

**ACTION COMMITTEE
FOR THE
UNITED STATES OF EUROPE**



Suggestions of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe for the European Council (Ordinary meeting of 19–20 March 2026)

I. COMPETITIVENESS AND SINGLE MARKET: ECONOMIC, DIGITAL, AND ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY

1. Recalls the importance of fair international trade, the importance to fight against abusive trade practices, the need for key industrial investments, and the integration of European capital markets and the completion of the banking union, as well as the completion of the digital and connectivity single market.
2. Considers that the Savings and Investment Union is fundamental to finance our economic sovereignty and social model, instead of financing the overconsumption overseas, including by improving the legal framework for securitization and the availability of EU bonds for specific investments, for direct purchase by EU citizens.
3. Calls for the rapid implementation of the recommendations included in the Letta and Draghi reports by the Council under the Ordinary Legislative Procedure.
4. Takes note of the willingness of certain Member States to proceed on policy matters requiring unanimity by establishing a homogeneous set of strengthened cooperations where the passerelles to Qualified Majority Voting will be activated, including tax matters.

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

5. The European Council recognises that digital infrastructure, data, and critical technologies constitute strategic assets and that the EU must cooperate closely with its trusted partners (Britain, Norway, etc.) to reduce structural and critical dependencies in these areas, by promoting investments in Europe's strategic assets and technological capabilities and ensure they remain competitive at global scale as a key pillar of building European sovereignty.
6. The European Council calls for the establishment of a European Digital Sovereignty Framework, aimed at:
 - securing critical digital infrastructure.

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- ensuring the EU has sufficient, assured access to key technologies, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, cloud services, and cybersecurity,
- protecting European data and digital supply chains.
- Encouraging the creation of social media platforms that are truly European and trusted.

7. The European Council invites the Commission to present proposals for:

- a European strategy for sovereign digital infrastructures,
- common standards for cybersecurity and resilience,
- support for European industrial alliances by bringing together EU and trusted European partners in strategic digital sectors and media
- Scoping the potential for social media platforms and assessing criteria for trust

8. The European Council underlines that digital sovereignty must be compatible with openness, competition, and international cooperation, while safeguarding Europe's strategic sovereignty.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

9. Agrees that the war in Ukraine and Iran confirm the need to accelerate the Union's Energy self-sufficiency based on renewable energy and scaling-up electrification, as electricity delivers for more energy services for a given amount of energy supplied than any other vector.

10. Agrees on the need to continue to work at achieving the global goals of combating climate change. Invites the Commission to push for advancing the energy transition, notably by working at diminishing the hard energy constraints, especially the new supply chains needed upstream, enabling investments in carbon neutral generation and electricity grids by fast permitting and Europe-wide coordinated planning, advancing the use of clean molecules and CCS where they locally fit in industrial clusters and see how to mobilise the much needed funds for all this in an effective way.

II. EUROPEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY: TOWARDS A COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENCE

11. The European Council recalls that the security environment of the Union has undergone a structural deterioration after Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, and that the protection

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of European citizens and territory requires the Union to assume greater responsibility for its own security and defence.

12. The European Council underlines that European defence sovereignty requires:

- a strengthened European defence industrial base, particularly by producing and purchasing in the EU,
- joint research and innovation programmes,
- long-term European financing instruments dedicated to jointly developed defence capabilities, including flagship projects.
- the development or acquisition of the strategic enablers that no Member state can acquire alone,
- the upgrade of the Rapid Deployment Capacity into a European multinational rapid reaction force,
- the establishment of a European military command and control centre, able to manage all types of missions and coordinate the national military forces.

13. The European Council agrees that the Union must progressively establish a European Defence System, bringing together national armed forces and common European capabilities under a coordinated strategic framework, compatible with NATO, and calls for the conversion of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability into a fully fledged, permanent, and operational European Military Headquarter. This could also be complemented by enhancing the EU-NATO cooperation, allowing the EU to use SHAPE, NATO's command and control centre.

14. The European Council therefore agrees to activate and make full use of the provisions of Article 42(2) and related Treaty bases to establish the Common Defence and the operationalisation of the mutual assistance defence clause (Article 42 (7) TEU) and invites all Member States willing to move forward to deepen cooperation within the framework of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

15. The European Council stresses that strengthening European defence capacity contributes to burden-sharing within the Alliance and enhances the European Pillar of NATO.

16. The European Council takes note that certain Member States agree to set-up a European Security Council open to all Member States willing to participate in a strengthened cooperation in the Common Foreign and Security Policy under Qualified Majority Voting.

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III. A DEEPER POLITICAL UNION

17. The European Council recognises that the Union's capacity to act effectively in security, defence, energy, financial, and digital and connectivity matters, among others, is linked to the adequacy of its institutional framework.

18. The European Council notes that the continued use of unanimity in key areas such as foreign policy, security and defence, taxation, and the Multi-annual Financial Framework and the own resources decision, limits the Union's ability to respond to crises.

19. The European Council underlines that the forthcoming enlargements of the Union make prior institutional reform indispensable, while gradual integration in the political and economic domains could be envisaged.

20. Takes note that there is no unanimous agreement for the general activation of the passerelles that will allow to overcome the unanimity requirement and use the Ordinary Legislative Procedure in several policy fields, nor on the general speed of political integration.

21. Takes note of Parliament's 23 November 2023 proposal to reform the Treaty of Lisbon and commits to examine it.

22. Takes note of the willingness of certain Member States to proceed to a more intense and union in the fields of CFSP, CSDP, and fiscal and financial matters, based on a symmetric set of sectoral strengthened cooperations working under Qualified Majority Voting, including by entering a voluntary legal agreement when needed.

23. Agrees on the activation of a strengthened cooperation in the CFSP by certain Member States.

24. The European Council reiterates that European sovereignty requires:

- a strengthened European budget capable of financing European public goods.
- enhanced democratic legitimacy through a stronger role for the European Parliament and citizens' panels.
- closer coordination between national and regional parliaments and European institutions.
- Closer coordination, trust, and loyalty, between national governments.

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- 25.** The European Council agrees that advancing European sovereignty in defence, digital policy, and economic resilience must go hand in hand with progress towards a more integrated and democratic political Union.
- 26.** The European Council affirms that European sovereignty is not an abstract objective but a practical necessity in a context of geopolitical instability, technological transformation, and global competition.
- 27.** The European Council reaffirms the Union's commitment to International Law.
- 28.** The European Council commits to returning to these issues at its next meetings and tasks the Commission with translating these orientations into concrete legislative, financial, and institutional initiatives.

Brussels, 11 March 2026