

Declaration

Towards a stronger, more cohesive, inclusive, and relevant European Union on the global scene

1. The European Union has brought lasting peace, prosperity, and welfare for its member states throughout decades. Freedom, democracy, human rights, gender equality, and the rule of law are fundamental values which we defended and promoted successfully. These accomplishments in political, societal, and economic terms are the very reasons which make the European Union a model on the international arena.
2. In spite of these undeniable achievements, the European Union is now facing new challenges - increasing disparities within and between member states, structural limitations, economic and social changes generated by the fourth industrial revolution, climate change, migration pressure, the rise of competing new global powers and attempts to weaken the influence of the United Nations in defending peace and preventing global conflicts. The disputed European approach over some issues created social unrest and was deliberately used to fuel nationalism and populism.
3. After the Brexit referendum, we have witnessed an increasing awareness about the need to intensify the reflection over the current situation, its roots and the necessary reforms. The duty of approaching these matters in a proper way, making sure to offer citizens the security of a better society and new individual opportunities, brought us together countless times. Both the European Parliament and the national parliaments made an important contribution to this debate.
4. The intense dialogue we have had during the last years highlighted the diversity of our diagnosis, priorities and intervention tools; nevertheless, these discussions also put a light on the values and goals we share in common. The **Declaration of Rome**, adopted by the leaders of 27 member states and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission, represent a generous overall picture on the common goals we share – **a safe and secure Europe, a prosperous and sustainable Europe, a social Europe, a stronger Europe on the global scene.**
5. Expressing support for the content of Rome Declaration, we underscore the large variety and long-term consequences of the instruments to be chosen for achieving these goals. A stronger democratic legitimacy and consistent political will are needed in order to take forward the reforms and for promoting ambitious solutions in order to take advantage of the European Union's successes and to solve the current shortages.
6. The future success of the European Union, regardless of the specific decisions we will take, relies on the support of the European citizens. Therefore, we must firstly regain the trust of our citizens in the European project by promoting policies which provide specific answers for their needs, bringing policies closer to them, and making citizens more involved in drafting their European future. The empowerment of our citizens to resist manipulation, populist threats, and fake news campaigns in the context of the upcoming European elections have a paramount importance.

7. *As elected representatives of the European citizens, we remind our leaders about the duty they hold through the Declaration of Rome – to listen and respond to the concerns of our citizens and to engage in a permanent dialogue with the national parliaments and other decision makers from all levels, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. This is the best preventing approach against divergences between the decision making bodies and citizens, and between the European and national level undermining now the European unity.*
8. *The informal Summit which will take place in Sibiu is the last meeting of our heads of state and government and the leaders of European institutions before the upcoming European elections. The Summit could take stock of the discussions so far and could try, on this basis, to provide an input for the next mid-term agenda of the European Union. However, the European Parliament elections will open a new cycle for the European institutions. The new European Parliament will vote for a new European Commission. The European Council will have a new president in December 2019. The European institutions, in their new composition, will have the responsibility of choosing the best tools – policies, regulatory measures, and budgeting – to solve current challenges that the European Union is facing and to enforce the decisions taken.*
9. *We support the main objective of the Romanian Presidency of the Council – promoting cohesion as a common European value – considering the importance of applying this principle in political, economic, social, and territorial terms. The European Union could be stronger than it is today if we will defend the unity and cohesion of its member states by consistent convergence policies and the most efficient use of public funds. Closing the gap between European Member States and regions is the best manner to prevent the **already growing** euro-scepticism and the feeling of being left behind.*
10. *The future of Europe cannot be built without a solid economic foundation; financing growth and development, as well as enhancing competitiveness, are driving forces of a Union that empowers and protects citizens. In line with this objective, we must further work towards ensuring the stability of the EU's economy, protecting it against potential shocks, equipping it with the proper mechanisms to foster convergence and systemic resilience. European investment policies, especially for providing public goods and services, play a crucial role in strengthening our economic environment and an increased legitimacy of European institutions in the citizens' perception.*
11. *The enlargement policy is **one** of the successful EU policies. We believe that the European Union should maintain its commitment to support the countries willing to join the Union in consolidating their institutions and the economic and social development; a strong cooperation with the countries in the region on the fields of migration and security would create a safer society for all of us. A credible accession perspective, keeping in mind the applicable accession criteria, remains an essential factor in the promoting process of reconciliation and stability on the continent.*
12. *Redefining the European Union as our common project for a sustainable future requires determination, political will, inclusion, and trust. The genuine power of the European Union stands in its transformative power, both internally, and at the global stage. To this end, we express our full will to participate, through a joint effort, in defining and advancing a new European Union agenda, to the benefit of the European project and of the unity, prosperity and security of its Member States, as conditions for a new social contract with European citizens.*