

# WHAT WE EXPECT FROM FUTURE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The eight European NGO platforms working together under the umbrella of the EU Civil Society Contact Group have chosen fundamental rights, sustainable development and democratic accountability as the key domains in which we expect future European Parliamentarians to have experience.

Read below what we think about these domains and what we expect from future European Parliamentarians. You are welcome to use this document as a basis for discussions with candidates.

## Put values and fundamental rights at the core of the European project

### *What we think*

- Today's Europe and today's world call for a more coherent rationale in tackling major global challenges such as climate change, persistent poverty, gender inequality, discrimination and human rights violations.
- The European Union, as the largest political and economic bloc in the world, needs to provide true leadership on the common challenges. To be legitimate, this leadership needs to rely on long-standing values that can inspire people within and outside Europe.

### *What we expect from a European Parliamentary candidate*

- S/he is known for putting human rights at the core of all decisions including integrating them in conflict prevention, peace building, trade, energy, security and migration
- S/he stands up for equality between women and men in all areas of life, fights against sex-based discrimination, violence against women as well as all violations of human rights in Europe and worldwide including discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion and disability
- S/he commits to EU spending that better reflects European values and policy priorities and is spent for democratically-agreed policies, in respect of existing legislation, delivering public goods and services for society as a whole.

## Realise sustainable development

### *What we think*

- The EU must reverse the trends that are destroying our planet and its inhabitants in Europe and beyond and propose a model for globalisation based on sustainable development
- As we have witnessed with the financial crisis, the dominance of short-term economic considerations in policy making has not solved the pressing challenges of social and economic injustice and violations of human rights.

### *What we expect from a European Parliamentary candidate*

- S/he doesn't accept that long-term considerations are neglected and defends energy and resource efficiency, investment in renewable energy systems and the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity in order to support quality of life in Europe and beyond, and to achieve social cohesion, solidarity and peace
- S/he argues that sustainable development must be the overarching goal of a new EU budget
- S/he argues for the importance of assessing the impact of political decisions and public spending on public health, environment, diversity and equality, social cohesion as well as solidarity among and within EU Member States and worldwide.

### Enhance democratic accountability and civil society participation

#### *What we think*

- The EU institutions must demonstrate openness, share power and guarantee the active participation of civil society
- For a long time the EU budget has been the result of horse-trading between national interests: Public budgeting and spending must be a transparent and accountable process and allow for meaningful participation from public interest organisations.

#### *What we expect from a European Parliamentary candidate*

- S/he encourages and enables the participation of civil society organisations in the definition and implementation of policy
- S/he defends the European Parliament's role in holding the Council and the European Commission to account
- S/he is committed to participatory democracy and gender balance and defends the right to information and transparent decision-making structures and processes and the people's right to have a say on what their money shall be spent.

**To find out more about these positions, read the sectoral manifestos online at [www.act4europe.org](http://www.act4europe.org)**