

Manifesto for Freedom, Self-Determination and a Free Europe

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"Freedom rarely disappears overnight. It is lost in small steps -- through well-intentioned laws, new exceptions and ever more control."

I am a citizen of the world. I travel extensively, I build companies in multiple countries, I compare systems first-hand. I could live and work almost anywhere -- and that is precisely why I write this not as someone who has to, but as someone who wants to: Europe is worth defending.

I believe in democracy, the rule of law, science and progress. Above all, I believe in free people -- not managed ones.

Europe was built on freedom, human dignity, property, free speech, privacy and personal responsibility. None of this is self-evident, and none of it endures on its own. This manifesto is not directed against Europe. It is directed against the creeping erosion of the very freedoms that made Europe strong.

Freedom Dies Quietly

History shows: freedom almost never disappears through a single dramatic cut. It changes slowly -- with every new register, every additional documentation requirement, every database, every small restriction that sounds reasonable in isolation. That is precisely why citizens must remain vigilant. Not out of fear, but out of responsibility.

What Is Changing Right Now

The EU has passed or initiated a whole series of laws in recent years that deeply intervene in digital and economic life: the Anti-Money Laundering package, the European Digital Identity Wallet, the Digital Services Act, the AI Act, new cybersecurity rules, biometric border systems like EES and ETIAS. Each of these regulations pursues legitimate goals. But in aggregate, they change the relationship between citizen and state.

Cash Is Printed Freedom

Cash is more than paper. It enables economic self-determination, protects privacy and creates independence from technical systems, accounts and corporations. A modern society may promote digital payment methods -- but it must never effectively displace cash. Freedom means freedom of choice.

Confidential Communication Is Not a Crime

A free society needs confidential communication. Strong end-to-end encryption does not protect perpetrators -- it protects journalists, lawyers, doctors, businesses, whistleblowers and every single citizen. Anyone who weakens

secure encryption weakens the security of all.

Digital Control Needs Boundaries

The internet was once the freest space that ever existed. Today, platforms under regulatory pressure remove too much rather than too little. Border security is a legitimate task. But the larger these systems become, the more important transparency, independent oversight, clear deletion deadlines and effective legal recourse become.

Innovation Needs Room to Breathe

I am not opposed to technology -- on the contrary, I build with AI and new technologies myself. The AI Act sets global standards, and rules against misuse are right. But Europe must not forget where prosperity comes from: from bold researchers, developers and entrepreneurs.

Ten Principles of Freedom

- 1. Permanently secure cash**
Legally guaranteed, unrestricted use.
- 2. Privacy by Default**
Data minimization as the default setting, not an option.
- 3. Protect strong encryption**
No backdoors, never.
- 4. No mass surveillance without cause**
Surveillance only with concrete suspicion and judicial control.
- 5. Sunset clauses for surveillance laws**
Every intrusive law expires automatically if it fails to prove its worth.
- 6. Independent oversight of state data collections**
Those who collect data are themselves subject to control.
- 7. Regulation with expiry dates and evaluation**
Every rule must regularly prove that it is necessary.
- 8. Comprehensible laws**
A law that no ordinary person can understand is not a good law.
- 9. Freedom for those who build**
Less bureaucracy for founders, innovators and entrepreneurs.
- 10. Technology serves people**
Not people serving the system.

My Call to Action

No government is infallible. Democracy thrives on the limitation of power, on the right to question laws and for citizens to dissent. It is not blind trust that protects freedom -- it is the control of state power that protects freedom.

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I wish for a Europe that people choose -- not one they escape from. Freedom is not a privilege. It is the prerequisite for democracy. And it is worth defending anew by every generation.

For freedom. For self-determination.

For a strong, democratic and free Europe.

Kurt Traxl