



TOWARDS A MORE RESILIENT, COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

September 2023



“We have seen the birth of a geopolitical Union – supporting Ukraine, standing up to Russia’s aggression, responding to an assertive China and investing in partnerships.”

Ursula von der Leyen, State of the Union 2023

The Versailles Declaration of 11 March 2022 committed the EU to take more responsibility for its security, to develop a more competitive and resilient economic base and to reduce its strategic dependencies in key sectors. Since then, the EU has adjusted its policies and accelerated implementation, while remaining committed to its long-term priorities.

Support for Ukraine

The EU continues to stand united with Ukraine for as long as it takes. Since the start of the war, the EU has adopted **11 sanctions packages** and has mobilised a total of **€81 billion in military, humanitarian, and financial assistance**.

To facilitate Ukrainian exports and contribute to global food security, the **EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes** have helped transport more than **53 million tonnes of Ukrainian agricultural products** and close to **42 million tonnes of non-agricultural products**.



18 months after the Versailles Declaration, the EU's new approach to better protect its economic, security and strategic interests is producing results:

1. Bolstering our defence capabilities and building lasting peace in Europe

- The Strategic Compass for Security and Defence strengthens the EU's capacity as a security provider, ensuring complementarity with NATO.
- The EU has acted to speed up production (€500 million with the Act in Support of Ammunition Production), joint procurement (€300 million with the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act) and delivery of ammunition to Ukraine (€2 billion from European Peace Facility).
- The European Defence Fund is boosting innovation and cooperation in defence industry with more than €3 billion in investments to date.
- The new Military Mobility Action Plan 2.0 broadens the scope of work in this crucial area and has allocated €790 million to dual-use infrastructure projects in 2023.

2. Enhancing Europe's energy security and tackling the climate crisis

- Swift and united EU action has reduced Russian pipeline gas from 50% of total gas imports in 2021 to less than 10% in 2023.
- With the new EU Energy Platform, the EU is coordinating demand for energy and action on global markets.

From 50% of total pipeline gas imports from Russia in 2021

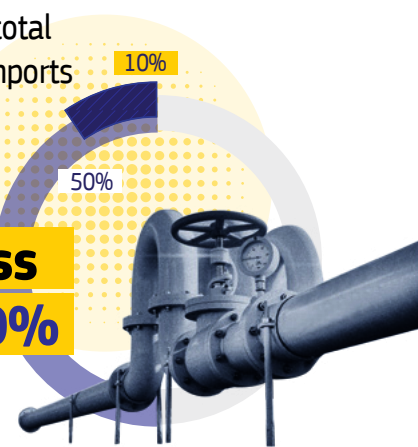
to less than 10%

in 2023

- The revised Renewable Energy Directive introduced faster and simpler permitting to bring the share of renewable energy in the EU's overall consumption to 42.5% by 2030.

3. Building a more robust and sustainable economic base

- The European Economic Security Strategy focuses on de-risking the EU's economic base, while ensuring that the EU continues to reap the benefits of economic openness.
- The EU has built on initiatives such as the European Skills Agenda, the Green Deal Industrial Plan and the Net-Zero Industry Act to foster a skills-first approach to address pressing labour and skills shortages.
- The EU has acted decisively to address economic risks and strategic dependencies in key areas:





Critical raw materials



Semi-conductors



Net-zero technologies



Health



Digital transformation



Food

4. Fostering public and private investment

Recovery and Resilience Facility



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- In addition to €338 billion in grants provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Member States have requested over €292 billion in loans.
- InvestEU helps mobilise private investments for the EU's top policy priorities, such as the green and digital transition, innovation and social investments, and support for SMEs.
- Cohesion policy programmes contribute to strategic priorities, for instance with €92 billion going towards green transition objectives.
- An agreement by the end of the year on the targeted MFF mid-term revision, including the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) initiative, would ensure that EU budget can continue to deliver in the immediate future.