



Peace and security



Food production



Climate



Forests



Competitiveness



Equal development



Community of Security, Equality, and Sustainable Development

The views of MTK on the EU and its future





THE MAIN TOPICS FOR MTK IN EU POLICY

- Only economically strong and democratic Europe, whose members manage their economies responsibly, can act as a leader and a bearer of responsibility in the world.
- For the common tasks of the EU - for new challenges as well as for agriculture and regional policies - sufficient funding must be granted. Funding for rural development, which is particularly important for Finland, must also be secured.
- The reform of the common agricultural policy will ensure the future of European food production. The power and responsibility of the Member States must be increased in the implementation of the common agricultural policy.

- Only profitable agriculture and forestry create the basis for sustainable management of nature and the environment.
- We need an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable forestry, and the EU forest strategy must be updated to the new operational environment.
- The focus of the new Cohesion Fund must be shifted from building infrastructure to entrepreneurship and industry development.
- Trade policy aims to open new markets.

- The European food production model, based on the safe and sustainable agriculture, as well as the European food security, cannot be for sale.
- The energy policy must be based on increasing energy efficiency and decentralized renewable energy production as a substitute for fossil energy sources.
- EU competitiveness must be improved and global competitiveness must be based on a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

- The preparation of the next framework program for research and innovation, should focus on solving EU level challenges and strengthening competitiveness.
- We need fewer, but better EU-legislation.
- Sustainable agriculture and forestry must be placed at the core of the EU's climate policy. Carbon sequestration solutions in agriculture and forestry must be introduced in the management of climate change.



Union of peace
and security

PEACE AND SECURITY

The European Union is the community of peace and security. As a result of the eastern expansion, the equal development of the areas has created stability and economic growth for all the EU regions. A strong EU has an important role in the world. The EU's global competitiveness must be strengthened by supporting sustainable growth.



- The role of the EU must be increased in the building of a secure Europe for citizens.
- Food security can reduce conflicts and migration. The common agricultural policy also secures sufficient domestic agricultural production and security of supply.



Food
production

THE EUROPEAN FOOD PRODUCTION MODEL IS A SUCCESS STORY

The core task of the European agriculture is to ensure safe and sustainably produced food production. Agricultural policy reform is to ensure the European food production model, as well as sufficient funding. The role of the rural areas and activities in generating growth and employment, must be recognized.



- Agricultural production must be possible throughout the EU.
- The EU must promote the quality work of food production, so food scandals can be avoided. The artificial promotion of growth with hormones or preventive antibiotics is not part of our food chain.
- A high level of animal welfare is a prerequisite for food production. Equal enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation must be guaranteed.
- The functioning and balance of the food chain must be further improved and unfair trade practices in the food chain must be eliminated.



Climate

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ARE IMPORTANT SOLUTION PROVIDERS IN THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Climate change mitigation and adaptation to it must be key objectives of the new agricultural policy and EU forestry strategy. The role of emissions trading as a key instrument of climate policy, must be strengthened. Carbon sequestration of the agricultural soils must be included in alongside with the emissions to the carbon balance. The level of ambition of the EU in the climate policy, must be increased by cost-effective measures.

- Climate solutions must be resource efficient, socially acceptable and forward looking.
- In climate policy, the level of ambition of the EU must be increased by cost-effective measures.
- Political decisions must support the opportunities to adapt and prepare for the climate change.
- Afforestation projects in developing countries generate carbon sinks, safety and vitality in the rural areas.
- Responsible agriculture and forestry improve biodiversity.
- New innovations in bio-circular economy and waste management solutions can also help in the plastic challenges of the EU.



Forests

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY - THE CORE OF THE FINNISH BIOECONOMY

The growth of European forests has accelerated and sustainable forestry can create significant new bioeconomies, jobs and growth. The role of the EU forest policy must be based on respect for national forest policy and the consideration of regional conditions.

- Sustainable forest bioeconomy creates new jobs and growth. Finland can afford to increase the sustainable use of forests without compromising carbon sink.
- The EU's forestry strategy needs to be reformed.
- The bioeconomy based on renewable resources is an engine of growth and strengthens security.
- The EU must oblige Member States to prioritize wood construction in public construction.



EU'S COMPETITIVENESS MUST BE IMPROVED

In the future, our competitiveness is built on sustainable production, jobs and economic growth. Climate, agriculture, trade, and development policies are the main ways for the EU to assume its global responsibility. Only financially strong Europe can act as a pioneer and bearer of responsibility.

- In trade negotiations, the sustainability and food security of the European food production must not be for sale.
- We need a stable trade policy and a rule-based multilateral trading system.

- The new opening markets will require export promotion actions and sufficient resources. This creates conditions for increased food exports.
- Legislation must support the international competitiveness of the EU food sector.
- The EU legislation must focus on the essential. Bureaucracy must be diminished and subsidiarity promoted.
- Up-to-date and forward-looking research is the foundation of sustainable agriculture and forestry and its environmental policy.



Equal development

EQUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS BRINGS STABILITY AND GROWTH

The nature of the regional policy of the EU, also referred as Cohesion Policy, has changed as the EU expanded into Central and Eastern Europe. The focus of the new Cohesion Fund must be shifted to entrepreneurship and industry development.

- The economic and social development of the EU's external border regions is important.
- Telecommunications and transport networks must be improved in the rural areas.
- The availability of labor force in the rural areas needs to be improved.

