



Paris, 27 June 2026

The Enlarged Council of the Presidency of the International Pan-European Union adopted, at the meeting held in Paris on 27 June 2026

Pan-European Resolution

Integrating Candidate Countries into Europe's Strategic Autonomy

Considering that the European Union is facing a profound reshaping of its geopolitical environment, marked by the return of war to the continent, the hardening of power relations, the instrumentalisation of economic, energy, technological and informational dependencies, as well as the multiplication of foreign interference;

Considering that the prospect of accession must be preserved, clarified and strengthened, without creating an intermediate status likely to substitute for full membership for countries that meet the required criteria;

Considering that the countries candidate for accession to the European Union are not merely States intended to join the Union at a later stage, but are already actors in the security, stability and resilience of the European continent;

Considering that enlargement can no longer be conceived solely as an institutional, legal and economic process, but must also be understood as a strategic instrument serving European security, democratic resilience and Europe's autonomy;

Considering that the European Political Community has helped recreate a continent-wide space for political dialogue, but does not, in itself, constitute an operational mechanism for the progressive integration of candidate countries into the strategic policies of the European Union;

Considering, finally, that European strategic autonomy cannot be conceived as the sole project of the current Member States, but must involve the countries that share Europe's political, security and democratic future;

Pan-Europe calls for:

Article 1 — Creating a strategic association of candidate countries (the Western Balkan countries, as well as Ukraine and Moldova)

The establishment of a framework for the strategic association of candidate countries for European accession, distinct from the European Political Community, allowing their progressive participation in certain European policies relating to security, resilience, energy, infrastructure, industry and the fight against foreign interference.

Article 2 — Preserving the prospect of accession

This framework must under no circumstances constitute an alternative to accession. On the contrary, it must enable candidate countries to prepare more rapidly and more concretely for the responsibilities linked to membership of the European Union.

Article 3 — Associating candidate countries with security and defence policies

Candidate countries that meet the necessary political conditions should be able to be associated, under appropriate arrangements, with European initiatives relating to the security of the continent, military mobility, the protection of critical infrastructure, support for Ukraine and civil resilience.

Article 4 — Integrating candidate countries into economic and energy resilience strategies

The European Union must identify, together with candidate countries, common vulnerabilities in the fields of energy, value chains, transport, logistics, digital connectivity and strategic supply, in order to build joint projects aimed at reducing critical dependencies.

Article 5 — Building a European community of democratic resilience

PanEurope calls for the creation of a common mechanism between the European Union, its Member States and candidate countries to counter foreign interference, information manipulation, cyberattacks and attempts at electoral destabilisation.

Article 6 — Making this association conditional upon respect for the rule of law

Participation in this strategic association must be conditional upon respect for democratic principles, the rule of law, freedom of the press, the independence of the judiciary and progressive alignment with European positions on foreign and security policy.

Article 7 — Making enlargement a lever of European power

PanEurope affirms that enlargement must be understood not as a mere expansion of the market, but as a strategy for the geopolitical consolidation of the European continent. The European Union's strategic autonomy will only be credible if it involves the countries that already contribute to its security, resilience and political future.

Pavo Barišić

President of the International Pan-European Union