

State of the Union 2017

We have already achieved a lot in the last twelve months:

We have strongly improved the **protection of our external borders**. We established a European Border and Coast Guard and tripled the capacities for Frontex joint operations. The number of migrants arriving at our shores this year is 87% lower than in 2015 [UNHCR, 13.9.2017].

We fight the **root-causes of migration**. We have launched an investment plan for Africa with €1.8 billion from the EU budget that must now be filled up by the Member States.

We concluded the **most advanced and fair free-trade agreement** of all time: CETA.

We concluded the **Paris Climate Agreement** under European leadership.

People are better off today. Our European GDP growth rate (2.3%) is higher than that of the US (2.1%) [Eurostat Q2/2017 vs. Q2/2016]. Unemployment is at a nine year low. Almost 8 million jobs have been created during this parliamentary term so far [EC, 13.9.2017].

Our priorities for the future are guided by the defence of our European way of life:

We stand for better security. We fight for better information exchange between our authorities to defeat a terrorism that operates globally. National egoism must be overcome. Data protection must not be turned into a protection of terrorists. This is not a conflict between Christians and Muslims, but between humanity and barbarism.

We stand for a European Defence Union that makes us stronger to defend ourselves. We must show to every aggressor that we stand together and will not be intimidated. This is also why we must stop Nord Stream 2. Our security takes priority over making money.

We stand for effective border protection. We are ready to help those people who are in need. But we strictly protect our borders against illegal immigrants and human traffickers. For the integration, only those who respect our fundamental values can get a European citizenship. All the others must leave Europe.

We stand for clear European values. Turkey is moving further away from Europe: innocent people are arrested, the rule of law is dismantled. We cannot continue as if nothing had happened. The European Parliament has clearly demanded the suspension of the accession negotiations. Council and Commission must act now.

We stand for a social market economy that protects the workers against social dumping and unemployment. We stand for fairness, steady jobs, decent wages and for the idea that with ownership comes responsibility.

We stand for new and fair EU trade-agreements to generate growth and jobs and to defend our high standards globally. But we also need to protect ourselves against unfair competition and the sell-out of our core industries.
