



# Slow Food® Europe

MANIFESTO FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

## THE EUROPE WE WANT

The forthcoming European elections will set the tone for the future of Europe. Over the last few years, the unity of Europeans and the strength of our values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights have been put through many tests.

We are fundamentally convinced of the importance of a united and inclusive Europe.

While so many Europeans stand together in protest against climate change, we ask you, candidate Members of the European Parliament, to champion sustainable food and farming as catalysts for greater unity, solidarity, and a fairer and healthier future.

### We stand firm on the core values of European democracy

We, Slow Food Europe, believe that good, clean, fair, and healthy food is a right of all. The production, distribution and consumption of food cannot conflict with the right to enjoy a healthy environment and its fruits for generations to come.

We reject any form of political, economic, and social exclusion that outlaws people who migrate on account of conflict, violence, discrimination, eviction, poverty, or natural calamity. We oppose every thought and action that deprives the weakest elements of the population of their rights.

Diversity is the greatest wealth that we possess as human beings and as a community, be it genetic, cultural, linguistic, generational, sexual, or religious.

### The facts speak for themselves. Here are a few:

- In 2016, *9.1% of the EU population was unable to afford a quality meal* every second day
- Chronic diseases – often diet-related – account for *70% - 80% of healthcare costs* in the EU
- Between 2003 and 2013, *more than 1 in 4 farms disappeared* in Europe
- In 2010, *48% of farm holders were over the age of 55*
- *Exploitative working conditions* continue to surface in the EU and globally
- Globally, industrial food systems contribute up to *30% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions*
- In the last 100 years, some *75% of plant genetic diversity has been lost* because of the abandonment of local crops in favour of genetically uniform, high-yielding varieties
- Because of farming, *45% of Europe's soils have lost significant amounts of organic matter*, including humus and soil organisms
- *20% of the food produced in the EU is lost or wasted* each year
- The EU imports up to 22 million tonnes of soybean and soybean cake annually, much of this sourced from South American countries where *deforestation, evictions, pesticide poisoning, and human rights abuses* have been documented in intensive export cropping zones

### The solutions are at hand. We ask you the following:

#### *Do not tinker with policies: support the transition towards a Common Food Policy*

- *Put an end to conflicting policy objectives and costly inefficiencies*, in order to address climate change, halt biodiversity loss, curb obesity, and make farming, fishing, and food production viable for the next generation
- *Meaningfully involve a wider range of stakeholders* by shifting the focus from agriculture alone (and other sectoral policy areas) to food more broadly
- Revive public participation in policymaking, reconnect citizens to the European project, and *reclaim public policies that serve the public good*
- *Step closer to citizens* and ensure that European democracy is re-energized by giving people a say in the things they most care about - by starting with what they put on their plates
- While supporting the transition to a Common Food Policy, *ensure that other policies can become stepping stones in the process* – starting with the Common Agricultural Policy

#### *Make the Common Agricultural Policy good, clean and fair*

- *Ensure public money for public goods*: only agroecological farming systems producing food for human and animal consumption and contributing to the socio-cultural, economic and environmental sustainability of their farms and regions should receive financial support
- *Readjust the bureaucratic workload so that it is commensurate with the reality of the farm*

- *Diversify the farming community*: facilitate the setting up of new businesses by young people and women, by cutting red-tape and proposing incentives
- *Support marginal areas*: envisage effective infrastructural recovery and development plans in rural and deprived areas, prioritising connectivity, quality of life, and greater opportunity, through participatory processes of local development

### Fight Climate Change

- *Give centre stage to food and farming systems*: they play a key role in fighting climate change
- *Update climate targets to include the mitigation potential of animal agriculture*: targets should determine what role the reductions in intensive farming and the shift towards more sustainable agriculture can play in the nationally determined contributions
- *Promote the establishment of a binding Union-wide food waste reduction target* from agricultural production to consumption – from farm to fork

### Promote Biodiversity

- *Ensure that the conventional breeding of plants and animals is kept free from patent claims*: re-think European patent law in biotechnology and plant breeding and set clear regulations that exclude conventional breeding, genetic material, animals, plants and food derived thereof from patentability
- Support the application of the ruling by the European Court of Justice of 2018, clarifying that *new techniques of genetic engineering fall under EU legislation on GMOs*
- Uphold the Parliament resolutions of October 2016 and October 2017 *against the Commission's authorisation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)* and on efforts to facilitate the banning of GMO cultivation by Member States in line with the objective of protecting biodiversity, nature and soil
- *Support the development of a dedicated legally binding framework covering the main soil threats, including biodiversity loss, erosion, organic matter decline and contamination*; integrate soil related UN Sustainable Development Goals into EU policies

### Protect Marine Ecosystems

- Promote *the inclusive governance of the seas and oceans*
- Ensure that the *2020 deadline for ending overfishing* in the EU is met
- Ensure the *full implementation of Article 17* of the Common Fisheries Policy to encourage sustainable fishing practices
- *Back the EU ban on throwaway plastics* by 2021 to protect marine ecosystems
- Promote marine genetic resources as a common heritage of mankind. *Promote the inclusive participation by all states in international negotiations and clarify the legal regime around access and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources*

### Enforce the respect of people and the environment globally

- *Support the achievement of a UN binding treaty* to hold transnational corporations to account for human rights violations and end their impunity
- Ensure that EU laws *enshrine the duty of corporations to respect human rights and the environment throughout their operations worldwide*
- *Ensure that the principle of Policy Coherence for Development is fully implemented*, minimising contradictions and building synergies between different EU policies to benefit developing countries and increase the effectiveness of development cooperation

## Will you stand up for a sustainable future in Europe?

Slow Food is the food movement involving citizens, farmers, fishers, food artisans and activists in all EU member states and in over 160 globally, all defending everyone's right to good, clean and fair food.

