

A large, expressive yellow brushstroke graphic that spans across the top half of the page, partially overlapping the text. It has a rough, hand-painted texture.

EUROPE HOPE

for the future

**JEF FINLAND'S GOALS FOR THE
2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

 Eurooppa-kuva



YOUR EU WORKS FOR YOU

In June 2024, the European Elections will decide the direction of the EU for the next five years. This direction is not a meaningless signpost, but the future of the 27 Member States. Since the last parliamentary elections, the world has changed again unexpectedly, requiring a global perspective, solutions and action.

In Finland, we do not live in isolation from the rest of the world but are inevitably part of a global movement. In the run-up to the elections, citizens can elect the democratically elected decision-makers in Parliament. These decision-makers hold the keys to increasing the well-being of EU citizens, developing a more sustainable continent and building a safer Europe.

The European Union was created to ensure that our continent's biggest mistakes are never repeated. Amid war, economic woes, environmental crisis and a receding pandemic, the need for cooperation, solidarity and hope for a better future between countries is greater than ever. This is not the time to stand alone and retreat when faced with existential crises.

The name of our campaign, EurHope – for the future, reflects a campaign that lives for hope and transnational democracy, created to solve the issues that matter most to you. In the 2019 EU elections, just under 43 % of eligible voters cast their ballot, underlining the need to strengthen our Finnish experience of the EU's role in our lives.

“EurHope” is a Europe-wide campaign. Various projects that are not necessarily linked to the other components of the campaign will be implemented as parts of EurHope. These EU election objectives only represent the views of JEF Finland on a better Europe.

1) AN ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE EU AS A GLOBAL PIONEER

Mitigating climate change and preventing loss of biodiversity are issues of destiny for us. The responsibility rests first and foremost on the shoulders of the major players. Recent natural disasters underline the urgency of climate action and the threat that worsening extreme weather events pose to those already in the most vulnerable positions.

The European Union must ensure that the planned emission reductions and the targets set to improve the environment are achieved in a fair and socially sustainable way. The aim is to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and halt the loss of biodiversity.

Measures:

- The European Union region must commit to concrete actions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Trade policy agreements and internal market standards should promote the achievement of environmental objectives and the globalisation of climate policy practices.
- An independent and scientific expert body should be established under the Commission to provide advice to support decision-making in the fight against climate change.
- To bring down energy prices, the integrated internal energy market must be completed, the remaining barriers to energy mobility must be removed and substantial investment in clean energy production and adequate transmission connections must be made.
- The threat to biodiversity must be actively tackled in agriculture, forestry and construction.
- Agricultural subsidies must be linked to the implementation of climate measures, also taking into account animal welfare and the ethics of animal production.



2) DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE HEART OF EU DECISION-MAKING

The EU is often criticised as a bureaucratic institution far removed from citizens, even though studies show that the EU legislative process is now even more transparent than in Finland. At the EU level, it is possible to follow the progress of legislation via online services, citizens have the opportunity to participate in consultations and the work of the European Parliament's committees is openly accessible. But there is still room for improvement on this front. At present, the easiest way for citizens to influence European institutions is by voting in elections, and although other means exist, they are underused.

Measures:

- The EU Youth Initiative should be introduced.
- The minimum number of supporters of the EU citizens' initiative should be reduced to 200 000.
- Democracy education and information on citizens' opportunities to influence the EU must be increased at all levels of education.
- The EU must develop internal monitoring of human rights and the rule of law and create effective sanctions for violations.
- The European Union must safeguard the integrity of democratic elections and step up its collective preparedness for external electoral interference.



3) AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY BUILDS A SECURE EUROPE

We believe that a strong and united Europe is the key to success and stability. Although the European Union's decision-making is limited in law to its member states, the EU's influence extends beyond its borders. We want decisions and debate that take into account the global interest and long-term effects. Any foreign policy that is pursued must boldly and decisively promote EU values.

Measures:

- The EU should outline a common foreign and security policy and the objectives set out in the Strategic Compass should be fully implemented as soon as possible.
- Move to qualified majority voting in foreign and security policy matters.
- The right of veto should be abolished in matters of foreign and security policy.
- Armed and humanitarian support for Ukraine in the war against Russia must be further increased.
- The exchange of information between the border, intelligence and police authorities of the Member States should be promoted.
- The EU must support the development and deployment of new cybersecurity technologies in Europe using the internal market.

4) RESILIENCY BASED ON A STRONG ECONOMY

A stable future, sustainable development and Europe's leading role in the world will only be possible in a European Union based on stable economic growth, dynamic enterprise and balanced public finances. Achieving these goals requires not only responsible economic policies at Member State level, but also more economic policy cooperation between the EU and the euro area. The EU is expected to respond to the major challenges of the near future, but to do so it needs a sufficiently comprehensive budget.

Measures:

- The overall EU budget must be reformed and increased.
- The EU budget should be reformed, renewed and strengthened. The share of agricultural subsidies in the EU budget should be cut and funds should be allocated to managing major global developments.
- The digital single market should be actively developed.
- Support from investment funds should be more strongly directed towards combating climate change, new innovations, science and research, and supporting sustainable development and economic growth.



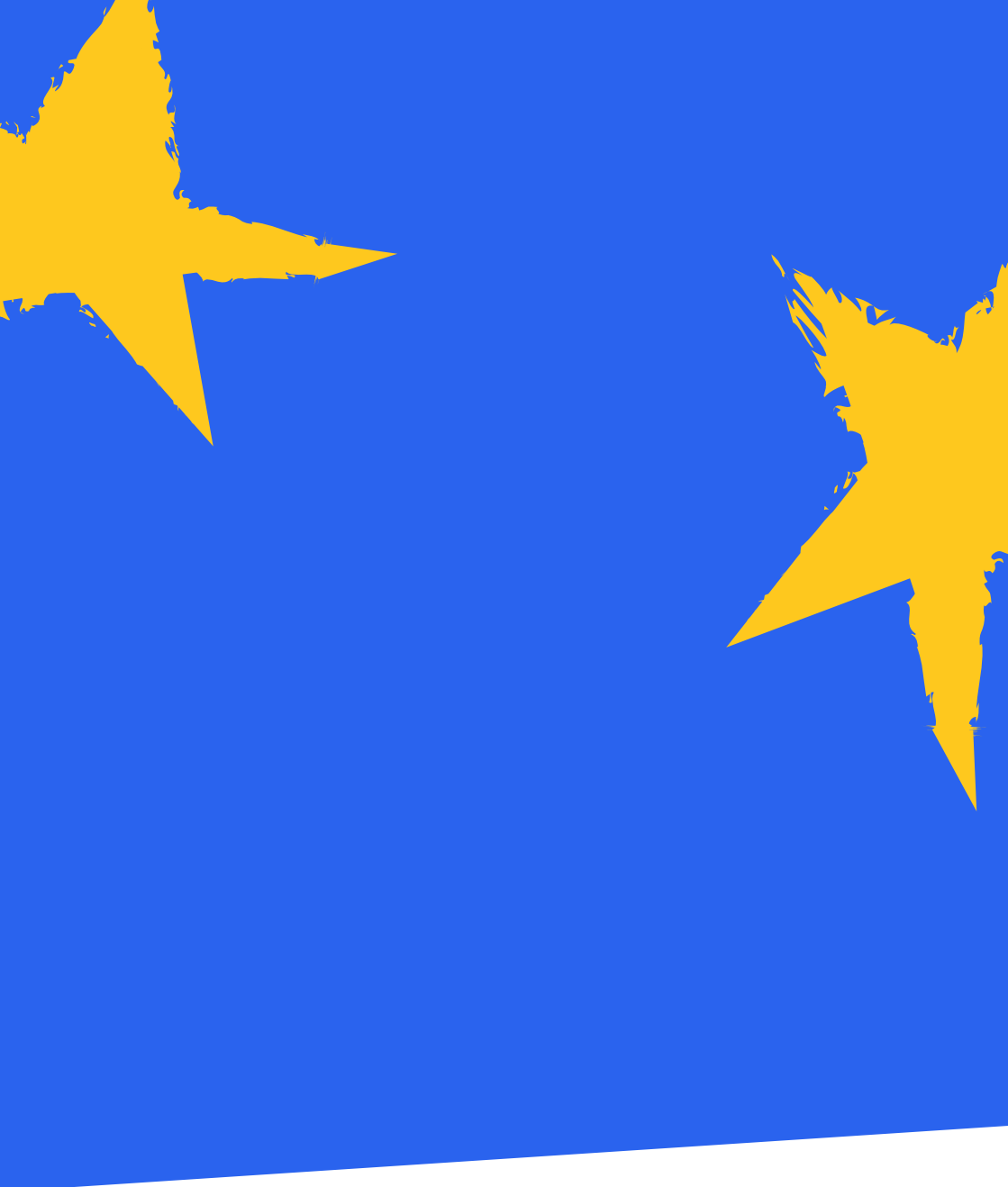
5) CREATING CONDITIONS FOR A GOOD LIFE

In Parliament, we must make policies that are close to the people. The power of the EU lies in decisions that make people's lives and everyday lives easier. Dismantling unnecessary bureaucracy, outdated systems and obstacles must be at the heart of Parliament.

Measures:

- Qualifications obtained in EU countries should be harmonised, making it easier to work and move within the EU, as well as making it easier to find a job with a qualification obtained in another country.
- A common EU-wide register of medicines should be developed, and e-prescription should be extended EU-wide.
- A free Interrail pass should be offered to all 18 year olds.
- The Dublin system must be reformed towards a more efficient and fairer common asylum policy.
- Cooperation in education must be developed and youth mobility increased by extending the Erasmus+ programme to Africa.





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FEDERALISTS



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