

European Movement International Work Plan 2025

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

2 Statutory Activities and Other Internal Meetings

- 2.1 Federal Assembly
- 2.2 Members' Council
- 2.3 Board Meetings
- 2.4 National Councils meeting and International Associations meeting

3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

4 Content-Based Activities: Communications, Events and Policy

- 4.1 Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values
- 4.2 A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe
- 4.3 Europe in the World

5 Project-Oriented Activities

- 5.1 Europe Day 2025
- 5.2. Together for Europe (re-granting to National Councils)
- 5.3 The Women of Europe Awards 2025
- 5.4 Stronger Together
- 5.5 Investing in the Future of Europe
- 5.6 Reshaping European Advances towards green Leadership Through Deliberative Approaches and Learning (REAL _DEAL project)
- 5.7 The Social Partners as shapers and makers of Social Europe: discovering foundations and futures (SHAPE)
- 5.8 Express 2 Specify and Protect the EU Social Contract (EXPRESS2)
- 5.9 Assets

1 Introduction

The European Movement International is a non-profit association aiming to contribute to the establishment of a united Europe founded on the principles of peace, democracy, liberty, solidarity, and respect for basic human rights. The European Movement brings together a large spectrum of organisations, including National Councils (34), International Associations (39) and Supporting Members (2).

The members of the European Movement International are united through a network that allows the European Movement to fulfil its role as a promoter of active participation of citizens, organised civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities in the debates that affect Europe's challenges and the future of the European project.

In 2025 the European Movement International will continue to strengthen and broaden its network through an active strategy of recruiting new members and establishing and rebuilding National Councils in countries where the European Movement currently has no presence or activities. We will also work to reach out to citizens. This plan focuses on increasing the support base of the European Movement International and its ability to reach more citizens across Europe to advocate in favour of European values and European integration.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the European Movement International will seek to find the right balance between promoting the active involvement of civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities and citizen engagement. We will do this by promoting a dialogue among all stakeholders at the European level, and by encouraging the participation of citizens through activities oriented towards the general public, directly through our communications activities and with the involvement of the European Movement's National Councils. As in past years, a key goal will be to narrow the gap between citizens and the European Institutions through an enhanced communication strategy that engages with citizens directly and which provides a platform where civil society can come together to debate and shape the direction of the European project.

In 2025, the European Movement's activities will focus on the new political and institutional leadership following the results of the European Parliament elections. We will also continue our work on the debate on the future of Europe, as well as the priorities of the European Union for the years 2024-2029, the [European Commission's political guidelines](#), the Polish and Danish Presidencies of the Council of the EU and the work areas of the European Parliament.

2 Statutory Activities and Other Internal Meetings

In 2025, the European Movement International will convene one meeting of its Federal Assembly, one meeting of its Members' Council and four meetings of its Board. The activities and meetings will take place both in person and online.

2.1 Federal Assembly

The 2025 meeting of the Federal Assembly is planned to take place in **November 2025 in Denmark**. It will gather around 100 delegates from all over Europe, representing the European Movement International's Members, its Board, staff and possible guests. The Federal Assembly will provide an opportunity to take stock of the European Movement's work, to discuss upcoming activities and priorities and to exchange ideas across the network on the key debates shaping the European project at the time.

2.2 Members' Council

The 2025 meeting of the Members' Council will take place in **May 2025 in Poland**. It will gather delegates from all over Europe, representing the European Movement International's Members, its Board, staff and external guests. Similar to the Federal Assembly 2024, the Members' Council will feature debates on key policy priorities of the network and developments at the European level. At the margins of the Members Council, an extraordinary Federal Assembly may be held.

2.3 Board Meetings

The Board will meet four times in 2025, and the meetings' dates will ideally be agreed by the Board by the end of 2024. The Board meetings are to be attended by the Board members and supported by staff members. Ahead of each Board meeting, the European Movement International will organise meetings of the three Political Committees.

2.4 National Councils Meeting and International Associations Meeting

As initiated in the previous years, the European Movement International Office will organise its annual Heads of Office meeting in two separate gatherings:

- The International Associations meeting will gather representatives of our associative members;
- The National Councils meeting will bring together representatives of our national sections from all over Europe.

3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The European Movement International Network is currently composed of **75 Member Organisations**, which includes **34 National Councils**, **39 International Associations** and **2 Supporting Members**. Looking at the network as a whole, we still need to keep addressing important disparities regarding the size and capacities of respective Members. While some are at a very advanced stage concerning the structure, resources and capacities, others are still in a developing phase, trying to grow and consolidate their activities, as well as organisational structures. The European Movement International will maintain its efforts to **attract new Members** by developing targeted group-oriented actions. At the same time, we will continue to work on **strengthening the capacities** of the already existing ones. We shall do so by organising opportunities for exchange among the European associations, regional cooperation projects and other capacity-building opportunities aimed at the National Councils. The European Movement International dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2025, the European Movement International will **keep constant contact with its partners** in civil society, trade unions, employer organisations, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties, local authorities and the media, in order to further deepen our exchange and cooperation. Moreover, we will strive to establish new partnerships to strengthen the network. The aim of the European Movement International is to further develop itself as an essential aggregating pole of European-minded civil society and the aforementioned stakeholders, both at national and pan-European level. To fulfil this objective, our organisation builds upon its reputation while improving its image and efficiency as a space for dialogue, exchange and cooperation in support of European values and to promote European integration.

With that in mind, we will continue to develop our **communication tools**, which are crucial for both visibility and capacity-building. Members are encouraged to share their news and events to be featured on the European Movement International newsletter, to allow for greater sharing of different member organisation's activities from across the network. Additional communication channels will be used to facilitate the effective exchange of information within the network.

In 2025, the European Movement International will continue to **use its various newsletter formats and communication platforms** to highlight relevant EU policy areas and events, as well as to **increase our outreach and engagement with our audiences**. Moreover, we will continue to offer Members access to communication material, templates and platforms that can facilitate information sharing, notably through policy updates, weekly network updates, weekly institutional calendars, bi-annual semester calendars and social media.

In 2025 the European Movement International plans to organise **briefing events, roundtables, conferences and workshops** on a range of topics in line with the current EU agenda and the European Movement International's policy priorities. These events will be in person in Brussels and across Europe, and online. The events will at times be organised in cooperation with and in support of its National Councils and International Associations as well as external stakeholders and organisations that support our network's values. While bringing together representatives of the European Institutions and civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities, the briefings allow for debates around new ideas for Europe and discussing the role of the aforementioned stakeholders in the context

of participatory democracy in different areas of policy making. These activities are also a powerful instrument for attracting new members. The visibility they offer to the European Movement International shows the importance of such events in the current European context.

To promote an effective and fluid communication between the Members, the European Movement International's Board and International Office, a regular exchange with the European Associations will be facilitated by Board members representing them and/or the EMI team.

4 Content-Based Activities: Communications, Events, Policy and Advocacy

The content-based activities of 2025 will be developed on the basis of the European Movement International's Strategic Priorities for 2024-2026 as well as key events and policy developments in the EU. The European Movement International will continue to organise its work around a triangle composed by **communications**, **events** and **policy**, and the International Office will ensure that the network's priorities are echoed throughout our activities in 2025.

Coordinated by the International Office, the [three Political Committees](#), which operate in line with the Policy Priorities, will be closely involved in the development of policy positions, briefing papers, statements and relevant output and activities of the European Movement International. The Political Committees, consisting of one representative per member organisation, will meet as regularly as possible, on the fringes of the Statutory Meetings and whenever deemed necessary.

In 2025, the EU's agenda will be guided by the Polish and Danish presidencies of the Council of the EU, the European Council's EU Strategic Agenda for 2024-2029 and alongside the long-term priorities and the 2025 European Commission Work Programme, and the work areas of the European Parliament. Taking into account the key debates and events that will shape Europe in 2025, and the issues that matter most to Europeans, the European Movement International will prioritise a number of different topics headed under each strategic priority group.

Moreover, against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas and Israel-Lebanon war in the context of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a large part of our policy work will directly and indirectly address the challenges of the security, energy, and economic crises resulting from the geopolitical instability, not only in Europe but also in its neighbourhood, as well as the EU's and Ukraine's long-term recovery. Our policy and advocacy work around these issues will particularly focus on promoting coordinated responses underpinned by collective action and solidarity that involve various actors at the European, national and local level. To this end, we aim to offer our network's diverse perspectives and insights to help find ways for Europe's society and economy to support and express solidarity with the people affected by the war, and to support treaty reform in an effort to rethink and redesign the EU's competences in the areas of security and defence.

Our activities around the follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe will continue to highlight the need to implement citizens recommendations, even those that require treaty change, to achieve a more effective and democratic Europe and uphold European values and democratic freedoms at all times. Finally, we will continue to underline that citizens need to actively participate

in Europe's debate on the future of Europe and their perspectives and concerns must be incorporated in policy-making.

4.1 Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values

- **European values, civil liberties and the rule of law**

In response to the developments in Member States and the EU's neighbourhood, the European Movement International will continue advocating for the protection of the rule of law, democracy, civil liberties and fundamental values through its policy and advocacy work, communications and events. Therefore, we will bring together stakeholders and experts from different backgrounds and countries, demonstrating the ability of the European Movement International to serve as a platform for constructive discussions and action in order to protect European values and citizens' rights. To further connect and amplify the voices of the EM network, the International Office will make use of its latest policy position on the rule of law and advocate for strengthening the Article 7 Mechanism and for the consolidation of the European Commission's annual Rule of Law report. When promoting democracy and the rule of law, the EMI will also consider the work of the Council of Europe in this area as well as the European Convention on Human Rights.

- **Protecting civic space and free media**

In times that civic space in Europe is under threat, the European Movement International will continue to call for the protection of civic space, organised civil society and independent media. Europe needs a healthy civil society and diverse media landscape to protect our common values and improve European democracy. Moreover, pro-democracy civil society organisations in Europe, activists and media organisations should be able to operate without fearing that their work or existence are under threat. We will encourage leaders to acknowledge the importance of a strong civil society and vibrant free media. To this end, we will make use of our latest policy position on media freedom and on disinformation in our advocacy efforts. Additionally, we will highlight the need for the EU to translate the crucial role of civil society into effective protection and support mechanisms and programmes. Meanwhile, we will work to assist the European Movement's National Councils who are under undue pressure and that struggle to receive national support and funding.

- **Digital democracy and AI**

Online platforms and digital tools have become essential to European democracy, facilitating the exchange of views and citizen participation across Europe. To ensure that these platforms, social media, and digital tools are safe, empowering, and transparent, we will continue promoting a debate on digital solutions and highlight civil society's perspectives on the regulation, transparency, and accountability of digital platforms and online media. Our priorities will include creating and protecting a diverse and secure online space in Europe, strengthening online media, countering disinformation and misinformation, promoting safe and fair elections, and strengthening civil society's voice online. In partnership with the Evens Foundation, we are also investigating how AI can impact electoral processes, focusing on safeguarding elections against disinformation and manipulation risks. This initiative aims to encourage political actors to uphold ethical



standards in their AI-driven campaign activities, with an eye to fostering cross-party commitment to ethical AI use, particularly ahead of the 2029 EU elections. Moreover, the International Office will produce a new policy position on AI.

- **Citizen participation and transparency**

The European Movement International will further develop its thinking on citizen participation and deliberation, and the future of European democracy, as well as transparency at the institutional level, responding to developments at the European Parliament and European Commission with regards to citizen engagement. With respect to the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, we will keep monitoring and engaging with the next European citizens' panels. This will be accompanied by communication activities and events where appropriate. Moreover, building from the 2024 European Parliament elections, we will keep influencing the debate around the reforms of the EU electoral system by making use of our latest policy position on EU electoral reform. Finally, we will dedicate part of our work to enhancing EU legitimacy through increased accountability and transparency in the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council of the European Union and Member State Permanent Representations.

- **Equality and diversity**

We will prioritise the defence of women rights and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all policy reforms, ensuring that gender equality is a central component of the European project. For this reason, we will make use of our latest position on gender equality, greater inclusion and diverse representation. Moreover, we will keep advocating for the empowerment of underrepresented groups and for a new anti-racism strategy for post-2025.

- **Treaty reform**

The European Movement will continue the open dialogue on Treaty change with the EU institutions and like-minded civil society organisations to make sure that EU leaders seek the consensus necessary to make bold decisions that will make the European Union stronger, more democratic, more transparent, and more effective. To do so, we will make use of our latest policy position on constitutional reform calling for the improvement of democracy in our Union to equip it with the proper tools to effectively address current and future challenges.

- **Migration, integration, and freedom of movement**

The European Movement International will continue to feed into the policy debate on migration, integration and freedom of movement in the EU. The preservation of freedom of movement, the Schengen area and labour mobility will be one of the focus points in policy, communication and events work. Moreover, our activities in this area will support our work on the EU's external approach and overall framework managing migration and asylum. For this reason, we will keep advocating for a comprehensive and harmonised approach to migration and asylum in the EU by making use of our latest policy position on EU migration and asylum policy. Also, we will keep advocating for a humane, solidarity-based migration and asylum policy that reject proposals and policies relying on fences or walls.

4.2 A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe

- **European Green Deal and sustainable development**

The European Movement International remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing sustainability across environmental, economic, and social dimensions, firmly grounded in the principles of the European Green Deal (EGD) and the EU's international obligations. We are dedicated to prioritising the reform of EU policies to ensure the full enforcement of the EGD, in tandem with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following the 2024 European elections, which have seen a shift to the right in the European Parliament and the European Commission, with anti-environmental forces gaining power, EMI will be active in ensuring that climate and energy targets remain a key priority for the new leadership. Our approach encompasses collaboration with stakeholders at every level and across diverse sectors, while aligning economic development and the EU's drive to strengthen its global competitiveness with this overarching framework. In this pursuit, we will unite the voices of our diverse network and engage with external stakeholders at the local, national, and European levels, amplifying the messages of our unified mission. To this end, EMI will engage with the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament as well as with industry and social partners. We will monitor and consult during the legislative process on the proposal to include the 2040 target in the European Climate Law. We will use our new policy position on the Future of the European Green Deal (EGD) to engage with the institutions to achieve a rigorous and ambitious implementation. To this end, we are organising an event in early 2025 with environmental organisations, policymakers and academics to discuss the first 100 days of the new Commission and its impact on climate policy.

- **Energy**

We will continue to consolidate the EU's energy policy towards a low-carbon economy, emphasising efficiency and the diversification of renewable energy sources. By further reducing the EU's reliance on external energy suppliers and promoting the usage of domestic renewable resources, the Union's energy independence will be enhanced. We will therefore follow the development of the new Clean Industrial Deal and the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act, as outlined by the President of the European Commission in her political guidelines for the legislative period and will be involved in the consultations. Furthermore, we will persist in the development of the circular economy, championing a sustainable approach to resource management. To this end, we will contribute to the consultations on the new Circular Economy Act.

- **Inclusive labour market and workers' rights**

Our vision for the future is one of empowerment, inclusion, and democratic participation where the younger generation takes centre stage. We prioritise investing in quality education, creating opportunities through high-quality paid internships, and generating secure, fulfilling jobs. We are committed to promoting sustainable growth and tackling long-term unemployment. We are strongly committed to ensure transformative social policies that effectively address the disruptive socio-economic changes brought about by both the digital and green transition and foster an environment where every individual has



the chance to contribute to a sustainable and prosperous Europe. This endeavour goes hand in hand with enhancing labour rights, introducing transformative measures like a European unemployment insurance system and a standardised European employment contract. These reforms are designed to harmonise labour standards across our continent, ensuring that every worker enjoys equitable protection. This resonates with our work as a project partner in the [EXPRESS 2 project](#) under Horizon Europe, to develop a new social contract in a democratic, inclusive and participatory way, and will also feed into our policy work. Lastly, as we strive to enhance European competitiveness and innovation, we are dedicated to investments in skills, lifelong learning, and cutting-edge digital solutions, catalysing a more forward-looking and prosperous Europe for all.

- **Single Market**

The Single Market has greatly enhanced economic, political, and social integration, fostering prosperity among EU citizens. However, recent attempts to further develop the Single Market have stalled, leaving it less integrated and hindering the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital while impeding fair competition among EU companies. Moreover, current challenges such as the EU's competitiveness and the green transition require substantial and flexible investment. To unleash potential private investments and economies of scale, particularly to enhance financial support the green and digital transition as well as to increase income for workers, a new wave of policy harmonisation is essential. To this end, among other things, the EU needs to urgently establish a Savings and Investment Union as called for in the report on the future of the Single Market by Enrico Letta. We will work to ensure that the Commission draws the right lessons from the Letta report and Mario Draghi's report on the future of European competitiveness when formulating policy proposals. These proposals must be taken into account to ensure an effective deepening of the Single Market that promotes competitiveness as well as social fairness and inclusive growth. To this end, we are going to draft a new policy position on the future of the Single Market. EMI will develop events, advocacy and communication activities with its network, partners and decisionmakers on this topic and to promote the new policy position.

- **Competitiveness**

Competitiveness will be a central focus of the new Commission's agenda in 2025 and beyond. Bolstering the EU's economy and global competitiveness must not undermine the EU's efforts to combat the climate crisis or weaken our international commitments in this area. Increasing competitiveness must go hand in hand with protecting the environment and preserving biodiversity and not be played off against each other. In addition, economic considerations should not come at the expense of environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, and workers' rights. While recognising the need to strengthen the EU's position to remain competitive against other global powers, EMI will continue to advocate firmly against any dilution of environmental or social standards. To this end, we will engage in regular dialogue with Commission officials and Members of the European Parliament.

- **Europe's digital and disruptive technologies agenda**

Our work in 2025 will continue to focus on Europe's digital transformation and digital democracy, with an emphasis on the sustainable and ethical use of AI that empowers



citizens in a way that leaves no one behind. Our activities will revolve around developing effective policy solutions to ramp up research and development of AI and its sustainable and ethical use while at the same time protecting citizens' digital rights. With this we will contribute to the discussions on the EU's overall digital strategy and von der Leyen's recently proposed European Data Union strategy. Central to our mission is advocating for technology democratisation through policy reforms. This entails safeguarding citizens' online rights and environmental standards while promoting innovation in disruptive technologies and digital platform management. Our approach strives to balance regulation and innovation to support businesses and protect citizens, fostering an inclusive and protective digital landscape, which harnesses the potential of emerging technologies for the benefit of all.

- **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and Own Resources**

As the Next Generation EU (NGEU) funding programme is set to conclude in 2026, there is an urgent need to establish a successor programme. This will be crucial in maintaining the financial capacity of Member States to support the digital and green transitions. With the current MFF ending in 2027, the forthcoming negotiations of the next MFF must prioritise strong commitments to these transitions and a significant increase in spending ceilings for this purpose. In a time of unprecedented challenges and international crises that demand swift action, we strongly emphasise the importance of further developing the EU's own resources system and strengthening its capacity to issue common debt. This will not only create a more resilient and robust financial framework but also ensure that the MFF effectively serves the collective interests of a unified and forward-looking Europe. In times of growing disconnect between policymakers and citizens, we urgently call on leaders to honour their commitment of aligning the EU's long-term budget with the priorities of citizens and civil society. This involves placing paramount importance on upholding key values and principles that define the European project, including fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law, equality, social rights, and environmental protection. EMI will engage very early in the negotiations on the next MFF to ensure that it is sufficiently funded and properly designed to enable the EU to face today's challenges and crises. To this end, we will prepare a policy position with key recommendations for the design of the next MFF.

- **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)**

The European Movement International will continue its activities and communications to advocate for a stronger European social dimension and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), in close cooperation with its members and other relevant stakeholders. EMI will prioritise the defence of gender rights and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all policy reforms, ensuring that gender equality stands as a central tenet of the European project. The latter will be our focus to fill the gap left by the absence of a designated Commissioner for Equality in the College of Commissioners for 2024-2029. Additionally, we are determined to reform our policies to actively support and include historically underrepresented groups, guaranteeing their equal participation and representation across all facets of European life.

- **European Social Contract and the need to address the growing demand for a new, more democratic, inclusive, and sustainable social contract in the EU**

EMI is engaged in a pan-European Horizon project which aims to create a more appealing and legitimate EU social contract draft that will be widely discussed with inhabitants, Member States, EU institutions and EMI network. The goal is to strengthen the EU agreement of association by promoting social dialogue, civic engagement, and integration. An express draft shall be achieved by means of policy dialogue, campaign implementation, collaborative workshops, advocacy planning, and innovative offline and online formats and tools to create spaces for dialogue. To this end, EXPRESS2 and EMI specifically will involve EU policymakers and institutions throughout the project to obtain a more appealing and legitimate EU social contract draft. The project will also focus on identifying and analysing disruptive elements of the social contract, such as insecurity, populism, climate change, mistrust in institutions, gender discrimination, digitalisation and pandemics.

- **Youth, Education and Skills**

In 2025, EMI continues to prioritise youth rights, education, and skills as fundamental components of our policy agenda. We remain committed to engaging with our members and external partners to promote inclusive learning, youth empowerment, and increased investment in education and digital skills. Central to our mission is the implementation of transformative reforms that empower young people, recognising their unique needs and aspirations as we jointly build a more resilient and forward-looking Europe. Our focus on empowering and involving young people remains unwavering, with the goal of making them essential partners in shaping the future of Europe. By amplifying the voices and potential of the youth, we aim to equip Europe to face the challenges and seize the opportunities of tomorrow with confidence and innovation.

4.3 Europe in the World

- **EU-US relations**

The re-election of Donald J. Trump as President of the United States creates uncertainty for the EU in the transatlantic relationship and its international relations and will have a significant impact on its interests and the whole range of its policies. In these times of geopolitical instability and multiple crises, a strong transatlantic relationship is crucial. Together with our partners, we will work towards a stable and reliable EU-US relationship, but we also see this as a momentum for the EU to develop a more united, stronger and independent stance on the global stage.

- **Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine**

Providing the consistent and sustained military, financial, humanitarian, and technical support for Ukraine remains of key strategic importance to secure peace and security in the region. In this context, providing effective support to pro-European civil society organisations is of crucial importance. The European Movement International will continue to produce policy outputs and activities that advocate for keeping the sanctions active as long as the invasion continues, efforts to hold Russia to account for its human rights violations, provide support for Ukraine's victory, as well as the post-war reconstruction and social rehabilitation in view of the country's accession to the EU.



- **Enlargement and neighbourhood policy**

The European Movement International will continue to follow the developments around enlargement and produce policy output and activities that advocate in favour of a credible enlargement process. These efforts will highlight the reform and acquis adoption progress, and promote peace, stability, investment and cooperation in the EU's neighbourhood, in particular the Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans. Fostering an interinstitutional and EU-wide debate involving citizens and organised civil society in the Member States on the institutional reform and future functioning of the key policy areas will remain of particular importance to the efficient, democratic, and participatory functioning of the Union. For this reason, we will keep using our policy position on EU enlargement. Moreover, in collaboration with the European Movement Serbia, Albania, and North Macedonia, we will organise a high-level event to tackle enlargement policy in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

- **Foreign affairs, security and defence cooperation**

EU foreign and security policy remains a work in progress, but there is a clear momentum to strengthen the EU's global position and allow citizens worldwide to benefit. The European Movement International will continue to engage with these debates on a European scale and implement concerted action in the field of policy, events and communication in the context of these debates. Regarding the further development of the common European defence and the fact that the necessary instruments are now available, we will closely monitor and promote further developments in this area. In doing so, we will pay due attention to the various aspects such as the structures, budgets, equipment and training, as well as personnel and their social and working conditions. To strengthen the EU's capability to safeguard security and stability in the continent, the European Movement International will focus on pushing forward the reform of the decision-making in the areas of CFSP and CSDP to shift from unanimity to qualified majority voting (QMV). We will closely monitor and promote the full implementation of the Strategic Compass and make use of our latest policy position calling for the establishment of the European Defence Union (EDU). The European Movement International will continue to engage with these debates on a European scale and implement concerted action in the field of policy, events and communication in the context of these debates, especially with respect to the initiatives around enhancing and strategically defining EU-NATO relationship, and in response to the upcoming Commission's White Paper on the Future of European Defence, which is expected to be presented in the first 100 days of the mandate. In parallel with strengthening the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, EMI will call on EU leaders to invest in its diplomacy, in particular its peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution efforts around the world.

- **Stronger EU-UK relations**

In 2025, our work in this area will focus on deepening the EU-UK relations, based on common values, the full implementation and enhancement of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and on additional arrangements in areas including, but not limited to, foreign, defence and security policy, climate action, energy and cultural relations. In particular, EMI will support and, where possible, facilitate measures to mitigate as far as possible the trade barriers inevitably resulting from the UK's decision to leave the EU. EMI will support

agreements allowing young people from the EU to travel, work and study in the UK and vice-versa. Further, our efforts will help to facilitate an EU-UK defence pact covering both operational integration and the production of defence equipment. We consider that further development of the EU-UK relationship can significantly contribute to the ability of both parties to influence positively a rapidly changing and uncertain geopolitical environment, whether in relations with the new US administration and with other allies, in dealing with authoritarian states or in maintaining and enhancing the response to Russia's military aggression in Ukraine.

- **International cooperation**

As Europe faces shifting political and economic leadership on the world stage, the European Movement International aims to increase its presence in the debates on globalisation, international cooperation and trade, by continuing to organise public debates and develop its policies and communication on key issues in this field. To this end, we will promote an enhanced dialogue between key partners of the EU, including the US, Latin America, Africa, Asia and MENA to advance the relationships, in particular through civil society cooperation. Moreover, we will promote a coherent and robust policy on the EU's cooperation with China that takes into account economic, geopolitical as well as human rights aspects.

- **Migration and Asylum**

Migration and asylum in Europe shall continue to be a focal point of our activities in 2025, as we focus our attention on key policies, including the enforcement of the EU's new Migration and Asylum Pact, the new Integration and Inclusion Action Plan and other international partnerships addressing migration. In doing so, we will take a firm stand against inhumane approaches and unlawful third-country deals such as "return hubs" outside the EU, hailed as innovative ideas by right-wing leaders, and will closely monitor any developments in relation to such deals. We will promote the implementation of a truly common European migration and asylum policy built on the principle of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibility and that offers protection for those in need, fosters safe routes for migration and supports peace and sustainable developments in migrants' and refugees' countries of origin.

- **Contributing to a better world**

When working on the above issues, the European Movement International will take the following 'horizontal' issues into account: strengthening Europe's role in conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building and peace-keeping; promoting human rights, the rule of law and democracy all over the world; fostering cross-border civil society cooperation; supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the European Green Deal, and achieving gender equality globally via its partnership and trade policies. To this end, our work will address how the EU can promote the fight against the triple climate, biodiversity and pollution crisis and the green and just transition through its international partnership and trade agreements. More concretely, we will advocate for more liability in the global supply chains of companies to sustainability and social rights.

5 Project-Oriented Activities

Next to its broader policy, events and communications work, the European Movement International also works on a variety of projects and project-oriented activities together with its members and other relevant stakeholders. In addition to the project activities described below, the European Movement International will continue to support its National Councils and International Associations in establishing transnational cooperation, e.g., by suggesting initiatives, providing support in the application for grants or the implementation of projects, also as co- or leading applicants for calls. Projects that illustrate and emphasise the aspects of pan-European cooperation and best practises' exchange will therefore continue to be developed, whenever possible. While in 2025 we plan to strengthen the below-mentioned ongoing projects, we will also work towards establishing new projects and partnerships. The implementation of these projects will depend on the funding that can be obtained.

5.1 Europe Day 2025

As every year, we will commemorate the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2025. In close cooperation with our members, and with the support of the European Commission, we will develop a wide range of activities involving citizens across Europe, both online and offline. In order to reach out to even more citizens, the European Movement International will seek the support of many local, national and European partners with the objective of bridging the gap between citizens and the European institutions. We will apply accumulated knowledge and tools in developing visual identity and materials, including videos, in order to expand our respective base audiences and reach a higher number of European citizens and persuadable audiences with pro-European and pro-democratic messages, as well as increase the overall visibility of our network. Moreover, to strengthen the network, meetings, either in person or online, will be organised prior to the celebrations to build up a common strategy of action and exchange material and good practises, as well as to optimise campaigns and messages for particular national audiences and target groups.

5.2. Together for Europe (re-granting to National Councils)

Building on a new system of re-granting introduced in 2023 with the support of the EU, EMI will continue to re-grant National Councils to engage in projects and raise awareness about the EU's rights and values and to increase citizens' participation in EU affairs. The financial support will aim to foster our network's engagement with national stakeholders around the EU values and reform and increase informed citizens participation. A total sum of 70.000 EUR will be distributed following simplified EU selection procedure and additionally, common elements of the awareness-raising campaign will be provided by EMI.

5.3 The Women of Europe Awards 2025

The 2025 awards will be the 10th edition of the Women of Europe Awards, which was relaunched in 2015 and builds on the original Woman of Europe Award as well as the national awards of several of its National Councils. The Awards, organised in cooperation with the European Women's Lobby, focus on highlighting and enhancing the role of women in European integration. Building

on the work and winners of the past years, the possibility for an internal network of former Award nominees, winners and others will be explored. As part of the Women of Europe Awards, we aim to organise further activities in 2025, addressing gender equality and diversity. These activities, whether events, communication or policy, will be connected to key events such as International Women's Day in March, and will be developed in cooperation with our network and external stakeholders from various sectors.

5.4 Stronger Together

The project, implemented jointly by the British Council and EMI, aims to contribute to the building of a close and stable relationship between young people in the UK and the EU for Europe's collective benefit. Specifically, it will build positive and long-lasting dispositions and pathways to connect, cooperate, influence and implement change together on issues of common interest amongst young people from the UK and the EU. EMI oversees a set of activities related to the creation of positive narratives including evidence-based strategic communications and digital campaigns. The two-year project, entering its final stage, is funded through the EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, and a programme dedicated to building a new relationship with the UK.

5.5 Investing in the Future of Europe

In partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Movement International will continue to organise events, online and when possible offline, in the context of the series 'Investing in the Future of Europe'. Featuring debates in different EU Member States and accession countries and involving members of civil society, EU institutions, national governments, and further stakeholders such as businesses and employer organisations, the events offer a much needed opportunity to highlight the benefits of European integration and to discuss how to invest in the European Union and the wellbeing of its citizens. The events are organised with the support of the respective European Movement's national offices (when in-person events are possible) and are supported by a communication campaign in line with the project's core messages. Since its launch in 2017, the series has already seen events in numerous European countries, including in Poland, France, Serbia, Ireland, Denmark, Estonia, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Finland, as well as digital events during the pandemic.

5.6 Reshaping European Advances towards Green Leadership Through Deliberative Approaches and Learning (REAL DEAL project)

Since 2022 EMI participates in a three-year project, entitled "Real Deal", supported by the Horizon 2020 citizens' engagement call and jointly implemented by 15 other European partners, including our member organisation the European Environmental Bureau. The project stimulates a pan European debate to reshape citizens' and stakeholders' active participation through deliberative processes around the European Green Deal (EGD). In a large co-creation exercise, the "REAL DEAL" project develops, tests and validates innovative tools and formats to propel deliberative democracy to the next level. The project scrutinised pan European formats ranging from digital deliberation through the online platform www.realdeal.eu to in-person processes. The REAL DEAL

project ends in February 2025, delivering a co-created comprehensive handbook for meaningful citizens' participation and deliberation to work towards the objectives of the EGD.

5.7 The Social Partners as shapers and makers of Social Europe: discovering foundations and futures (SHAPE)

EMI is a partner in a new 2-year long project led by the European University Institute in Florence and engaging a number of partners and associates, including our two members (ETUC and SGI Europe). The overall goal of ShaPE is to create new knowledge aimed at understanding where we have come from in terms of the social partners' roles in making and shaping Social Europe, and thereby to reflect on what roles the social partners should play to meet current largescale challenges, most notably green, digital and demographic transitions as well as the objectives of EU 'open strategic autonomy' and resilience. EMI oversees dissemination and communication including the final event in Brussels.

5.8 Express 2 Specify and Protect the EU Social Contract (EXPRESS2)

EXPRESS2 is a 3-year Horizon Europe project that addresses from a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-sectional perspective, the growing demand for a new, more democratic, inclusive, and sustainable social contract in the EU. To achieve this, the project will work to create a more appealing and legitimate EU social contract draft that will be submitted to inhabitants, Member States and EU institutions that will have the possibility to participate and decide upon the conditions, rights, and obligations to be binding. The goal is to strengthen the EU agreement of association by promoting social dialogue, civic engagement, and integration. EMI leads the work of the Work Package on Citizens' engagement and deliberation and has a role in dissemination and communication. In 2025 we will organise several workshops with the relevant institutional and civil society stakeholders to discuss the content of the social contract and reach a consensus and agreement around the main principles. Moreover, EMI will develop narrative change campaigns to persuade strategically defined audiences. These campaigns will explain the benefits of the EU social contract, as a unique opportunity to activate and enhance citizens' deliberation and participation and gather citizens' opinions and suggestions.

5.9 Assets

ASSETS is a new Horizon 3-year project led by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki dealing with the Social Economy (SE) sector which constitutes over 10% of all EU enterprises, sustaining around 13.6 million job positions. The ASSETS project examines the role and challenges of the Social Economy sector in promoting social inclusion, improving job quality, and advancing sustainability across the EU. The project addresses SEOs' policy and legal obstacles, such as funding limitations and the need for effective impact assessment tools. Through a four-step approach, ASSETS conducts cross-regional research, enhances evaluation methods to better capture local needs, undertakes case studies on various social inclusion topics, and develops a digital cooperative platform. This platform will foster stakeholder collaboration and support SE employees through peer connections and AI-driven skill development tools. EMI is leading the work package on Impact Creation, including the promotion of long-term care and social economy policy recommendations,

dissemination and communication activities and pan-European liaison and clustering between different stakeholders.