



For democracy, human rights and integration

The Stockholm Programme defines EU action priorities to create a European Area of Justice, Freedom and Security.

The S&D Group gives priority to: genuine European citizenship; promotion of fundamental rights; fighting terrorism and organised crime, common rules for solving matrimonial matters and consumer disputes, mutual recognition of the effects of civil status documents, limitation periods or cross-border traffic accidents, an EU immigration policy with a strategy for integrating migrants, banning all forms of discrimination and a European asylum system.

The European Parliament set out its position on the Stockholm programme in a resolution of 25 November 2009. Two S&D report authors — Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar and Luigi Berlinguer — and the group as a whole shaped this work.

The Lisbon Treaty gives the European Parliament a full legislative role in this field. The S&D Group will develop strong, comprehensive measures to reach the following goals:

1. EMPOWERING CITIZENS

- Full legislative role of the European Parliament in Justice and Home affairs;
- Full parliamentary scrutiny over Justice and Home affairs policies through closer cooperation between European Parliament and national parliaments in adopting and evaluating laws.

2. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF EU

- The binding nature of the EU Charter puts fundamental rights at the core of EU action in the area of freedom security and justice.
- The Charter obliges the European institutions not only to respect but to actively promote fundamental rights.
- The respect of fundamental rights and the rule of law must always be at the core of EU action in the fight against organized crime and terrorism.
- The protection of personal data must be a cornerstone in guaranteeing security and justice

3. ENDING ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

- Prompt adoption by Council of the horizontal directive on non-discrimination will put an end to all forms of discrimination within the Union
- Action to be taken by the EU and its member states to bring vulnerable groups fully into society by promoting inclusion in education, the labour market and preventing violence against them
- special emphasis on integration and protection of Roma people

4. CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

- Direct role given for citizens in creating laws through the 'Citizens Initiative' provided in the Lisbon Treaty
- Realisation of full citizenship rights including consular protection and full free movement and residence without discrimination - including based on sexual orientation - in the Union with family members

5. SECURING FREEDOM IN THE EU

- European-wide tools for tackling organised crime and terrorism and providing justice on an equal footing across borders
 - consistent definitions of crimes and sanctions across the EU
 - enabling closer cooperation on preventing cross-border crime, particularly through European Protection Order for victims of gender violence and European Evidence Warrant
 - setting high standards for protecting the rights of defendants and suspects
 - closer cooperation between Europol and Eurojust under full EP scrutiny.

6. IMPROVING THE DAILY LIFE OF CITIZENS

- stronger protection of consumers in dispute resolution - a horizontal framework setting specific procedures for collective actions and new rules and online platforms for non-judicial resolution methods
- transparent European contract rules
- new and more effective common regulation on matrimonial matters for international couples, based on equal treatment for the different legal forms of union, including property consequences, and parental responsibility
- more effective recognition and enforcement of judgements across Europe
- facilitate access to justice by setting up training programmes for national judges, using the existing networks and adequate EU funding
- provision of a single set of national rules, which will apply to the succession of property in several member states
- simplifying rules on administrative procedures dealt with by European Institutions to make those procedures more accessible and transparent for EU citizens

7. BUILDING A PROSPEROUS EUROPE TOGETHER WITH IMMIGRANTS

- Full respect of fundamental rights and dignity for migrants in immigration policy and integration.
- equal treatment with nationals
- more effective policy on family reunification

8. EUROPE PROTECTING ASYLUM SEEKERS

- high standards for receiving, protecting and integrating asylum seekers
 - further development of the common asylum system
- solidarity between member states and asylum seekers and refugees
 - greater consistency and better quality of asylum decision-making
- burden-sharing between member states

9. PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

- All children, regardless of status, should be protected under the promotion of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child and recognised in the Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Special attention needs to be afforded to the reality facing children vulnerable to trafficking and to exploitative labour situations
- Specific attention to be paid to minors, whether accompanied or not, in order to ensure that they are not held in any form of detention