

EUROPEAN RESILIENCE SUMMIT

MANIFESTO

Context

Europe is in a state of profound uncertainty. The principles that have underpinned our prosperity and security for decades are under pressure. Meanwhile, technological disruption, geopolitical turbulence and the fragility of our infrastructure confront us daily with reminders of our vulnerability. The temptation is to seek safety in walls and borders. However, history shows us that Europe has always been at its strongest when it has established shared processes, trusted institutions and collaborative frameworks.

Why

Resilience means more than just survival; it signifies the ability to flourish in times of disruption. It is not based on the illusion of perfect control. Rather, it is the capacity to adapt, recover and move forward when external pressures alter the course of events. In this sense, resilience is a mindset that calls on us to be the change rather than wait for it.

Four Dimensions

At the summit, we used four guiding questions to turn resilience into a practical reality.

- 1- How can we strengthen organisations against digital and systemic threats while protecting people, devices, applications, and data, and keeping costs and complexity manageable?
- 2- How can Europe establish resilient industries in key sectors such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, energy and defence, creating clusters that can compete globally and reduce dependencies?
- 3- How can we integrate global platforms on Europe's terms, combining the advantages of hyperscalers and world-class technologies with safeguards that preserve sovereignty?
- 4- How can we foster a shared culture of resilience by building networks of trust and communities of practice that collaborate in times of peace and stand together in times of crisis?

Engagement Principles

A set of principles for engagement emerged from these questions.

- Resilience begins with people. The resilience of individuals underpins the resilience of institutions, and it is through this combination that the resilience of societies is created.
- Resilience demands that we think in terms of flows rather than walls, managing interdependencies instead of pretending they can be wished away.
- Thriving in times of disruption requires an honest acknowledgement of vulnerabilities, a willingness to collaborate across borders and sectors, and the discipline to transform ideas into action.

Emerging Themes

Across the discussions, several themes stood out. One was the call for sovereignty grounded in pragmatism: Europe should not pursue autarky, but instead set the terms of its integration with the world. Another was the central role of infrastructure, from energy-efficient chips to resilient supply chains, as the bedrock of long-term resilience. Communication and perception also emerged as vital, since resilience is not only technical but also social; societies cannot act without awareness and urgency. Prevention, rather than reaction, was a recurring point: strengthening organisations, building networks, and establishing trust before crises occur. Above all, participants agreed that resilience is inseparable from Europe's democratic values of openness, cooperation, and freedom. Defending these values amid disruption is at the heart of the European idea.

This manifesto is not the end but the beginning of a shared journey. The work continues in Paris this December, then in London, Vienna, and back to Berlin in 2026, each step expanding the network, deepening the practice, and testing how Europe can truly thrive in times of disruption.

First drafted by the Advisory Board, then rewritten in Berlin by the community itself.
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Thriving in times of disruption.