

The Industrial Union EU election targets

Summary



EU election on 9 June 2024.
Early voting 29 May–4 June 2024.

Industrial
union



A strong, developing and better EU for employees

Europe is facing great challenges and upheavals. The labor market is being revolutionized, climate change is creating a challenge for all of humanity. The international political situation is more tense than before and the European Union is expanding. However, challenges are also opportunities. In our vision, the European Union is a strong economic area that develops and takes employees into account even better.

1. Green & fair transition

In the coming parliamentary term, it is essential to continue the policy of the previous Commission on the strong promotion of the green transition in the EU. There can be no compromise on climate targets. This is in the interests of both the environment and climate as well as the competitiveness of Finnish industry. National characteristics must be taken into account in decision-making, and decisions on the use of forests must continue to be made nationally. The green transition must be implemented fairly. It must not unreasonably burden the livelihoods and purchasing power of workers. This is essential to securing the widest possible support and approval for the transition among workers.

2. Competition for state aid

In regulations on state aid, the EU must revert to the rules in place before the pandemic. Ensuring an open and functioning internal market is critical for Finland and the future of the EU. Government subsidies that distort competition have the effect of taking the EU in a harmful direction. Regulations on state aid must take into account the requirements of the green transition, but the starting point should be a critical approach to direct state aid. The criteria for receiving state aid must take into account protections on the status and rights of workers in the subsidised companies.

3. Digitalisation, data economy and artificial intelligence

By promoting digitalisation and the use of data, we can strengthen the competitiveness of European industry. Regulation should continue to be the "superpower" of the EU. However, regulations must enable new business to be created and promote the twin digital and green transition. Open access to data and the creation of internal markets for data should be promoted. At the same time, fair competition and the realisation of the rights of individuals must be ensured. The adoption of new technologies, such as AI and quantum computing, must be promoted by supporting research, development and innovation (R&D&I) activities. In adopting these technologies, the legal protection of workers and citizens and impacts on the internal and external security of Member States must be taken into account.

4. Strengthening strategic autonomy

In the changed European security environment, strengthening strategic autonomy is a positive mindset from the perspective of the EU and European industry. Europe cannot detach itself from global supply chains. Because of this, the focus should be on safeguarding vulnerabilities. Ensuring the availability and effectiveness of critical materials and technologies is essential for the industry

as well as for security of supply and European security. This also helps safeguard the operating conditions of Finnish industry.

5. Research, development and innovation

Research, development and innovation (R&D&I) activities are at the heart of the competitiveness of the EU and Member States. Only by investing in expertise and R&D&I can the EU succeed in global competition in the long term. Stronger investments in R&D&I activities are necessary at the European level.

More EU funds should be allocated to R&D activities than at present, and the target level of investments should be increased to 4% of the EU's GDP from the current 3%.

6. Corporate sustainability

Companies have a significant responsibility in the realisation of human rights around the world. This is especially important for the realisation of workers' rights. Promoting corporate sustainability levels the playing field between companies and ensures that infringements of workers' rights or negligence of environmental issues do not lead to unhealthy competition. It reduces the abuse of workers and infringement of rights and helps even out competition between Member States. Appropriate and rapid national implementation of the Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence must be ensured during the next parliamentary term.

7. Platform economy

The platform economy is expanding to more and more industries. Its core problem is the ambiguity of who is considered an employee. Workers are almost always classified as self-employed, removing their access to occupational health and safety, collective bargaining or social security in

accordance with an employment relationship. The employee status, working conditions, legal protection and collective agreement protections of platform workers must be safeguarded by European and national legislation. The misidentification of employment relationships should be prevented. The progress, completion and national implementation of the Directive on platform work must be ensured.

8. Transformation of labour markets

One of the fundamental principles of the European Union is that competition in the internal markets cannot be in the form of weakening workers' rights. In the coming parliamentary term, it is important to emphasise the autonomy of parties to collective bargaining and strengthen the position of trade unions. The importance of labour market organisations in the realisation of the fundamental rights of the EU and workers' rights in particular must be recognised. To ensure functioning internal markets, the abuse of workers and social dumping must be prevented. The free movement of labour and work-based immigrants cannot be abused by infringing on terms of employment. Fair terms of employment must be guaranteed for work-based immigrants.

9. EU enlargement

As a result of membership talks initiated with new countries, the enlargement of the EU will become one of the most important issues of the coming parliamentary term. The enlargement will have a major impact on European labour markets. As membership talks progress, it is important to pay attention to compliance with membership requirements, particularly in terms of the position of trade unions and workers' rights. Compromises on the minimum European labour standards cannot be accepted as part of the membership requirements of new member states.

Would you like to know more?

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