7, 8 and 9 of the UN Global Compact.

As a cornerstone of its work on Climate, Energy and Natural Resources, Friends of Europe organises an annual "Climate and Energy Summit," welcoming a broad range of stakeholders (business actors, policymakers both from European and national institutions, civil society organisations, academia, international organisations) to discuss the importance of maintaining the ambition to reach climate neutrality, enhance environmental resilience, and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Through these initiatives, the CLEN programme aims to drive sustainable practices, engage citizens, and contribute to a climate-resilient Europe. By aligning with multiple principles of the UN Global Compact, the programme actively supported the transition to a more sustainable and inclusive future.

In line with the Environment Principles of the UN Global Compact, Friends of Europe developed the initiative "System Change for Sustainable Finance", to stress the importance of an equitable and fair shift to a green future. Through high-level roundtables, publications and policy events, this initiative focused on sustainable finance, the importance of meeting social obligations related to the green transition, and the necessity to maintain public support for the European Green Deal.

### **Digital and Data Governance (DIG)**

Friends of Europe's work on Digital and Data Governance supports the EU's ambition of boosting competitiveness through inclusive, sustainable, and innovation-driven economic policies. The programme contributes to Europe's broader goals of fostering economic growth, social cohesion, and technological leadership, while ensuring that Europe's digital transformation benefits all citizens and regions fairly. It convenes policymakers, industry

leaders, and civil society to address structural barriers such as regulatory complexity, fragmented markets, and underinvestment in research and skills. The programme aims to close critical investment gaps, support digital skills development, and strengthen resilient supply chains for key technologies and raw materials.

Europe's current competitiveness landscape is challenged by sluggish productivity growth, fragmented financial resources, and uneven access to digital skills. These issues risk exacerbating regional disparities and triggering the loss of promising firms to more favourable global markets. The Digital & Data Governance Programme prioritises tackling these challenges by promoting decent work and fair employment practices (Principle 6), supporting equitable economic opportunities (Principle 1), and encouraging investments that align with sustainable development goals (Principles 7, 8, and 9).

The activities of Friends of Europe's Digital & Data Governance Programme, with its multi-stakeholder approach to economic resilience and innovation, are firmly grounded in the UN Global Compact Principles. The programme recognises that inclusive growth, social mobility, and economic rights are essential components of human dignity and social progress (Principle 1). It advocates for transparent, ethical partnerships between public and private sectors to close the European investment gap and foster innovation, while reinforcing responsible governance and anti-corruption measures (Principle 10).

Additionally, the programme emphasises the importance of environmental responsibility by supporting the EU's transition to decarbonised and digitalised economies, aligning with Principles 7, 8, and 9. By ensuring that Europe's competitiveness agenda reconciles innovation with social protection and environmental sustainability, the programme promotes long-term economic strategies that safeguard well-being and opportunity for all.

### **Global Europe (GE)**

With globalisation eroding borders and the challenges of digitalisation and climate change emphasising the need for multilateralism and cooperation, the organisation aims to address key issues ahead of the curve. Against the backdrop of the current geopolitical tensions, the wars in Europe and overseas, and the importance of aligning digitalisation with a global green transition, global cooperation needs to be recalibrated and reinvigorated. Our Global Europe program focuses on strengthening multilateralism, regional cooperation, and learning from partners. It covers a wide range of areas and engage with diverse regions, including Asia , Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. By adopting a programmatic approach and examining solutions at different levels, the program aims to reshape Europe's role in the world, foster trust, and promote sustainable, global approaches to current crises.

In 2024, as part of the Global Europe Programme, the DRIVE Impact initiative was launched. The DRIVE Impact Initiative was organised based on four working groups that met twice. The Initiative served as a platform to bring together funders, investors, implementers, the private sector, local and regional authorities, and civil society to advance sustainable and inclusive development. It promoted fresh thinking on key issues such as the EU Global Gateway, local private sector engagement, and SDG-aligned partnerships. A central focus was on using the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a strategic framework for building equal, impactful, and community-driven collaborations.

The Global Europe programme encompasses a range of initiatives that aligned with multiple UNGC principles. These initiatives emphasise the importance of collaboration, sustainability, and responsible practices in various areas of global cooperation. They address critical issues such as scientific cooperation, women's rights, investment, and sustainable development.

The programme promoted inclusivity and fairness in scientific collaboration (Principle 6) while encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies (Principle 9). It also emphasised responsible investment and inclusive practices (Principles 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9). By tackling global challenges and fostering cooperation, the programme contributed to sustainable development (Principles 7, 8, and 9). It recognised the importance of safe and inclusive transportation and connectivity (Principle 6) and addresses the urgent need to protect biodiversity (Principles 6, 7, 8, and 9). Moreover, the programme explored climate-smart agriculture, which improved the effectiveness of European aid in addressing food crises (Principles 7, 8, and 9). The programme acknowledged the imbalances and human rights considerations in EU-China trade and investment (Principles 1, 2, and 10) and underscored the role of infrastructure in sustainable development (Principles 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10).

Overall, the Global Europe programme has aimed to foster collaboration, inclusivity, sustainability, and responsible practices in various areas of global cooperation, aligning with multiple UNGC principles.

### **Sustainable Livelihoods**

Friends of Europe's work on Sustainable Livelihoods supports the EU's ambition of building resilient, equitable, and sustainable healthcare systems capable of addressing both current pressures and future challenges. The programme contributes to the Union's broader objectives of strengthening social cohesion, competitiveness, and innovation, while ensuring that healthcare systems are inclusive, fair, and prepared for demographic and technological change. It brings together policymakers, industry leaders, and healthcare professionals to drive solutions that secure essential supply chains, strengthen the healthcare workforce, close policy gaps on critical health challenges, and streamline regulatory frameworks to accelerate access to innovation.

The current healthcare landscape across Europe is shaped by profound demographic shifts, including an ageing population that increases demand for care, alongside persistent and widening workforce shortages. These shortages place additional strain on healthcare systems, limit the integration of new technologies, and risk deepening health inequalities. The Sustainable Livelihoods Programme prioritises addressing these challenges by promoting fair employment practices (Principle 6), supporting decent work conditions (Principle 3: uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining), and fostering efforts to attract, train, and retain skilled healthcare professionals across all regions.

The activities of Friends of Europe's Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, with its whole-of-society approach to healthcare resilience, are strongly aligned with the UN Global Compact Principles. The programme recognises that access to healthcare, well-being, and dignity are fundamental to human rights (Principle 1), and it works to ensure that healthcare systems can respond proactively to challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, rare diseases, and supply chain vulnerabilities, while upholding the rights of all individuals (Principle 2)

Additionally, the programme encourages the healthcare sector to reduce its environmental footprint, in line with broader efforts to promote environmental responsibility (Principle 7; Principle 8; Principle 9). Finally, the programme works to build reliable, ethical supply chains that secure equitable access to critical and affordable medicines and medical devices, in line with human rights (Principle 1) and social responsibility.

Ultimately, the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme aims to support Europe in creating healthcare systems that are resilient, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable.

### **Making Space Matter**

The Making Space Matter initiative, in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA), supported the sustainable, fair, and inclusive use of space for all. Several publications and events within the initiative aligned with multiple UNGC principles:

The Critical Thinking Papers examined various aspects of the space-defence nexus, addressing human rights implications (Principle 1) and advocating for equal access and non-discrimination (Principle 2) in space-related activities. The space-defence nexus was also addressed in a series of events and high-level roundtable debates with the scope of highlighting the opportunities provided by space technologies on climate change, security and digitalisation. Friends of Europe however advocates for a more upfront consideration of the ethical and rights implications of any space programme to ensure greater confidence and enthusiasm from civil society organisations, community organisations and citizens themselves, with a whole-of-economy, whole-of-society approach.

In addition, our activities as part of the Making Space Matter initiative also considered the role of space in environmental protection and biodiversity, emphasising environmental responsibility (Principle 7), promoting sustainable practices (Principle 8), and fostering innovation and collaboration (Principle 9), with activities, for instance, on Earth Observation technologies and the development of Digital Twin Earth.

Overall, the Making Space Matter initiative demonstrated a commitment to UNGC principles, particularly those related to human rights, non-discrimination, environmental responsibility, promotion of sustainability, and innovation and collaboration in the space sector.



## Communication on Engagement



### Events

Friends of Europe supplements its programmes and initiatives with a vast number of events and editorial. Below, is a list of events, articles and initiatives indicating the specific connection to each Principle of the UN Global Compact.

Programme	Date	Initiative Title	Type	Subtype	Principle
EYL40	14.09.2023	What has the EU ever done for us?	Event	Public Session	1, 6, 10
EYL40	14-16.09.2023	The emperor has no clothes	Event	EYL40 Seminar	1,2,6,8,9,10
EYL40	10.11.2023	Democracy is hard work	Event	EYL40 Meeting	1,2,3,10
EYL40	21/03/2024	"The next generation will hate us": what should the EU deliver now if we want our kids to trust us?	Event	Public Session	1, 6, 10
EYL40	21-23/03/2024	Extremities!	Event	EYL40 Seminar	1,2,6,8,9,10
EYL40	19-23.09.2024	Festival del Pensare Contemporaneo – Vivere la meraviglia	Event	Festival	1,2,3,6,7,8,10
EYL40	08.11.2024	The challenge of identities	Event	EYL40 Meeting	1,2,6,10
EYL40	01.04.2025	A stronger Europe in a fractured world	Event	EYL40 Meeting	1,6,10
EYL40	23.05.2025	Rebuilding trust in a polarised society	Event	Public Session	1,2,3,6,10

## Communication on Engagement



EYL40	22-24/05/2025	How democracy ends (and begins again)	Event	EYL40 Seminar	1,2,6,8,9,10
EYL40	16.10.2023	Developing effective responses to disinformation	Insight	#CT	1,2,6,10
EYL40	30.10.2023	Fostering youth engagement and democratic revitalisation, while addressing inequalities	Insight	#CT	1,6
EYL40	22.03.2024	War through the eyes of children: a Europe of security and values for the 21st century	Insight	#CT	1,2,5,10
SOE	18.09.23	Presentation of the Report of the High-Level Group on the Future of Social Protection and of the Welfare State in the European Union	Event	Summit	3
SOE	27.09.23	What the Chief Says: welcoming the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism	Event	#WTCS	7, 8
SOE	24.10.23	In Conversation With Valdis Dombrovskis	Event	ICW	9
SOE	09.11.23	10 policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe	Event	SOE	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	04.12.13	In Conversation With Virginijus Sinkevičius	Event	ICW	7, 8
SOE	29.01.24	European competitiveness: regaining the edge and delivering for citizens	Event	#CTL	9
SOE	01.02.24	In Conversation With Thierry Breton	Event	ICW	7

## Communication on Engagement



SOE	28.02.24	Debating Europe's policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract	Event	PI	7, 8, 9
SOE	04.03.24	The Future of the Single Market	Event	#WTCS	9
SOE	14.03.24	Science for policy	Event	#WTCS	9
SOE	23.04.24	Europe's budget: NEXTGENEU & Multiannual Financial Framework	Event	#WTCS	9
SOE	07.05.24	From voices to choices – In Conversation With Sandro Gozi	Event	ICW	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	15.05.24	From voices to choices – In Conversation With Nicolas Schmit	Event	ICW	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	13.06.24	In Conversation With – European elections 2024: what will the future look like?	Event	ICW	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	06/07.11.24	Voices, choices and leadership: a tipping point for Europe?	Event	SOE	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	12.09.24	Developing the EU's Renewed Social Contract is a necessity	Insight	#CT	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	18.10.23	2024: a decisive year for Europe	Insight	#CT	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	27.10.23	Make economies work for people to save democracy	Insight	#CT	7, 10
SOE	30.10.23	Fostering youth engagement and democratic revitalisation, while addressing inequalities	Insight	#CT	10

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SOE	03.11.23	Empowering people, protecting the planet: what would it take to get Europe closer to these twin aspirations?	Insight	#CT	7, 8, 9
SOE	21.11.23	Fostering resilience in Europe: the role of social investment	Insight	#CT	8
SOE	22.11.23	Thinking big for a better society	Insight	#CT	7, 8, 9
SOE	19.12.23	A perfect day to be brave: bringing faith, dignity and joy into politics for a new social contract	Insight	Publication	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	25.01.24	The Dao of Imagination: how to envision a new social contract for a brighter future	Insight	#CT	1, 7, 8, 9
SOE	06.11.24	Social mobility and public R&D policies: cornerstones of innovation for societal advancement	Insight	#CT	9
PSD	29.09.23	Women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans - Meeting 4	Event	Working Groups	6
PSD	07.12.23	EU-Western Balkans Summit – breaking the stalemate: women, youth, justice and enlargement	Event	Summit	6
PSD	14.02.24	Heartfelt Narratives: strengthening support for Ukraine	Event	PI	1, 6
PSD	08.05.24	Reform, Recovery and Enlargement Rebuilding a Society for All Ages in Ukraine	Event	PI	1,6
PSD	28.05.24	Ukraine Security Forum: a tipping point for Europe's security and democracy	Event	Roundtable	1,2
PSD	21.06.24	Shared Justice Meeting	Event	PI	10

## Communication on Engagement



PSD	05.12.24	EU-Western Balkans Summit: a renewed approach to the region	Event	Summit	6, 10
PSD	24.02.25	Three years of courage: navigating Ukraine's future and the road to peace	Event	PI	1,2
PSD	07.05.25	Frontline Voices: diagnosing the disconnect – The Women, Peace and Security agenda	Event	Working Group	6
PSD	05.07.23	The Islamic Republic of Iran: youth and women at the centre of its challenges and opportunities	Insight	#CT	1,2,6
PSD	12.07.23	Harnessing economic synergy: fuelling prosperity in Armenia-Azerbaijan reconciliation	Insight	#CT	1,6
PSD	5.09.23	Putin's failed 'people grab' in Ukraine signals Russia's defeat	Insight	#CT	1,2
PSD	29.09.23	Does the UN still serve a purpose?	Insight	#CT	1,6,7
PSD	10.11.23	Lots of promises, little action: why the EU fails to evoke democratisation in the Western Balkans	Insight	#CT	1, 10
PSD	7.12.23	Civic engagement unveils potential to transcend gender expectations in Kosovo	Insight	#CT	6
PSD	7.12.13	Outcome report – Working Group on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans	Insight	Policy Briefing	6
PSD	19.12.24	Ukraine's legacy: shaping Europe's future approach to refugees	Insight	#CT	1,2
PSD	23.02.24	Alexei Navalyn and the dream of a beautiful Russia, or at least of a normal one	Insight	#CT	1,2

## Communication on Engagement



PSD	24.02.24	Victory in Ukraine's fight for freedom is essential for protecting peace and the rule-based order	Insight	#CT	1,2
PSD	18.04.24	The Gaza conflict extends to the broader Middle East: can diplomacy prevail over military force?	Insight	#CT	1,2
PSD	16.05.24	Charting a greener path: prioritising decarbonisation in European defence	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
PSD	24.05.24	Kosovo 25 years on: the high point and end of humanitarian interventions?	Insight	#CT	1,2
PSD	04.10.24	Afghanistan: lest we forget	Insight	#CT	1,2
PSD	22.11.24	COP29 gets underway in Baku, but is anything changing with climate change?	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
PSD	24.02.25	Do not normalise the war: commemorating three years of Ukrainian courage	News	#CT	1,2
PSD	04.04.25	The Women, Peace and Security Agenda at 25: time to move beyond words	Insight	#CT	1,6
PSD	16.05.25	Policy Voices / With dwindling US support, what is the future of the WPS agenda?	Insight	Podcast	1,6
Ukraine Initiative	28.05.2025	Ukraine: cost of inaction – What's at stake for our economies, politics and democracies	Insight	#CT	1,2
Balkan Journey	29.09.2023	Women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans - Meeting 4	Event	Working Group Meeting	1, 3, 4, 6
Balkan Journey	07.12.2023	EU-Western Balkans Summit – breaking the stalemate: women, youth, justice and enlargement	Event	Summit	1,2,3,6,10

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Balkan Journey	21.06.2024	Shared Justice Meeting	Event	PI	1,2,6, 10
Balkan Journey	05.12.2024	EU-Western Balkans Summit: a renewed approach to the region	Event	Summit	1,2,10
Balkan Journey	18.09.2023	Croatia and the European Union: retrospective and prospective	Insight	#CT	1,2,10
Balkan Journey	10.11.2023	Lots of promises, little action: why the EU fails to evoke democratisation in the Western Balkans	Insight	#CT	1,2,10
Balkan Journey	15.11.2023	Teachers of Bosnia & Herzegovina: the driving force behind the digital transformation in education	Insight	#CT	6
Balkan Journey	07.12.2023	Civic engagement unveils potential to transcend gender expectations in Kosovo	Insight	#CT	1,6
Balkan Journey	07.12.2023	Outcome report   Working Group on women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans	Insight	Policy Report	1,2,3,6,10
CLEN	27.09.2023	What the Chief Says: welcoming the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism	Event	What the Chief Says	8,9
CLEN	24.10.2023	Aligning capital investment with the European Green Deal	Event	Working Group	7,8,9
CLEN	25.10.2023	World Energy Outlook 2023 – official Brussels launch	Event	PI	7,8,9
CLEN	09.11.2023	Shifting investor preferences and de-risking sustainable investment	Event	Working Group	7,8,9
CLEN	30.01.2024	The EU on a mission: rethinking governance and policymaking	Event	PI	8,9

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CLEN	20.02.2024	Reframing finance: a systems-led approach to sustainable investment	Event	PI	7,9
CLEN	13.05.2024	What does the Net-Zero Industry Act mean for the EU?	Event	What the Chief Says	7,8,9
CLEN	15.05.2024	Risks and solutions: how climate change is impacting our water and health	Event	PI	7,8
CLEN	13.06.2024	The post-EU elections roadmap: ensuring social justice and economic stability on the path to net-zero	Event	PI	7,8,9
CLEN	03.07.2024	Navigating the EU's sustainability transitions in a polycrisis world	Event	PI	7,8,9
CLEN	17.10.2024	Navigating risks and enhancing resilience: charting Europe's energy and climate pathways	Event	Summit	7,8,9
CLEN	03.12.2024	Staying the course: driving sustainability forward in a shifting geopolitical context	Event	PI	7,8,9
CLEN	26.03.2025	European Oceans Pact: is maritime transport on board?	Event	PI	7,8,9
CLEN	28.09.2023	From farm to fork, let's unite against food waste	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	06.10.2023	The EU needs a water resilience strategy	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	03.11.2023	Empowering people, protecting the planet: what would it take to get Europe closer to these twin aspirations?	Insight	#CT	6,7,8,9
CLEN	27.11.2023	Africa faces climate catastrophe if the world fails to deliver trillions and clear debts	Insight	#CT	1,2,7,8,9

## Communication on Engagement



CLEN	28.11.2023	Policy Voices   Beyond the bare minimum: fossil-fuel phase-down a must at COP28	Insight	Podcast	7,8,9
CLEN	29.11.2023	Plea for the advancement of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	30.11.2023	Leadership in the Anthropocene: shaping a new narrative	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	15.12.2023	COP28 didn't save humanity from climate change: so where do we go from here?	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	19.12.2023	Policy Voices   Affordable, reliable and competitive path to net zero: is it possible?	Insight	Podcast	8,9
CLEN	23.01.2024	The land of climate action: five things that would be different there	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	29.01.2024	Driving transformation: the acceleration potential of the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	16.02.2024	War with Russia will start in the Arctic, unless leaders move to stop climate change	Insight	#CT	1,2,8,9
CLEN	27.03.2024	Enhancing climate resilience through marine data science: Blue Partnership between the EU and China	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	25.04.2025	Why cities must be placed at the core of mitigating climate change	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	25.04.2024	The EU's sustainable finance agenda: recommendations for a fair and competitive transition	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	16.05.2024	Charting a greener path: prioritising decarbonisation in European defence	Insight	#CT	1,2,8,9

## Communication on Engagement



CLEN	17.05.2024	Policy Voices   What will it take to keep the EU's sustainable finance agenda alive?	Insight	Podcast	7,8,9
CLEN	05.07.2024	Trust and trustability – how philanthropy can help catalyse a Renewed Social Contract	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	24.09.2024	Farm policy is a dangerous hot spot that's also an EU blind spot	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	25.09.2024	The fight against food waste has no expiry date	Insight	#CT	1,2,7,8,9
CLEN	29.11.2024	Something we can all agree on? Prioritising food waste reduction	Insight	#CT	1,2,7,8,9
CLEN	08.10.2024	Is the EU doing enough for a hungry world?	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	25.10.2024	COP16 on biodiversity: time to make peace with nature and raise the political relevance of biodiversity	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	06.11.2024	Transforming Europe's energy sector: a key driver for competitiveness	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	11.11.2024	#COPerspectives	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	12.11.2024	Policy Voices   A glaciologist and a greentech entrepreneur on a mission to fight climate change	Insight	Podcast	7,8,9
CLEN	22.11.2024	COP29 gets underway in Baku; but is anything changing with climate change?	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	29.11.2024	Policy Voices   From pledges to promises: can developed nations trust they'll ever see the money from COP?	Insight	Podcast	7,8,9

## Communication on Engagement



CLEN	05.12.2024	EU sustainability policy: a choice between spreadsheet stagnation and climate leadership	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	12.12.2024	A new era of EU-China climate leadership	Insight	#CT	8,9
CLEN	13.12.2024	News from the SSH centre: Empowering cross-sectoral collaboration for more sustainable cities	Insight	News	7,8,9
CLEN	10.02.2025	Policy Voices   Trump 2.0: How to not lose hope on climate action	Insight	Podcast	7,8,9
CLEN	12.02.2025	Competitiveness and clean energy, the challenge of European industries	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	14.02.2025	Policy Voices   What is the cost of not doing Carbon Dioxide Removal?	Insight	Podcast	7,8,9
CLEN	06.03.2025	A betrayal of the future: the EU must act now	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	10.04.2025	We need a new cultural strategy for global climate action	Insight	#CT	7,8,9
CLEN	12.05.2025	Europe's blackouts call for a NATO-level response	Insight	#CT	8,9
GE	08.04.25	Trading tariffs and trade as a geopolitical tool	Event	#WTCS	1, 10
GE	20/21.11.24	Europe-China Forum: 50 Years of diplomacy – Advancing EU-China relations in an era of globalisation	Event	Summit	7, 8, 9
GE	06.11.24	Future Africa-Europe High-Level Forum	Event	Summit	7, 8, 9

## Communication on Engagement



GE	30.10.24	From aid to investment: shaping Europe's global role in a changing world	Event	#CTL	9
GE	22/23.10.24	Mutually beneficial partnerships: changing attitudes towards development cooperation	Event	Working Groups	1, 9, 10
GE	08.07.24	Financing our future	Event	Dinner	9
GE	17/18.06.24	From an aid to an investment mindset: rebalancing partnerships for economic and social impact?	Event	Working Groups	1, 9, 10
GE	16.04.24	EU-ASEAN Forum: what can the EU learn from the ASEAN experience?	Event	Summit	7, 8, 9
GE	23.11.23	Global Europe Summit: green infrastructure matters for the sustainability of resilient communities and economies	Event	Summit	7, 8, 9
GE	23.11.23	Europe-China Forum: 20 years on – what's next for EU-China relations?	Event	Summit	7, 8, 9
GE	22.11.23	The BRI and Global Gateway: searching for complementarity in competing narratives	Event	Dinner	7, 9
GE	11.07.23	The EU and its southern neighbours: normative leadership or realpolitik?	Event	Roundtable	1, 10
GE	06.07.23	Africa-Europe-Asia: catalysing green reform of the international financial system	Event	Dinner	7
GE	13.12.23	Green infrastructure matters: closing the implementation gap	Event	#CTL	9
GE	19.09.24	Summit of the Future: a crucial opportunity to strengthen multilateralism and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs	Insight	#CT	1, 7, 8, 9

## Communication on Engagement



Making Space Matter	05.06.2025	A European agenda for space: resilience, security and sovereignty	Event	Roundtable	1,2
Making Space Matter	21.05.2025	From orbit to impact: charting Europe's course in a changing global landscape	Event	#CTL	1,2
Making Space Matter	29.01.2025	Space solutions for Europe's challenges: shaping resilience with space technology	Event	Roundtable	1,2,7,8,9
Making Space Matter	21.09.2023	More than space: the transversality of the new frontier	Event	#CTL	7,8,9
Making Space Matter	19.07.2023	Interpreting India's onboarding to the Artemis club	Insight	#CT	1,2
Making Space Matter	06.03.2024	Is the militarisation of space inevitable?	Insight	#CT	1,2
Making Space Matter	11.02.2025	Time for ESA to chart its own course and reduce NASA dependency	Insight	#CT	1,2
Making Space Matter	22.06.2025	From orbit to impact: Charting Europe's course in a changing global landscape	Event	#CTL	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Making Space Matter	05.06.2025	A European agenda for space: resilience, security and sovereignty	Event	Roundtable	1, 3, 8, 9, 10
SUSTLIV	05.12.2023	Meeting Europe's medical needs now and in the future	Event	Dinner	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
SUSTLIV	11.09.2024	Europe's competitiveness: learnings from the healthcare sector	Event	PI	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
SUSTLIV	18.11.2024	Reclaiming medicines and health innovation for our health	Insight	#CT	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

## Communication on Engagement



SUSTLIV	22.05.2024	The healthcare of tomorrow: assessing the innovation landscape in Europe	Event	#CTL	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
SUSTLIV	01.10.2024	Healthy ageing for Europe's future: The value of adult immunisation	Event	PI	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
SUSTLIV	28.01.2025	Health check for a competitive medical technology sector in Europe	Event	Dinner	1, 3, 8, 9, 10
SUSTLIV	30.05.2025	Policy Voices   Re-imagining Europe's Health Systems	Insight	Podcast	1, 6, 7, 8, 9
SUSTLIV	04/05.06.2025	Sustainable Livelihoods Summit	Event	Summit	1,6
DIG	06.06.2023	Making Space Matter	Event	Summit	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
DIG	11.10.2023	Social entrepreneurship skills: driving inclusion and bridging the innovation gap	Event	Policy Lab	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
DIG	14.03.2024	Sciences for Policy	Event	#WTCS	1, 6, 10
DIG	29.11.2023	Towards a sustainable and digitalised EU economy	Event	#CTL	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
DIG	26.09.2024	AI & Society 2024: promises and perils in the next EU mandate	Event	Summit	1, 2, 3, 6, 10
DIG	09/10.12.2025	Europe's digital future: leading the next industrial revolution	Event	Summit	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
DIG	20.05.2025	Embracing digital government for Europe's citizens: how do we maximise the AI opportunity?	Event	Dinner	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10

### Events and publications related to the Renewed Social Contract and Debating Europe's activities

All of Friends of Europe's activities are underpinned by the Renewed Social Contract. However, a number of events and publications have had particular relevance to the initiative more broadly.

#### Events

- **Shaping Europe's future: how to engage Europe's youth in the 2024 European Parliament elections? (6 July 2023):** Promoted democratic engagement and encouraged youth participation in EU elections. By advocating for lowering the voting age and enhancing institutional communication, the event supported inclusive political processes and accountable governance, reinforcing the UNGC's emphasis on civic freedoms and institutional transparency.
- **Presentation of the Report of the High-Level Group on the Future of Social Protection and of the Welfare State in the European Union (18 September 2023):** Addressed the future of social protection amid demographic and technological shifts. Promoted adaptive welfare systems, social cohesion and resilience in the face of global crises, advocating for inclusive social safety nets and equitable policy reform in line with human dignity and fair labour standards.
- **Social entrepreneurship skills: driving inclusion and bridging the innovation gap (11 October 2023):** Promoted social entrepreneurship as a tool for inclusive growth and innovation, including supporting skills-building in marginalised communities and fostering businesses that prioritise social impact, reinforcing decent work, non-discrimination and community empowerment.
- **The State of Europe: 10 policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe (09 November 2023):** Was the occasion to launch a working paper version of the *10 policy choices*. Reflects the UNGC's commitment to human rights, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption by promoting transparent dialogue on Europe's future and bringing together diverse voices to address climate, economic and social challenges, supporting collaborative and ethical policymaking.
- **Towards a Sustainable and Digitalised EU Economy (29 November 2023):** Championed the integration of sustainable practices into digital transformation. Promoted a circular economy, environmentally responsible innovation and inclusive economic policies that consider both social equity and ecological impacts.
- **In Conversation with Virginijus Sinkevičius (04 December 2023):** Focused on environmental sustainability and advancing EU efforts on biodiversity, climate action and green policy. Promoted global cooperation and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

- **In Conversation with Thierry Breton (01 February 2024):** Addressed Europe's digital transformation, emphasising inclusive technological development, data protection and cybersecurity, encouraging digital policies that respect human rights and promote fair access.
- **The future of connectivity: turbocharging Europe's competitiveness (01 February 2024):** Supported equitable digital access and sustainable infrastructure. Addressed connectivity as a driver of economic competitiveness and promoted inclusive growth and responsible technological advancement.
- **Navigating the future of EU-US trade relations (19 February 2024):** Encouraged transparent trade relations and environmentally responsible agreements. Promoted ethical international cooperation and balanced global economic governance.
- **The Future of the Single Market (4 March 2024):** Promoted fair competition, economic integration and consumer protection within the EU. Advocated for sustainable practices in market regulation and supported inclusive economic participation.
- **From Voices to Choices: In Conversation with Sandro Gozi (07 March 2024):** Emphasised citizen involvement and democratic accountability. Encouraged transparent EU governance that is responsive to the needs and rights of its diverse population.
- **From Voices to Choices: In Conversation with Nicolas Schmit (15 May 2024):** Focused on inclusive social policy and employment fairness. Fostered social dialogue and addressed inequalities in the labour market, advancing decent work for all.
- **From Voices to Action: Building a Water-Resilient Europe (May 2024):** This event aligns closely with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles by promoting sustainable, inclusive, and rights-based approaches to water resilience. It supports environmental principles (7–9) through its focus on proactive water management, cross-sector collaboration, and the promotion of green technologies. Additionally, it reflects human rights and labour principles (1 and 6) by advocating for equitable access to water and inclusive policymaking that avoids discrimination.
- **In Conversation with European elections 2024: what will the future look like? (13 June 2024):** Enhanced democratic engagement and informed participation in EU elections. Promoted civic education and inclusive governance, crucial to the Compact's call for institutional integrity and representation.
- **Engaging the private sector for social good (25 August 2024):** Encouraged corporate responsibility, public-private partnerships and socially driven business models that create shared value and sustainable impact.
- **Easy move: Smoother Journeys, Better Cities, Happier Citizens (12 September 2024):** This event, part of our contribution to the Horizon Europe project 'SSH CENTRE', explored how inclusive, sustainable urban mobility can drive the EU's Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission. The event emphasized the need for

accessible public transport, cultural shifts toward sustainability, and EU-local collaboration. These discussions align with the UN Global Compact by promoting environmental responsibility (Principles 7–9) through sustainable transport solutions, and anti-corruption (Principle 10) by advocating transparent policymaking. The event exemplified how citizen engagement and policy innovation can advance global sustainability and equity goals.

- **From Education to Employment: Bridging the Skills and Opportunities Gap for Youth (24 September 2024):** The panel stressed the need for more coherent EU action and stronger public-private partnerships to bridge youth skills gaps in the green and digital transitions. By highlighting inclusive, demand-driven training models and involving companies in upskilling efforts, the event supported several UN Global Compact principles - especially those on education, labour rights, and anti-discrimination. It demonstrated concrete ways to advance Principle 6 (elimination of discrimination in employment) by promoting equal access to future-ready jobs.
- **Voices, choices, and leadership: a tipping point for Europe (7 November 2024):** This leadership-focused event supported the Compact's principles by promoting inclusive decision-making, equitable leadership, and balanced approaches to economic, social, and environmental policy. It encouraged visionary governance that prioritises ethical and sustainable development.
- **Healthy Soils, Sustainable Future: A Citizen Focused Dialogue (5 December 2024):** The event emphasized innovative strategies for soil communities—such as farmers and winemakers—to tackle soil pollution, restore degraded lands, and ensure long-term resilience. By empowering citizens to advocate for healthy soils and promoting sustainable practices, the event aligns with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles, particularly those related to environmental responsibility and the precautionary approach to environmental challenges. The discussions underscored the necessity of embedding inclusivity into Europe's transformative agendas to ensure equitable participation and lasting societal change
- **Voices for Healthy Oceans and Waters: A Citizen-Focused Dialogue (12 December 2024):** The event aligns closely with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles. By emphasizing citizen engagement, sustainable maritime practices, and corporate accountability, the event supports Principles 7, 8, and 9, which advocate for environmental responsibility and the development of environmentally friendly technologies. Discussions on regulating fish production and promoting sustainable aquaculture reflect a commitment to Principle 1, upholding human rights by ensuring communities dependent on marine resources are protected. Furthermore, the call for transparent communication and stakeholder collaboration resonates with Principle 10, promoting anti-corruption through accountability in environmental governance. Overall, the event underscores the importance of integrating citizen voices and sustainable practices in ocean and water resource management, reinforcing the Global Compact's vision for responsible and inclusive development.
- **EU's road to fair climate adaptation: citizen voices and local impact (29 January 2025):** The event aligns with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles by promoting

inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based approaches to climate resilience. By addressing socio-economic disparities, green gentrification, and corporate accountability, the discussions underscored the importance of embedding human rights (Principles 1 and 2) and labor standards (Principles 3–6) into climate adaptation strategies. The emphasis on sustainable solutions and corporate responsibility reflects commitments to environmental stewardship (Principles 7–9) and anti-corruption (Principle 10), fostering a collaborative framework that supports equitable and just climate action across Europe.

- **Inclusive futures: uniting communities for lasting change (7 March 2025):** This event, held during the 2025 Special Olympics Winter Games, called for social inclusion to be at the heart of Europe's green, digital, and socio-economic transitions. By uniting policymakers, businesses, NGOs, and athletes, it highlighted practical strategies to overcome inequalities linked to disability, socio-economic status, and digital exclusion. In doing so, the event advanced the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles - particularly Principles 1 and 6 on human rights and non-discrimination - by promoting inclusive, rights-based approaches to sustainable development and corporate responsibility.

### Publications and articles

- **Sharp economic slowdown warrants better protection of the EU's most vulnerable people by Gallina A. Vincelette (17 July 2023):** Underscored the need for robust social safety nets during economic downturns. Advocated targeted policies to protect the most vulnerable and reinforced the importance of inclusive economic measures that uphold dignity, reduce inequality and ensure access to basic services and opportunities.
- **Developing the EU's renewed social contract is a necessity by Joaquín Almunia (12 September 2023):** Called for a modernised European social contract to tackle inequality and social fragmentation. Promoted democratic accountability, social cohesion and ethical governance, emphasising the importance of policies that strengthen inclusive institutions and economic resilience.
- **2024: a decisive year for Europe by Bruno Colmant (18 October 2023):** Highlighted the strategic importance of 2024 for Europe's political and economic trajectory. Advocated for ethical leadership, inclusive governance and transparency. Addressed social and economic cohesion, encouraging policies that support long-term democratic and economic stability.
- **A roadmap for channelling investments in the new programmatic period in Europe by Dimitris Kalavros-Gousiou (25 October 2023):** Proposed strategic investment approaches to ensure competitive and inclusive growth in Europe. Promoted sustainable economic models and equitable access to development

funding. Supported human rights by emphasizing balanced regional investment and long-term social benefit.

- **Make economies work for people to save democracy by Daniel Dăianu (27 October 2023):** Argued for economic systems that prioritise people's well-being as a foundation for democratic health. Supported fair economic participation, decent work and social justice. The call for inclusive growth and reduced inequality also echoed the Compact's focus on ethical governance.
- **Fostering youth engagement and democratic revitalisation while addressing inequalities by Rim-Sarah Alouane (30 October 2023):** Highlighted the importance of empowering young people and reducing societal disparities. Promoted democratic participation, equal opportunities and skills development. By advocating for structural inclusion, it reinforced values of fairness and long-term social investment.
- **Fostering resilience in Europe: the role of social investment by Anna Diamantopoulou (21 November 2023):** Emphasised the need for sustained social investment to strengthen resilience. Called for policies that ensure equitable access to education, healthcare and employment. The focus on proactive investment in social infrastructure also contributed to sustainable and inclusive economic recovery.
- **Turning the rhetoric of an equal partnership into practice by Elsa Zekeng (15 January 2024):** Examined how to transform EU-Africa relations from rhetoric into equitable partnerships. Advocated for fair economic cooperation, mutual accountability and ethical development models that prioritise equity and capacity-building.
- **A perfect day to be brave: bringing faith, dignity and joy into politics for a new social contract by Ece Temelkuran (19 December 2023):** Emphasised restoring human dignity and ethical values in political life. Called for inclusive politics grounded in compassion, transparency and public trust. The focus on personal empowerment and civic virtue also supported stronger democratic culture.
- **The Dao of imagination: how to envision a new social contract for a brighter future by Chen Qiufan (25 January 2024):** Offered an imaginative approach to rethinking Europe's social contract. Promoted inclusive policy innovation, equitable opportunities and long-term thinking grounded in social and ecological well-being.
- **10 policy choices for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe (February 2024):** Proposed ten policy choices aimed at revitalising Europe's social contract. Emphasised the need for inclusive governance, sustainable economic practices and equitable social policies. Called for transparent decision-making, responsible

business conduct and policies that promote social inclusion and environmental stewardship.

- **2024 Voices – Citizens Speak Up! by Debating Europe (February 2024):** Engaging over 2,000 citizens across seven EU countries, this report aligns closely with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles, reinforcing commitments to human rights, labor standards, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption. In summary, the "2024 Voices – Citizens Speak Up!" project contributes to the UN Global Compact's mission by promoting principles that foster a more inclusive, sustainable, and transparent society.
- **Citizen-led Recommendations for the Horizon Europe Missions on Sustainability by Julie Malaize, Debating Europe (January 2025):** This report, published as part of our contribution to the Horizon Europe project 'SSH CENTRE' not only advances the objectives of the Horizon Europe Missions but also embodies the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles by promoting human rights, fair labour practices, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption measures through inclusive and participatory approaches.
- **Europe's choice by Dharmendra Kanani (21 February 2025):** Called for decisive, ethical leadership in response to Europe's social and political challenges. Promoted democratic accountability, equitable economic policies and transparent decision-making. The emphasis on unity and inclusion reflected a values-based approach to governance.
- **Voices for Choices – Data for decisions that matter (April 2025):** This report presents citizen-driven recommendations aimed at enhancing democratic participation, social inclusion, and equitable access to digital and green transitions. These conclusions resonate strongly with the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), which provide a framework for responsible and sustainable practices across human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption domains. By integrating these citizen-led insights, the "Voices for Choices" report contributes to the advancement of the UN Global Compact's mission, fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society.

### Part III. Measurement of outcomes

While the section above details our commitments and our active inclusion of the principles in our work, Friends of Europe's monitoring and evaluation framework will continue to help us track the outcomes of our engagements with the United Nations Global Compact.

Our work on the **Renewed Social Contract (RSC)** is the fil rouge of Friends of Europe's work from now through 2030. The RSC is not a separate initiative, but rather the lens through which we present ourselves to the world – every activity we put together is in one way, shape or form connected to the ambition of designing a Social Contract for Europe.

For the next three-year period, we plan to fully comply with the Actiris Diversity and Inclusion Plan and develop effective internal and external practices to increase the accessibility and representativeness of our activities. In addition, we maintain the commitment to update our roadmap for a Renewed Social Contract for Europe and transform the 10 Policy Choices into actionable recommendations for European policymakers. We will develop this work by closely aligning with the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact.

#### **Affiliation with fellow UNGC partners**

Of our 13 corporate partners in 2024, 10 (ca. 77%) were signed up to the United Nations Global Compact.