

Munich European Forum
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Press Release



BUILDING A STRONG EUROPE FOR CITIZENS: 11 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Europe needs Responsible Leadership – a mindset which the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt is reinforcing through its global leadership programs. We believe that everyone can make a crucial contribution to social and political change. People in positions of responsibility especially have an impact on organizations and institutions.

Through the **Munich European Forum on October 25–26**, the BMW Foundation took a clear stance for the principles and goals of a united Europe. The Forum brought together 150 international leaders from politics, business, civil society, and academia, including **Brando Benifei**, member of the European Parliament; **Leonard Doyle**, spokesperson of the International Organization for Migration; **Klaus Fuest**, principal at Roland Berger Holding; **Hannes Jaenicke**, environmentalist and actor; **Ann Mettler**, director-general at the European Commission; **Franziska Brantner**, member of the German Bundestag; **Aida Hadžialić**, former minister for education in Sweden; and **Nicolas Peter**, member of the board of management of BMW Group.

The participants of the Munich European Forum discussed how the EU and its 28 member states can best address the most urgent issues they are facing today. These are their recommendations for action:

1. The Digitization of Jobs – A European Perspective for Citizens

- We call upon the EU to take a strong leadership role in digitization and AI. We also encourage the EU to establish a strong institutional framework to steer policy creation in this area in close collaboration with relevant European stakeholders.
- All citizens should be empowered to demand the information and seek the solutions they need to secure their own employability.
- We encourage European employers and public institutions to award innovation and heavily invest in a move from HR to change-management.

2. Migration and Security – What Europe Can Do to Make Its Citizens Feel More Secure

- Create a common EU strategy on development cooperation: There should be an EU policy abolishing the traditional aid character by using a business partnership approach, especially working on investments for job creation and education to give youth a chance and guarantee safe, orderly and regular migration.
- Don't use migration as a pretext for explaining EU citizens' feeling of insecurity; rather focus on real reasons for insecurity, including rising inequality in most EU societies and people's perception that democracy does not deliver the results they want.

3. A Call for Action: Alliance4Europe

- There is a need for a platform of pro-European NGOs that has broad acceptance, a simple, powerful message, and that can act quickly. Alliance4Europe is offering such a platform. It was launched at the Munich European Forum as an ambitious civic platform to energize the pro-European movements.
- There is a need to make people aware of the increasing threat to the European project, and to mobilize them to engage in a common European vision and participate in the 2019 European Election.
- There is a need to convince business leaders that they can make an important contribution to strengthen Europe and to defend the European civic and economic model.

4. Circular Europe: A Powerful Force for Climate Mitigation

By adopting a circular economy model, Europe's industry can forcefully fight climate change:

- Europe should lead by example and enable carbon-related import tariffs, higher EU carbon taxes, and innovation for "Low and Zero Carbon" (LZC).
- A circular economy could serve as a driver for job creation – for example, in the repair industry – and can be supported through the redirection of financial tax schemes.
- A Circular Europe can endow a sense of identity and inject new ideas into the European project – for example, when it comes to initiatives such as basic income, capital income tax, and revolutionizing the educational system.