



Pan-European democracy, social justice and environmental sustainability
For a just, sustainable and happy society

Our cooperative modes of action

We build a **cooperative** for **social, economic and political transformation**, whereby we mean that:

- we transform the economy, society and the political system;
- we operate as a cooperative, recognised at EU level under the statute of a [European Cooperative Society](#).

We unite the people that work and act together - that **cooperate** - in a **democratic** way, at the scale of the **European Union**, towards making our vision of a **just, sustainable and happy society** for the 21st century, the [Society of Agreement](#), a reality.

What are our cooperative modes of action, as private persons, as an organisation and in public sphere? Each of these questions is answered in greater detail below.



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1 Summary

Considering the magnitude and the urgency of the issues to be addressed, we start acting **here** and **now**, within the social and economic system defined by the existing legal, regulatory and public budget framework:

- we **support each other** in our collective, reproducible initiatives that transform society towards social justice and environmental sustainability;
- we perform innovative **production activities** as an organisation, in which we prototype, in an economically self-sustaining manner, those that will need to be mainstreamed in the Society of Agreement.

When the existing legal, regulatory and public budget framework hinders the transformation towards the Society of Agreement, we transform it by exercising **political responsibilities** in parliaments and governments to implement the **public policies** that we have jointly and democratically defined. Thereby we mobilise, at all scales from the municipality to the European Union, the powerful, concentrated, coordinated and large-scale **instruments** of **public authorities**, namely **regulation**, **public spending** and **taxation**. We thus **participate** in **democratic elections** to be elected to these positions of political responsibility.

We stage our efforts in time along a long-term **30-40-50 Strategy** in three parallel axes, with staggered objectives:

2 We start acting here and now, as cooperating individuals and as an organisation

Considering the magnitude and the urgency of the global challenges of the 21st century, we start acting **here** and **now**, within the social and economic system defined by the existing legal, regulatory and public budget framework.

At the scale of small groups of Cooperators, we support each other in our collective actions that transform the economy and society towards the Society of Agreement. In such small groups, we perform local, but reproducible, improvements to the current social and economic order. Our intention is that these actions be reproduced and adapted across the whole European Union. We call such actions **Transformational Actions**.

As an organisation, the CosmoPolitical Cooperative engages in innovative, economically self-sustaining productive activities supporting the transition to the Society of Agreement. Thereby, the CosmoPolitical Cooperative tests and validates the forward-looking prototypes of the just and sustainable productive activities that are to be implemented at large scale in the Society of Agreement. We call such activities **Social Entrepreneurship Activities**.

These immediate and local actions have a large potential to move society towards the Society of



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Agreement. Many associations and collectives¹ have already started to build networks of all kinds disseminating good practices and information. The CosmoPolitical Cooperative joins this movement by mobilising the tools of a cooperative: (1) mutual support in hours of competent volunteer work; (2) financial support from its budget and (3) the capacity to engage in economically self-sustaining productive activities.

However, as those that pioneer the transition to a more just and more sustainable society often experience, the economic and social framework, based on the existing laws, regulations and public budgets (taxation, social contributions, nature and amount of public spending) is in many respects an obstacle preventing their initiatives from growing beyond favourable niche markets and from becoming mainstream, with a systemic transformational capacity.

The CosmoPolitical Cooperative does not give up when its immediate and local actions are hindered by the existing economic, social and legal framework. The CosmoPolitical Cooperative does not shy away from **transforming** it, by leveraging the existing **democratic** institutions, and by acting directly in the **political** field to **exert responsibilities** in **public authorities** of all sizes (from the municipality to the European Union).

Thereby, we engage in a **continuous** field of actions, from that performed by a collective of individuals in their private capacity to large-scale public policies. The reasons why we choose to act also in the political field, at a pan-European scale, are described hereafter.

3 We mobilise the power of public authorities, in a long-term 30-40-50 Strategy, to go beyond what is achievable with private means

3.1 Only public authorities can coordinate the fast and large-scale action required in the finite and predictable world of the 21st century

The "invisible hand" of market mechanisms may have been efficient in conquering the Wild West of the exploitation of seemingly unlimited natural and digital resources and opportunities over the last two centuries, and in providing mass consumer goods at a low price (part of the reason for this low price being that natural, human and social capital was consumed without being accounted for). Market mechanisms have however miserably failed to address properly the needs of the transition to sustainability over the last 50 years.

We do not trust them to be able to do so in the future, for a fundamental reason. Decentralised action is efficient to explore and conquer a new, unpredictable territory, which the discovery of fossil fuels and of semiconductor technologies opened up over the period 1780 to 2020. The 21st century is very different: it is a world of finite, stringently limited resources, where the main environmental and social trends are fully predictable, and where humankind operates under a very

¹ Such as the [Presencing Institute](#) based in the United States of America, the [Mouvement des Colibris](#) in France, the [GLS Bank Futopolis](#) in Germany...



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tight schedule (climate neutrality in 2050), established by laws of physics with which no negotiation of delays is possible.

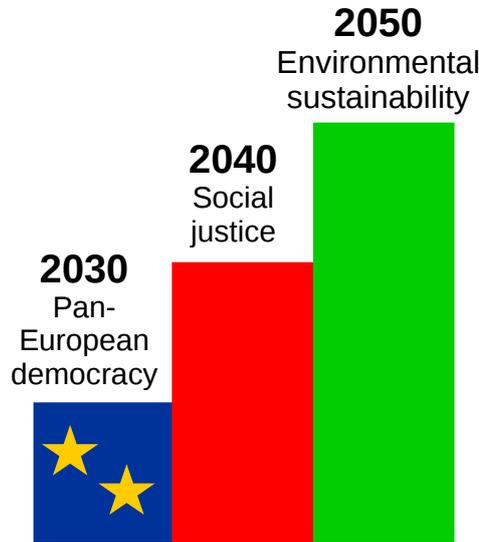
This is why, in addition and as a complement to our immediate, local action described above (§ 2), we believe that only a centralised, coordinated and planned effort, performed by **democratically elected and controlled public authorities**, is able to manage the limited resources of this finite and predictable environment, under a very tight schedule, and to perform the necessary transformation of society on time, far beyond what is achievable by the uncoordinated dissemination and replication of local initiatives.

Democratically elected and controlled public authorities have three tools at their disposal: **regulation, taxation and public spending**. They are powerful and concentrated. They coordinate and synchronise the efforts of many private and public players at a large scale, while ensuring that none free-rides over the efforts made by others. They are the most efficient, and most probably the only, means to implement the deep and comprehensive transformations needed to reach the Society of Agreement on time, in 2050 or before. This is why we mobilise the "**visible hand**" of public authorities to achieve our strategic goal.

3.2 We aim at implementing the Society of Agreement in a long-term 30-40-50 Strategy

The scope and speed of the transformation needed to reach the Society of Agreement from the situation in 2019 is such that it requires to exercise efforts in a staged way, reaching objectives one after the other, and making sure that each intermediate milestone supports the achievement of the next.

We thus choose to reach the Society of Agreement in a long-term **30-40-50 Strategy**, where the three pillars of the Society of Agreement are pursued in three parallel axes of effort, but with staggered objectives.



**30-40-50 Strategy
towards the Society of Agreement**

Milestone	Political objective	Examples of concrete achievements
2030: pan-European democracy	The EU is a powerful and united political player, able to impose its democratic decisions to the economic and financial interests of multi-national corporations and of the richest 1%.	All Members of the European Parliament are elected in trans-national lists. The veto right of Member States in the Council is removed on all matters. All debates and votes in the Council are public. The European Council gathering the heads of State and of government is dissolved. The "universality principle" has replaced subsidiarity.
2040: social justice	All citizens are confident about their future and about the fair sharing of resources. They are ready to engage in the deep changes brought by the transition to sustainability.	Unemployment rate is below 2% (frictional rate). Long-term unemployment rate is 0%. All incomes are within a 1 to 3 ratio after social and fiscal contributions and benefits. All inherited wealth lies within a 1 to 5 ratio after fiscal contributions.
2050: environmental sustainability	The European Union is on track and on time to limit global	Emissions of greenhouse effect gases related to EU consumption



Milestone	Political objective	Examples of concrete achievements
	warming below 1.5°C. It has stopped deteriorating its natural capital.	have reached a level below zero. Net-zero consumption of soil and of freshwater reserves. Biodiversity loss has reverted to pre-industrial rates. Populations of common wild species providing essential ecological services to soil and plants (insects, worms) have reverted to pre-1950 levels.

3.3 We aim at exercising political responsibilities ourselves in public authorities at all scales

We are **disappointed** by what the **existing political forces** in the European Union propose in 2019 to address the global environmental and social issues of the 21st century. Very few of them seem to have realised the scope and speed of the transformation necessary for our societies to reach environmental sustainability. Environmentalists consider social issues as a "nice to have" feature in their programme, and generally restrict it to gender issues and non-discrimination of people from minorities. Socialists and social-democrats give lip service to sustainability, but fall short of any action as soon as employment is threatened. Radical leftists integrate some environmental concerns to their originally social struggle – but favour a defensive "resistance" at national or sub-national scale, whereas what is needed is powerful, offensive transformation at the largest scale possible. None of them places all three pillars of the Society of Agreement on an equal footing, in a mutually-supporting role.

We have therefore given up attempting to influence these political forces from the outside. We **rely on ourselves** to transform the European Union towards the Society of Agreement. We thus aim at **exercising political responsibilities** in the parliaments and governments of public authorities.

In order to do so, we **participate in political elections**, with the purpose of being elected, and of bearing **full political responsibility** for our choices and proposals.

Our primary targets are those elections and positions of responsibility taking decisions at the scale of the whole European Union, and where we leverage our fully pan-European structure: the **European Parliament**, where we aim at creating a political group².

We also aim at participating in national, regional or local governments, because they face common issues, which deserve being solved using common solutions defined at large scale, and implemented in a coordinated way. In addition, Member States in the European Union govern the

2 The conditions for this is to group at least 25 Members of the European Parliament (in a total of 751, i.e. 3% of the ballots), from at least one-quarter of Member States, i.e. from 7 Member States in the configuration of the Union of 2019.



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major fraction of public spending³, and some essential tools of social justice, such as the social security systems⁴. Political action at national scale and below is thus necessary for us to implement our political objectives. Finally, the national governments build the Council of the European Union, the upper chamber representing the Member States, on a par in the ordinary legislative procedure with the Parliament representing directly the people. Implementing our political programme at the scale of the EU thus requires to be present in the Council as well as in the Parliament.

We participate **directly**, as a pan-European organisation, in the elections where the active and passive voting right is open to all citizens of the European Union, even when they are not nationals of their country of residence: the elections to the **European Parliament** and the **municipal** elections. Where the national legislation so requires, we participate indirectly in elections restricted to nationals of a given Member State, via our affiliated "national organisations".

3 The budget of the European Union in the period 2013 – 2020 is less than 1% of its total GDP, whereas the public spending of Member States ranges from 20 to 45% of their national GDP.

4 Art. 21 and 153 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) accessible in all official languages of the EU at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=en>