

EUROPEAN DIRECTIVES

PROPOSAL

Main Authors:
Hugo Rufino Marques
Paulo Ricardo Gonçalves Cerqueira
Rafaela Paulo Teixeira

Secondary Authors:
Daniela de Jesus Silva
Carolina Pia Barros

2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS



03	Introduction
03	Objectives
04	About Us
05	Advancing the #EUGreenDeal
15	Illegal Fishing and FoC
23	Security and Defense
32	EU Values
37	Education
42	Conclusion
44	Aknowledgments
45	Conflict of Interests

Introduction



A group of young Portuguese organized themselves and got together in order to debate several topics that will be addressed at the European Youth Event 2023 (EYE 2023) in Strasbourg. In this sense, a set of round tables were organized to be able to ask questions and verify, both with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and civil society, the difficulties and challenges that exist today in each of the themes.

Thus, we had the opportunity to verify whether or not there has been a positive evolution in order to find solutions to overcome some types of existing constraints that were pointed out in these meetings.

Hence, taking into account that the document was prepared by a reduced team, we focused on the points that we had more material to work on, as well as expertize, without underestimating other existing points.

Objective

Our main goal is to present a set of proposals and solutions aimed at improving the lives of European citizens, as well as increasing fairness and transparency in the European Union.

About Us



Hugo Rufino Marques

Geographer | President of Fundacja Portugalia| Financial Transaction Agent

- Author of the topics "Security and Defense" and "EU Values"
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/hugo-rufino-marques-735b8355/



Paulo Ricardo Gonçalves Cerqueira

Microbial and Molecular Biologist | Researcher | Scientist

- Author of the topics "Advancing the #EUGreenDeal" and "Education"
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/prgc/



Rafaela Paulo Teixeira

Marine Biologist | Oceanographer | Geospatial Analyst | Founder/CEO of Fish4Me Project

- Author of the topic "Flags of Convenience"
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/rafaela-paulo-teixeira/



Daniela Silva

Filmaker | Startegic Communication Researcher | Communication and Sports

- Author of the topic "Education"
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielajesussilva/



Carolina Pia

Project Officer | Jurist

- Author of the discussed and developed topics
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolina-pia-barros-613a46138/

#ECOSYSTEMS #BIODIVERSITY #SECURITY #ECONOMY



ADVANCING THE #EUGREENDEAL

RICARDO CERQUEIRA

Advancing the #EUGreenDeal



The European Union (EU) has identified the urgency of addressing climate change and achieving sustainable development, leading to the establishment of the ambitious European Union (EU) Green Deal. The Green Deal aims to tackle environmental challenges and transform the EU into a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

It recognizes the severity of the problems we face, such as increasing greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, pollution, and social inequality. To combat these issues, the Green Deal sets out a comprehensive framework with major objectives.

Firstly, the Green Deal aims to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, striving for a 55% reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This is crucial for mitigating climate change and avoiding its catastrophic impacts. The EU plans to achieve this through various measures, including promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation. The Green Deal also emphasizes the need to transform industries and foster innovation to create sustainable and competitive economic sectors.

Secondly, biodiversity conservation is a central concern. The EU aims to protect and restore ecosystems, halt species decline, and improve natural resource management. Recognizing the importance of nature in maintaining a balanced environment and supporting human well-being, the Green Deal focuses on preserving and restoring habitats, promoting sustainable agriculture, and addressing deforestation and pollution.



Advancing the #EUGreenDeal

The Green Deal further highlights the significance of the circular economy, which involves reducing waste, reusing and recycling materials, and minimizing resource consumption. By transitioning to a circular model, the EU seeks to eliminate single-use plastics, encourage eco-design and eco-labelling, and promote sustainable consumption patterns. This approach not only reduces environmental impacts but also drives innovation, job creation, and economic resilience. In addition, the Green Deal addresses social aspects by promoting a just transition, ensuring that no one is left behind in the shift towards a sustainable economy. It aims to create quality jobs, improve energy efficiency in buildings, and enhance social protection systems.

The Green Deal recognizes the importance of engaging citizens, businesses, and civil society in achieving these objectives, fostering active participation and knowledge sharing.

The EU Green Deal highlights the need for collective action, international cooperation, and innovative solutions to address the complex environmental challenges we face. It serves as a roadmap for the EU to lead the way towards a greener and more resilient future, ensuring the well-being of present and future generations.



Advancing the #EUGreenDeal

EU Directive on Sustainable Ecosystems and Circular Economy

Title: Sustainable Ecosystems and Circular Economy: Advancing the European Green Deal

Preamble: Recognizing the urgency of addressing climate change and achieving sustainable development, the European Union (EU) establishes this directive to promote the implementation of ecosystem services, environmental value assessment, and the transition to a circular economy in alignment with the ambitious goals of the European Green Deal. Emphasizing the transformative nature of the EU Green Deal, which aims to make the EU the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 while fostering economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Acknowledging the intrinsic value of ecosystem services, the need for responsible resource exploration, and the importance of supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (SMEs) to foster competitiveness and sustainable practices. Furthermore, recognizing the significance of the circular economy in promoting resource efficiency, minimizing waste generation, and decoupling economic growth from resource consumption. By harmonizing and strengthening these initiatives, the EU aims to accelerate the climate transition, enhance ecosystem resilience, and inspire global action for a sustainable future.

Article 1

Implementation of Ecosystem Services

1. Member States shall adopt and implement the CICES framework for the classification and assessment of ecosystem services within their territories.
2. The CICES classification shall serve as the basis for harmonizing the identification, valuation, and monitoring of ecosystem services across the European Union (EU).

Article 2

Classification and Environmental Value Assessment Framework

1. Member States shall attribute environmental value as part of the state budget, considering ecosystems as state assets.
2. Environmental value assessment shall include both the intrinsic and instrumental value of ecosystems and their services, encompassing the following broad classification:

a. Intrinsic Value: The inherent worth of ecosystems and their components, irrespective of their usefulness to humans.
b. Instrumental Value: The value of ecosystems and services it provides in terms of their contributions to human well-being, such as provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services.
c. Option Value: The value derived from the potential future use of ecosystems and their services, which includes their ability to adapt to changing conditions.
d. Existence Value: The value people place on the existence of ecosystems and species, irrespective of any actual use or direct interaction.
e. Bequest Value: The value individuals attach to conserving ecosystems for future generations.

3. To establish a comprehensive framework for assessing environmental value and its interplay with the exploration of natural resources, an ecosystem services table shall be formulated, encompassing a range of ecosystem services values.

a. This table shall serve as a foundational tool, connecting the intrinsic worth of ecosystem services to the sustainable utilization of natural resources, thereby promoting the principles and objectives outlined in the Directive.
b. This table shall facilitate the comprehensive assessment of ecosystem services values, assist in informed decision making, support the implementation and integration of sustainable practices, and promote transparency and accountability.

Article 3

Mechanism of Regulation and Monitoring

1. Member States shall establish mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management, exploration, and valuation of natural resources.
2. Regulatory entities shall be reformed or new ones established to oversee compliance with environmental regulations and prevent corrupt practices that could lead to the unjustifiable exploitation of natural resources.
3. Robust monitoring and reporting systems shall be implemented to track the utilization of funds allocated for the EU Green Deal aims:

a. Climate Neutrality;
b.Circular Economy;
c. Biodiversity Preservation;
d. Clean Energy Transition;
e. Sustainable Mobility;
f. Pollution Prevention;
g. Just Transition and Social Inclusion.

Article 4

Promotion of Circular Economy and Sustainable Practices

1. Member States shall prioritize the transition towards a circular economy and the adoption of sustainable practices as integral components of their climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
2. Member States shall encourage and support the following measures, among others, to promote circular economy principles and sustainable practices:

a. Recovery of Nutrients from Wastewater Effluents: Member States shall promote the implementation of technologies and practices that enable the efficient recovery of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, from wastewater effluents. This will reduce the reliance on synthetic fertilizers and minimize nutrient pollution in water bodies, contributing to improved water quality and ecosystem health.
b. Freshwater Recovery and Conservation: Member States shall prioritize measures to recover, conserve, and efficiently utilize freshwater resources. This includes the promotion of water recycling, rainwater harvesting, and the use of advanced water management techniques to minimize water wastage and ensure sustainable water supply for various sectors.
c. Reduction of Excess Fertilizers in Agriculture: Member States shall promote sustainable agricultural practices aimed at minimizing the use of excess fertilizers. This includes promoting precision farming techniques, nutrient management planning, and the adoption of organic and regenerative farming practices to enhance soil fertility, reduce nutrient runoff, and protect water resources.

d. Promotion of Renewable Energy Alternatives: Member States shall actively promote the development and deployment of renewable energy sources as alternatives to fossil fuels. This includes but is not limited to solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy. Encouraging investments in clean and sustainable energy production will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the transition to a low-carbon economy.

3. Member States shall establish supportive frameworks, including financial incentives, research and development programs, and capacity-building initiatives, to facilitate the adoption and implementation of circular economy practices and sustainable technologies in relevant sectors.
4. Member States shall promote cross-sectoral collaboration, knowledge sharing, and technological innovation to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of circular economy practices and sustainable initiatives.
5. The European Commission shall monitor the progress and effectiveness of Member States' efforts in promoting circular economy and sustainable practices as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Based on the findings, the European Commission may provide recommendations and support to enhance implementation and address challenges faced by Member States.
6. Member States shall regularly report on the measures, progress, and outcomes of their circular economy and sustainable practices initiatives to the European Commission, ensuring transparency and accountability.
7. The European Commission, in coordination with Member States, shall promote awareness-raising campaigns and educational programs to foster public understanding and engagement in the transition towards a circular economy and the adoption of sustainable practices.

Article 5

Alignment with EU Green Deal Goals and Economic Funds to Promote Competitiveness

1. Member States shall establish economic funds, in alignment with the objectives of the European Union Green Deal, to support and provide opportunities for micro-enterprises, small-enterprises, and medium-enterprises (hereafter referred to as "SMEs") operating within the services ecosystems to reduce the developmental and technological gap with large enterprises and enhance their competitiveness.

2. The economic funds established under this article shall prioritize the following measures, among others, to support SMEs:

a. Financial Assistance: Member States shall provide financial assistance, including grants, low-interest loans, and investment support, to SMEs within the services ecosystems. This funding aims to facilitate technological upgrades, innovation, capacity building, and the adoption of sustainable practices in line with the goals of the EU Green Deal.

b. Research and Development Support: Member States shall allocate a portion of the economic funds to support SMEs' research and development activities. This includes funding for collaborative research projects, innovation hubs, and technology transfer initiatives that contribute to the development of environmentally friendly and resource-efficient solutions.

c. Training and Skills Development: Member States shall utilize the economic funds to promote training programs and skills development initiatives tailored to the specific needs of SMEs. This will enhance their capacity to incorporate sustainable practices, digitalization, and new technologies, enabling them to adapt to changing market demands while contributing to the objectives of the EU Green Deal.

d. Access to Markets and Networks: Member States shall facilitate SMEs' access to domestic and international markets through targeted support measures. This includes assistance in market intelligence, export promotion, networking events, and business matchmaking to enhance SMEs' competitiveness and promote sustainable products and services.

3. Member States shall ensure transparency, accountability, and equal opportunities in the allocation and disbursement of the economic funds. The selection criteria and evaluation processes shall be clear, non-discriminatory, and based on objective and measurable indicators, giving due consideration to the potential of SMEs to contribute to the EU Green Deal objectives.

4. The European Commission, in cooperation with Member States, shall monitor the implementation of the economic funds and provide guidance and support to ensure their effective utilization. The Commission may also encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among Member States to enhance the impact and outcomes of the economic funds for SMEs.

5. Member States shall regularly report on the allocation, utilization, and outcomes of the economic funds, providing comprehensive information on the support provided to SMEs and the progress made towards the EU Green Deal goals. The European Commission shall assess the reports and provide recommendations to optimize the effectiveness of the economic funds in promoting competitiveness, sustainability, and alignment with the EU Green Deal objectives.

Article 6

Limited Access to Explored Areas

1. Member States shall impose limitations on access to areas where natural resource exploration takes place.
2. Access restrictions aim to prevent unsustainable exploitation and ensure the protection of ecosystems, their services and maintenance of environmental biodiversity.
3. Restrictions shall be based on scientifically established criteria, including environmental impact assessments, carrying capacity analysis, and sustainable resource management principles.
4. Under no circumstances shall the ecosystem services table be used to justify or legitimize the use or exploration of natural resources, or commercial trades that disrupt or harm the existing balance of ecosystems. Its purpose is solely to facilitate informed decision-making and promote sustainable practices that safeguard the integrity of ecosystems, ensuring their resilience, functionality, and long-term viability. Any attempt to exploit the table for purposes contrary to the protection and preservation of ecosystems shall be strictly prohibited.

Article 7

Reporting, Review and Amendments

1. Member States shall report regularly to the European Commission on the progress of implementing this directive.
2. The European Commission shall conduct periodic reviews and assessments of the effectiveness and impact of this directive in achieving its objectives.
3. Based on the reviews and assessments, the European Commission may propose amendments or updates to this directive as necessary.

Advancing the #EUGreenDeal

EU Directive on Sustainable Ecosystems and Circular Economy

According to the directive outlined above, the exploration of natural resources cannot proceed solely based on demonstrating that it brings more value than the environmental value. This is because the directive emphasizes the importance of sustainable practices, environmental protection, and ecosystem restoration. It aims to prevent the abuse of power and corruption by ensuring that economic activities do not undermine the long-term well-being of ecosystems and their services.

#OCEANS #WORLD #SECURITY #HUMANRIGHTS



FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

RAFAELA PAULO TEIXEIRA

Flags of Convenience



Flags of convenience (FoC) in fisheries present a significant problem, as they allow vessel owners to register their vessels under the flag of a country with lax directives. This practice facilitates illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fisheries and endangers human rights.

The issue arises because historic vessel data is not consistently registered over time, making it challenging to trace activities and ensure compliance with fishing directives. Consequently, IUU fishing, including overfishing and destructive methods, goes unchecked, leading to the depletion of fish stocks and other marine resources. Moreover, FoC enable the exploitation of workers, as vessel owners evade labor laws and international standards. This results in hazardous working conditions, long hours, low wages, and forced labor. Combating this problem requires international cooperation, information sharing, and stricter directives.

Establishing a comprehensive vessel tracking system that maintains historical data is crucial.

Transparency, accountability, and responsible fishing practices are necessary to protect marine ecosystems and workers' rights. By addressing FoC issues, we can safeguard oceans, preserve resources, and uphold sustainability and human rights. Hence, the collaboration between governments, industry, and civil society is vital for a transparent and accountable fishing sector.



Flags of Convenience

EU Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience

Title: Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience on European Union

Preamble: Recognizing the importance of maritime transport within the European Union (EU) and the need to ensure the transparency, safety, and legality of vessels operating under flags of convenience (FoC), this directive aims to establish a comprehensive framework for the registration of vessels and the enforcement of directives pertaining to FoC. By maintaining accurate and accessible historic data of vessels and preventing illegal activities, the EU seeks to uphold maritime security, protect the rights of seafarers, and promote fair competition in the shipping industry.

Article 1

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

   a. "Vessel" refers to any ship or floating craft engaged in maritime transport, excluding war vessels and naval auxiliaries.
   b. "Flag of Convenience (FoC)" means the practice of registering a vessel in a country other than the country of its beneficial ownership, usually with more lenient directives or labor standards.
   c. "Vessel Register" denotes the official register maintained by each EU Member State for recording vessel information.

Article 2

Establishment of the European Union Vessel Registry

1. The European Union Vessel Registry (EUVR) shall be established as a centralized database for recording the historic data of vessels registered under the flags of EU Member States.
2. The EUVR shall contain comprehensive information on each registered vessel, including its ownership, technical specifications, previous registrations, and any changes of flags or ownership over time.
3. Member States shall be responsible for regularly updating the EUVR with relevant vessel data and ensuring its accuracy.

Flags of Convenience

EU Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience

Article 3

Attribution of Role to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

1. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) shall be entrusted with the management and maintenance of the European Union Vessel Registry (EUVR).
2. EMSA shall develop and operate the necessary technical infrastructure, software systems, and protocols for the functioning of the EUVR.
3. EMSA shall ensure the security, integrity, and accessibility of the data stored in the EUVR, in compliance with data protection and privacy directives.
4. EMSA shall establish procedures for the collection, verification, and regular updating of vessel data from EU Member States, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the information recorded in the EUVR.
5. EMSA shall collaborate with EU Member States, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of data and information for the effective functioning of the EUVR.
6. EMSA shall provide technical support, guidelines, and expertise to EU Member States on vessel registration processes, data reporting, and compliance with EUVR requirements.

Article 4

Obligations of Member States

1. Each EU Member State shall maintain a Vessel Register, which shall serve as the primary repository of vessel information for vessels registered under its flag.
2. Vessel Registers shall adhere to standardized data formats and record the necessary information, as stipulated by the EUVR.
3. Member States shall enforce strict requirements for vessel registration, including thorough checks of ownership, compliance with safety and environmental standards, and adherence to labor standards.

Article 5

Registration Procedures

1. Vessels seeking registration under an EU Member State's flag shall undergo a thorough registration process, including verification of ownership, inspection of technical compliance, and confirmation of the vessel's intended use.

a. To maintain compliance and accuracy of vessel information, it shall be mandated that every two years, vessels registered in the European Union Vessel Registry (EUVR) undergo inspection for verification of ownership, inspection of technical compliance, and confirmation of the vessel's intended use.

2. Member States shall conduct rigorous due diligence to prevent the misuse of FoCs and ensure compliance with relevant EU and international directives.
3. Upon successful registration, Member States shall issue a unique identifier for each vessel, which must be prominently displayed on the ship.
4. To ensure comprehensive and accurate vessel data, it shall be a requirement that the register data in the European Union Vessel Registry (EUVR) does not contain any vessels with an empty year field.

Article 6

Reporting and Transparency

1. Member States shall regularly submit updated vessel data to the EUVR, including changes in ownership, flags, or any notable incidents.
2. The EUVR shall be accessible to relevant authorities, including port authorities, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations, to facilitate effective monitoring and enforcement.
3. The EUVR shall also provide public access to non-sensitive vessel information to enhance transparency and enable stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding vessel operations.

Article 7

Enforcement and Penalties

1. Member States shall establish robust mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing compliance with this directive, including regular inspections of registered vessels and port state control measures.
2. Violations of registration requirements, fraudulent practices, or other breaches of this directive shall be subject to appropriate penalties and sanctions, as determined by each Member State's legislation.
3. Repeat offenders may face suspension or revocation of vessel registration privileges within the EU.

Flags of Convenience

EU Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience

Article 8

Cooperation and Coordination

1. Member States shall cooperate closely with each other, sharing information and best practices, to combat illegal activities related to FoCs and ensure consistent
ə.
2. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) shall provide technical support, guidelines, and expertise to Member States regarding vessel registration and FoC-related issues.
3. The European Commission shall periodically review the implementation of this directive, proposing amendments or additional measures as deemed necessary.

Article 9

Transitional Provisions

1. Member States shall ensure the migration of existing vessel data to the EUVR within a three-year timeframe, as determined by the European Commission.
2. Vessels already registered under an EU Member State's flag shall be subject to the provisions of this directive, with appropriate measures implemented to ensure compliance.

Article 10

Review and Amendments

The European Commission shall periodically review the implementation of this directive, proposing amendments or additional measures as deemed necessary.

Article 11

Jurisdictional complexity and mitigation of the potential loopholes in the EU Directive/Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience

1. To address jurisdictional complexity and mitigate potential loopholes in the EU Directive/Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience, several measures could be considered. Here are some additions that could help alleviate jurisdictional challenges:

   a. International Cooperation and Agreements: The European Union could actively engage with non-EU countries and international organizations to promote cooperation, information sharing, and harmonization of directives related to vessel registration and FoCs. This could include bilateral or multilateral agreements that encourage transparency, cooperation, and the exchange of information on vessel ownership, operations, and compliance.

EU Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience

b.Enhanced Beneficial Ownership Disclosure: Implementing stricter requirements for the disclosure of beneficial ownership information can help reduce jurisdictional complexity. Requiring comprehensive and transparent disclosure of beneficial owners, including ultimate beneficial owners, can increase accountability and facilitate the tracking of ownership structures across jurisdictions.

c. Harmonization of Standards: Collaborating with international bodies like the IMO to establish globally accepted standards for vessel registration, safety, labor conditions, and environmental practices can help reduce discrepancies across jurisdictions. Harmonization can minimize the incentive for ship-owners to exploit differences in directives and labor standards among countries.

d. Strengthened Data Sharing and Interoperability: Developing standardized data formats and establishing efficient data-sharing mechanisms among EU Member States and international partners can enhance transparency and facilitate the exchange of vessel information. This could involve the development of digital platforms or systems that enable seamless sharing and verification of vessel data across jurisdictions.

e. Strengthened Port State Control: Investing in robust port state control measures can play a crucial role in enforcing vessel registration directives and ensuring compliance with applicable standards. Increasing the frequency and effectiveness of port inspections, including inspections of FoC vessels, can help identify non-compliance and deter potential loopholes.

f. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of the directive can help identify emerging challenges and potential loopholes. This can involve periodic reviews, data analysis, and assessments to inform updates and improvements to the regulatory framework.

It's important to note that addressing jurisdictional complexity requires a collaborative approach involving not only the European Union but also cooperation with non-EU countries, international organizations, and industry stakeholders. Implementing these measures would require extensive coordination, diplomatic efforts, and a commitment to global standards and best practices.

Flags of Convenience

EU Directive on Vessel Registration and Flags of Convenience

This directive lays down a comprehensive framework for the registration of vessels and addresses the concerns associated with flags of convenience. By establishing the European Union Vessel Registry (EUVR) and implementing strict registration procedures, reporting mechanisms, and enforcement measures, the EU aims to maintain historic vessel data, promote transparency, and prevent illegal activities within the shipping industry. Hence, it is possible to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and accessibility of vessel information, promoting transparency and compliance within the maritime sector.

#ECOSYSTEMS #BIODIVERSITY #SECURITY #ECONOMY



SECURITY AND DEFENSE

HUGO RUFINO MARQUES

Security



The European Union (EU) presents itself as an area of respect, freedom, democracy and the rule of law where a society is characterized by its pluralism, solidarity, justice, equality and security. These values described in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) confront an increasingly unequal world and challenges that go far beyond mutual respect between peoples.

The beginning of the "Special Military Operation" by the Russian Federation that resulted in the violation of Ukraine's land, sea and air borders has shown that, despite Article 42 of the TEU defining the common security and defense policy, Member States have low levels of investment in this area, being excessively dependent on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), whose main financier is a country outside the European area. It should be noted that according to the preamble of the notification to the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on Permanent Structured Cooperation (PSC) resulting from Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315 of December 11, 2017 establishing permanent structured cooperation (PSC) and determining the list of participating Member States "(. ... the Union shall conduct a common foreign and security policy based on the achievement of an 'ever-increasing degree of convergence of Member States' actions' (Article 24(2) TEU) and that the common security and defence policy (CSDP) is an integral part of the common foreign and security policy;

Considering that the common security and defence policy provides the Union with operational capabilities backed up by civilian and military means, and that strengthening the security and defence policy will require efforts by the Member States in the area of capabilities;

Recalling also the commitment of the European Union and its Member States to the promotion of a rules-based world order with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations as a central element; "but the idea of a European defense remains only a few joint training and situation studies of the armed forces of the various Member States, something that falls far short of the various challenges facing the world such as cyber attacks, terrorism, mass population movements due to armed conflicts and/or as a result of climate change, the increase in states with weak democracies that call into question values.

Security

Whereas, according to the report on the European Parliament recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the EU's foreign, security and defence policy after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, '(...)) defending Europe is first and foremost an obligation for all European democracies; that this obligation must be accompanied by appropriate financial and military capacity goals; that the Union is determined to do its part to counter attempts by the Russian Federation to destroy the foundations of international security and stability, including in close cooperation with NATO, the cornerstone of the collective defence of its members; that Parliament has expressed sincere gratitude for the renewed US assistance and cooperation in protecting and defending European territory" we can say that the time has come for Europeans to come together and strengthen their defense cooperation by taking responsibility for strengthening Europe's security and defense in order to defend its citizens from threats posed by difficult geopolitical environments.



Security

EU Directive on the Establishment of a European Security and Defense Alliance

Title: Creation of the European Security and Defense Alliance

Preamble: Understanding the geopolitical complexity of enormous instability and uncertainty it is imperative that the various states have to assume greater responsibility in strengthening the security and defense of Europe by consolidating and integrating defense capabilities and strategies in a single body that has administrative and supervisory power to unify defense forces so that they can respond effectively in cases of emergency and contributing to the stability of Europe and its allies. This proposal aims to make Articles 42 and 43 of the Treaty on European Union more efficient, as well as to increase the scope of European defense by accepting states outside the European Union whose territories are an integral part of the European continent, creating synergies to increase the strategic autonomy and resilience of European defense.

Article 1

Introduction, duties, and objectives

1 - The European Security and Defense Alliance, hereinafter referred to as ASDE, is the result of the coming together of all the European institutions that work and develop the areas of European defense.

2 - The ASDE is an autonomous body of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the EU, which allows other non-EU states to join.

3 - The ASDE aims to:

(a) Develop a strong and coordinated defense posture that ensures the security and sovereignty of allied states by establishing comprehensive planning processes aligned with the national strategies of each state.

b) Promote Technological Innovation by encouraging research and development projects that drive technological advances making the defense industry efficient and competitive.

c) Encourage cooperation between participating countries, universities and the European defense industry, promoting public-private partnerships, joint research and development and technology transfer.

d) Establish funding programs and incentives to support the modernization and innovation of universities in partnership with the defense industry

European, stimulating the development of advanced technologies and increasing its global competitiveness.

4 - ASDE's duty is to:

(a) analyze security scenarios that may affect Europe such as regional conflicts, terrorism, hybrid threats, cyber threats and disinformation campaigns.

b) Identify and report on the gaps and limitations in the defense organization as well as the challenges faced by individual member states in dealing with these threats.

c) Assess the importance of joining synergies between ASDE and other existing defense alliances, highlighting opportunities for collaboration and coordination.

d) Ensure the existence of a permanent multinational military task force with rapid and effective response capabilities to deal with emerging crises such as regional conflicts, terrorist threats and natural disasters in order to strengthen the security and collective defense of the continent.

e) Facilitate military interoperability through joint training, exercises, standardization of equipment and procedures.

jf) Strengthen European supplier networks by promoting the integration of supply chains and collaboration among companies, ensuring the capacity to produce and maintain military equipment in allied states.

g) Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that ensure compliance with the objectives established in the joint procurement by regularly evaluating the performance of supplier companies as well as the quality of the equipment purchased.

Article 2

Structure

1 - ASDE is an independent and intergovernmental organization, comprising all member states of the European Union as well as third states that wish to join and whose territories are part of the physical geography of the European continent.

Security

EU Directive on the Establishment of a European Security and Defense Alliance

2 - The decision-making structure shall include a governing body, a deliberating council composed of the Supreme Commanders of the Armed Forces of each Allied State, the ministers of defense or designated representatives of the Allied States, representatives of the Military Command comprising the operational commands responsible for the different domains (land, air, sea and cyber) and a secretariat responsible for coordinating activities and supporting decision-making processes.

Article 3

Accession

1 - The EU Member States, as well as any State acceding to the EU, shall be automatically bound to the ASDE.

2 - States outside the EU interested in joining the ASDE should make a formal request to the ASDE's governing body, expressing their intention to join and outlining their commitments and contributions.

3 - The governing body will review and evaluate the application according to the guidelines that characterize the alliance.

4 - The decision on the admission of a new state will be made by consensus among existing member states, considering factors such as regional balance, strategic importance, and the overall capacity of the organization.

5 - When admitted, the new allied state shall be subject to a transition phase to adapt its policies, procedures, and defense capabilities with ASDE standards and requirements.

6 - ASDE shall provide support and guidance to facilitate the integration process, including assistance in developing defense programs, interoperability, and joint training.

7 - Upon joining ASDE, allied states will enjoy the privileges of membership, including the right to participate in decision-making processes, access to joint defense projects, and enhanced collective security.

8 - Allied states are responsible for meeting financial commitments, contributing to joint defense projects, and actively participating in ASDE activities, exercises, and operations.

Security

EU Directive on the Establishment of a European Security and Defense Alliance

Article 4

Permanent Multinational Military Intervention Team

1 - The ASDE shall have a Permanent Multinational Military Intervention Team, hereinafter referred to as the EMIMP, in Europe with the capacity to respond rapidly to emerging crises, in order to strengthen the security and collective defense of the continent.

2 - The EMIMP will be composed of land, maritime, air and cyber defense forces.

3 - The EMIMP shall support the ASDE in promoting military cooperation among the various allies, increasing interoperability, resource sharing and efficiency in joint operations.

Article 5

Collaboration and Innovation Program

1 - Recognizing the importance of technological innovation in the area of defense, ASDE shall prioritize investment in research and development initiatives in order to foster innovation, encourage technology sharing and drive advances in critical defense domains, facilitate cooperation among allied states, defense industries and academic institutions.

2 - Promote knowledge sharing and disseminate best practices in the field of defense innovation to maximize the impact of investments and ensure the successful integration of new technologies into ASDE operations.

Establish partnerships and joint initiatives to facilitate technology transfer, promote dual-use applications, and stimulate innovation in defense-related sectors.

3 - Support the development of defense-oriented academic programs, scholarships and research grants to obtain qualified individuals and drive innovation in defense technologies.

Article 6

Financial Commitments

1 - ASDE Allied States are obligated to contribute financially to support the organization's operations, capacity development and joint defense projects.

Security

EU Directive on the Establishment of a European Security and Defense Alliance

2 - Each member state will cede a percentage of its defense budget to the ASDE, ensuring a fair and equitable distribution among the various allies.
3 - As a way to optimize the existing resources it is fundamental that the ASDE coordinates and supervises the allocation of its defense funds in order to avoid unnecessary duplication, allowing the efficient allocation of resources, stimulating cooperation in the field of logistics and defense infrastructures, optimizing costs and ensuring the effective deployment and sustainability of the alliance.

Article 7

Activation of the ASDE

1 - Allied States shall consult each other whenever the territorial integrity, independence, or security of a party is threatened.
2 - The allied states agree that an armed attack against one or more parties shall be considered as an attack against the whole alliance and, consequently, if an armed attack occurs, each of the parties, in the exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized by article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, shall assist the allied state or allied states concerned by taking without delay, individually and in agreement with the other members, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and ensure security in the North Atlantic region.
3 - For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, the following shall be considered an armed attack against one or more Allied States:
Armed attack against any land, sea, air or cyber territory, of the allies.
Attack against any critical infrastructure of an allied state such as energy production and supply structures, transportation, water, telecommunications, financial, health care, security or information systems-related infrastructure.
Any attack against armed forces that are on a peacekeeping or surveillance mission outside their territories

Security

EU Directive on the Establishment of a European Security and Defense Alliance

The implementation of a European Security and Defense Alliance is an ambitious project that would put into practice the provisions of the Common Security and Defense Policy of the Treaty on European Union and represent a transformative step towards achieving greater defense autonomy and strategic resilience for Europe. By consolidating and integrating defense capabilities, the ASDE would create a formidable defense force capable of protecting European interests, contributing to global stability and promoting a secure and prosperous Europe. Investment in innovation as well as openness to states outside the European Union is crucial to ensure that the Alliance remains at the forefront of technological advances in the defense sector that would create synergy for research and development by establishing a dedicated Defense Innovation Fund and fostering collaboration with industry and academia, harnessing innovation as a catalyst to strengthen defense capabilities, increase operational effectiveness and maintain Europe's technological edge in a rapidly evolving security landscape.

#ECOSYSTEMS #BIODIVERSITY #SECURITY #ECONOMY



EU VALUES

HUGO RUFINO MARQUES

EU Values



European values represent the fundamental principles that have underpinned the European Union since its inception. Peace, democracy, human rights, equality, freedom and the rule of law are the pillars on which the European Union is built, driving its progress and continued development.

However, the current environment faces significant challenges, such as citizens' disengagement from political power, economic crises, and political scandals.
In order to strengthen legitimacy and trust in political institutions, it is essential to promote transparent, accessible, and constantly renewed decision-making by political actors, which means making political mechanisms more open to citizen participation and ensuring that different sections of society feel effectively represented.

By overcoming these challenges, the European Union can strengthen the connection between its fundamental values and citizens' aspirations. This involves a commitment to the constant renewal of political structures, the promotion of a political culture of transparency and accountability, and the strengthening of citizen participation in the decisions that affect Europe's future.



EU Values

EU Directive on election of MEPs and appointment of European Commissioners

Title: Transparency in electing MEPs and appointing European Commissioners

Preamble: Considering the importance of democratic representation and constant renewal of political positions, we recognize the need to establish clear eligibility criteria for the positions of MEPs as well as European Commissioners, with the aim of strengthening representativeness, independence and citizens' trust in the European institutions.

Article 1

Standardization of Election Rules

1 - All member countries of the European Union must adopt a unified electoral system for the election of MEPs.

2 - The proportional system of representation is recommended, ensuring that the number of seats is distributed in proportion to the votes received by the political parties.

Article 2

Eligibility for the office of Member of the European Parliament

1 - Establish as an eligibility criterion for the position of MEP that the individual has not been in governmental functions at any level (national, regional or local) in the last 2 years prior to the appointment.

2 - Executive, ministerial, parliamentary or administrative positions in a national government, as well as positions in international organizations or regional/local governments are considered governmental functions.

Article 3

Term Limit

1 - Each citizen may run for the office of Member of the European Parliament for a maximum of three terms of office.

Article 4

Eligibility for the post of MEP European Commissioner

1 - Establish as a criterion of eligibility for the position of European Commissioner that the individual has not held any government position at any level (national, regional or local) in the last 4 years prior to the appointment.

EU Values

EU Directive on election of MEPs and appointment of European Commissioners

2 - Governmental functions include executive, ministerial, parliamentary, or administrative positions in a national government, as well as positions in international organizations or regional/local governments.

Article 5

Nomination Process

1 - Verification of eligibility criteria is part of the appointment process for the European Commissioner.
2 - Member States are required to provide a formal declaration that the proposed candidate has not held any government position in the last 4 years.

The implementation of this proposal could contribute to guaranteeing the renewal and independence of MEPs, as well as promoting greater representativeness and diversity of experience in the European Parliament. This would strengthen the legitimacy of the decisions made and increase citizens' confidence in the democratic process of the European Union.

EU Directive on Fair Tax Settlement for Digital Nomads

Title : Fair tax settlement for digital nomads

Preamble: The COVID-19 pandemic has forever changed the paradigm of work. When many people lose several hours in commuting between their home and office, always having to live in areas close to it, telecommuting has enabled people to explore the world while working on a laptop computer with internet access.
As attractive as a life free of obligations and with more flexibility in finding a place to live can be, digital nomads bring enormous problems to the local host communities, such as increased pressure on natural resources and services, increased housing prices due to higher wages as a rule, and, as a result, a widening social gap.
In order to make community life fairer, and to avoid abuses in taxation, this proposal was created.

EU Values

EU Directive on Fair Tax Settlement for Digital Nomads

Article 1

Definition of Fiscal Residence

1 - Establish clear criteria for determining the tax residence of digital nomads, considering factors such as length of stay in the country, family ties and permanent residence.

2 - Consider as eligible for tax purposes all those who stay for a period equal to or longer than 32 consecutive days.

Article 2

Taxation Rules for Digital Nomads

1 - All citizens in who are considered digital nomads and who fit the criteria of article 1 pay may opt for one of two regimes:

(a) payment of taxes in the country of residence like national citizens

b) Paying user regime. In this regime the citizen is charged for the public services he uses.

Article 3

Collaboration Between Countries

1 - Promote international cooperation for sharing information on taxation of digital nomads.

Article 4

Awareness and Education

1 - Conducting awareness campaigns aimed at informing digital nomads about their tax obligations in their country of residence and helping them understand tax regulations and processes.

Article 5

Enforcement and Penalties

1 - Strengthen enforcement of digital nomads' tax obligations through audits, states and cooperation with businesses.

2 - Establish penalties at the European level for those who do not comply with their tax obligations.

#ECOSYSTEMS #BIODIVERSITY #SECURITY #ECONOMY



EDUCATION

RICARDO CERQUEIRA
DANIELA SILVA

Education

To Focus in Education Ideas

Title: Uniting Through Culture, Sports and Cinema

In diversified communities living in Europe, the exploration of culture, sports, and cinema can be instrumental in fostering social cohesion and inclusion. These avenues offer opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and celebrate common interests. By engaging in cultural activities, individuals gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of different traditions, customs, and perspectives, promoting mutual respect and tolerance.

Sports, on the other hand, unite people through friendly competition, teamwork, and shared goals, breaking down social barriers and encouraging cooperation. Additionally, cinema can be a powerful tool for storytelling, allowing communities to connect emotionally and intellectually by exploring diverse narratives and experiences. By actively promoting and supporting cultural events, sports activities, and film screenings, different communities can enhance social integration, create bridges between gaps, and create a more inclusive and vibrant environment for everyone.



Education

To Focus in Education Ideas

Title: The Power of Sports: Enhancing Well-being, Skills, and Inclusivity

The development of students can be improved significantly through sports both in schools and universities. Engaging in sports not only promotes physical and mental well-being but also cultivates vital life skills like teamwork, discipline, and goal setting. Moreover, it has been shown to enhance academic performance by stimulating brain function and improving concentration. By diversifying sports programs, educational institutions can create an inclusive environment that brings together diverse talents and interests of students, fostering a sense of belonging and promoting equality.

Sports also provide valuable career opportunities in fields such as coaching, sports management, and sports medicine, among others. To prioritize sports, schools and universities should invest in quality facilities, offer a wide range of sports options, provide dedicated coaching and training programs, organize regular events, and encourage student participation through scholarships and recognition. By integrating sports into the educational experience, institutions can help students thrive academically, physically, and emotionally, while fostering a culture of inclusivity and diversity.



Education

To Focus in Education Ideas

Title: Building for Success: Integrating Soft Skills in Education

The fundamental importance of soft skills could complement academic knowledge and technical expertise, enabling individuals to thrive in personal and professional contexts. These skills encompass effective communication, teamwork, problem-solving, adaptability, and emotional intelligence. By developing soft skills, students enhance their personal growth, build healthy relationships, and gain a competitive edge in the job market, where employers increasingly value these skills. Soft skills contribute to holistic development, empowering individuals to navigate diverse social and professional environments with confidence and competence.

It is essential to integrate soft skills into the curriculum and teaching methods in schools. Schools can adopt student-centered approaches such as project-based learning, collaborative activities, and group discussions that encourage active participation and foster soft skill development. Providing opportunities for public speaking, presentations, and leadership roles can nurture effective communication, critical thinking, and leadership abilities. Extracurricular activities and clubs focused on specific soft skills can also be established, allowing students to engage in practical experiences that reinforce their interpersonal and transferable skills.



Education

To Focus in Education Ideas

It is essential to integrate soft skills into the curriculum and teaching methods in schools. Schools can adopt student-centered approaches such as project-based learning, collaborative activities, and group discussions that encourage active participation and foster soft skill development. Providing opportunities for public speaking, presentations, and leadership roles can nurture effective communication, critical thinking, and leadership abilities. Extracurricular activities and clubs focused on specific soft skills can also be established, allowing students to engage in practical experiences that reinforce their interpersonal and transferable skills.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the European Union (EU) can demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and circular economy through the directive on Sustainable Ecosystems and Circular Economy, aligning with the EU Green Deal, as described in this document. This directive emphasizes the implementation of ecosystem services, evaluation of environmental value, and promotion of sustainable practices, aiming to accelerate the transition to a circular economy and achieve a climate-neutral continent. By prioritizing responsible resource exploration, supporting SMEs, and preserving ecosystem integrity, the EU seeks to enhance resilience, transparency, and global collaboration for a sustainable future.

Relatively to the oceans and maintenance of marine biodiversity, this document also proposed a directive establishing the European Union Vessel Registry (EUVR) addresses critical concerns regarding illegal fishing and human rights abuses in the maritime sector. Through a centralized database managed by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the directive aims to promote transparency, compliance, and accountability. Regular inspections and comprehensive registration data play crucial roles in combating illegal fishing practices, ensuring respect for human rights, promoting maritime safety, and safeguarding the environment.

Furthermore, the issue of education was addressed, with a focus on essentially giving priority to holistic development both in schools and universities. Recognizing the significance of sports, educational institutions can foster physical well-being, academic excellence, and inclusivity by promoting diverse sports options. Emphasizing the development of soft skills equips students with interpersonal and transferable skills vital for personal growth, academic achievement, and future career success. Cultural exploration through cinema and other activities fosters social cohesion, mutual respect, and a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives. By integrating these elements into education, we nurture well-rounded individuals prepared to thrive in an interconnected world, contributing to a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Conclusion

The European Union faces significant challenges in upholding its fundamental values and ensuring security and defense. To strengthen legitimacy and trust, there is a need to promote transparent decision-making and citizen participation. Simultaneously, Europe must address its low levels of investment in security and defense, reducing dependence on external alliances and fostering stronger defense cooperation among member states. By committing to a rules-based world order, reinforcing military capabilities, and countering geopolitical threats, the EU can safeguard its citizens and uphold its core principles of peace, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Strengthening Europe's security and defense is a collective responsibility that requires unified efforts and the commitment of all European democracies.

To sum up, a group of young Portuguese individuals came together to engage in meaningful discussions on various topics to be addressed at the European Youth Event 2023 (EYE 2023) in Strasbourg, France. Through organizing round table discussions with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and civil society, they aimed to explore the current difficulties and challenges associated with each theme. These meetings provided an opportunity to assess the progress made and identify solutions to overcome existing constraints. Despite limited resources, the team focused on areas where they had substantial material and expertise, while acknowledging the importance of other relevant issues. Their primary objective is to present a comprehensive set of proposals and solutions that enhance the lives of European citizens, foster fairness, and promote transparency within the European Union.

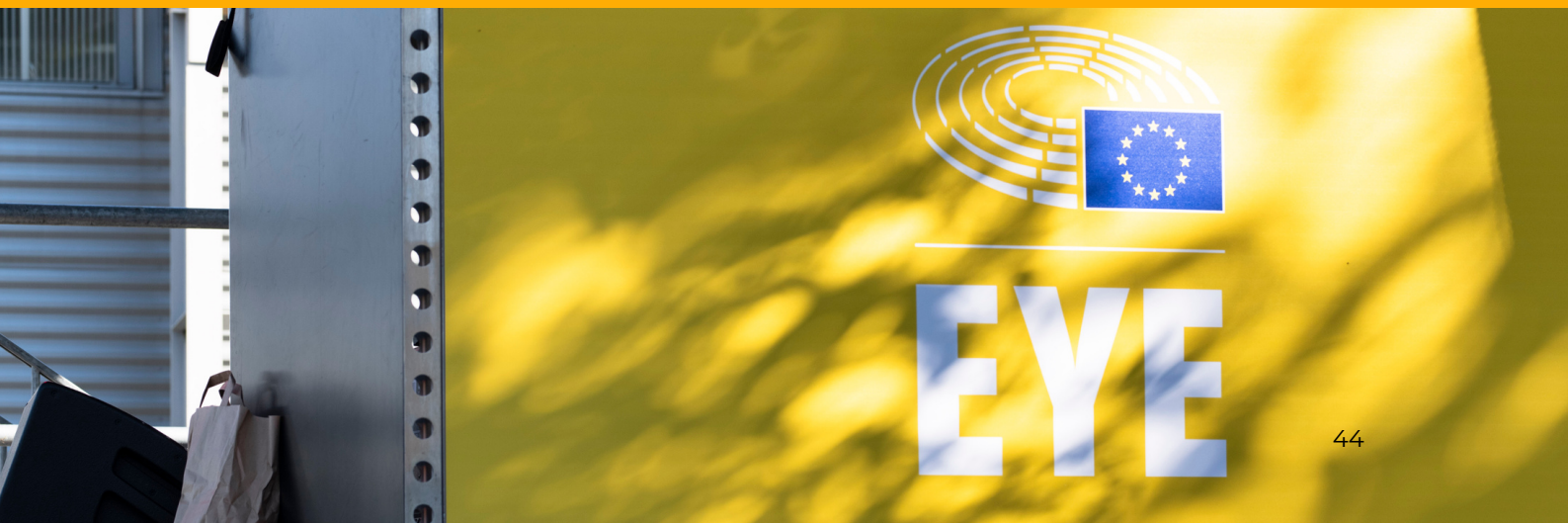


Acknowledgments

The authors of this document would like to thank the MEPs and Members of Civil Society for their contribution, time and dedication to present us with different themes, such as Environment, European Union Values, Society and Education, aiming at the respective contextualization, different points of view and discussions, always trying to answer the questions raised.

To the Honourable Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), Sara Cerdas, Francisco Guerreiro, João Albuquerque and José Gusmão; To the Secretary of State for Civil Protection, Patrícia Gaspar; To the Members of Civil Society, Mr. Paulo Sande, ex-PR Political Consultant and Lawyer; Mr. Pedro Mota Soares, Lawyer and Secretary General; Prof. Jorge Malheiros from the Centre of Geographical Studies of IGOT of the University of Lisbon; Prof. Natália Alves from the Institute of Education of the University of Lisbon; Prof. Jorge Malheiros from the Centre of Geographical Studies of IGOT of the University of Lisbon. Natália Alves from the Institute of Education of the University of Lisbon; Prof. Iva Pires from the Interdisciplinary Center of Social Sciences of the New University of Lisbon; Prof. Joaquim Ramos Pinto, ASPEA President; Mrs. Cristina Caboleiro, AAUALG; Mr. André Teixeira, Lawyer; Mrs. Ana Sofia, ASPEA Volunteer; and Mrs. Carolina Barbosa, Environmental Educator, our "Thank You Very Much".

Finally, we thank all those who made their time available to discuss or dialogue about ideas related to the themes of #EYE2023.



Conflict of Interests

We, as a work group, want to make it clear that we have no conflicting interests that could compromise our objectivity or fairness. Our discussions and decisions are solely driven by our dedication to collaboration and the best interests of the subject matter. We strive to avoid offending anyone and aim to promote positive dialogue and understanding. However, if unintentional offense occurs, we apologize and are open to addressing concerns.

Due to secrecy reasons, a member of our group, Daniela Silva, did not contribute to the specific topic on "Security and Defense". We value transparency and respect the secrecy requirement.

We assure you that we have made every effort to gather diverse viewpoints from the available participants. We are committed to maintaining integrity, inclusivity, and transparency throughout our work. We hope that our efforts contribute positively to the larger conversation and provide valuable insights. We welcome your feedback and are open to discussing any concerns or questions you may have.

