



PARTY MANIFESTO 2017–2021

**Everyone
participates.**

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Our values and our time

The Norwegian Labour Party's goal is freedom, opportunities and security for everyone.

The best way we can achieve this is through unity.

The labour movement has fought to create a society that ensures that people have access to knowledge, welfare and ownership of the country's rich natural resources. A well-organised working life and a society with minimal social and financial differences have been crucial to the high level of trust that Norwegians place in each other and in the authorities.

We now see that this is being threatened. Social and financial divisions have increased. Employment growth has stagnated. Unemployment has risen. More people are being excluded. The economic outlook requires us to prioritise more strictly going forward.

However, an important part of the labour movement's legacy is the knowledge that people create their own history. We create our own future. We create our own country.

This party programme emphasises seizing the opportunities that exist in our own time.

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Work is the key to freedom and independence for the individual. It is also the basis for growth and value creation for our country. It is the prerequisite for our welfare model. Everyone has to contribute because everyone is needed.

Thus, work is the party programme's common thread.

The greatest differences in prosperity and welfare are between those who are employed and those who are not employed. Thus, security in being able to obtain work and security when in work are the most important factors for reducing the social and financial disparities between people.

Future growth must take place in accordance with the two intergenerational contracts we have entered into with our successors. We are responsible for preserving values for the generations that come after us. We are responsible for ensuring that growth and value creation happen in a way that is sustainable for nature.

Our country is unique. We live in cities, villages, along fjords and on hillsides. We wish to utilise this long and diverse country in its entirety.

Nature has given us many advantages, the most important of which is the sea. No other country is in a better position than Norway to lead the way in developing opportunities offered by the sea. We will continue to prioritise such strategically important industries, in which our country has a special advantage. This will strengthen us as a technological and industrial nation. This will create growth and jobs.

The years ahead will test our ability to deal with change. New, green industries will be established. Technology and digitalization will play a key role in the workplace in every sector, at every level. Technological development offers huge opportunities. Patients can receive quicker and better help. Our elderly population can live free and independent lives for longer.

At the same time, new requirements may exclude more people from working life. Workers' rights may come under renewed pressure. Data protection could be challenged.

Our task is to ensure that everyone can benefit from technological development, develop their skills and feel secure in their rights. Consequently, technological development will offer people and companies further opportunities and contribute to growth and value creation.

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The European cooperation is experiencing a lot of tension. The situation regarding security policy is less predictable. Extreme ideologies are making their presence felt in several locations.

The labour movement is international. Our work for freedom, opportunities and security does not stop at our national borders. A more just world is also a more stable world. Our goals for Norway can be best realised if we help strengthen international organisations, international law and human rights for everyone.

The Norwegian Labour Party will fight for equal opportunities and workers' rights so that people in other parts of the world also have an opportunity to live free lives. The same applies to freedom of speech and religious freedom.

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Solidarity is not just about looking after those become excluded. It is also about looking after each other. Everyone might at some point stand alone, but each one of us is stronger when we stand together.

We live in an age where there are forces that pit groups against each other. Us against them, men against women, town against countryside. To stand outside is the beginning of marginalisation and exclusion. This is where an individual may start experiencing either little or no sense of communal responsibility.

Historically, the labour movement has striven to bring people together. This initiative is needed again. We will create a Norway in which people can be different but equal. We will create a Norway in which everyone contributes, because everyone is needed. Everyone participates.

Economy and finance

The last four years have been characterised by an increasing level of unemployment. Economic growth has been low. Divisions in society have increased. The phasing in of oil revenues has been far above the recommended level.

In the years ahead, economic latitude will be more constricted. Expenditure on retirement pensions will increase as there will be more elderly people. Population growth will result in greater expenditure within municipalities and health trusts. The Norwegian Labour Party believes that the level at which oil revenues have been spent over the last four years is not sustainable, and that the latitude available must be used towards building the country, not cutting taxes.

Even if Norwegian oil and gas production will be essential to Norwegian industry for many years to come, we have seen a change of pace in investment in this industry. This has ripple effects in large parts of the Norwegian economy, through reduced onshore demand and a lower supply of oil revenues to the Government Pension Fund Global (SPU). We will ensure that the SPU is sustainably managed and that responsible use of oil revenues above national budgets is ensured in the long-term.

Work is our most important resource. Our ability to finance the future welfare state depends on how successful we are at including everyone in working life. Everyone who can work, must work.

Optimal distribution gives Norway a vital competitive edge. Coordinated wage formation, taxation and transfers, as well as public sector services such as education and the health service contribute to redistribution, less divisions, greater social mobility and greater opportunities for more people.

The Norwegian Labour Party will have an efficient public sector. Public sector growth shall take place in the production of services, not through bureaucracy. The Norwegian Labour Party will slow down the growth in bureaucracy of recent years. Bureaucratising reforms will be halted or phased out. We need a change of pace in the digitalization of the public sector. We will intensify investment in the digitalization of public services. The use of management by objectives in the public sector will be limited. Fewer goals and a decreased burden of reporting will give public sector employees more time to carry out actual tasks.

The degree of implementation of the Norwegian Labour Party's programme for 2017–2021 will depend on the frameworks dictated by economic development.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Use financial policy actively to combat unemployment and increased divisions
- Comply with the budgetary rule for a reasonable phasing in of oil revenues
- Ensure market access through the EEA agreement and work in tandem in EU bodies to safeguard the opportunities for Norwegian companies to compete on equal terms in the European market

TAXATION AND DUTY

The Norwegian Labour Party will have a taxation and duty system that stimulates work and value creation, strengthens Norwegian companies and contributes to fair distribution and a better environment. We must have a level of tax that makes it possible to finance optimal welfare services and other tasks that we can best resolve together. The welfare state is the result of everyone chipping in. Paying tax according to your ability is one of the most important contributions we can make to ensure welfare and opportunities for

everyone.

During the last parliamentary period, the political majority in the Norwegian Parliament has significantly increased the budget deficit. Growth expenditure has been high while revenues have been reduced through tax cuts. As a consequence, growth in the use of oil revenues has reached a level that is unsustainable over time.

Tax cuts in the period 2014–2017 have primarily benefited the most affluent in Norway. The cuts have not yielded results in the form of more jobs and economic growth, but have primarily contributed to increasing social divisions.

The Norwegian Labour Party will reverse this trend. A more sustainable financial policy is required, coupled to a taxation and duty policy that offers better distribution and increased employment. Our election campaign ahead of the 2017–2021 parliamentary period will focus on a tax profile and a total taxation and duty level that is consistent with our proposal for the National Budget for 2017 and completion of the tax reform for corporate taxation from 2016.

This tax profile entails ordinary tax incomes being taxed at around the same level as today or lower, while assets and higher incomes will be subject to increased taxation. The taxation system will be actively used to stimulate environment-friendly choices and better public health.

The tax settlement from 2016 will make it more profitable to invest in Norwegian jobs. This means that the corporate tax rate will be further reduced while the dividend tax rate will increase, tax loopholes will be closed and there will be a tightening of the option to move income for the sole purpose of avoiding tax.

We will intensify the fight against the black economy. Many international companies currently operating in Norway pay minimal tax. The Norwegian Labour Party, in collaboration with other countries, will introduce regulations that increase the tax revenues from these companies.

The Norwegian Labour Party will have an efficient public sector. Public sector growth shall take place in the production of services, not through government bureaucracy. The Norwegian Labour Party will slow down the growth in bureaucracy of recent years. A change of pace in the digitalization of the public sector is crucial for a more efficient public sector.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Operate a predictable and responsible tax policy that provides increased employment, a more just distribution and better long-term sustainability for the welfare state
- Complete the tax settlement from 2016 to strengthen the competitiveness of Norwegian companies
- Stimulate fair distribution and employment by ensuring that ordinary wage incomes are taxed as today or lower, in accordance with our alternative budget for 2017
- Strengthen the use of climate and environmental taxes so that polluters pay
- Ensure increased tax revenues, in collaboration with other countries, from international companies operating in Norway
- Reduce the possibility of artificial income adjustment through rapid follow-up of the OECD's BEPS recommendations and measures for increased financial transparency
- Intensify the work against the black economy
- Slow down bureaucratic growth and implement a change of pace in public sector digitalization

CAPITAL FLIGHT AND THE BLACK ECONOMY

In order for the tax system to work, it must have legitimacy. The tax burden must be fair, and people must feel that they are getting something in return for their tax money. The will to pay the appropriate tax is greater if you know that everyone else is doing the same. Thus, there should be openness, transparency and a democratic debate on taxation and capital flight.

The battle against tax evasion has been high on the agenda of the Norwegian Labour Party for a long time. In recent years, we have gained a majority for our proposals regarding the creation of a public ownership register in order to ensure transparency regarding ownership in Norwegian companies, and an extended country-by-country reporting, so that Norwegian companies must report their incomes in subsidiaries registered in tax havens. This work must be followed up in the next four-year period.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Increase resources to the Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime and the Norwegian Tax Administration, in order to detect financial crime
- Ensure that multi-national companies with financial activities in Norway are taxed in Norway
- Follow-up the tax settlement's proposals for increased transparency and to counter tax evasion
- Review legislation to ensure that it can withstand any artificial tax arrangements

REGULATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS

The international financial crisis of 2008 confirmed that the market cannot be left to its own devices. Political control of financial markets is necessary through regulations that can prevent crises and ensure trust, democratic scrutiny, while also protecting consumer interests.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Implement the necessary measures to ensure a stable and well-functioning financial market
- Ensure a responsible lending practice from financial institutions in Norway, and limit the possibility of private persons accumulating unmanageable, unsecured debt

GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND

To protect people's pensions, administration of the Government Pension Fund Abroad will continue to be undertaken with a view to achieving the highest possible level of return with a moderate risk level, and within the ethical guidelines. For example, the fund shall be among the most prominent funds in the world in its work for human rights, workers' rights and a better climate.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Further develop the investment strategy for the Government Pension Fund Abroad with a view to achieving the highest possible level of return with a moderate risk level, and within the ethical guidelines
- Review the fund's guidelines for investments in tax havens





Work

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF INVESTMENT

Create new jobs

We will create optimal framework conditions for industry and new jobs. A responsible financial policy and tripartite cooperation between employee organisations, employer organisations and the authorities are the basis for succeeding in creating new jobs. Industry also needs predictable and optimal framework conditions. We will particularly invest in strategically important industries where (i) growth and value creation potential is significant (ii) where we have a natural or skills-based advantage, and (iii) where there are major synergy effects with technology and expertise across industries.

Skills reform for working life

Few global societies stipulate such high requirements for skills as ours. Few societies have such good conditions for utilising and developing skills as we do. Investment in skills and proficiency is particularly important when dealing with digitalization and automation in all parts of working life. In conjunction with parties in working life, the Norwegian Labour Party will implement a skills reform. This will offer the individual clearer rights, provide businesses and enterprises with more opportunities and bring educational institutions closer to working life. The skills reform shall provide increased competitiveness for companies and enterprises, as well as knowledge and opportunities for the individual employee.

A secure working life

Everybody is entitled to a secure working day. Secure workers also give Norwegian companies and industries a competitive edge. This security is now being threatened in parts of working life. We want to renew and strengthen the Working Environment Act in conjunction with parties in working life and ensure that permanent, full-time positions become the main rule in our working life. Norway has room to manoeuvre and tidy up a broad range of critical conditions of working life to protect against social dumping and ensure that Norwegian pay and working conditions prevail. The Norwegian Labour Party guarantees that in Norway we will combat social dumping and working life crime.

Get young people working

Increasingly more young people are excluded from working life. We want to have a labour market with space for everyone, and we will reform the work assessment allowance and disability benefit schemes. Young persons who receive social security benefits, and who are able to work to some extent, shall be expected to participate and receive a job guarantee that ensures a genuine opportunity to combine social security benefits and work.

Protect state ownership

The government shall be an owner in strategically important parts of Norwegian industry. This protects joint ownership of infrastructure and natural resources and means that important centres of excellence remain in Norway. The Norwegian Labour Party therefore says a resounding no to reducing state ownership.

For the Norwegian Labour Party, work for everyone is a number one priority. Security in being given work and security when you are working provides security and freedom to the individual, better social inclusion, increased equality and income to the community. We want to strengthen organised, decent working life so that ordinary working people receive better working conditions.

Norway shall have Europe's lowest level of unemployment, the most well-functioning labour market and, thereby, be one of the best countries in the world in which to run a business. We will make provision for the creation of more jobs. Success is founded on responsible economic policy and tripartite cooperation between employee organisations, employer organisations and the authorities. Our rich access to natural resources and a highly skilled population have been and shall continue to be our most important competitive edge. Norwegian welfare is dependent on productivity and value creation among the best in the world.

If we are to achieve an increase in value creation, we need both the established, major locomotives and the innovative, start-up companies willing to take a risk. Running a business and creating growth must be possible throughout the entire country.

Public sector jobs shall help the entire country to be utilised. The Norwegian Labour Party would like an active policy to improve the quality of services, increase competitiveness and develop strong regional labour markets.

Read more about our policy for creating new jobs in part 2.

DIGITALIZATION

Digitalization creates major new opportunities for Norwegian business. Industry can move back home, and new technology companies can emerge. Uncritical and short-sighted roll-out of new technology could challenge our social and working life model. Policy plays a key role and is responsible for ensuring that technology is utilised in a way that creates a good society for everyone. To seize the opportunities, companies, research communities, educational institutions and the government must work more closely together.

We need a change of pace in the digitalization of the public sector. This will lead to better and more individually adapted services for citizens and ensure better utilisation of resources in the public sector. This is intended to form the basis for both technological export companies and new services being developed by making available data and functionality.

A good digital infrastructure is equally important as roads, railways and other basic infrastructure. This part of society's foundation must also be developed throughout the country. Critical digital infrastructure must be protected.

A digital future must include everyone. This will also be about skills and proficiency in commissioning the technology. The first prerequisite is adequate infrastructure. Citizens and industry throughout the country must have access to high-capacity networks, and Norway should be a leading player in Europe. It is the responsibility of government to facilitate this.

The rapid development of technology, large data volumes and artificial intelligence pave the way for machines to increasingly perform tasks that, until now, have been performed by humans alone. This fourth industrial revolution will require major adaptation within society, working life, industry and the public sector. Norway is particularly well placed to take a leading position internationally in the field of data storage. Renewable and inexpensive electricity, a cold climate and stable system of government makes us particularly attractive, and is an advantage we must exploit. We want to make provision for this development and ensure that Norway is proactive and assumes a leading role

within technological development, skills enhancement and innovation, so that the technological change will provide joint benefits in the form of new jobs in the future and value creation. This requires close cooperation between politicians, industry and research, both nationally and internationally.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

Digitalization of the public sector:

- Make provision for digitalization in central and local government to ensure better services
- Strengthen the technological expertise in key decision-making positions so that the government has a better basis for its decision-making, which includes the use and development of technological solutions
- Utilise big data to improve public services and business development, within the boundaries of data protection
- Adopt a fundamental principle regarding open application interfaces (OPIs) for both functionality and data in connection with digitalization of public services
- Draw up a strategy for the data centre industry in a collaboration between central and local government

Business development through digitalization:

- Draw up a strategy for how Norwegian industry utilises digital opportunities to strengthen its competitiveness – ensure follow-up of Norway's digital status in collaboration with leading companies and centres of excellence
- Establish a national project for the development of artificial intelligence and unmanned technology
- Ensure that we possess a high level of technological expertise in the population, thereby lowering the threshold for commissioning new solutions, including via a skills reform
- Better access to technological expertise in Norway, through, for example, increased recruitment, more student places and strengthened knowledge environments
- Create a tripartite strategy for digitalization of industry and business and establish a programme for digitalization of industry
- Establish Digital 21 for better collaboration between industry, research and the authorities in accordance with the model of the already implemented "21 investments"
- Ensure that companies in the sharing economy contribute to the good of society just like traditional industries

Digital infrastructure:

- Everyone shall have access to a basic digital infrastructure
- Create new public sector jobs throughout the country via the opportunities offered by digital communication
- Include a digital infrastructure plan to ensure high-capacity Internet access where there is no basis for commercial development, as well to as assess how technological solutions of the future can influence the need for infrastructure development
- Make provision for investment in green data centres
- Make provision for the establishment of increased fibre capacity to countries outside Norway

SKILLS REFORM FOR WORKING LIFE

Automation and digitalization will fundamentally change working life and require us to work in different ways than previously. This will benefit Norway's competitiveness. Few countries in the world have such a skilled workforce as Norway.

This also means that more people must master new technology. More people change jobs more often. This reinforces the political responsibility to ensure that everyone is offered the possibility of learning what is necessary to master their existing job or a new job, and to be able to endure a lifetime of demanding work. Thus, the Norwegian Labour Party, in conjunction with parties in working life, will implement a skills reform for working life.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

In conjunction with parties in working life:

- Ensure that long-term work is undertaken to cover the skills requirements of working life, both today and in the future
- Develop a “Working life skills agreement” to strengthen the individual worker’s knowledge and mastering
- Establish business and work programmes for training in enterprises and across industries
- Ensure that, through working life agreements, employees gain the right to further education and higher education
- Establish networks for training and exchange across industries and sectors
- Contribute to financing further education and higher education that will improve the individual’s job prospects
- Strengthen the career guidance service in Norway
- Strengthen contact between educational institutions and working life in order to better utilise working life as a training arena, as well as ensure knowledge of and positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship already at school level
- Help educational institutions make better provision for part-time studies

In conjunction with educational institutions:

- Strengthen vocational subjects and the traditional educational pathway
- Ensure that vocational and occupational training, vocational schools, colleges and universities jointly offer relevant programmes that can enhance knowledge and skills in working life
- Adult training organisations shall play a key role in providing adults with a skills boost throughout their lives
- Assess the skills requirements of the future nationally and regionally to better adapt further education and higher education opportunities to the needs of working life, as well as assess the needs of people who are in work

A SECURE WORKING LIFE

Social dumping

The most important way to counter social dumping and working life crime is to strengthen organised working life. Strong and representative organisations on both the employer and employee side are a prerequisite for ensuring equality, security, freedom and co-determination for everyone, regardless of work and level of education.

Social dumping and working life crime must be combated effectively and powerfully, for example, by strengthening the control initiatives of the authorities and by intensifying the work to reduce injuries and fatalities. The most effective tools we have, such as the general application of collective agreements, must be made easier to use.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Design a new plan of action to combat social dumping, working life crime and black labour, with a view to restoring the balance in the tripartite cooperation and strengthen the degree of organisation in Norwegian working life
- Emphasise that the aim of the Working Environment Act is also to provide the

basis for a serious and organised working life

- Further develop industry programmes between working life parties and the government against social dumping and working life crime
- Strengthen statutory whistleblowing protection
- Commence work with a view to ensuring that key ILO conventions shall be incorporated into the Human Rights Act
- Take the initiative to develop Norwegian and international regulations to ensure that heavy transport employees are offered reasonable and dignified working conditions

New requirements to protect pay and working conditions:

- Stipulate requirements regarding apprentices, own employees, maximum limit for number of contractual links, skilled workers and transparent pay and working conditions in public sector tenders and ensure that such requirements are complied with
- Review the regulations for hiring in and hiring out manpower to ensure it supports a safe and secure working life with permanent employment, and ensure the authorities can enforce the regulations and follow up any breach effectively. Regulate the recruitment sector more stringently and ensure that regulations are complied with
- Strengthen the general application scheme and make it easier to utilise, for example, by simplifying documentation requirements.
- Extend joint and several liability to also include the orderer and extend the length of liability to six months
- Ensure employees' requirements for protection, involvement and fundamental corporate-democratic principles in different ownership structures and ensure that HSE responsibility is more clearly placed and followed up in various ownership constellations
- Ensure that particularly vulnerable groups such as young persons, temporary employees and foreign workers receive sufficient training in language, work and safety culture, and, in conjunction with the parties, formulate methods that can provide work and service immigrants with fundamental knowledge about the Norwegian working life model and the Norwegian trade union movement
- Investigate the possibility of stipulating requirements regarding Norwegian pay and working conditions in Norwegian waters and on the Norwegian continental shelf. In the event of a breakthrough for such requirements, we will, in conjunction with the parties, discuss schemes and legislation to implement Norwegian pay and working conditions in Norwegian waters and on the Norwegian continental shelf

Inspection and combating crime:

- Establish multiple inter-disciplinary centres against working life crime, with the aim of setting up a centre in each police district
- Give the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority and the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway more resources and better tools and increase their cooperation with other public agencies
- Help the Police, Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, the Norwegian Tax Administration and NAV perform more unannounced inspections in particularly vulnerable sectors

Increase the degree of organisation:

- Double the trade union deduction
- Implement measures to increase the degree of organisation in working life
- Protect and further develop the Norwegian working life model through a strong and binding tripartite cooperation

The Working Environment Act

The Working Environment Act is one of our most important acts and is one of the mainstays of the Norwegian model. The act provides employees with protection and rights and, in conjunction with agreements between the parties in working life, contains the most important ground rules for working life.

Since the act came into effect, it has been amended on several occasions. We are now facing new, major changes to working life and the act must be adjusted to safeguard the parties' rights and obligations. For example, we now have new players who are challenging the intention and basic principles that the Norwegian working life model is based on. The act must be strengthened and renewed to address these changes. The provisions of the Working Environment Act must be geared to strengthening organised working life. The main rule in Norwegian working life shall be permanent, full-time positions. There shall be a balance between working life and family life, the rights of the individual employee shall be protected, and new employment relationships shall be properly regulated. The Norwegian Labour Party will preserve Sunday as a special day and ensure that Sunday is a day off for as many people as possible.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

Rapidly implement the following changes in the event of a change of government:

- Remove the general availability of temporary employment
- Remove the option to use zero-hour contracts and employment contracts without wages between assignments.

Implement the following changes during the parliamentary period

- In conjunction with parties in working life: Further define "employee" and "employer" in legislation to make it more difficult to circumvent the employer's responsibility or deprive anyone of their employee rights
- Amend the Working Environment Act so that agreements with employee representatives regarding time-limited hiring and deviations from the general working hour provisions of the Working Environment Act may only be entered into if sanctioned by national consensus
- Change the scope of the Working Environment Act in respect of regulating and inspecting petroleum activities, so that activity carried out on vessels in connection with petroleum operations are covered and regulated by Norwegian law
- Strengthen the right to work full time and strengthen the right of first refusal to a higher percentage position
- Introduce the collective right to take action in cases in which there are questions regarding illegal hiring of manpower
- Include work to counter sexual harassment in the Working Environment Act

WORKING LIFE INCLUSION

The Norwegian Labour Party believes that too many people today are excluded from working life. This applies, for example, to many senior citizens, people with reduced functional ability and people who are sick – who all have a lot to contribute. Moreover, in certain immigrant groups, the proportion of unemployed people is far too high. We will make it easier to participate. We will make it more profitable for people who live on social security benefits to participate in working life to some extent. Activity requirements shall be stipulated for recipients of social security.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure that more people struggling to find permanent employment are brought into working life, for example, through different wage subsidy schemes and follow-up and skills enhancement measures

- Strengthen subsidies for training in businesses
- Detect and change practices, structures and legislation that prevent senior citizens from participating in society as they would like to
- Use better tools to provide more people with disabilities access to working life
- Retain the VTA (permanently adapted work) scheme as a part of government job market policy and increase the number of places
- Review the schemes for occupational injuries for Norwegian employees and introduce a scheme that ensures that foreign employees are not left completely without insurance coverage if they sustain work injuries in Norway
- Ensure universal design and accessibility for everyone and enhance expertise in universal design in public sector planning, development and acquisition
- Make provision for improved access to aids to be able to participate in work throughout the country
- Further develop the agreement on an inclusive working life together with working life parties
- Maintain employee rights in the sick pay scheme

New activity reform for young persons

The proportion of unemployed young persons has not been at such a high level for over 10 years and the number of young disabled persons is increasing. The work assessment allowance scheme is not working well enough and many young people who have some working capability are, nonetheless, classed as 100% disabled. A lack of completion of upper secondary school education is an important part of the issue.

Thus, there is a need for increased use of gradation in health-related benefits, strengthened AAP (work assessment allowance) and a genuine opportunity to work when a person is receiving graded disability benefit. We will introduce an activity reform to prevent young persons being excluded from working life, and will offer more young persons the opportunity they need to enter the workplace, participate in the working life community and receive their own income to support themselves.

THE REFORM WILL COMPRISE:

- Better planning, follow-up and implementation of the work assessment allowance scheme so that more people return to work
- Increased use of graded disability benefit
- Giving persons with graded disability benefit the opportunity to use their work capacity. NAV will be given overall responsibility for ensuring that jobs suitable for this group are found in both the public and private sector. Local government will also be obliged to ensure that this group is given jobs. The additional costs of the scheme for local government shall be covered. The scheme will be introduced for persons born during or after 1990

Active working life policy

The speed of change in society is increasing and will contribute to more rapid and extensive adjustments in working life. Globalisation, technological development, climate policy and lower oil investments are examples of driving forces. More rapid adjustments in working life may lead to employees having to change jobs more frequently and update their skills more often than before. The population growth going forward, including growth in the number of elderly persons and more immigrants, is creating an increased need for services through NAV, local government and other parts of the welfare state.

NAV's most important task is to provide the individual with the opportunity to work and use his/her skills in the most optimal way. We are therefore dependent on a service that is capable of catering more for the needs of the individual.

A large part of the population that is dependent on health-related social security benefits is completely or partially outside the labour market. A notable trend in Norway and several European countries is that increasingly more of these people suffer from mental disorders. For many of them, sickness benefit will contribute to exacerbating the mental disorders. We therefore want to contribute to increased follow-up of persons who suffer mentally when they are working.

In order to succeed in dealing with these challenges, NAV's work orientation must continue and be strengthened through increased skills, digitisation and self-service in order to provide better user follow-up. Better collaboration between NAV and the health sector and, correspondingly, with the education sector is crucial. Training and preparation for work could make a valuable contribution to the treatment of, for example, mental disorders. For many young persons, training can be a more appropriate response than work assessment allowance or other measures. Stipulating work requirements will ensure that more people enter the labour market.

A strengthening of working life skills at NAV requires NAV offices to be familiar with the local labour market, and that they work closely with local companies and rehabilitation and growth companies. Use of the ordinary labour market, in combination with different types of follow-up and varying degrees of wage subsidies, should be the most important tool. Work-related measures shall be adapted and shall develop the skills of the individual.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen the role of NAV as an employment service and facilitator for employers and employees through user-friendly digital tools and competent and solution-orientated employees
- Strengthen NAV's working life expertise, including career guidance and supply of manpower
- Give increased latitude to NAV employees so that they can create individual plans for a return to working life based on the user's circumstances
- Enable NAV to perform more labour market measures internally, while rehabilitation companies and other non-commercial companies shall be the predominant suppliers of services to persons with reduced functional ability. Both NAV and measure organisers should use ordinary jobs to a greater extent (in combination with wage subsidies and follow-up according to requirements), as this has been shown to give the most optimal result
- Ensure diversity and quality in the growth and rehabilitation sector through good cooperation between the sector and NAV
- Unemployed persons under 30 years of age who have commenced upper secondary school education shall have the opportunity to complete their education while receiving unemployment benefit
- Unemployed candidates for qualifying examinations in accordance with the Education Act must also be entitled to retain unemployment benefit when the course takes place during the day and forms part of the unemployed candidate's activity plan
- Maintain closer follow-up of young unemployed persons at NAV (NAV Ung) and actively strengthen youth guarantees in this work
- Use training as a work-related measure to a greater extent
- Strengthen the regional career centres as a supplement to NAV
- Strengthen the cooperation between NAV and health institutions and, correspondingly, between NAV and the training sector
- Improve services to users through increased use of self-service and digitalized

solutions. This may also free up resources that can be used to help users who have the greatest need for personal follow-up

- Work to ensure that all young persons under 25 years of age have the right to work, receive education or skills-enhancing training within an unemployment period of 3 months

CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE WELFARE STATE

It is important to ensure good public health services for everyone. Employee skills, professionalism and motivation are the most important resource in the development of welfare services. The employee's technical expertise and involvement must, to a greater extent, form part of the development of services, as well as the involvement of users. In core areas such as health, school and care for the elderly, there shall be good public services that include everyone. How we organise these services, depends on what is best for the population. Basic welfare services shall not be privatised or commercialised.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Improve the political management of our shared services and, to a greater extent, manage via overall objectives
- Ensure that overall responsibility for the services shall be in the public sector, and that acquisitions from the private sector must be controlled by the public sector. Requirements must be stipulated for wage and pension terms among private sector service providers
- Equal requirements for quality and content shall be stipulated for the private and public sector
- Make provision for non-profit organisations to play a greater role as public sector service providers
- Contribute to better development of the public sector through enhanced employee involvement
- Collaborate with parties in working life regarding new models of management and cooperation in the public sector
- Strengthen the skills of employees and managers
- Contribute to transparency in administration
- The government shall operate a moderate and responsible management pay policy

FURTHER DEVELOP THE PENSION SYSTEM

The Norwegian Labour Party will protect pension reform.

The Norwegian National Insurance Scheme is the underpinning element of the pension system. This scheme provides a good minimum level of security and entitlement accumulates from the first krone that is earned. This will thereby contribute to everyone maintaining their standard of living as a pensioner and redistributes income between "high and low" and between women and men. The scheme also supports the work line as well as enabling people to choose the age they wish to withdraw their pension and combine work and pension. Schemes such as AFP (contractual pensions) and service pensions are important supplements to the pension system. Wide-ranging and more collective schemes provide lower operational costs and less loss of rights with regard to the many changes that characterise a modern labour market.

The Norwegian Labour Party would like the total pension system to ensure good pension levels, which also enable those who have to withdraw their pensions early to have the option to do so. There should be less disparity in the accrual of pensions so that more people have a genuine opportunity to secure 2/3 of their former income when withdrawing their pension.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Continue with the pension reform, secure a sustainable National Insurance scheme and continue with the work line
- Strengthen AFP (contractual pensions) in the private sector
- The regulations for service pensions in the private sector shall be simplified and improved to provide employees and companies better adaptation options and make provision for entering into collective agreements on pensions
- Use collective legislation regarding service pensions to ensure as identical regulations as possible relating to, for example, cost of changing job, mandatory transfer of rights from previous schemes and equal pensions between men and women
 - o Ensure that this legislation contains requirements regarding accrual of pensions from the first krone and the first month, requirements regarding life-long payments or at least 85 years regardless of scheme. The regulations must be better adapted to collective agreements for pensions, thereby enabling the possibility of establishing wide-ranging schemes
- Readjust public sector service pensions and public sector AFP (contractual pensions) so that these are suitable for both National Insurance and private AFP. This shall be achieved through negotiations with employee organisations
- Ensure the right to discussion for pensioners and employee organisations, in accordance with the pension settlement



School, knowledge and skills

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF INVESTMENT

Strengthen comprehensive schools

We will have a forward-looking comprehensive school in which all children can prosper. As well as introducing a guarantee for supporting a child's basic skills in reading, writing and arithmetic, we will focus on ensuring that pupils are good at researching and creating, at communication and cooperation. Comprehensive schools shall also be strengthened by employing more teachers and by having a local government economy that gives local governments the opportunity to prioritise schools. We will give local governments and county councils the option to control the number of private schools.

Extra resources for the youngest pupils

With early intervention, problems can be prevented, and pupils can be given challenges suitable to their level.

We will employ more vocational groups around the youngest pupils, including specialist teachers, and strengthen the cooperation between those working at school, to ensure that more pupils receive close and overall follow-up.

Give vocational subjects a more important role

Norway needs more skilled workers and this requirement will increase in the time ahead. At the same time, many vocational pupils quit school. The Norwegian Labour Party will strengthen the position of vocational subjects in school and make greater provision for more pupils being motivated to choose these subjects, which are necessary for developing the country. We will give practical skills more space for all pupils early in their school careers. School and working life must cooperate more closely to enable more vocational students to be given the chance of switching between work and school from an early stage in their school careers and also have the opportunity to engage in further and higher education through a strengthened vocational school.

From SFO (before and after-school programme) to activity school

The before and after-school programme (SFO) must be a stronger service for more children. The Norwegian Labour Party will transform it into an activity school, with clear requirements regarding content and price. We will ensure that the new activity school provides an opportunity for joint activities, play, physical activities, creativity, as well as help with homework.

A more digital school

Digital skills will be crucial in the years ahead. The Norwegian Labour Party will develop and implement a national strategy for digitalization in schools. Programming, source criticism and digital awareness shall form part of the content. We shall provide teachers with increased skills in the use of digital teaching aids and incorporate an educational quality assurance of the teaching aids to be used. More student places will be established within ICT. A more digitally-based school will also provide teachers with reliable tools to simplify their day-to-day work, in order to see what each pupil masters and struggles with, so as to detect learning difficulties at an earlier stage and to tailor the tuition.

A good public comprehensive school and equal rights to education are fundamental to ensuring equal opportunities for everyone. Common learning arenas also contribute to ensuring that, as a society, we can succeed with equal opportunities, integration and social equality. Ensuring access to knowledge and skills for everyone will not just benefit the individual, it is crucial for how well Norway will succeed in creating new industries, secure welfare and develop the public and private sector.

EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE YOUNGEST PUPILS

Being able to write, add up and read well is fundamental to succeeding in education and working life. Intervention must begin much earlier – at kindergarten and during the first years of school. The greatest challenge in comprehensive schools is that one in four pupils does not complete upper secondary school education. Pupils at risk of quitting upper secondary school education must receive rapid and close follow-up.

The Norwegian Labour Party will implement a reform for earlier intervention in kindergartens and schools to ensure that far more pupils complete their education.

Kindergarten

Children who are able to develop in a secure kindergarten environment are better equipped to tackle both school and the rest of their lives. A good kindergarten combines play and learning in a way that is suited to the curiosity and exploratory needs of young children. Good kindergartens are among the most important arenas for integration and inclusiveness and also important for equality between women and men.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Introduce a staffing norm that ensures a sufficient number of adults with relevant skills in kindergartens. One half of those who work in kindergartens shall be kindergarten teachers, and we wish to employ more child and youth workers
- Gradually extend the right to a kindergarten place so that all children receive an offer from the month they become one year of age
- Allow local government to stipulate the same requirements for private and public kindergartens. This applies to, for example, requirements for opening hours, quality and content, intake of trainees and pay and working conditions
- Preserve the maximum price scheme and the right to sibling discount
- Reintroduce and gradually extend the scheme with free core time at kindergartens in areas facing particular challenges relating to integration, language and living conditions
- Investigate the right to receive a place at a local kindergarten

From before and after-school programme to activity school

The Norwegian Labour Party will transform the before and after-school programme (SFO) into activity schools throughout the country. This will offer a richer experience for more children, better integration, increased social equality and participation in working life for parents. The activity school shall support teaching in school and offer physical activities, cultural school lessons, cultural activities, other leisure activities and help with homework, and also provide pupils with the opportunity to play.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Introduce a maximum price and develop a national standard for the content of activity schools, as well as investigate measures for ensuring that the service also caters for children who need it most
- Consider sibling discount for families who have children in both kindergarten and activity school
- Ensure that the new activity school has a clear thematic link to school content

- Make provision for learning in activity schools in a looser framework than in the classroom, with greater focus on play and creativity
- Ensure that activity schools help children engage in daily physical activity, offer them a variety of leisure activities and ably assist them with their homework

Early intervention

The Norwegian Labour Party will ensure that all pupils are taught basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills at an early stage, and that a stronger team is built around individual pupils.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Employ more teachers, for example, by introducing a norm for teacher density at local government level as a minimum. We will scrutinise the norm to ensure that flexibility and prioritisation of schools and pupils with the greatest needs is addressed. In the first phase, the staffing norm will be from the first to the fourth class, and will not be at the expense of quality in the other years
- Introduce a reading, writing and arithmetic guarantee after the second year. The guarantee entails the following:
 - o Assess the reading and arithmetic skills of all pupils at first and second year level
 - o Introduce a guarantee in which pupils below a defined minimum level in reading and arithmetic receive a tailored offer of intensive training and other follow-up
 - o Increase special educational skills in schools through a more active and present Educational and Psychological Counselling Service
 - o Ensure that special training starts as quickly as possible. Reinforced training shall primarily take place in ordinary teaching situations
 - o Include a special team that can be utilised in schools that require extra help and guidance
- Ensure that all schools offer support and intensive training for pupils whose educational development is insufficient
- Strengthen the home-school cooperation; introduce offers of parent courses in homework help and educational choice, for example, and establish more direct contact between teachers, other adult persons and parents in primary and lower secondary school
- Ensure good homework help schemes, including at youth level
- Try out alternative forms of assessment and exams
- Try out the early introduction of foreign languages at primary school

MORE TEACHERS WITH MORE TIME AND AUTONOMY

A good school is based on competent teachers being given the time and autonomy to follow-up each pupil.

Schools and teachers shall deal with less bureaucracy on a day-to-day basis, greater responsibility for assessing which methods and tools are best suited to the educational work, and more opportunities for a skills boost.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Make provision for better career paths and skills development for teachers at school
- Change and improve the new master programmes for teachers by strengthening educational science, practical training and offering students more experience in practical teaching work
- Try out more alternative admission schemes for teacher training

- Ensure that all newly trained and newly employed teachers at kindergarten and school are covered by a guidance scheme
- Evaluate and improve practical-education training (PPU) and practical-education training for vocational subjects (PPY)
- Continue the stepping up of further and higher education for teachers, and implement a skills enhancement for unqualified persons in educational positions
- Debureaucratise schools by removing time wasting and unnecessary requirements for reporting and documentation
- Replace the government's absenteeism regulations with new national regulations that entail less bureaucracy, are fairer to pupils and will boost completion. Thus, as early as autumn 2017 we will evaluate the effects of the new regulations. The Norwegian Labour Party believes that the new regulations for absenteeism in upper secondary schools are too rigid and bureaucratic
- Approve political absence at lower secondary schools along equal lines to upper secondary schools
- Introduce more concrete curricula with fewer and clearer goals and phase out local curricula work
- Review the quality assessment system for primary and lower secondary schools, including the use of tests to ensure that it promotes more and better learning
- Strengthen the guidance service, including through further education and cooperation with working life and career centres
- Establish trainee schemes for teachers, head teachers and teacher trainers, in which they are given the opportunity to receive relevant experience and skills from other parts of the education system and working life
- Strengthen school management and educational skills at all levels in school. Head teachers shall also be clear leaders in educational development work

SAFE AND CONFIDENT PUPILS LEARN BEST

Safe and confident pupils who prosper at school, learn best. Bullying is a major social problem and children who are bullied are more susceptible to illness and problems later in life. The Norwegian Labour Party will intensify the initiative against bullying in school and prioritise preventive work.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Establish emergency response teams against bullying in all municipalities
- Strengthen support schemes for organisations and volunteers who work to prevent bullying
- Implement a major skills development programme in anti-bullying work for head teachers, teachers and other school employees
- All schools and kindergartens have an obligation to prevent, investigate and uncover bullying and intimidation in an educational environment
- Assess the incidence of bullying also during the first school years and strengthen knowledge regarding regulations and the right to lodge complaints amongst pupils and parents
- Improve pupils' legal protection through changes in laws and regulations
- Pave the way for sanctions against schools that do not address persistent bullying problems
- Give the Children's Ombudsman or a separate body responsibility for processing complaints in cases of bullying
- Make provision for better and closer school-home cooperation through the offer of parent courses and more direct contact between teachers, other adults and school and parents

A SCHOOL FOR THE NORWAY OF THE FUTURE

Pupils shall be trained for a society and working life in a constant state of flux. This requires schools and their subject areas to keep pace with developments. Schools must place increased focus on pupils learning to learn and becoming good at problem-solving, communication and cooperation. Digital skills and the use of digital aids are essential and the school must stimulate creative and critical thought.

It is positive that Norwegian comprehensive schools help counter divisions and antagonism in society. We will therefore prevent further privatisation of schools and shall defend and renew comprehensive schools. Public comprehensive schools must be leaders in innovation and school development that provides increased learning and motivation to the benefit of all pupils.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Work against increased privatisation and say no to government support for commercial private schools
- Give local government and county councils the opportunity to control the number of private schools in consideration of overall school quality. In cases where the local comprehensive school in the municipality or county is undermined, this shall be taken into account in the assessment of any application for government support for new private schools
- Strengthened inspection of private schools to ensure regulatory compliance
- Make comprehensive schools more diverse, for example, by making it easier for school owners to carry out tests and development work based on local needs
- Help pupils develop better ICT skills by:
 - o Increasing the coverage of digital aids
 - o Develop and implement a national strategy for digitalization in schools
 - o Make programming and digital awareness a part of school content, for example, in accordance with the model “Learn Kidsa Coding”
 - o Establish overall ICT architecture with accessible and updated equipment and access to high-speed networks
 - o Ensure that educational considerations control technology by providing teachers with increased skills in the use of digital aids and educational quality-assurance of teaching aids
 - o Introduce a national support scheme for stimulating the development of good digital teaching aids
- Strengthen tuition and teaching aids in scientific subjects by placing more emphasis on awareness and problem-solving
- Establish science centres, Newton rooms, prototype workshops and similar learning arenas in more disciplines and work to ensure that all municipalities have access to digital activity rooms
- Make provision for academically strong pupils by, for example, offering such pupils the option to take more subjects at higher levels
- Strengthen and improve the practical and aesthetic subjects and also provide teachers with the opportunity to take further and higher education in these subjects
- Develop a good national system for sharing quality-assured and research-based education and training programmes
- Make provision for lower secondary schools being able to offer pupil enterprise and working life experience
- Further develop entrepreneurship at school to provide pupils with practical knowledge and stimulate innovative thinking and creativity in working life

- Introduce “The practical rucksack” to permit pupils to experience, research and learn subjects and skills in a way that, to a greater extent than today, is practical and relevant, thereby creating a better connection between theory and practice in school

STUDY SPECIALISATION

Completed upper secondary school education has become an important basic skill in working life. At the same time, 560,000 adults are currently without such education, and the rate of failure is high. Schools must, to a greater extent, be orientated so that more pupils have the opportunity to complete their education, while also encouraging the academically strong pupils. In the coming years, the demand for trained manpower will increase. Upper secondary school education shall help as many pupils as possible to both complete and achieve a good basis for further studies and working life. Study specialisation in upper secondary school shall provide pupils with a solid and reliable basis for further studies in higher education.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Offer intensive training between lower secondary level and upper secondary school for pupils with poor basic skills
- Try out several alternative forms of assessment and exams in upper secondary school education
- Work to ensure that more foreign languages are offered at upper secondary school, such as Chinese, Russian and Arabic
- Require all counties to offer academically strong pupils the opportunity to take more subjects at higher levels
- Include entrepreneurship as an optional subject at schools
- Schools and local communities should work together to achieve enhanced learning outcomes by linking study directions and subjects with relevant social players

VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS

To succeed against demanding international competition we must further develop and strengthen vocational training and ensure that we train a sufficient number of skilled workers. Well trained, permanent employees, skilled and well trusted workers and companies that contribute to the training of skilled workers, are an important basis for competitiveness. We will strengthen the vocational programmes and ensure that the working life that awaits following completion of training is attractive and well founded.

Pupils studying vocational subjects must be given greater opportunities to learn by being close to working life early in their school career. We will strengthen the parties' ownership of training and have a closer cooperation between school and working life.

It must become easier to switch between vocational and academic education and easier to further develop vocational training through a clear training pathway from lower secondary school to higher education, both vocationally and academically. We believe that the admission requirements for university and college education should be more diversified than they are today, and that certificates of apprenticeship and craft certificates should give access to higher education with particular relevance for the individual training programme.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Recruit and further educate more vocational teachers and strengthen vocational teacher training
- Place greater emphasis on practical skills and practical training from the first years of school

- Improve vocational guidance in lower secondary schools and give all pupils knowledge about different vocations
- Make provision for work experience throughout the entire vocational training period
- Ensure all pupils who are qualified receive an apprenticeship
- Make provision for flexible pathways in more training programmes, in which pupils can switch between school and working life throughout the week
- Establish a scheme with national centre status for outstanding vocational training, based on the model for the Centre for Excellence in Education (SFU)
- Update equipment at vocational schools so that training becomes more relevant
- Work to ensure that all municipalities offer at least two apprenticeships per 1,000 inhabitants annually
- Increase the apprenticeship subsidy corresponding to the cost of a school place
- Ensure that all counties have a pupil and apprentice ombudsman
- All apprentices shall receive a certificate of apprenticeship that offers the same benefits that pupils and students receive
- Make it easier to switch from study specialisation to a vocational subject
- Require municipalities and health trusts to offer more work experience places and apprenticeship places within health and social care

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Vocational school education shall provide solid, higher vocational training skills. Training shall be based on the requirements of working life and shall build on the formal tripartite cooperation within Norwegian vocational and occupational training.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Increase the profile of and strengthen vocational schools as the basis for an attractive career pathway for all pupils who complete upper secondary school education or have equivalent prior knowledge or work experience
- Start a structure review of the vocational school sector to ensure good quality and relevance in the courses offered
- The financing of vocational schools must reflect the different courses available
- Develop more innovative learning models in collaboration with working life
- Introduce credits at vocational schools to facilitate a more seamless transition between different levels of the education system
- Introduce a national admissions system for vocational school training and submit an escalation plan for new student places in accordance with working life requirements
- Create optimal systems that can develop and acknowledge good teaching skills
- Improve the rights of vocational school students and provide the opportunity to apply for membership of student welfare associations
- Give additional credits for vocational school education upon admission to universities and colleges
- Ensure that vocational schools offer solid, quality-assured, high-quality vocational training and can provide the skills required by working life

HIGHER EDUCATION

Quality in research and higher education is crucial for how well Norway will succeed in the future in developing and utilising new knowledge, ensuring an adaptable business and working life and contribute to renewal and innovation in the public sector.

Rapid changes in working life increase the need to strengthen contact between

educational institutions and working life. It also means that most of us require a skills boost during the course of our life, as a part of working life. Universities and colleges shall play a key role in this.

Everyone shall have equal rights to education. Higher education shall be available without tuition fees, and the education shall be universally designed. We will ensure academic freedom and help ensure that published research results are available to everyone. More new buildings and tailored infrastructure are key to ensuring a solid education sector and for attracting competent students and researchers in the years ahead.

Norway needs both the world-leading research communities, the strong professional training programmes and educational institutions that lead the way in regional development. The Norwegian Labour Party wants financing to reflect this.

In future working life, many more people will need to retrain and further educate themselves. To make it easier to complete studies while also being engaged in ordinary work, the Norwegian Labour Party will have more educational institutions to establish courses during the evening and at weekends.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Establish more student places, particularly within scientific subjects, ICT and other strategic disciplines for Norwegian working and social life
- Stimulate further work experience and contact with working life while studying
- Submit a prioritisation list for buildings and infrastructure and incorporate this into the long-term plan for research and higher education
- Introduce a national merit system for good training that stimulates and cultivates good quality education
- Review the financial scheme to ensure that, to a greater extent, it is associated with the actual tasks of the various businesses, respects the distinct characteristics of educational institutions and rewards diversity in the sector
- Ensure optimal mental and physical health services for all students, organised through student associations and host municipalities
- Stipulate greater requirements for teaching quality and study intensity in higher education
- Complete the escalation of 11 months' study support
- Make universities and colleges more attractive career pathways by having in place an active equal opportunities policy and reducing the use of temporary staff
- Change the Civil Servants Act to prevent temporary staff from being engaged, in accordance with the proposal drawn up by the parties in working life
- Build 3,000 student homes every year
- Contribute to greater internationalisation of higher education, make it easier for foreign formal qualifications to be adapted to Norwegian requirements and work to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study abroad as part of a degree course
- Develop more tailored courses and make better provision for part-time students by, for example, assessing the requirement for 50% study in order to receive educational support from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund
- Make better provision for students with children
- Make provision for digitalization of more courses at universities

RESEARCH

Research is a prerequisite for development and growth and is essential in dealing with the major, complex challenges that Norway and the global community is facing. Norway shall be a driving force in international knowledge development and shall have world-leading

expertise in areas in which we have a particular advantage, and which are important for us. Access to first class and suitably adapted scientific equipment is of crucial importance if Norway is to retain its status as a leading knowledge nation. Research and development are crucial for ensuring innovation, technological development and competitiveness. The techno-industrial research institutions play a key role in essential adaptation in both industry and public sector enterprises.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Continue the 3% target in research policy and have an ambition for completed industrial research and development to constitute 2% of GNP by 2030
- Work systematically for better coordination of research policy across ministries, directorates, organisations and industries
- Strengthen research as an attractive career pathway and promote more young research talents
- Continue investing in outstanding research and development communities and establish new research communities associated with business clusters in these areas at the highest international level
- Introduce development agreements with universities and colleges in order to achieve more strategic development, closer cooperation and a more conscious academic division of labour in higher education
- Further develop the SkatteFUNN scheme to increase business investment in R&D
- Ensure that all higher education institutions have good schemes in place for open access publishing
- Make provision for greater use of “Business PhD” and “Public sector PhD”, in which skilled workers in working life can be given tailored career pathways in cooperation with academia
- Establish a scheme for a Business PostDoc
- Establish a dedicated research programme for innovation and adaptation in the public sector with particular focus on how we organise and finance good local government services
- Investigate specific measures for curbing application bureaucracy and reporting associated with the competitively vulnerable arenas at the Research Council of Norway



Health

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF INVESTMENT

Strengthen our collective health service

We will invest in our collective health service to ensure that you receive the best treatment regardless of the size of your wallet or your ability and options to seek help. We will ensure the health service is properly financed and will promote order around the organisation of hospitals. We will reduce waiting list times and be transparent about waiting times, and invest in medical quality and digitalization. New medicines and forms of treatment will be rapidly adopted.

Ensure everyone has a dignified life in their old age

Elderly people are not all alike, and old age has various phases. Services to our elderly citizens must be suited to this diversity. Senior citizens who want to work longer, shall be able to. Even if their health is failing, many more elderly people should be able to live and thrive at home. We will implement a quality reform that offers reassurance that all elderly people who are ill will receive a good service. Relatives and volunteers who wish to help, shall be acknowledged and shall be provided with suitable frameworks.

More rapid help with mental disorders

Mental disorders are the public health issue of our age. With early intervention, however, many mental disorders can be prevented and treated. We will have a low-threshold mental health service in all municipalities, remove user fees at GPs for young persons up to 18 years of age and help our young persons learn more about mental health at school. Resources for the school health service shall be earmarked. It should be easy to receive specialist help with difficult issues. Local government shall be given space to employ more specialists in the field of mental health.

Prevent poor health among children and young persons

Good habits are formed early. We will ensure that all children and young persons have a basic, healthy meal and daily physical activity at school. This provides the basis for good health and good lives and could counter the increasing divisions. Children who experience mental disorders or violence shall receive rapid help.

Reform Norwegian drug policy

Drug dependency kills and destroys lives. The Norwegian Labour Party will operate a restrictive, preventive and knowledge-based drug policy. Drug addicts will be dealt with through good health care, not punishment. The Norwegian Labour Party will employ new measures for helping the most seriously afflicted drug patients, such as easily accessible injecting rooms and heroin-assisted treatment.

The Norwegian Labour Party will have a stronger public health service throughout the country. Through health-promoting prevention, early intervention and appropriate treatment, you will receive the best help from the public health service in Norway.

More people must be helped at an earlier stage and social health inequalities must be prevented. Much earlier intervention is necessary, and must be closer to where people live, work and spend their time.

We will stop the development of a two-tier health service in Norway. We therefore say no to privatisation and prefer to ensure that public sector hospitals are improved. In the years ahead, what is needed is stability with regard to the organisation of hospitals, better finance, development of new treatment methods, new medicines, new technology and proper specialist management.

Elderly people are a resourceful and diverse group. We will improve the opportunities for elderly people to live in their own homes as long as possible, and we will help ensure that old age is filled with purpose and accomplishment. Quality in the service offered to elderly people in nursing homes shall be carefully monitored, and the end-of-life health service shall provide proper treatment and dignity. The Norwegian Labour Party believes that care for the elderly is a shared public responsibility and does not wish to commercialise the nursing and care services. The Norwegian Labour Party will cooperate with non-profit organisations where this could be an important supplement to the public sector.

THUS, THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS ARE:

- Make an all-out effort for further prevention and early intervention, particularly for children and young persons
- Improve mental health – break taboos and ensure early help is provided when it is needed
- Revamp the public specialist health service
- Ensure everyone enjoys their old age and provide relatives with better support and help

PUBLIC HEALTH FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

We are all responsible for our own health, but we also have a collective responsibility for each other. A lot of illness and poor health is associated with lifestyle, nutrition, physical activity and the psycho-social environment we live in. Work to promote a healthy diet based on dietary recommendations is important to strengthen public health, as well as having favourable effects on other sectors such as climate and environment.

The number of children and young persons with mental health problems is increasing. This is particularly serious. We will therefore implement an all-out measure to prevent illness and poor health among children, so that everyone gets a good start in life.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Draw up an ambitious programme for better public health
- Invest in measures for better child and youth health that reaches everyone:
 - o Introduce daily physical activity at school
 - o Reinstate school fruit at lower secondary schools
 - o Offer all children a basic school meal every day through a common pool between central government, local government and voluntary payment schemes for parents/guardians. Protection schemes shall be established
 - o Implement an ambitious escalation plan for combating violence against children
 - o Introduce free GP appointments until young persons have reached 18 years of age

- o Ensure that HPV vaccines are also offered to boys through the child vaccination programme, provided a satisfactory cost effectiveness for the entire HPV programme can be achieved
- o Renew and improve sex education to also include gender and sexual diversity, boundary setting, relationships and responsibility

EARLY INTERVENTION WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

We must provide more help to people who are about to become ill – not wait until they are so ill that they have to be admitted to hospital. This would mean better health for the individual. This also ensures that hospitals and specialists can concentrate on the patients that need them the most. Thus, early intervention by GPs and other parts of the health and care service is crucial. In order to strengthen preventive and rehabilitating health work, the voluntary health work carried out by various organisations must be acknowledged and strengthened.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Establish multi-disciplinary healthcare facilities throughout the country where patients can receive more overall help than they do today
- Provide extra support to municipalities that use new technology and new forms of cooperation to provide patients with early and overall help. This particularly applies to drug misuse, mental health care, musculoskeletal disorders and rehabilitation
- Prioritise training positions and ensure proper recruitment of GPs throughout the country
- Ensure good access to emergency medical services throughout the country by strengthening emergency clinics and emergency response with regard to skills, financing and interaction
- Review the air ambulance service and the emergency medical services outside hospitals to ensure good coverage and quality
- Ensure that all municipalities are able to fulfil the requirements for home visits to all new mothers
- Help ensure that chronic patients can, as far as possible, live the same life as a healthy person, through proper access to work and technical aids
- Via digital translation tools and interpreter services in special cases, the health service will be more accessible to minorities
- Consider trials in which municipalities and hospitals are allocated total responsibility for all health services in their area

MENTAL HEALTH

Our mental health is equally important as our physical health. Anxiety and depression are amongst the most common ailments that afflict people. The most important work is done before the ailments have an opportunity to develop. This primarily takes place outside the health service: in the family, kindergarten, at school, at work and where we live.

Good health begins at an early age. We must therefore pay particular attention to the very youngest among us.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Draw up a multi-disciplinary escalation plan on mental disorders, prevention and early health care
- Support the preventive work of voluntary organisations
- Escalate and earmark resources for multi-disciplinary school health services and health clinics
- Ensure closer cooperation between school and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (BUP) and give community nurses the option to refer children to BUP

- Pave the way for an “e-community nurse” so that young persons can make contact with their school health service via digital platforms
- Incorporate mental health into the skills goals at schools
- Ensure that people with mental disorders and ailments have better access to mental health care from qualified professionals and employ more people with such expertise at a local level
- Establish easily-accessible, low-threshold services with drop-in options such as Family’s House and Youth Arena in more municipalities
- Introduce a national staffing norm for the school health service in accordance with the recommendations of the Norwegian Directorate of Health
- Ensure that the service for the mentally ill shall be organised as an overall and well-coordinated patient pathway without unnecessary delays
- Invest in programmes that ensure more people with mental health issues can remain at work or return to work
- Increase the use of graded sickness benefit

DENTAL HEALTH

The last 30 years has seen a considerable improvement in dental health. Nonetheless, poor dental health continues to be a significant health issue in Norway.

Since 2005, more vulnerable groups have received free or less expensive dental treatment. Expanding this programme further will involve major costs. To strengthen rights in this field it is necessary to move forward gradually. Particularly vulnerable groups shall be prioritised.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthening the preventive work for good public dental health
- Draw up a plan for gradually increased investment in the field of dental health
- Introduce protection schemes for dental fees for persons on low incomes who have poor dental health, as well as investigate which schemes best meet this requirement
- Extend the refund schemes through National Insurance to include special diagnoses

DIGITALIZATION IN THE HEALTH SERVICE

Digitalization is revolutionising sector after sector in society. Now it’s the turn of the health and care sector. By 2025, Norway will be the leading country in Europe in the field of e-health.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Invest substantially in the digital “foundation” and infrastructure of hospitals
- Patient data must be properly secure and under public sector control
- Ensure that digitalization becomes a primary topic in the management of hospitals and for managers at all levels of the health service
- Stipulate that digital communication shall be the main rule in the Norwegian health service
- Consider new forms of financing, including a technology fund in which hospitals and municipalities that have good socio-economic projects within e-health, can be allocated extraordinary investment grants
- Make provision for close corporation between the public and private sector on the development of digital services and platforms
- Strengthen the digital interaction between the specialist and primary health service

- Strengthen the collection and use of health data to improve the service and treatment without compromising the personal data of the patient

SPECIALIST HEALTH SERVICE

Quality

The Norwegian public health service shall offer world-class treatment. The quality of medical treatment today is very good in many areas. However, the variation in results between hospitals is still too great, and the specialist health service must strive to keep abreast of the major medical and technological developments that are currently taking place internationally. The Norwegian Labour Party will ensure optimal division of labour between hospitals that enable the adoption of new technology and technical expertise.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure basic financing of the public sector specialist health service that provides a genuine opportunity to increase treatment capacity
- Reduce unfounded variations in examination, treatment and other health services
- Use our unique quality and patient register to promote public health work and develop new methods of treatment
- Ensure that Norway's advantage with a uniform public sector health service is used actively for research and development of new medication and forms of treatment through, for example, more clinical studies
- Phase out the neutral VAT scheme in health trusts
- Be at the forefront of a Nordic and European purchasing cooperation on expensive medicines
- Strengthen research within the fields of primary health, drug misuse, mental health and rehabilitation
- Require all major hospitals to have geriatric skills, so that elderly people receive holistic examinations and greater opportunities to live longer in their own homes
- Habitation, rehabilitation and day-to-day health shall be given increased priority
- To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to use the public sector health service and counter social inequality in health, we will review the user payment system to ensure overall and beneficial protection schemes

Communication and cooperation

Many patients feel that information is inadequate, that hospitals do not have sufficient control, and that they have to proactively follow-up progress and answers. Many patients also experience queues and waiting lists that are not medically justified. This all contributes to weakening the trust in a strong, public specialist health service.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Increase the examination and treatment capacity in hospitals by also utilising out-patients' clinics in the afternoon and evening
- Increase the number of appointment specialists and ensure that appointment specialists are a genuine service throughout the country
- Introduce a better system for measuring waiting times. This shall ensure transparency, provide a better overview of real waiting times and safeguard patients' rights along the entire patient pathway
- Phase out the "Fritt behandlingsvalg" (free choice of treatment location) privatisation reform and use resources on measures we know will reduce waiting times and contribute to the treatment of more patients
- Introduce more patient pathways modelled on the field of cancer
- Increase access to organ donors by strengthening donor hospitals, having a sufficient number of trained health personnel and ensuring that status as organ donors is registered in the digital core patient records

Management of hospitals

Better capacity, better communication and better quality of treatment requires the specialist health service to be managed properly. In the current situation, hospitals require peaceful surroundings conducive to work, but within the framework of the health trust model there is major scope for improvement.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

To improve the organisation of hospitals we will::

- Improve the health trust model and further develop a regionalised specialist health service with control at three levels
- Consider splitting up the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority based on the possibility of better management and operation
- Ensure increased political management of hospitals and that hospitals interact better with the primary health service
- Strengthen local hospitals and ensure quality at the smallest hospitals via optimal division of tasks and labour between the hospitals. Accident and emergency departments shall have surgical evaluation and stabilisation on standby, as well as the capacity to manage emergency incidents
- Invest more in the systematic development of good managers in the health service
- Establish a general rule that all Norwegian hospitals shall have local management and an area manager who has wide scope of authority to manage his/her area of responsibility

To improve the management of hospitals we will:

- Ensure that both quality and economy are emphasised in the best interests of patients in the management of hospitals
- Conduct separate health trust meetings dedicated to quality, management and skills
- Ensure an emphasis on technical expertise and optimal social understanding in the management of hospitals
- Curb the “market financing” of hospitals by reducing investment-controlled financing and increasing framework financing of hospitals
- Reduce the reporting obligation by significantly reducing the number of goals in assignment documents for regional health trusts
- Review work routines and procedures to reduce unnecessary health bureaucracy
- Assume a greater national responsibility for the largest investments in the specialist health service

Antibiotic resistance

Increased antibiotic resistance is one of the greatest threats of our age. Hardly any new antibiotic substances have been developed in almost 30 years. Both nationally and internationally there is an urgent need to intensify the fight against bacteria that are resistance to antibiotics.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure that Norway assumes international leadership in establishing schemes that increase research, development, monitoring and purchasing of antibiotics
- Consider intensifying the control of multi-resistant bacteria in persons who have been operated on abroad
- Implement a training programme in communication for doctors, with a view to reducing the misuse of antibiotics

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Every year, alcohol and drugs cause major problems and disorders for many individuals and their closest relatives. The Norwegian Labour Party therefore wants a strong and knowledge-based alcohol and drugs policy that prevents alcohol and drug problems.

To prevent and restrict the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse, the Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Operate a restrictive alcohol policy
- Maintain Vinmonopolet's (state wine and liquor monopoly) vital social role
- Consider permitting Vinmonopolet to assume control of the tax-free scheme when the current agreement expires. Revenues from public and private sector airports shall continue
- Label the contents of alcoholic drinks
- Ensure that all workplaces display guidelines regarding the use of alcohol
- Strengthen the measures directed towards children being raised in homes with alcohol and drug problems
- Strengthen alcohol and drug prevention work in schools

The Norwegian Labour Party believes that drug dependency shall be addressed with proper healthcare and social services, not fines and criminal prosecution. We therefore believe that there is a need for a significant change in drug policy in the next parliamentary period. Any change will entail the health, justice and criminal aspects of the current policy to be reformed. The reform will involve the current sanctions against drug abuse being replaced by alternative reactions based on the notion that drug dependency is a health problem that must be addressed via health care.

To successfully achieve this, we will change the reactions towards own use of narcotics. This means that narcotics will continue to be illegal, but that drug addicts' violation of the law will be addressed by society through alternative reactions, not punishment. Alternative reactions could be health care, follow-up conversations, mandatory health and social follow-up programmes, written warnings and, ultimately, fines for people who could be regarded as having an obvious drug problem.

In order to offer better health care to persons with drug problems, we will:

- Change Norwegian drugs policy, in which the health, justice and criminal aspects of the current policy are reformed
- Narcotics shall continue to be forbidden. Drug addicts will be dealt with through good health care, not punishment
- Provide drug patients with personally-adapted follow-up associated with work and accommodation
- The service for drug patients shall be organised as overall and well-coordinated patient pathways without unnecessary delays. The treatment pathway shall include aftercare with mandatory follow-up agreements between health trusts and municipalities
- Ensure enhanced measurement of the quality of drug treatment and ensure that the results of different forms of treatment can more easily be compared
- Provide vulnerable mothers with an offer of follow up and examinations at infant welfare or family centres
- As for other patient groups, ensure that it is medical and research-based evaluations that provide the basis for what type of medication and methods of treatment, including heroin-assisted treatment, that are used in health care for drug addicts
- Introduce user rooms that will be developed along the lines of healthcare centres. Until these are in place, it must be permitted to smoke, for example, heroin in present-day injecting rooms

- Appoint a drugs commission that promotes concrete, knowledge-based proposals for how the drugs policy should be amended

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Everyone is entitled to make decisions about their own body. The current Abortion Act properly balances the needs of the woman on the one side and protecting the foetus on the other.

We are fundamentally positive to new methods of treatment available through biotechnical developments, and will fight the commercialisation of biotechnology. We also acknowledge that the opportunities that biotechnology provides can give rise to demanding ethical dilemmas.

To protect a woman's right to make decisions about her own body, we will:

- Expand the trial scheme of free contraception
- Work against the curtailment of a woman's right to self-determined abortion
- Retain the current limit for self-determined abortion of 12 weeks
- Ensure that women who consider abortion are treated equally throughout the country
- Ensure that pregnant women are offered early ultrasound, if desired
- Reject any development in which parents can choose the characteristics of their children
- Introduce NIPT tests for pregnant women who are entitled to foetal diagnostics.

To address opportunities and dilemmas within biotechnology and medical genetics, we will:

- Help more couples have children by permitting egg donation
- Pave the way for assisted fertilisation for single woman
- Not allow surrogacy. For children born abroad who experience an absence of rights when they arrive in Norway, their best interests shall be put first

ELDERLY PEOPLE

We are living longer than ever. This means that many elderly people can enjoy more years as pensioners, during which time they could have the opportunity to participate and contribute. Society must make better provision for active elderly people. Elderly people who do not have the opportunity to participate in the digital world shall be able to be a part of society on equal terms as everyone else.

Nearly everyone wants to live at home as long as possible and be in charge of their own lives. The home situation must be secure, and those who live at home must have the opportunity to engage in a social life and interact with others.

Today, far too many people have to wait for a place in a nursing home, and the quality of service varies too much between municipalities. We therefore want clear goals for quality, a more target-orientated financing and a significant contribution from central government in order to improve the service to elderly people throughout the country. Employees who provide help and care, must be given sufficient time. In the future, municipalities must be sufficiently staffed, have a greater variety of skills and a better organisation of services.

To make provision for active and social elderly people, we will:

- Utilise the major resource that senior citizens represent in working life, social life and voluntarily
- Detect and change practices, structures and legislation that prevent senior citizens from participating in society as they would like to
- Further develop "The cultural walking stick", which provides cultural activities to elderly people

- Ensure that common meeting places, activities, culture and experiences play a key role in the elderly persons and care policy
- Invest more in home-based services, aids and welfare technology that can enable people who wish to live at home to do so for as long as possible
- Cooperate with voluntary clubs, associations and individuals who can contribute much more to elderly care, as a supplement to those employed in the care services

To ensure we have the proper skills and a sufficient number of professionals, we will:

- Try out a “trust reform” in local government based on the Copenhagen model, for example, where responsibility is provided by smaller, fixed teams, in close collaboration with users
- Employ personnel with full-time, permanent positions with tariff-based pay and working conditions
- Ensure that knowledge of welfare technology becomes a part of health education
- Train more people and employ different specialist groups in the care service
- Ensure that those who work within health and care have sufficient knowledge of Norwegian
- Employ more men in nursing and care professions

To ensure better quality and capacity, we will

- Introduce clear and ambitious quality targets at all stages of elderly care
- Base parts of the financing of elderly care on defined quality targets
- Make provision for basic reporting in care services
- Strengthen the subsidy scheme for investment in welfare technology
- Ensure a sufficient number of nursing home places and 24-hour care facilities for those who need it
- Make provision for new forms of housing, with user-friendly and flexible solutions, including a trial project with student homes that are established close to nursing homes and sheltered housing in which students can rent accommodation at a reasonable price in return for participating in, for example, social activities with the residents
- Continue the investment subsidy for building/renovating nursing homes and sheltered housing, to the level it was before the scheme was amended in 2016
- Utilise welfare technology based on open systems
- Create a strategy for better nutrition amongst elderly people in nursing homes and the home help service
- Combat loneliness and strengthen mental health care for elderly persons
- Develop good dementia care with greater emphasis on physical and cognitive training, as well as support to relatives
- Draw up a national relatives policy and follow-up relatives so that they receive the necessary support and assistance to manage care tasks
- Strengthen research into Alzheimer’s, dementia and other neurological diseases
- Take the initiative for more research into older LGBT+ persons in Norway to assess which particular challenges they face in getting older and how help could be adapted to this group

To provide good end-of-life care, we will:

- Strengthen palliative care in the final phase of life
- Invest in better skills in palliative care amongst employees in the nursing and care sector
- Strengthen the cooperation with non-profit organisations and volunteers, including the support of hospice trials in more counties, in the work to strengthen the service to the dying and their relatives



Climate

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF INVESTMENT

Lead the way in ensuring that Norway achieves its climate goals

Man-made climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our age. The Paris agreement obligates Norway to increase the pace of its climate policy. The Norwegian Labour Party will lead the way in the transition to a low-emission society and ensure that Norway achieves its ambitious climate goals by 2030.

Implement a radical transformation of the transport sector

Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced significantly in all areas of transport. The Norwegian Labour Party will invest in zero- emission vehicles, sustainable biofuels and refuelling and charging stations in road transport. We will establish shore power for the largest ports, hasten the electrification of relevant ferry services, and invest in climate-friendly shipping. Better public transport in the major cities is crucial. The sale of new cars from 2025 shall be based on zero emission cars.

Make Norwegian industry a world leader in sustainability

Norway has strong industrial environments that can lead the way globally in the development of zero and low-emission technology. The authorities will impose stringent requirements, but will also be a strong partner for industry and will reduce risks. A value creation programme for the bioeconomy is one of many measures. We will make provision for carbon capture, use and storage, and will also make provision for the Norwegian continental shelf to become a future carbon store for Europe.

Make it easier to make climate-friendly choices

It must be easier and more profitable to make sustainable choices in day-to-day life. The Norwegian Labour Party will invest more in cycleways and pedestrian paths and make provision for more towns to choose smart, environmentally-friendly solutions for public transport and services for their inhabitants. We will reduce food waste, impose stricter requirements for the environmental labelling of goods and ensure better schemes for bottle-and-can deposit systems, repairs and recycling.

Develop Norway's leadership internationally

The Norwegian Labour Party wants Norway to take a stronger leadership role in international climate policy. Norway shall contribute to climate measures and climate adaptation in developing countries, to fair restructuring processes and investments in renewable energy in emerging economies. The Climate and Forest initiative shall continue to remain important for Norway. We shall contribute to a higher quota price in the EU's quota system and to the development of international leverage for emission reduction.

The climate problem is one of the greatest challenges of our age. If we do not succeed in achieving a significant reduction in global emissions in the coming decades, the world will witness dramatic and incalculable changes.

The Paris agreement finally gave the world an international climate agreement with genuine global participation from all countries. The Paris agreement commits us to work to ensure that the increase in the average global temperature is kept well below 2°C.

To achieve the Paris goal, Norway must reduce emissions nationally and be a driving force in international climate work. We shall become a low-emission society, and by 2030, we shall be climate neutral.

Climate policy works in interaction with industrial policy, which is described in more detail in part 2: Industry and natural resources.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE WORK

Norway's role as a driving force in international climate policy must be reinforced. In the same way that the goal of emission reduction guides policy development nationally, on an international level we will support economic development with low emission in a manner that contributes to a fair restructuring of the workforce and helps climate initiatives in developing countries.

The conservation of rainforests helps to achieve positive results from both a climate and development perspective. We will continue the rainforest initiative at a high level. Norway shall also contribute to other climate initiatives and climate adaptation in developing countries. Investment in renewable forms of energy and infrastructure shall be prioritised in particular. We will continue to work to develop international leverage for emission reductions and a price on CO₂.

The initiative against short-lived greenhouse gases, such as black carbon and methane, must be increased. A reduction in such emissions will have a more rapid and positive climate effect. These climate drivers also significantly impact ice melting. Norway must utilise its position in the Arctic cooperation to promote initiatives against short-lived climate drivers.

The EU's climate and energy policy is important to Norway and will become even more important when the EU's energy union comes into being. We will increase Norway's influence by actively influencing the EU's climate and energy policy and by utilising the latitude inherent in the EEA agreement.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Follow up the Paris agreement
- Work internationally to reduce subsidies in fossil fuel consumption and for a global pricing of CO₂
- Follow up the rainforest initiative (REDD+). Enter into agreements on the protection of rainforests with several countries with which Norway collaborates closely
- Ensure that Norway plays a strong leadership role in the financing of climate initiatives and climate adaptation in developing countries
- Ensure that Norway becomes carbon neutral by 2030
- Work to ensure that the quota price in the EU's quota system is developed in such a way that the quota system contributes to both emission reductions and technological development
- Use the latitude in the EEA to promote climate-friendly investment

- Contribute to the work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international air and shipping traffic
- Continue the work to reduce short-lived greenhouse gases with particular focus on the consequences for the High North

REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS NATIONALLY

The goal of a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 shall be achieved in collaboration with the EU. Both petroleum operations and mainland industry in Norway are part of the EU's quota system. In transport, agriculture, construction and waste, major reductions in emission must take place nationally. Implementing changes that contribute to actual reductions in emission is a matter of urgency.

Norway has strong industrial environments, for example, within the power-generating industry, shipbuilding industry, marine and maritime sector, forestry industries and the petroleum industry. Until the quota price in the EU's quota system contributes to both emission reductions and technological development, the government must, in collaboration with industry, investigate other ways of achieving these goals. We will make provision to ensure that these industrial environments can invest more in measures and technological developments that contribute to emission reductions. We will ensure that the climate policy helps to position Norwegian industry to cater for a low-emission society and create jobs for the future.

We will introduce a climate act as a primary control instrument in climate policy. It shall include control mechanisms to reach the emission goals stipulated by the act. The goals shall be binding and shall designate emission pathways for all sectors. The annual national budgets shall report how the budget influences Norway's greenhouse gas emissions.

Enova will play a key role in the work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Enova shall make provision for measures that contribute to substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions, through support in the development of new technology, but also through support in utilising existing zero and low-emission technology. In this respect, refuelling stations for zero emission cars, biofuels, carbon capture from industrial plants, shore power and the electrification of the ferry fleet are particularly important areas.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Follow up the Paris agreement in cooperation with the EU, through a 43% reduction in the quota-bound sector and a 40% reduction in the non-quota-bound sector by 2030
- Conduct a review of Norway's carbon risk
- Adopt a climate act that regulates appropriate reporting and control mechanisms between the Norwegian Parliament and the government in the climate sector, and in which emission obligations will be guiding factors
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by investing in refuelling stations for zero-emission vehicles, biofuel, shore power and electrification of the ferry fleet, and carbon capture and storage
- Ensure that in its mandate Enova makes provision for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Norway
- Strengthen Enova by increasing the fund for climate technology, renewable energy and energy transformation to NOK 100 billion, and assess the requirements for technological development in Norway
- Stimulate an initiative for new and existing buildings to reduce their energy consumption
- Make provision for the increased use of renewable materials, such as climate initiatives in building operations

REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS LOCALLY

In order for us to achieve the goals of a low-emission society, we must also reduce emissions at a local level. This is a shared task. The authorities must contribute to the reduction as well as make provision for us as individuals to make climate-friendly choices. We can only succeed via a close collaboration between citizens, industry, organisational life, central and local government.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Reward municipalities that make significant reductions in their greenhouse gas emissions with grants for more environmental measures
- Make provision for the development of smart towns in Norway that can address the major challenges via new technology, optimal solutions and citizen involvement
- Ensure that people living in densely populated areas have easy access to green areas
- Reduce energy consumption in public buildings and increase the proportion of zero-emission buildings in new local government buildings
- Ensure that purchasing and contract awarding is used to promote energy efficiency, climate and environmental considerations in businesses

Investment in public transport, cycleways and pedestrian paths

In urban areas, we will make public transport, cycleways and pedestrian paths more attractive and accessible. We will therefore prioritise a major investment in urban environment agreements in the forthcoming National Transport Plan, so that counties can offer a good public transport service to their inhabitants. This will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions but will primarily reduce local contamination and solve traffic problems in urban areas.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Increase the initiative to protect vulnerable road users by investing in pedestrian and bike measures, preventive work and research
- Stimulate the establishment of more car-sharing solutions and make available parking spaces for car sharing close to hubs and in new, larger residential and business projects
- Ensure that urban municipalities collaborate with surrounding municipalities to achieve a total level of development that minimises transport needs and the loss of agricultural land, cultural landscapes and nature

Waste and recycling

In a low-emission economy, resources must be recycled. This means, for example, more effective use of resources in industry, better utilisation of byproducts from industry to create new raw materials and better utilisation of plastic and other waste. This is known as a “circular economy”. We will hasten the development of a circular economy out of consideration to the environment and because it will result in new businesses and jobs.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Contribute to more recycling and resource efficiency
- Stipulate requirements for more environmentally-friendly product design and material use, repairs and increased capacity utilisation
- Investigate the possibility of restricting the volume of plastic and consumer products
- Increase the goal for material recycling and reuse
- Strengthen research and promote measures to reduce the use of micro-plastics

- Expand the bottle-and-can deposit system scheme to also include electronics and other consumer goods that require heavy packaging
- Introduce complete source separation for food waste and plastic in all major cities, so that food waste can be utilised in the production of biogas to a greater extent
- Assess better warranty schemes to ensure a longer service life for products
- Increase the use of raw materials derived from recycled waste
- Strengthen the opportunities for the Norwegian recycling industry and technology providers through increased material recycling
- Work towards a joint European bottle-and-can deposit system

Climate, health and consumers

Climate policy is closely linked with consumer and health policy. What is healthy for us as individuals is, in many cases, also healthy for the planet. We will therefore focus more on sector-encompassing measures based on the synergies between healthy and sustainable food production, public health benefits and the reduction of greenhouse emission. Consumers play a key role.

There is a need for a stronger link between climate initiatives and good HSE work. For example, emission-free construction sites will represent both a good climate initiative and provide a better working environment.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen the role of the consumer and supervisory authorities
- Strengthen multidisciplinary research within sustainability, climate and health
- Stipulate stricter requirements for emission, content, labelling and information with regard to consumer products
- Strengthen the dialogue between researchers, industry, working life parties, civil society and politicians in order to identify solutions across disciplines and fields
- Change the Competition Act to create incentives for more sustainable consumption

A PLANET-FRIENDLY TRANSPORT SECTOR

The transport sector is responsible for the major national emissions. We will therefore make a significant reduction in greenhouse emissions from the transport sector. We will carry this out while also ensuring that people are able to travel to and from school, work and leisure activities, simply and effectively. We will implement measures that achieve the greatest impact.

In many parts of the country, the car is the only option, and, in the same way, industry lacks an alternative to road transport. Provision must be made for the rapid introduction of sustainable biofuels and a transition to zero-emission vehicles.

In respect of trucks, buses, ships, fishing vessels and ferries, electricity and hybrid solutions may be one of the options, but, in the short-term, biofuels and hydrogen are more realistic. For air traffic, biofuel will probably also be a solution in the long term. We will make it attractive for industry to choose climate-friendly solutions.

Shipping traffic is responsible for almost 1/5 of the emissions in the transport sector. Enova will play a significant role through subsidies for the establishment of shore power and low and zero-emission technology, particularly in the ferry fleet.

Many ferries owned by county councils are ready to be replaced. The choice of technology in the new ferries will freeze the level of emission from this traffic far into the future. We therefore want the government to contribute for a period with resources for a programme to realise zero and low-emission solutions on ferry services.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Investigate the use of flexible road usage fees that vary depending on geographical location and the emission intensity of the fuel
- Develop different models of environmentally-differentiated road toll schemes and low-emission zones with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring that the air quality in urban areas is clean enough for everyone
- Ensure that all new car sales in 2025 are based on zero-emission vehicles. If technological development permits, this should happen sooner
- Ensure that a national network of refuelling stations is established for zero-emission cars, and that the surcharge system continues to be actively used to stimulate the purchase and use of climate-friendly cars
- Establish a dedicated CO2 fund for transport in industry so that transporters are compensated for any additional costs in the purchase of new trucks, buses and ships.
- Escalate the turnover requirement for sustainable biofuels to 40% by 2030
- Stimulate a sustainable industrial value chain for biofuels based on Norwegian forests
- Establish a low and zero-emission programme for the ferry fleet
- Establish shore power in the major ports by 2030
- Ensure that, by 2020, public transport generally uses a zero or low-emission technology, or climate-neutral fuel. Tenders prior to 2020 shall include a requirement for reduced emissions
- Develop bus and taxi lanes in and around major cities and consider transforming existing lanes on multi-lane main roads into bus and taxi lanes
- Ensure that the government contributes up to 70% of investment costs in major public transport development in urban areas

EMISSION REDUCTION IN INDUSTRY

Norway has many industrial advantages. We have good access to renewable forms of energy, a highly educated population, strong industrial centres of excellence, as well as stable and long-term frameworks for social development. Over many years, Norwegian industry has reduced its level of emission, primarily through developing and utilising new technology. This gives our industry a competitive edge in a world that is increasingly requesting climate-friendly solutions. However, the need for continued change still exists.

Global changes in the energy markets will influence the petroleum sector in Norway. It is therefore important to create new opportunities so that the expertise that is currently linked to production on the Norwegian continental shelf can be used to develop other and new industries in Norway.

Norway has strong centres of excellence that are at the forefront of utilising bio resources from the sea, land and forest. We will make provision for wide-ranging and strong bioeconomical investment, in which we will further develop existing centres of excellence and develop new value chains, business clusters and research communities.

The petroleum sector has many installations with long operational lives, and in this respect, emission-reducing measures will be particularly important. The choice of solutions freezes the level of emission for decades to come. In the petroleum industry there are many opportunities in the transition to a low-emission society, not least in the interaction with sea-based renewable energy. The petroleum industry must play a key role in the investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS).

CCS is a condition for achieving the climate goals. Norway can play a leading role in the development of such technology. We already have world-leading research communities in the field. This makes us well positioned for the future. We will explore the opportunities to establish a European central store for CO₂ in the North Sea. This can ensure both Norwegian jobs and income from the Norwegian continental shelf far into the future. It is possible to continue using the current infrastructure in the North Sea. Carbon capture, use and storage, will, moreover, pave the way for even more industrial opportunities, such as the production of hydrogen based on Norwegian gas with CCS.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Make provision for technological development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions in partnership with industry
- Investigate opportunities and, if possible, make provision for the Norwegian continental shelf to become a European store for CO₂
- Ensure that emission is reduced in mainland industry and the petroleum sector, through, for example, a program for full-scale carbon capture
- Use expertise from the petroleum sector to invest in sea-based forms of renewable energy and carbon storage



Natural resources and industry

AN ACTIVE TRADE AND INDUSTRY POLICY

For the Norwegian Labour Party, work for everyone is a number one priority. For us to achieve this, it is absolutely essential that our companies and our trade and industry sector are profitable and show growth in all parts of the country. This is why the Norwegian Labour Party will advocate an active trade and industry policy that paves the way for innovative, knowledge-based and climate friendly trade and industry. Norway must be the best country in the world for running a business.

We live in a time of major technological change. Norway has the conditions in place to profit from the changes we are going through. We have high skills levels, competent consumers, a well organised society and strong industries we can build on. The Norwegian working life model, with its high skills levels, minor variations, and high degree of trust, provides a good basis on which to build the skills and willingness to change that are required to succeed in an environment of rapid technological change.

The public sector is one of Norwegian trade and industry's most important customers. It is important that tenders are formulated in ways that give Norwegian and local businesses a competitive edge.

Successfully creating lots of new jobs going forward will require closer cooperation between industry, research centres and the Government.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Establish separate national research programmes within strategic industries
- Make goal-oriented use of the public sector's procurement power to develop good domestic markets for strategically important industries within the parameters of the EEA Agreement
- Support the establishment of Digital Norway to pave the way for cooperation, skills-sharing and testing facilities to speed up digitalization within Norwegian trade and industry
- Digitise and simplify public sector bureaucracy
- Support the establishment of test centres located close to industry to ensure rapid application of new technologies and skills
- Simplify requirements for reporting to the trade and industry sector
- Strengthen regional instruments to boost the creation of new jobs across the whole country
- Give more input during the early stages of businesses and ideas by raising the level of risk for some instruments
- Present a White Paper on wholesale and retail trade

Future value creation

Norway can't be the best at everything. That's why we will prioritise strategically important industries that have potential for growth. We will emphasise the following three criteria:

- There is great potential for growth and value creation
- Norway has skills-related advantages and natural assets
- There are interaction effects on technology and skills across industries

To a large extent, efforts will be focused on these industries. Available schemes within research, skills-building and through other instruments must be better coordinated. The

goal is for the authorities, academia, voluntary and private parties to work more as a team.

The above criteria and our ability to contribute to tackling the challenges society is facing must be prioritised when identifying our strategic focus areas.

Norway is an **energy nation**. The export of energy carriers is far and away Norway's largest export business. Norway has built up a **service industry** for the oil and gas sector that exhibits high export rates and potential for further expansion. Norway has the opportunity to take a bigger share of exports within renewable energy too. We see a great deal of potential in skills transfers from oil and gas to renewable energy, including at the supplier end.

Norway's greatest natural resources are to be found in the **ocean space**. The marine and maritime industries, together with offshore operations and the oilfield service industry, constitute our most complete business clusters.

Access to reasonably priced, renewable power via hydropower has contributed to the development of a competitive **power-refining industry** in Norway. There is a high level of technological development within this industry. Implementing new technology has raised production volumes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Norway has vast opportunities to increase value creation within **bioeconomy**. A commitment to bioeconomy means focusing on facilitating the changeover from fossil fuels to renewable energy. There are vast opportunities here in relation to increased value and job creation, including within agriculture and forestry.

Norway has great opportunities within **health and welfare technology**. We have an extensive biobank and health data of great international value. Norway is an attractive country due to its high-quality and comprehensive health service, its stable and readily understood population and its good-quality national records and diagnostic biobanks. The Norwegian Labour Party's goal is to make Norway a pioneering nation in E-health and, by 2025, the leading country in Europe within this arena.

The ICT industry and knowledge-intensive services have become one of our largest growth industries and important drivers of growth in almost all other industries. We believe there is huge potential for further development of the ICT industry in Norway.

In addition, we will strengthen transverse technologies and skills that support other focus areas, such as the science of engineering and building materials and biotechnology.

Parallel to this, it is important to be able to support new industries that are currently unfamiliar to us, or that are showing surprising growth potential.

We therefore want to see a two-tier strategy for industrial and commercial development:

1. The general strategy that will guide our long-term priorities
2. The rolling strategy. This comprises demarcated programmes for selected industry sectors with special opportunities for growth.

In addition, trade and industry policy must safeguard the wide spectrum of Norwegian trade and industry and the major drivers of employment growth in Norway: wholesale and retail trade, building and construction and transportation.

Norway as an industrial nation

Industry creates a lot of value and jobs in Norway. We want to give Norwegian industry an even bigger role in Norwegian working life and the trade and industry sector. Norway has many advantages that give us access to a wealth of natural resources, high skills levels and the competitive advantages inherent to the Norwegian model. There is great untapped potential within several industrial sectors, including the power-refining

industries, the design- and brand-based industries and primary industry. The mineral industry must be further expanded in line with strict environmental requirements and with an emphasis on product development and innovation. Norwegian industrial policy must be characterised by the goal of putting our resources to good use, both on land and at sea. Looking ahead, Norwegian industry must secure good, long-term framework conditions.

We're good at exploiting our regional advantages in Norway. Our natural resources are scattered across the whole country and, to get the most out of them, it is vital to make it possible for people to live and work close to where natural resources are located.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Secure competitive and long-term framework conditions for industry that strengthen Norway as a host nation for forward-looking industry, including by taking advantage of the EU framework
- Strengthen government schemes to increase investment levels in mainland industries and ensure that these interact seamlessly with our companies
- Norway has a natural advantage when it comes to production of metals that are essential to Norwegian and European industry. In cooperation with the industry, we will put the conditions in place to enable Norwegian companies to succeed in this market.
- Ensure competitive framework conditions for new major investments, including the guarantee and loan reinforcement schemes, which comply with the regulations on government support in the EEA Agreement
- Develop different schemes for pilot testing/testing new technologies, including demonstration centres, where operational participation is also included
- Pave the way for renewable energy resources to be used to expand the development of Norwegian power-refining industries
- Extend the CO2 compensation scheme after 2020
- Review the Guarantee of Origin and product description systems and how these comply with the physical delivery of power
- Develop better arenas for cooperation across industry sectors, research and education centres, financial institutions and authorities
- Prioritise a strategic commitment to linking together design, branded goods and environmentally friendly production
- Strive to forge closer ties between design- and brand-based industry and primary industry in Norway
- Strengthen mineral management to enable compliance with future environmental requirements and the rights of Sami people, and provide guidance for municipalities
- Increase commitment to R & D to drive up levels of product development, innovation and alternative uses for mineral waste
- Ensure that mining waste is most often used for refilling. Alternative uses include crushed stone, gravel and asphalt.
- Ensure impact assessments are carried out in relation to alternative waste disposal sites before disposal at sea is considered/undertaken

Innovation and technology

In a high-cost country such as Norway, research, technology and industrial and commercial development are often closely linked. In a country of many small and medium-sized companies it is therefore an important public duty to make research and technology easily accessible, including for companies with limited resources. Norway is home to industry mammoths that are now facing challenges - not least from new digital technologies.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Expand the use of long-term cooperation projects between research and trade and industry, such as SFI (the Centres for Research-based Innovation) and the centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME)
- Ensure a more seamless range of instruments to address the needs of trade and industry
- Use the procurement power of the public sector to stimulate innovation
- Facilitate access to prototype workshops
- Strengthen arenas for cooperation, business parks and cluster programmes – especially across sectors and industries
- Strengthen schemes for skills and technology transfer between different sectors to actuate unexploited technological opportunities within new and existent industries
- Pave the way for employee-driven innovation that increases productivity, through focusing on skills-building and securing jobs

Entrepreneurs and Norwegian exports

Norway needs more export companies. The public support system is currently too weak and fragmented. Relationships between organisations such as Innovation Norway, GIEK and Export Credit Norway have to be made more seamless.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Aim to have entrepreneurs deal with the same contact person every time they communicate with publicly-coordinated support services
- Use government instruments to make early investment in new companies more attractive to private investors
- Assess new tax incentives for start-ups, e.g. facilitating more favourable stock options for employees when companies are starting up
- Establish an accelerator programme for growth companies with high export potential to boost access to capital at an early stage
- Assess specific measures and more robust instruments to stimulate new digital companies, such as public capital for new venture capital funds
- Investigate better social welfare schemes for the self-employed
- Advocate a trade policy that gives Norwegian trade and industry good access to foreign markets
- Ensure access to venture capital, for example fund of funds (FOF)
- Evaluate the range of instruments to ensure real access to capital at an early stage, including Argentum and Investinor

Domestic markets and public procurement

Access to the domestic market is important to many Norwegian companies. This is particularly true in the early stages of a company's development. The public sector must help Norwegian companies establish themselves in the domestic market. The public sector must be a demanding and daring customer in order to stimulate green competitiveness. Public procurement should contribute to innovation and climate-sensitive and environmentally friendly solutions. Commitment to skills must be more profitable than low-wage strategies.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Set stricter requirements in government tenders for innovation and sustainable solutions
- Strengthen the public sector's procurement skills at all levels

- Speed up patenting and quality assurance processes to shorten routes to the market
- Reinforce current schemes for testing and pilot testing, including on a large scale
- Actively apply taxation policy to encourage climate friendly choices and thus strengthen the domestic market for climate friendly technologies

PUBLIC SECTOR OWNERSHIP

The Government owns many of the largest companies in Norway. This ensures common ownership of critical infrastructure and important natural resources. Public sector ownership also means that important centres of excellence that otherwise would have disappeared abroad, stay in Norway. This is why the Norwegian Labour Party says no to the Government selling off companies that are strategically important to Norway. Instead, we want to actively apply public sector ownership and manage the Government's owner status in a professional and responsible way.

Our goal is to keep strategically important companies rooted in Norway. Along with headquarters come important staff functions, R & D and national responsibility, all of which trigger important ripple effects. We will complement our commitment with research funding and a range of instruments, through consciously using public sector ownership to ensure that larger, established key industries maintain their Norwegian roots. Leading government-owned companies should function as vital engines powering the development of new products and services. This needs to happen through the application of new technologies and climate-friendly solutions.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure strong public sector ownership that secures control of natural resources and important infrastructure, as well as ownership in strategically important industrial companies
- Encourage government-owned companies to assume social responsibility at all levels: locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- Pave the way for cooperation between companies where the government has owner status, and private companies where this can increase innovation and willingness to invest
- Investigate whether strengthening the current management of ownership could root strategic companies and private owners in Norway
- Ensure moderation in executive pay within government-owned companies

THE OCEAN

The Norwegian Labour Party will develop and implement an ambitious ocean strategy for Norway. The goal is to develop new knowledge about sustainable value creation in the ocean space and contribute to more profitable jobs within existing and new marine industries.

Just as Norway, during the Norwegian Labour Party's term in office, set the tone for development in the High North, our ambition is now for Norway to set the international agenda in relation to the health of the ocean and the sustainable use of its resources. Norwegian companies, specialist environments and authorities must work as a team and lead the way in developing the opportunities the ocean provides.

The marine and maritime industries, together with offshore operations and the oilfield service industry, constitute our most complete business clusters. What these industries have in common are their close ties to the ocean, that they consist of some of the top companies in the world, that they generate major revenues and that they play a significant role in establishing human settlements and employment across the whole country. Fishing and aquaculture, shipping and maritime industries, petroleum and renewable energy, also demonstrate vast potential for future value creation and new, profitable

workplaces. Skills from the fishery and shipping sectors give us the opportunity to focus on new marine-based industries, such as mineral extraction from the ocean floor, marine bioprospecting, the marine ingredients industry and harvesting the ocean's renewable energy.

No other country is in a better position to lead the way in developing the opportunities provided by the sea than Norway. In addition to our natural advantages and our strong marine industries, we have solid specialist environments with links to the sea. Important sections of higher education are aimed at the exploitation of marine resources and we have universities, colleges and institutes with expert knowledge of the ocean.

A good ocean environment is a prerequisite for future industrial development and human settlement based on resources in the ocean. Norway has a well functioning administrative regime for marine activities and has been quick off the mark in developing and implementing holistic management plans for all Norwegian sea territories.

The Norwegian Labour Party will continue to strive to strengthen international agreements and conventions to further the sustainable use of natural resources and to protect the marine environment.

AS PART OF A NEW OCEAN STRATEGY FOR NORWAY, THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Coordinate research efforts on the ocean and its resources
- Establish an marine value creation programme
- Expand relevant research infrastructure, e.g. the Ocean Space Center and evaluate establishing a centre of expertise for ocean and Arctic issues in Tromsø
- Secure a sound and effective maritime infrastructure
- Assume a leadership role on the international stage in relation to cooperation on ocean health

Specific measures to implement this can be found in the chapter on the relevant subject.

Fisheries

Fishing resources are common property and must be subject to sustainable management. They must contribute to increased value creation and employment within a forward-looking coastal fishing industry.

Our goal is for Norway to be the world's foremost seafood nation. To achieve this, we have to focus more on research, technological development and improving production. We will facilitate a fishing fleet that leads the way in technological development, security, quality and profitability. Developing new and improved technologies that can contribute to increasing quality and creating more efficient production methods must be our primary concern. In addition, we need treatment and processing technologies for byproducts and residual raw materials to improve our use of resources and increase overall value creation. Profitable, year-round jobs within the fishing industry is a central goal. Our fishing fleet also plays a key role in advancements within marine biotechnology.

The delivery obligation system was established to ensure access to raw materials for the fish processing plants in Finnmark, Troms and Nordland, especially during periods when the fishing fleet do not deliver adequate volumes. We will modernise and modify the delivery obligation system to ensure the industry has regular access to raw materials. Our goal is to get the fish covered by the delivery obligation system to land and into the processing plants to trigger activity, profitability and modern workplaces.

The Norwegian seafood industry operates in a global market and relies on a foundation of profitable production. Long-term and predictable operating conditions are therefore vital. Fishing regulations must be based on knowledge and experience and must be actively used to promote profitability and recruitment, both within the fleet and the industry.

Fish are common property. That means we have to ensure that a part of this property's value is passed on to society and the coastal communities. We will therefore further develop our policy with a view to also safeguarding this in the future, including assessment of natural resource tax.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Guarantee that future fish resources will also belong to the people as a community: We will ensure a fishermen-owned fleet and that the nationality requirement is upheld in accordance with the provisions of the Participation Act. We say no to perpetual quotas.
- Investigate new financial schemes to make it easier to invest in your own boat or become part-owner of a vessel
- Fight against social dumping within the seafood industry and preserve the Fishermen's Sales Organisation Act
- Ensure sound monitoring of resources to prevent illegal catch and release practices
- Maintain a varied fishing fleet and facilitate monitored structuring
- Not introduce a structured quota system for vessels that are under 11 metres long Investigate the issue of access to quotas and profitability and further develop the joint fishing scheme for this group
- Within research and development:
 - o Strengthen research on stocks and resources
 - o Strengthen marine R & D efforts, including within coastal ecology, to secure knowledge on the impact of the aquaculture industry on the environment, marine species, etc
 - o Boost marine education and pave the way for higher numbers of apprenticeships
- Implement simplifications to the regulations

The fishing industry

To strengthen Norway's fishing industry we have to see our fishing fleet in the context of the needs of the market and the industry. It is therefore vital to facilitate a profitable fishing fleet to enhance and secure the industry's access to raw materials. This also entails that the industry's need for raw materials all year round will, as far as possible, form the basis for decisions, including through the regulation of individual fish species. A focus on the marine ingredients industry, including industrial value chains based on kelp, provide examples of new industries that can create jobs and activity along the coast.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Promote research and development in relation to new products
- Develop at least one strong centre of excellence that highlights the seafood industry's expertise and research needs, and create the conditions for substantial recruitment at all levels
- Focus on the marine industry and job creation:
 - o Consider various schemes to facilitate industry efforts within marine industries
 - o Strengthen Norwegian seafood's market access
 - o Reinforce the marine clusters with a view to increasing innovation within the seafood industry, especially in relation to actuating opportunities within marine bioeconomy
 - o Secure a good landing centre network by providing handling and transport grants and sound infrastructure

- o Create the conditions for developing good, government-financed fishing ports
- o Implement measures to extend and harmonise the seasons, e.g. by developing different schemes for live capture and storage, using frozen raw materials, year-round agreements and investigating flexible quota years
- o Encourage increased cooperation between fleet-level and industry-level
- o Clarify the legal issues connected to live storage
- o Encourage better exploitation of residual materials with the goal of keeping raw materials, including by-catch, which can provide the basis for new products in the bioeconomy
- o Review the concession allocation system to assess whether it can be adjusted to stimulate more processing

Aquaculture

The aquaculture industry shows great potential for increased value creation. Increased processing and value creation in aquaculture will form part of the proposed Marine Value Creation Programme.

We will build and expand bridges between Norway's secure footholds within aquaculture, and the maritime and offshore sectors to enable secure and sustainable seafood production, including in more exposed coastal areas and ocean territories.

Host municipalities must be ensured stable and predictable funding for marine area use and for adapting new sites for the aquaculture industry even during periods of zero growth. Up-to-date planning work is key to countering disputes over marine areas. It also provides the industry with a degree of predictability. In the long term, the industry should be able to make more use of new areas that are currently deemed unsuited to aquaculture.

The industry must find solutions to challenges posed by lice, fish escapes and waste emissions. It must ensure sound management that does not threaten the environment and that upholds our national responsibility to safeguard the wild salmon.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Focus on R & D and new, future-oriented technology, especially within new production and operational methods
- Using a knowledge-based approach, establish production areas for salmon and brown trout farming, where the area's environmental status will determine whether or not growth will be permitted
- Encourage processing activities, including reinstating requirements for major actors in relation to local activity and adjustments, R & D and provision of apprenticeships and traineeships
- Further develop the research and development licensing scheme and ensure that new knowledge and technology benefits the entire industry
- Set requirements for tracking farmed fish and facilitate good fish health
- Focus on new species within marine aquaculture
- Trial rolling MPB (maximum permitted biomass) with a view to securing year-round jobs

The maritime industry

The maritime industry is one of Norway's most internationalised industries and is affected by global development trends. More than one third of Norway's exports are generated by this sector. This means that ideas can be taken from innovation to production in Norway. Established industries have opportunities for development, commercialisation and laying the groundwork for export. This creates a foundation for permanent jobs and

value creation based on export revenues. As shipping starts to depend on environmental and zero emission technology, huge potential is revealed for further strengthening the industry. This applies both to the oilfield service industry within maritime operations and special vessels. Norway could be a global leader in this arena. This will require the Norwegian maritime cluster to remain intact. It is therefore also important to secure the recruitment and competitiveness of Norwegian maritime personnel. The Norwegian shipbuilding industry must be offered internationally competitive guarantee and loan schemes.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Develop the maritime industry and make our shipping fleet more climate friendly by strengthening the environmental technology scheme and Enova
- Cover a proportion of additional costs through requiring green technology in ferry tenders for a transitional period
- Secure robust net pay schemes
- Open up routes for driverless shipping in Norway
- Facilitate the establishment of international regulations for autonomous shipping and stricter environmental requirements
- Strengthen the mapping of minerals on the seabed
- Secure the recruitment, expertise and competitiveness of Norwegian maritime personnel
- Simplify and improve the tax and fees regime within maritime transport
- Pave the way towards transporting more goods by sea instead of by road

Sustainable management of the ocean's resources

Our marine areas are home to a rich natural diversity that is extremely important to protect. A complex ecosystem and a vast number of organisms create the conditions for the rich stocks of fish, seabirds and mammals that live in and around the ocean. Our marine areas must be holistically and sustainably managed and in a way that emphasises the interests of fisheries.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure 12-year rotating management plans for Norwegian marine areas, with updates implemented every four years
- Ensure that the environment and other industries are given due consideration in the development of marine wind power projects
- Ensure increased knowledge about the consequences of climate change and ocean acidification for the marine environment
- Ensure better protection of coral reefs and other marine ecosystems
- Reduce environmental and greenhouse gas emissions from fisheries and neighbouring shipping traffic
- Facilitate the strengthening of international agreements to reduce environmental emissions from international shipping traffic
- Require impact assessments of alternatives to waste disposal sites in order to present all relevant specialist evaluations prior to making a decision
- Investigate how substances from mining operations may be used for other purposes

Clean oceans

Marine pollution is one of our most serious environmental challenges. There are vast quantities of plastic in the ocean. Plastic does not decompose easily and can remain in the sea for years. Here, plastic is converted into microscopic particles the size of plankton. A large number of birds, fish and animals die every year as a result of injuries

from small pieces of plastic, bags, bottles and other marine waste. Fisheries and the fish farming industry, petroleum activities and shipping have a special responsibility to prevent marine pollution.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Follow up annual clean-up initiatives along the coast and in Norwegian waters
- Encourage all fishing vessels to get involved in “Fishing for Litter” schemes
- Strengthen monitoring of the beaches along the Norwegian coast to get an overview of the scope and development of the pollution problem
- Follow up the action plan to combat marine pollution
- Ensure that measures against marine pollution are followed up by international agreements as well as national initiatives
- Investigate large-scale plastic collection initiatives as part of Norway's international leadership of cooperation on ocean health
- Support research on alternative materials that can replace plastic

TOURISM

The tourism industry is one of the world's fastest growing industries. Norway has the conditions in place to take part in this growth. Increased value creation and year-round jobs are prerequisites for growth. Growth must be sustainable. Beautiful natural environments, local food and a unique cultural heritage can all provide world-class experiences. The tourism industry is an important regional industry that has great potential to create value and jobs all across the country. To achieve this we will encourage the tourism industry to focus more on holistic experiences that include culture, food, history, nature and activities, in addition to transport and overnight stays. Norway also has great potential within product development and tourism niches such as cultural heritage, architecture and activity-based tourism.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen Innovation Norway's focus on tourism, with particular emphasis on tourism development and advertisements for Norway
- Establish a holistic system for destination development, including efficient destination companies, increased research, and cooperation between industry actors
- Cultivate closer ties between cultural life, food producers and tourism through skills development, marketing and cooperation on destinations
- Establish a national approval scheme for local and regional guides, tour leaders and mountain guides
- Build on Norway's strong position as a green and sustainable travel destination through a stronger focus on ecotourism
- Reduce local pollution by facilitating the supply of shore power to cruise boats
- Strive to strengthen world heritage sites

AGRICULTURE

The Labour Party wants robust and sustainable agriculture nationwide in Norway. We will increase wealth creation and food production within farming. The agricultural agreement between farmers' representatives and government; import tariffs to protect local agricultural production; and agricultural property legislation are the pillars of the agricultural sector that have served us well and must be upheld.

The present Norwegian agricultural industry is diversified, with a varied farming structure. We will preserve this characteristic of Norwegian agriculture through the Concession Act regulating the transfer of agricultural property; the obligation to reside on and run an agricultural property; together with price regulation. We will amend and simplify

legislation to encourage more people to take up farming, and to make it more attractive to restart derelict farms.

Sustaining the agricultural sector nationwide also entails continued robust sectoral protection by means of the system of import tariffs. This is crucial in order to increase food production based on Norwegian resources. After Norwegian agricultural product export subsidies have been phased out by 2020, we will implement compensatory measures to ensure that Norwegian food production increases rather than diminishes.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Encourage diversified and profitable agriculture based on varied farming structures nationwide, among other things by increasing differentiation of the policy instruments for incentivising diversified farming.
- Facilitate increased profitability throughout the value chain for Norwegian food and reduce the income gap between farming and other sectors
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Norwegian agricultural sector
- Facilitate the development and application of new technology and innovation in the agricultural sector
- Stimulate increased food production based on Norwegian resources, including increased use of unutilised pastureland
- Improve land protection, including by developing instruments to incentivise local authorities to plan on minimal rezoning of viable arable land
- Target clusters within the green bioeconomy, including research, development and commercialisation
- Advocate managed phase-out of fur farming and introduce compensatory schemes for an interim period
- Process more farm produce
- Establish an integrated plan setting out explicit targets for organic farming
- Make Norwegian food even safer by imposing strict requirements regarding antibiotics use, labelling, traceability and emergency management
- Introduce acts on fair trading practices to regulate negotiations between supermarket chains and suppliers. The object is to offer consumers a better assortment, improved availability, quality and lower prices and fair treatment of food producers
- Develop strategies for product development and increased exports of exclusively-Norwegian quality products
- Intensify the efforts to reduce food wastage in association with the food industry, creating food surplus depots, informational activities and draft an effective food waste act to ensure that retailers and restaurants do not dump edible food but redistribute it to charities

FORESTRY

Norway has large forested areas that are not exploited. These hold substantial potential for increased wealth creation while contributing to increased sustainability. A more proactive policy for intensified utilisation of forest resources is consequently good industry policy, good regional policy and good climate policy.

Operating conditions for forestry must be predictable, and forest resources must be made more accessible for industrial use. This will require sound logistical and transport solutions. New technology, research and innovation will also be crucial. Public procurements should be used for establishing new markets for forestry and timber products in Norway.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Administer Norway's forest resources so that we achieve increased timber extraction and industrial wealth creation
- Establish more pilot and demo plants based on forests as sources of the raw material
- Secure strategic ownership and risk capital in the forestry industry through the Government-funded investment venture company Investinor
- Make it easier to extract and transport timber for industrial purposes
- Increase the commitment to technology development and more industrial potentials through forestry-based centres of excellence
- Create framework conditions and incentives for increased use of renewable resources
- Strengthen the voluntary forest conservation scheme
- Encourage increased use of wood in newbuilds

BIOECONOMY

Norway is a leader in the utilisation of biobased resources from land, forest and sea. We will facilitate a keener commitment to this by further developing existing centres of excellence by facilitating new clusters of companies and research centres.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen Norwegian centres of excellence spearheading utilisation of biobased resources
- Strengthen tertiary education programmes within biobased industries
- Support research and innovation for the development of novel products and profitable value chains based on biocommodities
- Consider contracts for renewable fuel production in Norway
- Set up wealth creation programmes in which the venture funding system targets bioeconomy programmes

NORWAY AS AN ENERGY NATION

Renewable energy

The energy system is crucial in the transition to a low-emissions society. 98 per cent of power production in Norway today is already renewable and zero-emission. In Norway, our principle task is consequently to make better use of our renewable energy for increased wealth creation and reduced emissions. In addition, Norway's natural environment – both at sea and on land – holds vast potential for new renewable energy sources. Norway is a nation that both produces a great deal of energy and has high-level energy expertise and know-how. The energy sector is in transition, and much of the wealth creation formerly derived from power generation has now switched to a focus on security of supply, stability and products targeting end customers.

The main task now is consequently to ensure that renewable energy can largely replace fossil fuels. This will entail a sustained and resolute public-sector commitment within power production in Norway and a close interaction between the renewables sectors and the petroleum sector, which possess valuable expertise with immense transferability to renewable growth areas.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strive for the power surplus to contribute to increased wealth creation and employment in Norway. Demand that any new subsea power cables carrying electricity abroad benefit the Norwegian economy
- Demand that foreign power links are to be owned and operated by the state-owned Statnett

- Introduce an equalisation system to reduce electricity distribution charges in high-cost areas
- Ensure an equitable electricity tariff for large-scale consumers with high consumption time regardless of whether the electricity is obtained from the regional or national grid
- Ensure that account is taken of both the environment and power generation in revisions of previously granted hydropower concessions
- Strengthen renewable industries:
 - o Create a single integrated plan for energy expansions requiring a concession, in which wind, water and electricity investments will all be included
 - o Increase the state-owned enterprise Enova SF Fund for Climate, Renewable Energy and Energy Transition to NOK 100 billion
 - o Contribute to technology transfer from the offshore sector to enable Norway to claim larger industry shares internationally within renewable energy and climate-friendly solutions
 - o Assist in establishing a demonstration project for marine renewable energy (MRE) technologies
 - o Incentivise increased local solar energy production on a commercial basis
 - o When the electricity certificate scheme expires in 2021, we will reassign policy instruments from electricity generation from renewable energy sources to technology and industrial development within renewable energy
 - o In revisions of hydropower concessions and environmental and water quality improvement programmes, the object must be to maximise adjustable hydropower generation
 - o Facilitate increased maintenance, upgrading and renovation of existing hydropower plants
 - o Seek to ensure the continuation of the Norwegian hydropower tradition by granting a share of the tax revenue to local communities that place their natural resources at the disposal of hydropower plants.
 - o Interventions in natural environs shall be undertaken with the approval of affected local communities and in such a way that a share of revenues accrue to those communities, including in the form of modified technology for utilisation of hydropower
- Statkraft, the national power company:
 - o Must be mandated to assume a more prominent role in the development of renewable energy nationally and internationally through an active and predictable state ownership policy
 - o Should contribute to ensuring that Norwegian oilfield service companies are able to gain a larger share of an international renewables venture
 - o Must have the opportunity for greater involvement in international ventures in partnership with other companies

Oil and gas

Norway is a world leader in sea-based oil and gas operations. The petroleum industry is also a development hub for related industries such as ship-building and shipping. It is also important for high-potential industrial operations in windfarming and MRE for example. This makes oil and gas activities a core component of the Labour Party's strategy for making Norway a world leader in sea-based industrial development.

Emissions from combustion of fossil fuels is the root cause of the climate challenge. The Paris Accord also carries obligations for the oil and gas industry. Much of the world's unused reserves of fossil energy must be left intact. This applies above all to coal, which is the most polluting energy source, but also to oil.

Oil and gas on the Norwegian continental shelf (NCS) are valuable resources and national assets. Resource management must be for the benefit of Norwegian industrial development and the country as a whole. The Labour Party is particularly concerned that activity in the northern counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark must have greater ripple effects locally, and it will make stricter requirements of the oil companies to that end. We will ensure a diversity of companies on the NCS.

The Labour Party will create the conditions for continued activity and wealth creation from petroleum activities. We will ensure predictable framework conditions for the oil industry that make it possible to maintain expertise and make long-term investments.

The Labour Party will make strict requirements for Norwegian oil and gas operations to further reduce emissions from their own activities. Norway is to be the global leader in carbon capture and storage (CCS) innovation.

The opening of new areas for petroleum activities must proceed gradually. The Labour Party will attach great importance to integrated public-sector planning that balances oil industry interests against other concerns. Licences for new enterprises must be based on the precautionary principle and stringent environmental and safety requirements.

According to the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, there are potentially substantial oil and gas reserves in the northeastern part of the Norwegian Sea. At the same time, parts of this area contain conservation-worthy and vulnerable natural areas and pose potential conflicts with petroleum activities and fisheries and tourism. The Labour Party has also taken a staged and research-based approach to the expansion of oil and gas activities on the NCS. This approach would likewise apply to the northeastern part of the Norwegian Sea which merits due caution in certain areas.

The Labour Party will allow the introduction of petroleum-free zones to protect specific areas of Lofoten, Vesterålen and Senja. In response to calls from local communities, the Labour Party also supports the efforts to turn the southern part of Lofoten into a national park in order to protect its unique natural phenomena.

The Labour Party will initially turn the marine area off Lofotodden national park into a petroleum-free zone. Here the aim would be to establish a 50-km petroleum-free belt from the shore. In addition, the whole of the Vestfjord area would be petroleum free. The zones will be delimited in detail when the integrated management plan for the Barents Sea–Lofoten area is revised.

Parts of Nordland 6 have already been opened for petroleum activity, and at this location, existing infrastructure is the most immediately accessible. The Labour Party will therefore grant permission for impact assessment of petroleum activity to proceed in Nordland 6. The assessment will clarify which parts could be opened for oil and gas activities and which parts should be excluded. The work on an impact assessment must not be allowed to conflict with other industries; must be based on close cooperation with the fisheries industry; and conducted so as to minimise damage and inconvenience. The best available technology must be employed. The question of a possible opening of Nordland 6 for petroleum activity will be addressed at a new Labour Party congress.

In Nordland 7 and Troms 2 we have no precedents for petroleum activity. The shelf here is narrower and the challenges thus posed to other industries consequently greater. For these areas, the Labour Party will await updated research data to be presented in connection with the 2019/2020 revision of the integrated management plan for the Barents Sea–Lofoten area. A possible impact assessment of Nordland 7 and Troms 2 will not be undertaken within the 2017–2021 parliamentary period.

In accordance with applicable resolutions on the opening of the southeast Barents Sea, the Labour Party does not believe that petroleum activity within and near the ice-sheet margin is compatible with sound management of Norwegian sea areas.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure petroleum activities and wealth creation through increased recovery from fields, expansion of activities surrounding proven reserves and new exploration-area awards
- Apply the precautionary principle and stringent environmental and safety requirements
- Establish a programme for low-emissions technology for the oil and gas sector jointly with the industry
- Require installations with a long service life that cover their electricity requirement using fossil fuels without CCS to assess whether that requirement can be met using a climate-friendly alternative
- Aim to position Norway as the global leader in CCS innovation
- Impose more stringent requirements on oil companies to ensure that more wealth creation is once again at local level
- Initiate an impact assessment of petroleum activity in Nordland 6
- Await new research data on the areas in Nordland 7 and Troms 2 from the 2019/2020 revision of the integrated management plan for the Barents Sea-Loften area. A possible impact assessment of Nordland 7 and Troms 2 will not be undertaken within the 2017-2021 parliamentary period
- Allow the introduction of petroleum-free zones to protect specific key areas of Lofoten, Vesterålen and Senja.

Oilfield service industry

The oilfield service industry is a key industry for Norway on account of its globally leading technologies and expertise. Steady and predictable allocation of new contracts will contribute to maintaining and advancing the currently high level of expertise in the Norwegian oilfield service industry. To increase cost, energy and energy-transition efficiency in the oilfield service industry, we will invest in research and development. We will encourage smarter, more efficient and more climate-friendly solutions to contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the energy transition and improved occupational health and safety in the industry.

Technology transfer and enhancement of current technology will be conducive to both a proactive oilfield service industry and offshoots in new sectors. This will support the role of the petroleum industry as a driver of technological advances in Norwegian industry. To secure jobs nationwide, the Labour Party will seek to make it easier for local oilfield service companies to win contracts.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Aim for research and development to be geared more extensively to technology development and transfer
- Enable authorities to audit the choice of contract strategy for field enlargements to ensure that local oilfield service companies can participate in competition for key contracts
- Facilitate further development of the oilfield service industry in the north in order to increase local and regional ripple effects from petroleum activities
- Seek to ensure that the Petroleum Act's requirements for national ripple effects are complied with in NCS expansion projects
- Seek to ensure that requirements are made for use of NORSOK standard contracts for NCS development projects
- Urge on efforts to plug permanently abandoned wells in order to utilise spare rig capacity
- Contribute to ensuring the completion of profitable maintenance and modification projects and initiatives for increased exploitation

To improve safety:

- The Petroleum Safety Authority must ensure that operational and maintenance policy and activities serve to prevent serious incidents
- The operators must ensure proper maintenance of installations in order to contribute to reducing the risk of unwanted incidents
- Clauses in the regulations on occupational health and safety shall apply equally during construction of overseas facilities

The building and construction industry

The Norwegian building and construction industry provides 260,000 jobs and generates NOK 525 in turnover per annum. The industry has activity nationwide and is an important regional industry. The industry is knowledge-intensive and requires substantial expertise and know-how. Digitalization and industrialisation require a commitment to competence development at all levels, from skilled worker to contracting authority. Regrettably, segments of the industry are tending in a negative direction with de-mechanisation, weak wealth creation and marked adverse trends in social dumping and low-wage import competition.

In the coming years, Norway will be investing heavily in building and construction, and the industry will be yielding national contributions to reducing Norwegian greenhouse gas emissions. In order to ensure good investment and high productivity in the future, Norway must pursue a proactive industrial policy that considers innovation, wealth creation, skills and efforts to combat social dumping in context.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Elaborate on the regulations governing requirements for public procurements, which call for competence at all organisational levels, quality and an organised labour market
- Develop Bygg21, the forum for cooperation between the building industry and the authorities, in order to raise awareness of productivity, innovation, digitisation and quality
- Seek to ensure that the industry plays a leading role in the development of energy and climate-friendly solutions
- Prioritise the implementation of initiatives in the building and construction industry report on accreditation of qualifications and combating unprofessionalism, “Enkelt å være seriøs”
- Step up efforts to combat black market labour and social dumping

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

It must be easy for people to travel in Norway. Increased accessibility, safety improvements and environmental protection shall inform Norwegian transport policy in order to ensure the rapid and safe transportation of people and goods and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We must plan workplaces and housing developments better in order to ensure that minimal time and money are spent on travelling. Central and local government workplaces must be located so as to be instrumental in reducing transportation requirements and encourage travel by public transport.

Unmanned vehicles and intelligent means of transport are already revolutionising the public transport sector. We will encourage this trend and take an optimistic view of how digitalization is set to create a much safer and more efficient transport system.

The costs of building roads and railways have increased substantially in recent years, and we are getting increasingly less road and track for the expenditure allocated. We must organise infrastructure developers in such a way as to provide maximum road for our money.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Substantially reduce planning time for transport projects
- Create a cooperative arena between the national transport agencies, building and construction sector and research institutions. The Government will contribute innovation funds for new technology and measures to step up productivity
- Ultimately replace flat-rate road tolling with differentiated road charges that take better account of driven distance and vehicle emission class
- Consider merging the various transport authorities for purposes of transport system integration and in order to phase out needless bureaucracy
- Develop new and improved models of public transport in areas with more sparse habitation and ensure more efficient coordination of resources and instruments based on the experiences gained from the regional public transport scheme
- Consider patient transportation and municipal taxi services from a region-wide perspective in order to provide a high standard of services and realise the intention of the transport service licensing scheme
- Initiate national-level investment in unmanned technologies, both development and trialling

Roads

Norway needs an efficient and safe road network for rapid transportation of people and goods. This is why the investment in our national roads and transport corridors is important. County roads are important for business and industry. The county authorities must be equipped to upgrade the county road network. Climate change is adversely affecting Norwegian road and rail routes, which must be protected against more frequent rockfalls. We opposed the creation of the state-owned roads planning, construction and maintenance enterprise, Nye veier AS company. We will be scrutinising the new enterprise with the aim of eliminating needless bureaucracy and ensuring political supervision of decisions and road project priorities. The roads that have been planned, initiated or prioritised by Nye Veier AS must be completed.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Make road network expansion projects more coordinated and cohesive
- Ensure that commercial traffic has good access and road conditions
- Carry out upgrades to protect county and national roads against flooding and rockfalls. A comprehensive plan must be drawn up for this project
- Ensure sound local authority economics so that county authorities can fulfil their responsibility for roads maintenance and for local and regional public transport
- Introduce ignition interlock devices for coaches and lorries
- Increase the number of traffic safety measures to protect road users, including improved traffic safety education in kindergartens and schools, increased road-user information, preventive and attitudinal campaigns
- Boost the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, which possesses the expertise and experience for carrying out major road expansion projects
- Reduce the maintenance backlog on the county and national roads
- Secure more parking spaces at public transport hubs on the outskirts of main cities and construct more public transport lanes to ensure better bus and coach transit

Railways

The Labour Party has high ambitions for the Norwegian railways. The increase in traffic in and around the main cities should be through increased use of public transport, cycling and walking. Rail services are a crucial element in realising this aim. This applies in

particular to the InterCity lines. We will be increasing the number of departures where rail travel represents a genuine alternative to car travel.

The Government has launched a reform of rail service organisation which holds scope for privatisation and large-scale structural changes. We do not approve of privatising the railways and are critical of elements of the new organisation. The reorganisation and creation of new structures must be evidence-based and ensure quality improvements in transport options. We will therefore implement a review of organisation and goal attainment before considering other rail service restructuring.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Secure state ownership and supervision of the rail sector
- Prioritise catching up on the railway maintenance backlog
- Prioritise completion of planned railway lines
- Pave the way for electrification and uptake of new technologies for reduced emissions on existing diesel lines
- Facilitate dual-track capacity in and out of the main cities
- Increase the number of passing loops in order to boost capacity and predictability
- Enlarge and upgrade goods terminals for handling transfers of more goods from road to rail and for seamless and more climate-friendly transport arteries
- Enable Norwegian service and supply firms to compete for future expansion of the Norwegian railways

Maritime infrastructure

Intensified investment in sea areas will drive demand for efficient and environmentally-friendly transport, maritime operations and telecommunications.

Norway has many ports, and many of them are scarcely used. As a result of this, the infrastructure and its operation is becoming costly and inefficient. This makes it essential to assess how to make best use of port capacity. Investments in, and maintenance of, fishing ports must remain a state responsibility.

Our aim is for Norway to lead the way in establishing rules and technologies for international shipping in the Arctic.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Make transportation more climate friendly by:
 - o Seeking to make far more routes operated using zero-emissions ferries by 2030
 - o Mounting a large-scale research and technology programme to develop zero and low-emissions solutions in the maritime sector
 - o Ensuring that LNG is more readily available to the shipping industry
 - o Making it more attractive to invest in environmentally friendly vessels
- Ensure more efficient use of port capacity by:
 - o Investigating how we can ensure efficient use of Norwegian port capacity
 - o Implementing an attractive subsidisation scheme for investment in ports
 - o Assessing a wide range of policy instruments for making transportation of goods by sea routes more attractive
 - o Assuming a leading role in development of strict and effective international regulations for shipping in the Arctic
- Revising the Harbour Act with a view to ensuring that municipal harbours and ports are authorised to transfer any surplus to harbour or port owners if the surplus derives from sources other than harbour or port operations. Ensuring that taxes levied pursuant to the Harbour Act continue to be used solely for the purposes prescribed by the Act

- Map the need for measures at airports for exports of seafood in particular
- Ensuring that reliable broadband access is provided in the northern sea areas

Aviation

We are flying more frequently than in the past, and air services are becoming more internationalised. This poses major challenges for the climate, but also for Norwegian airlines and their employees in an industry rife with competition. We advocate an aviation policy that protects employee rights, and encourages rapid development of new technology and the introduction of renewable fuels.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Present a comprehensive aviation strategy for Norway in a dedicated white paper
- Guarantee decent pay and employment terms in the industry:
 - o Put in place rules that ensure employees full and permanent employment with the airline directly
 - o Lobby for clear-cut homebase rules that explicitly define the employer's responsibility
 - o Prevent the use of flags of convenience by insisting on legislation to prevent companies from conducting business under multiple AOCs in one or more countries
 - o Prevent access to replacing Norwegian and European employees on Norwegian-registered carriers on intercontinental routes
 - o Facilitate professional training of flight attendants and public investment in a training system in order to avoid the pay-to-fly practice
- Increase climate-friendliness:
 - o Contribute to ensuring that the EU puts in place aviation legislation to incentivise CO2 emissions reductions and ensure that European airlines are competitive
 - o Contribute incentives for rapid phase-in of sustainable aviation fuel
- Retain the Avinor model for operating and upgrading all Norwegian airports
- Guarantee national supervision of essential services such as the ambulance service, helicopter transport on the NCS through requirements for a Norwegian licence for providers of these services
- Not introduce common European regulations regarding helicopters used for offshore operations (HOFO)
- Guarantee a high standard of transport services on scheduled regional routes put out to tender, and timetables for regional routes must be submitted for consultation before being implemented
- Replace the current air passenger duty with a tax that has a genuine climate impact so that regional employees and routes are not as unreasonably affected as they are at present
- Ensure safe integration of drones/unmanned aircraft in Norwegian aviation for leisure and business purposes

NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

We must take the environment and nature conservation into consideration in all of our undertakings. Norway must pursue a responsible environmental policy based on the precautionary and sustainability principle.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Halt the loss of species and habitats
- Safeguard biological diversity and pristine countryside

- Draw up a master ecological map of habitats, species and landscape features
- Increase nature and environment knowledge within Norwegian municipalities
- Ensure that valuable recreational areas in neighbourhoods are easily accessible
- Present a supplementary national parks plan
- Strengthen forest conservation so that we achieve the target of 10 per cent of Norwegian forest under conservation through voluntary conservation

Large carnivores

The Labour Party operates with a two-pronged objective in its large carnivore policy. We must protect both large carnivores and livestock farming. The Labour Party will aim to maintain viable large carnivore colonies in Norway. The Labour Party also wants to maintain viable livestock farming and contribute to reducing the level of conflict between large carnivores and livestock farmers. We will follow-up on large carnivore agreements in such a way as to build trust in public administration.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure viable large carnivore colonies in Norway in accordance with the Nature Diversity Act and our international obligations
- Achieve the two-pronged objective of the large carnivore policy by monitoring large carnivore agreements through an efficient management system
- Seek to mitigate the level of conflict between large carnivore management and livestock farmers
- Aim for overall depredation pressure to be seen in its overall context
- Ensure proper monitoring of fixed population targets and effective culling of large carnivores when population targets are reached
- Ensure rapid and effective culling of large carnivores that encroach on the human population and communities in accordance with the Nature Diversity Act and where human quality of life is impaired
- Ensure that the large carnivore policy is considered in the context of the objective for increased food production

Outdoor recreation

Our commitment to outdoor recreation is one of our most important measures in public health promotion. Natural areas must be made easily accessible for everyone. The local authorities have the most important role in efforts to provide areas and amenities for physical activity, sports and outdoor recreation. Norway's voluntary associations are especially important actors in encouraging new groups to make the most of the outdoor recreation amenities in the local environs.

We will facilitate sustainable use of the countryside, attractive schemes for game shooting and angling and ensure accessibility for the general public and sustainable management of wildlife populations.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure continued state ownership of Statskog SF, the enterprise responsible for the management of state-owned forest and mountain land, to maintain shooting and fishing for everyone
- Arrange for state acquisition of valuable nature areas
- Preserve urban outdoor recreation grounds, parks, greenspaces and watercourses in and around the main cities and facilitate the provision of attractive, green outdoor amenities in all neighbourhoods
- Promote outdoor recreation as a sound preventive health measure
- Facilitate universal access and the creation of nature trails, hiking trails and meeting places

- Provide and safeguard public right of access to the countryside including beaches
- Ensure sustainable use of valuable nature and conservation areas
- Ensure public right of access to game shooting and angling amenities
- Facilitate more equipment-hire centres for outdoor recreation
- Appoint community nature and outdoor recreational councils in the municipalities
- The ownership status of state property in Nordland and Troms must be resolved
- Enshrine the public right of access in the Norwegian Constitution



People and communities

CULTURE

Cultural experiences enrich our lives and bring people together. Culture provides both relaxation and engagement. Culture helps to break down barriers and build up new, stronger communities. Both the Norwegian and Sami languages, as well as the national minority languages within Norway's remit, Kven, Romanes and Romani, form the framework for cultural expression within these communities.

Too many people are being denied access to culture. We will increase diversity, both on stage and among audiences. We will dismantle thresholds for participation and provide a better taste of the broad spectrum of cultural activities taking place across all municipalities and counties. A new cultural policy will provide local cultural initiatives in all counties and municipalities across the whole country. This will enable more artists and culture workers to earn a living, it will provide our stars of tomorrow with more opportunities for success and it will boost Norway's appeal on the international stage.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Implement a new cultural policy, whereby the proportion of the government budget allocated to culture will again be gradually increased to 1 percent. Government budget growth will benefit the entire country
- Give more people, particularly children and young people, the chance to participate by lowering thresholds
- Introduce a national "culture card" scheme for young people
- Improve living conditions for artists through an Arts and Culture Funding Reform
- Introduce a new festival support scheme that ensures the artistic quality and predictability of festivals
- Give more children the opportunity to take part in reasonably priced activities offered by schools of music and the arts, in connection with school or after-school programmes. Build up our schools of music and the arts as part of a holistic focus on breadth and inclusion in cultural activities across the entire country
- Endeavour to transform libraries into more robust and more accessible meeting places.
- Strengthen museums and make admission free for under 18s
- Introduce a new and balanced Copyright Act, in line with digital development, so that creators are ensured earnings from and respect for the art and cultural works they create
- Present a new action plan for culture and industry and review the current range of instruments for the self-employed to make them better suited to the needs of art and culture workers
- Introduce a Books Act that regulates the fixed price system
- Protect our Norwegian cultural heritage by digitalising our cultural history, preserving and disseminating local history and personal and family histories, and safeguarding the foundations of our folk music, traditional dance, church music and craft traditions
- Review the management of our cultural monuments to ensure their preservation and accessibility for future generations
- Establish goals that are linked to equality and diversity in all facets of cultural life
- Strengthen Sami culture, film, music and craft traditions, including by increasing funding to these areas

- Advocate an active language policy that ensures that Norwegian or Sami remains the preferred language throughout the whole of Norwegian society. Secure constructive development opportunities for Nynorsk
- Phase out the donation matching scheme

Film, cinema and TV series

The Norwegian Labour Party wants to strengthen its commitment to Norwegian film and TV series, through more robust production grants, higher levels of co-production and post-production funding, as well as improved support schemes for Norwegian film and TV festivals. The incentive scheme will be further developed into a rights-based scheme under the remit of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. The film regions will be strengthened and there will be more focus on talent. We want to achieve a decentralised cinema structure and keep our rural cinemas alive. The cinematheques will enjoy greater predictability and local film and cinema initiatives will be safeguarded.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Increase production funding for Norwegian films
- Provide more funding for script, concept and idea development to encourage a wider range of projects
- Strengthen Norwegian film and Norwegian market players including through co-production funding
- Develop a strategy to boost commitment to Norwegian series
- Increase grants to Norwegian film festivals
- Further develop the film incentive scheme to make it more predictable
- Strengthen commitment to regional film
- Increase the focus on women in films and series
- Boost commitment to Sami film through more Nordic collaboration
- Sustain a decentralised cinema structure and rural cinemas
- Give cinematheques increased predictability
- Ensure greater accessibility through mandatory subtitling and universal design
- Identify ways in which distributors, broadcast TV channels and streaming channels can play a more prominent role in financing feature films and TV series

MEDIA

The news and current affairs media are integral to public education, democracy and community spirit. Digitalization has led to radical changes in our media habits and business models. Many of the most prominent media in Norway are facing major challenges in terms of financing sound journalism and dealing with competition from international media players. We are particularly concerned about the state of quality journalism and we will assume greater political responsibility in securing freedom of expression and opportunities for the media to fulfil their social responsibilities in all parts of the country.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen the role of NRK as a public broadcaster with a strong presence throughout the entire country by securing predictable management and financing
- Take the initiative in international cooperation so that global media players will pay taxes in their countries of operation, with a view to strengthening the financing of media support schemes
- Leave intact the overall level of media support and develop schemes that advance innovation and ensure that local newspapers are able to successfully manage the transition to new platforms

- Present a separate Media Responsibility Act that will strengthen Norwegian protection of sources
- Seek to establish commercial public service broadcasting headquarters and news programmes in Bergen
- Aim to establish the headquarters of commercial public service radio broadcasting in Lillehammer
- Ensure that local radio channels receive sufficient funding to successfully transition from FM to DAB
- Protect those under threat as a result of statements and opinions they have made. Establish special protections for editors and journalists

SPORTS

Sport gives us quality of life and a sense of mastery. Participating in organised sports promotes a sense of community and shared experience, and both organised and individual sports provide valuable physical activity. Sporting events also play an important role in promoting integration, public health, social harmonization and equality. Sport, not to mention top-level sports, provide experiences that bring us closer together, both within the local community and as a country. It is therefore important to ensure a wide range of sports facilities that are easily accessible to everyone, particularly children and young people. It is also vital to ensure that sport, in its capacity as a popular movement, builds on healthy common values in Norwegian society. Many young people drop out of organised sports when they reach adolescence. Recreational sports provision for this age group is inadequate.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Upgrade and build more sports facilities, particularly in areas where they are few and far between
- Extend the scheme allocating extra lottery funding to high-demand areas
- Preserve and protect Norsk Tipping's monopoly and ensure that profits from Norsk Tipping that go to sports do not get channelled into commercial activities
- Secure predictability for sports clubs, including via full VAT refunds
- Simplify the sports clubs' communication with the public authorities through better coordination and increased digitalization on the part of the public sector
- Support anti-doping efforts and measures to combat match fixing
- Contribute to recruitment and talent development within top-level sports
- Boost recreational sports to ensure a high level of public health among children and young people
- In collaboration with sporting bodies, increase the number of women in senior leadership roles within the sports industry
- Support sports as an important arena for inclusion and integration
- Provide better opportunities for activity for people with disabilities
- Promote schemes offering free lending of equipment and use of facilities

CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY

Well-developed public welfare services is a prerequisite for family life. Welfare programmes must be designed to pave the way for high labour force participation and increased equality. Employment is the most effective route out of poverty, which is why welfare policy must create the conditions whereby as many people as possible are able to work. Parental leave, good kindergartens, quality schooling and well staffed, good-quality elder care all take the strain off families and facilitate participation in the labour force.

Opportunities to start a family, have children and take good care of those closest to you are all linked to how society is organised. Many people with substantial caring

responsibilities within the family, such as attending to sick children or parents, receive too little and inadequately coordinated support from the Government.

We will give fathers and mothers better opportunities for equal parenting and expand the rights of people with substantial caring responsibilities. The Norwegian Labour Party will evaluate measures to alleviate time pressures for families with small children. Within the frame of equal parenting, we will investigate ways to reduce working hours for parents during their child's first year in kindergarten until the child turns two.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

For families with small children:

- Increase the paternity quota to at least 14 weeks and ensure that leave is split into three time periods
- Enable parental leave to be taken by people other than the two legal parents, so that more caregivers in rainbow families can go on leave at the legal parents' request
- In relation to the best interests of the child, assess whether a child with more than two caregivers can also have more than two legal parents
- Review conditions for self-employed people and others without permanent employment with a view to making it easier to combine family life and raising children with running your own business
- Phase out cash benefits. Families who have applied for a kindergarten place can receive waiting benefits from the date parental leave ends until an offer of a kindergarten place is made
- Ensure that the municipalities fulfil their obligation to provide joined-up services for parents of chronically ill or disabled children, for example, through allocation of a permanent contact person

For families with sick children:

- Reinforce municipal efforts to provide families with chronically ill children with an individually adapted plan, as well as holistic and joined-up services
- Develop the scheme offering family stand-ins for parents of small children in need of assistance in emergencies and special situations
- Conduct a holistic review of schemes for parents of sick children and children with special needs, with a view to simplifying and strengthening the rights of these families
- Strive to establish an adequate number of student bedsits and increase the student living allowance for young people between 15 and 18 from single-income families to make the right to secondary education free and attainable for everyone. The student living allowance will continue to be means-tested
- Assess the conditions of schemes aimed at the parents of sick children, including increased supplementary benefits, to enable eligibility for benefits after the age of 18 where parents are caring for chronically ill children
- Investigate how parental entitlement to care benefits for absences due to a biological child's condition can be exercised by other close relatives/friends

For families with sick parents:

- Investigate different forms of financial aid schemes to secure income in short-term care situations involving parents or close relatives who are ill, and make it easier to combine being in work with substantial caring responsibilities

Children as next of kin:

- Ensure good-quality and holistic services

Adoption applications:

- Create the conditions for shorter waiting periods during the adoption process by helping adoption organisations to work together with a wider range of countries

- Encourage cooperating countries to accept applications from homosexual and lesbian adoptive parents

Separation:

- Strengthen family welfare centres to bolster the mediation scheme for separating couples and contribute to defusing conflict

CHILD WELFARE

Child welfare services have a duty to help children quickly and consider the views of children before decisions that affect them can be made. To achieve this requires preventative measures, a cross-disciplinary approach and cooperation among sufficiently large bodies and organisations to ensure a strong and independent professional environment.

To ensure better and more customised help for vulnerable children and families, we will undertake a quality reform to improve child welfare services and enable holistic provision to children and families in need.

It is vital that all citizens in Norway have a high degree of confidence in child welfare services. Child welfare services is one of the most complex social arenas in society; they have to cover a wide range of duties across several fields and disciplines, often over long periods of time. This requires employees with the right skills and a structure that ensures professionalism and proximity to children and families.

We will raise competency levels among employees and provide better professional tools for working with vulnerable children and families. A good education and sound leadership are decisive factors in providing good child welfare services. There is a need to assess if current school and further education qualifications are sufficient to meet the skills requirements of child welfare services.

Child welfare services must be a public sector responsibility. Where the Government has to procure services, non-profit organisations will, as a rule, be prioritised ahead of commercial ones. Quality and competency requirements will be set. Non-profit players will enjoy predictability thanks to long-term contracts. We will raise skills levels within the Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs and the municipalities to enable them to take a greater number of necessary actions.

There is currently a huge need for foster homes and emergency shelters. We must also strengthen child welfare services to enable them to follow up increasing numbers of enquiries and reports. Child welfare officers must have multicultural skills. We will review the appeals options open to biological parents where a care order is in place. The goal is to provide children with more stability and a calm environment.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Conduct a quality reform of child welfare services to ensure that children and families receive the kind of help that is right for and relevant to them, including during case handling, and to boost confidence in child welfare services
- Earmark funding for child welfare services to attract more employees and safeguard the rights of children
- Widen access to good, low-threshold services like Stange Mental Health Services and the Family Houses
- Ensure that municipalities that assume responsibility for second-line child welfare are reimbursed for any related costs
- Ensure that more robust parameters are in place for families who receive help from child welfare services
- Ensure better and more predictable conditions, guidance, support and training for foster families

- Recruit more multi-ethnic foster families
- Ensure that the individual child receives personalised care and previous child welfare clients receive closer follow-up services. Other support services must be brought in as early as possible and priority given to cooperation meetings.
- Reinforce the experience-based approach within child welfare services through active consultation with previous child welfare clients, social entrepreneurs and non-profit organisations
- Ensure that all qualifications to work with children include training on violence, sexual abuse and the signs of neglect
- Strive to ensure that siblings are placed with the same foster or adoptive family
- Ensure that children are allocated permanent case workers from child welfare services
- Ensure that the best interests of the child take precedence over biological considerations and take steps to specify this more closely in the Child Welfare Act
- Establish national cooperation across child welfare services to make it impossible to “leave behind” a report made to child welfare services

EQUALITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Everyone must have the same opportunities in Norway, regardless of who you are. Norwegian society still exhibits an uneven distribution of power between men and women. Women are underrepresented in positions of authority, women own less and earn less than men and there are wide wage disparities. Because power between men and women is unequally distributed, seemingly gender-neutral policies affect men and women differently and reinforce inequalities in power, opportunities and resources.

Women and men may experience different kinds of challenges in relation to equality. In the years ahead, we must see women’s and men’s struggles for equality more in context – it is not possible to achieve equality for one gender without involving the other. At the same time, we must take into consideration that challenges to equality connected to income, power and social differences call for a continued focus on the situation for women in society. A society in which people are discriminated against or where equality is fragile is a society that is wasting its human resources.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

In promoting gender equality:

- Establish mandatory three-party collaboration on equality in the workplace
- Strengthen the Equality Act and the Obligations of Active Measures and Reporting, and increase their applicability
- Impose financial sanctions for discriminating parties even in cases of unintentional discrimination. Free legal aid must be provided in cases where the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud deems this reasonable
- Strengthen equality centres
- Encourage Government-owned enterprises to require plans to recruit more female bosses and nomination committees in government-owned companies to be at least 40 percent female
- Strengthen commitment to state-run management training and require such programmes to consist of at least 40 percent women
- Ensure that the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud is given the authority to determine restitution in employment cases
- Promote greater expertise within those sectors of society in which boys and men experience systematic disadvantages – including at school, where the drop-out rate is higher for boys; in employment, where the number of men in the 25-54

age group has declined; in mental health, where the suicide rate is higher among men; and in child custody cases, where men are rarely granted custody – and develop political initiatives to tackle these challenges

- Strive for more gender-balanced education and employment choices

To counteract discrimination against minorities:

- Reinforce LGBT+ policies through a specific action plan and raise levels of financial support for related organisations
- Assess the introduction of a third gender category
- Strive to help Norway achieve universal design and compel each individual sector to introduce measures to make buildings accessible. Prioritise public sector buildings
- Map and improve provision for the visually and hearing impaired
- Expand information dissemination about disabilities to prevent assaults and harassment
- Draw up an action plan to counteract ethnic and religious discrimination

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The municipalities are decisive in ensuring good-quality welfare services all over the country. Good elder care and sound schooling are only possible if the municipalities maintain high quality standards across all services and can rely on robust and predictable finances. This demands a policy that neutralises the differences between the municipalities, including disparities in tax revenues, migration flows and demographic changes.

The most important demographic challenge the municipalities are facing is the huge increase in the number of old people. This requires incentivising municipalities to expand provision to adequate levels of coverage.

The municipalities' most important resources are their employees. The municipalities must organise their services in a way that makes them an attractive workplace, and offer a higher number of full-time positions and permanent contracts. The municipalities have to acknowledge and invest in their employees' skills.

The Norwegian Labour Party believes that making changes to the municipal structure is constructive where doing so bolsters service provision to citizens. The changes must be voluntary and based on sound local procedures. We will reinforce financial incentives such as reform grants and one-off grants to encourage more municipal mergers.

The Norwegian Labour Party wants strong regions under the direct control of democratically elected bodies. The regions will take on a leadership role alongside the municipalities, industry and commerce, and the civil service. Stronger regions should take over several duties within such sectors as transport, education, research, business development and the environment. The regional level will retain its current duties within schools, health, public transport and dental health. The regions must be given a more prominent role as agents of social development, and regional planning as a development tool must be made more robust. We are positive about the county municipalities' local-level assessments of the feasibility of mergers to create larger regions.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Increase the municipal sector's revenues to ensure better municipal services
- Undertake a review of the municipal and county municipal revenue system to ensure equal provision of services across the entire country
- Look positively on local initiatives for municipal and county mergers and reinforce dedicated support schemes
- Support voluntary municipal mergers that have been agreed and set in motion

- Implement skills development programmes for municipal employees in cooperation with employment stakeholders
- Identify and prioritise city neighbourhoods that are facing difficult social challenges in order to safeguard equal opportunity and counter major social inequalities
- Bring in legislation to establish a Municipal Youth Council or similar
- Extend and expand the pilot scheme giving 16-year-olds the right to vote in local elections
- Promote the municipalities' continued eligibility for VAT refunds for social housing to enable them to continue providing those in need with housing

HOUSING

For many of us, a place to live at an affordable price is vital for us to be able to live a happy, independent life. A key political task is therefore to put the conditions in place for building an adequate number of homes.

House prices have risen dramatically over the last few years. For many, particularly for young people, buying a home has become extremely difficult. The main problem is that too few homes have been built over an extended period of time, particularly in high-demand areas. We will take the initiative by setting stricter requirements for the municipalities and streamlining housing construction procedures.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Build more homes:
 - o Establish mandatory cooperation on housing policy between central government and Norway's largest municipalities
 - o Enforce legal requirements for housing schemes in those municipalities where the municipal master plan or other equivalent plans do not already safeguard them
 - o Link infrastructure to housing construction and increase home-building around public transport hubs
 - o Strengthen grant schemes for renovation and densification of existing housing stock
 - o Accelerate student housing construction to achieve the goal of building 3000 homes per year
 - o Proactively establish a Homes for the Elderly programme and develop housing provision in a way that enables different generations to benefit from each other
 - o Shorten case processing times for planning and processing of building applications
 - o Strengthen the Housing Bank:
 - o Establish closer ties between the Housing Bank and the larger municipalities
 - o Make sure the Housing Bank has an adequate framework in place for loans and grants
 - o Investigate options for a differentiated interest rate within the Housing Bank
- Create a housing market for everyone:
 - o Assess extending the occupancy period requirement for tax-free gains from residential property sales
 - o Give municipalities the opportunity to award start loans to young people with little capital and good income prospects
 - o Establish more rent-to-buy schemes in cooperation with private developers, housing associations, the municipality and the Housing Bank

- Ensure better redemption rights for ground leaseholders to enable as many as possible to own the ground under their home or cabin

CONSUMER POWER

To be able to exercise our rights as consumers, information about the goods and services we purchase must be easily accessible to us all. It is our political duty to enable informed consumers to make the kind of choices that benefit the environment and promote workers' rights as well as other key human rights. The rights of consumers must also be better safeguarded, especially in the current digital era in which commercial players can easily build up a picture of our buying habits to boost their profits through goal-oriented marketing.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Assess the introduction of a special Ethics Act that will ensure consumers receive more detailed information about places and conditions of production
- Tighten the content, labelling and information requirements for common products
- Draw up an action plan for a Non-Toxic Everyday Environment, including establishing requirements for detailed checks on products and awareness-raising initiatives in business and industry, among consumers and in relation to product labelling
- Work towards achieving better protection of personal and consumer data in digital services
- Ensure genuine adherence to important privacy protection principles, e.g. consent and access to/deletion of information
- Promote common European solutions for better consumer protection, including:
 - o A new debt registry
 - o More stringent requirements for credit marketing

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering work enriches our society and our sense of community. Voluntary work is carried out by an independent and unique subset of our society. It performs a function that neither the market nor the Government is able to perform. This applies to caregiving, outdoor recreation, integration, public health, culture and sports to name but a few areas. Our policy takes this as its starting point and ensures the voluntary sector substantial funding, a high degree of freedom and a significant role in our society.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Simplify and coordinate regulations and support schemes to enable the voluntary sector to spend more time on activities, membership management and recruitment
- Secure funding for the voluntary sector that includes a large proportion of non-earmarked funds, e.g. through strengthening the VAT refund scheme and most of the increase in funding coming from the allocation of non-earmarked funding, not project funding
- Establish more volunteering centres and voluntary work advisors in the municipalities
- Encourage the appointment of coordinators in all municipalities to assist the voluntary sector
- Co-locate all available support schemes for the voluntary sector in one common search portal

RELIGION AND LIFE-STANCE POLICY

Norway heritage is Christian and humanistic. We bring this heritage with us in encounters with the diverse society we have today.

Freedom of religion is a human right. However, parallel to the freedom to believe in and practise a religion is the freedom not to believe, to convert to/from, renounce or criticise a religion.

Religion is not only a private matter for the individual. It becomes a matter of public concern in relation to financial support from the Government, when religious and life-stance groups contribute to the well-being of communities through the work of voluntary groups, or when someone is coerced or oppressed in the name of religion.

For many people, religious and life-stance groups provide important communities. They contribute to a sense of belonging and identity and can be anchor points for volunteering in the local community.

Since religious and life-stance groups are often hugely important to individuals, transparency into and out of these groups is equally important for wider society. We require democracy, openness and representation from most other social arenas. Now is the time to require the same of religious and life-stance groups. The requirements set must safeguard freedom of religion and not interfere with the theology of religious and life-stance groups.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- The main focus of the funding scheme for religious and life-stance groups will be on ensuring predictability and will remain largely unchanged with the exception of:
 - o Taking a closer look at the calculation basis for support and assess the adequacy and relevancy of the criteria
- Significantly raising the minimum number of members required to receive financial support from the current ten-member requirement
- Setting eligibility requirements for financial support for religious and life-stance groups to include the following:
 - o There must be at least 40 percent female representation in the governing bodies administering state aid. The requirement does not apply to bodies that deal with theological issues and will not come into force until 2020.
 - o There must be democratically elected representatives in the governing bodies administering state aid. The requirement does not apply to bodies that deal with theological issues and will not come into force until 2020.
- Set requirements for people coming to Norway to practise as religious leaders whereby they must have or attain knowledge and expertise on the role of the religious advisor in the contexts of: violence in close relationships, experiences of exile and core values in Norwegian society.
- Establish a separate equality fund: religious and life-stance groups can apply for funding for equality projects
- Public institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes and prisons must ensure that the necessary conditions are in place to enable patients and inmates to practise their religion and life-stance views through dialogues with a priest, or equivalent provision for people of other religious affiliations
- Require openness from religious and life-stance groups in relation to financial donations (and other material support) from abroad, and investigate the bases on which foreign donations or financial support may be restricted
- Ensure that divorce in accordance with Norwegian law is respected by the different religious and life-stance groups and counteract the growth of religious courts

- Ensure that the voting system within the Church of Norway recruits local, regional and central members who are chosen through direct elections that take place parallel to municipal and county council elections, and at a nearby location
- Create the conditions to enable the Norwegian Seamen's Church to remain an important church, cultural and social meeting place for Norwegians abroad, including through allocation of a separate grant
- Arrange funding for local dialogue initiatives between different religious and life-stance groups and between these groups and wider society
- Develop the religion and life-stances subject into a more inclusive subject and remove "Christianity" from the official subject name

INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

We will ensure good framework conditions for the Sami language, culture, business sector and community life. Sami people must have real opportunities to learn Sami, use it in everyday life, and be able to pass it on to the next generation. We will strengthen and coordinate specialist health service provision to the Sami population with the goal of ensuring that Sami patients are able to receive health services in a setting that offers skills in and knowledge of the Sami language and culture.

It is important to ensure good operating conditions for the traditional Sami trades. At the same time, we must create the conditions for growth in other business sectors too and boost new growth in areas where populations are declining.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure adequate levels of good-quality Sami teaching materials
- Train more Sami-speaking teachers, kindergarten teachers and public health workers
- Increase the number of Sami kindergarten places
- Strive to expand Children's House provision to Sami children
- Support Sami LGBT+ initiatives
- Promote the expansion of expertise on Sami culture in interactions with the victims of violence and sexual abuse, and in criminal investigations
- Aim to provide good-quality healthcare services that are adapted to the needs of the Sami population
- Oppose all forms of discrimination
- Fulfil our obligations to our national minorities and aim to enable these groups to further develop their identities, cultural histories and mother tongues in Norway
- Endeavour to create good framework conditions to safeguard Kven language and cultural initiatives

IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY

We are living in a time of massive migration as a result of wars, conflicts, poverty and climate change. Finding international solutions is vital to creating peace and security so that people will no longer be forced out of their homes. Norway has a responsibility to help people who are fleeing war and persecution. There is a huge need for large-scale help in the areas that have been hit the hardest and in the countries that are taking in the most refugees. Norway should take a leadership role on the international stage to improve the situation in the countries from which people are fleeing.

The current situation of unregulated migration to Europe is unsustainable. Norway cannot tackle these challenges alone but we will take on our share of the responsibility. We will seek out opportunities for cooperation at both European and global level. We will set clear requirements for all European states to accept their quotas of refugees.

The Norwegian Labour Party took the initiative to and stands behind the broad compromises on immigration and integration brought before the Norwegian Parliament in 2015. We will introduce a strict but fair and humane asylum and refugee policy. It is important to ensure checks are carried out on arrival in Norway. People entitled to protection because they have been forced to flee their homes will have their cases processed in Norway in accordance with international regulations. Those who do not require such protection will be returned as quickly as possible. Experience tells us that openness to integration is often closely connected to evidence of immigration and border checks.

Our policy is based on human rights and the Refugee Convention. Parallel to this, we will set in motion a review of international conventions with a view to adapting them more closely to the current refugee crisis.

Implementing refugee quotas is the safest and fairest means of ensuring that countries take in people who have a right to permanent protection. The number of quota refugees must always be weighed up in terms of the UN's recommendations versus the number of asylum seekers arriving in the country and opportunities for rapid and substantial integration in Norway.

Women and child refugees are particularly vulnerable groups. Norway must be a driving force in safeguarding the rights of child refugees.

Refugee children need special care. This implies that the regulations governing protection and residency within Norwegian legislation and international conventions must be followed when processing children's applications for residency in Norway. In determining eligibility for residency in Norway, applications must be dealt with quickly and in accordance with due process.

Minor-aged refugees must receive better care in Norway, especially at municipal reception centres. Measures must be put in place to ensure the stability of acceptable living conditions, case processing in accordance with due process and better psychosocial services. The reception centres must raise their skills levels for working with children. Amongst other things, minor children should be provided with a contact family, good-quality schooling and healthcare, and separate, well thought-out measures must be in place in the event they have to be returned.

Minor child refugees constitute a particularly vulnerable group. The Norwegian Labour Party is concerned about the dramatic rise in the number of children being granted temporary residency in Norway. Current legislation needs to be amended to change how applications for residency from minors are being handled and restrict temporary residency for this group.

We want processing of applications from this group to include an assessment of vulnerability criteria that will form the basis of administrative decisions concerning children who do not have caregivers, a network and/or resources in their home countries.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Make international efforts to combat the causes of refugee flows
- Strive to make Norway a driving force in Europe for a common solution to extraordinarily high numbers of incoming refugees
- Implement emergency preparedness measures along the border to be able to process an extraordinary influx of asylum seekers
- Advocate an active return policy and establish direct routes to key countries of departure
- Cut down on case processing times within the Directorate of Immigration and the Immigration Appeals Board

- Bolster work on the identification of refugees
- Ensure better predictability and increased municipal involvement in establishing refugee reception centres
- Ensure better cooperation between the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, the Directorate of Integration and Diversity and the municipalities when asylum seekers are transferred for settlement to take into account existing networks and bases of integration
- Assess the ramifications of the basic principle of single citizenship for an increasingly globalised world. This must also include an assessment of the consequences of any potential accommodation for dual citizenship in terms of obligations and rights in Norway.
- Amend the Norwegian Nationality Act so that revocation of citizenship granted on the basis of inaccurate and incomplete information will be decided by a judgement
- Endeavour to identify better age determination methods

INTEGRATION

Norwegian society must be an open and inclusive society. The key to good integration is language, employment and respect for the ground rules. Everyone has a responsibility to participate, contribute and support themselves, while communities also provide additional support and opportunities.

Creating the conditions for employment and using and developing skills is decisive in preserving a society with minor differences and high productivity. Finding work quickly enables newcomers to Norway to learn the language, form social bonds, acquire new skills and support themselves. It is therefore important that we have effective systems in place that can quickly determine an individual's skills. One main goal of our integration efforts is to put municipalities and employers in a position to get people into work and participating in society.

Reception centres must offer meaningful activities so people can join and participate in Norwegian society as quickly as possible. We will support the voluntary groups and organisations, volunteer centres and sports clubs that are making significant strides towards achieving integration. To succeed, we have to be better at joining the dots when it comes to integration.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

To get more people into work and increase participation in society:

- Aim to achieve integration at all reception centres
- Reduce the length of time that individuals have to live at reception centres and remain out of work by speeding up case processing times
- Provide 250 hours of language teaching, 50 hours of cultural orientation in addition to language training, and skills and qualifications mapping and recognition during stays at reception centres
- Conduct a quality reform of adult education so that all newcomers are ensured the best possible language and cultural training and the teachers providing this service have all the tools they need
- Give the municipalities greater freedom to adapt their own language and integration provision
- Ensure that employment, skills building and language learning all take place simultaneously. Offer clear-cut skills mapping and recognition of qualifications and assessment of real competence, where appropriate
- Seek to get newcomers into work and offer opportunities for skills building

- Seek to quickly connect people who are ready to start work with contacts and employers within the relevant sectors. The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) should, along with the municipalities, assume main responsibility for these fast-track initiatives
- Create the conditions whereby more people are able to get back into work
- Put newcomers more quickly in touch with sectors in need of manpower by establishing more meeting points
- Make the introduction programme more customised to individual needs so that people who are ready to start work are able to do so, and people who need more training and experience can focus on those activities
- Assess whether local and regional demand for skills and labour should, to a greater extent, guide the settlement of refugees. This also applies to educational provision and skills development
- Assess the viability of starting the introduction programme at reception centres, if there is a long waiting period after residency has been granted
- Endeavour to include a higher level of work-oriented training in the introduction programme and offer as many work placements as possible as a part of the programme
- Make it harder to defer completion of the introduction programme to encourage completion of the programme as quickly as possible

Inclusion and ground rules:

- Provide kindergarten places for all children in reception centres
- Discourage long stays at reception centres for children by revoking the provision whereby unaccompanied minor children are not allowed to be settled in foster homes or within a municipality
- Ensure that people who offer religious or cultural justifications for not participating in initiatives or work do not receive financial support from the Government
- Oppose arranged marriages and develop expertise within the areas of honour-related restrictions on freedom, social control and female genital mutilation
- Devise guidelines for schools that are against the wearing of hijabs and introduce common regulations within the education sector stipulating that students' faces must remain fully visible in teaching contexts
- Ensure that school provision and activities are for everyone and that no exceptions are made in relation to mixed-gender swimming classes and lessons
- Ensure that minority parents are given information about their rights and options as parents

Strengthen research on integration to better detect needs specifically connected to violence and PTSD

- See to it that refugees are able to access information at an early stage on a broad range of opportunities to get involved in voluntary work and civil society in Norway



Security and foreign policy

JUSTICE

The police and community security

We create safe local communities together. Many groups in society play key roles, including our health service, our schools, voluntary organisations, the police and civil defence, the fire and rescue services and the municipalities. These efforts must be rooted in the community and backed up at national level.

We believe in the importance of focusing preventative efforts on children and young people. Good crime prevention depends on the skills, presence and systematic cooperation between and among these groups over time.

To clear up crimes and prevent new ones requires skilled investigative teams across the whole country. Some forms of crime need especial focus: Combatting domestic violence and sexual abuse demands knowledge, expertise, cooperation and prioritisation. And third-party cooperation is key in combatting workplace crime. In the fight against radicalisation and extremism, national initiatives backed up by good community cooperation are invaluable. Fighting online crime requires good exploitation of technology as well as civilian skills.

The police must have solid local knowledge and be there when people need them. We want a preventative, present and service-minded police service.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Encourage the police to cultivate strong local roots
- Expand the independence and capacity of the police districts and channel more resources their way, including via non-earmarked funding and higher core staffing levels
- Aim to set up Police Advisory Councils within all municipalities
- Establish a central body to coordinate and develop practices to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism
- Endeavour to strengthen and raise the status of the criminal investigation field and police investigators
- Create the conditions for involving more civilians with professionally relevant backgrounds in investigations
- Improve the whistleblowing culture within the police
- Strengthen the Children's Houses
- Ensure rapid removal of people who do not have a basis for residence in Norway
- Strengthen efforts against human trafficking and organised crime, and ensure good follow-up services for the victims of human trafficking
- Improve knowledge and information about hate crime, including through more precise recording of the scope and impact of hate crime
- Incorporate gender identity and gender expression into the hate crime section of the Penal Code

The Norwegian Correctional Service

Punishment is society's response to wrongdoing. The goal of punishment is to prevent more crimes from being committed. Legal sanctions are to be enforced quickly and rehabilitation must start as soon as sentence is passed. The content of prison terms must be strengthened and rehabilitation must be based on the most effective ways to return the individual to a crime-free life.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Encourage high-quality content during prison terms to achieve the goal of reducing recidivism levels
- Strengthen the correctional service to ensure adequate staffing levels and create the conditions for suitable prison-term content, including through setting up more addiction recovery units
- Promote the continued prohibition of controlled substances but encourage the legislation on personal use to elicit different reactions from society. See also under “Health”
- Start construction on new correctional facilities and prioritise areas of the country where there is currently a shortage of prison places, and ensure more places for women in all-female or segregated blocks
- Legislate the principle that Norwegian citizens must serve prison sentences in Norway and phase out the practice of “renting” prison places abroad
- Introduce service numbers for employees of the correctional service. In high-risk situations, the names of employees must be covered up to ensure their continued safety
- Offer further education courses to correctional service employees
- Create the conditions for education and training for work while serving a sentence
- Ensure good follow-up services after release, strengthen aftercare through rehabilitation projects and increase knowledge levels around issues related to debt to reduce the risk of recidivism
- Prioritise rehabilitation through specific goals and tools managed by professionally competent personnel
- Expand the use of alternative methods of punishment to imprisonment

Technology and protection of privacy

New technologies create better conditions for preventing, investigating and clearing up crime. The justice and public security sector is enduring inadequate technological solutions across a range of areas.

Technological development can also present challenges for privacy protection. Conflicts may arise between the need for new policing methods and respect for privacy and due process. Legislation must increase the level of security in our society, within the framework provided by human rights and the principles of the constitutional state.

As digitalization becomes increasingly significant, strengthening consumer citizens’ awareness and ability to make informed choices also becomes a necessity. This can be achieved through increased openness and transparency. Through using and making big data accessible, we can establish better quality services, use resources more efficiently and create new services and jobs. The Norwegian Labour Party aims to pave the way for this within the framework of privacy protection.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen the ability of consumers to make informed choices about protecting their personal data
- Ensure the required level of compliance with the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation
- Seek European solutions in terms of security and protection of privacy standards for products and services
- Lay the groundwork for technological solutions that will make it easier for people to get in touch with justice and public security services, and for service personnel to do their jobs

- Review protection of privacy safeguards and how these can best be ensured within the justice sector
- Conduct a forward-looking investigation of drone use, including for application within the justice and security sector
- Review legislation on personal data handling to ensure that new and up-to-date technology can be used to provide optimal services to citizens
- Strive to establish international standards and labelling schemes to enable consumers to make safe choices about internet-connected devices and software
- Lay the groundwork for trialling new digital services in close collaboration with supervisory bodies such as the Norwegian Data Protection Authority and the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway

The courts and legal aid

The courts have a duty to handle cases efficiently and in accordance with due process. We must increase opportunities for people to resolve disputes and conflicts outside of the legal system and increase access to legal aid.

People must feel that they have genuine access to qualified legal assistance. For many people, legal assistance is expensive and they can feel out of their depth when confronted with the cost of hiring a lawyer. We have to bolster legal aid schemes as well as pro bono legal assistance initiatives, and we must pave the way for better access to legal assistance for ordinary people.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Investigate local and regional measures to offer a wider range of services under the same roof where possible
- Channel professional resources into the Conflict Resolution Board and the Conciliation Board
- Bolster voluntary legal assistance provision and free legal aid
- Make it easier to withdraw funding from lawyers who fail to uphold acceptable professional and ethical standards
- Create the conditions for a moderate level of specialisation on the part of court judges
- Increase the use of electronic communication in court proceedings
- Strengthen the Norwegian Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to ensure that victims of crime are properly looked after
- Lay the groundwork for wider recruitment of lay judges

Domestic violence

The Norwegian Labour Party will redouble our efforts to combat violence, an issue that particularly affects women and children. The police must prioritise and intensify efforts to combat domestic violence, and raise competency levels in this area.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Present a new escalation plan to combat violence and abuse against children and domestic violence
- Introduce instruction on boundary-setting in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools
- Strengthen and monitor crisis centre provision and investigate the need for halfway houses for victims of crime after stays in crisis centres
- Encourage increased use of personal alarms and review the exclusion order system
- Aim to achieve 24-hour service provision to child victims of abuse

- Increase the skills and expertise around violence and abuse of all personnel working with children in order to widen detection and prevention of violence and abuse against children
- Improve information flows and cooperation between agencies working with the victims of violence and abuse, review and coordinate legislation connected to the duty of confidentiality, the duty to provide information and the right to information, as well as the regulations on consent.
- Conduct impact studies of child victims of violence and more research into the costs and consequences of domestic violence and abuse against children
- Introduce requirements making it mandatory for all municipalities to devise action plans to combat domestic violence

COMMUNITY SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Our communities may face threats from natural disasters, extreme weather, terrorist attacks, serious crime and cyber attacks. Adequate resources and coordinated training, clear roles and division of responsibilities among different groups are essential to improving our preparedness. Our overall preparedness as a society is better when we take into account how our community resources are interrelated. The most important method of police preparedness is still the nearest patrol.

The duties of the fire and rescue services have changed over time. Clear-cut role descriptions, skills development and adequate resources are essential for good-quality, reliable fire and rescue services.

As more and more of society becomes digitalised and more devices go online and become mutually dependent, our vulnerability will increase. Many basic societal functions are now digitally dependent, including our healthcare, water, energy and communications infrastructures. Many are in private hands. Efforts must be stepped up to safeguard security and preparedness through close cooperation between the public and private sectors. Our ability to prevent and manage serious cyber attacks must improve.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

In relation to emergency preparedness, specified responsibilities and joint training exercises:

- Appoint a public committee to develop a national strategy for security and emergency preparedness, which will include harmonisation of the different participating groups' areas of responsibility
- Create a national strategy to establish several regional training centres for police, defence, emergency services and voluntary organisations
- Intensify joint training exercises for the emergency services and between the emergency services and voluntary organisations
- Ensure that frontline police services are co-located at a national preparedness centre
- Ensure defined roles and responsibilities within national crisis management of major incidents and issue new instructions for the armed forces when assisting the police
- Encourage a more decisive role for support and assistance to the police and civil society in the organisation and dimensioning of certain units and resources within the armed forces' such as the home guard, the special forces, cyber defence and the helicopter fleet
- Present an action plan for culture, conduct and leadership within the preparedness sector
- Ensure full-time leadership positions and improved services within the fire and rescue department

- Put in place a new training model for the fire and rescue services, including new management training
- Bolster anti-terrorist efforts within the Norwegian Police Security Service and collaboration with the Intelligence Service and the Norwegian National Security Authority, and demand that a common threat assessment report be submitted to Parliament
- Extend training and skills development for part-time personnel within the fire and rescue services
- Ensure that the police have adequate helicopter capacity and strengthen anti-terrorism capabilities through increasing the mobility of the police air, land and sea counter-terrorist unit and military special forces units
- Ensure that the police and the armed forces, including the home guard, are organised and funded to effectively protect people, key objects and critical societal functions
- Follow up the Civil Defence Concept Report submitted by the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection
- Set up rescue and preparedness councils within all police districts/local rescue coordination centre regions and initiate a review of the responsibilities and duties of the municipalities as local preparedness authorities, as well as their roles when collaborating with other preparedness groups
- Secure joint civilian and military capacity to deal with cross-sector attacks through high-level information sharing and close collaboration, and clear-cut boundaries where necessary
- Secure Norway's place as a world-leader in arctic search and rescue in relation to technology, analysis and skills
- Preserve the general principle of an unarmed police force. Looking ahead, police must continue to have easy access to weapons where necessitated by circumstances or threat level assessments

ICT and cyber security

- Bolster professional expertise within cyber security and undertake any necessary clarification of roles and responsibilities in tackling any cyber-related crisis that may impact institutions of critical societal significance
- Devise a general national strategy to ensure long-term skills building within ICT security for Norwegian society
- Ensure cutting-edge research environments within digital security and vulnerability
- Strengthen police efforts to eradicate cyber crime and assess the establishment of a Police Special Digital Crimes Unit
- Build up the technological skills base supporting the supervisory functions of all sectors, and ensure that cyber security is specifically assessed as part of the development and management of new public services and systems
- Introduce a new Security Act that is compatible with digital society and in line with the main principles of the Traavik Committee

Voluntary preparedness organisations

- Increase resources to voluntary rescue services to bolster local-level preparedness
- Encourage including voluntary preparedness organisations in training exercises and debriefs with local police forces

DEFENCE

The fundamental duty of the Norwegian Armed Forces is to preserve Norway's security and safety, our interests and our values. Our threat environment and security policy landscape have changed over recent years. Norway needs strong armed forces suited to this new reality, with modern equipment and highly skilled personnel.

The armed forces must raise the threshold for war and secure credible deterrence based on the NATO principle of collective defence. Given our vast marine and land territories, the armed forces must be up to the task of enforcing Norwegian sovereignty.

It is particularly important that our armed forces are capable of tackling the challenges Norway may face in the High North. We will bolster our defence capabilities in Northern Norway with appropriate input from all branches of the military services.

The armed forces must be an integrated part of Norwegian society. We support conscription-based armed forces. We prioritise looking after our veterans and recognising their service. Within certain areas, it can make sense for the defence sector to collaborate with private actors, but we oppose any form of privatisation that is not governed by the armed forces' requirements in terms of flexibility, skills and security, especially in times of crisis or war. Democratic governance and control of the armed forces is essential for its legitimacy and ability to inspire confidence.

Modern conflicts are increasingly seen as "hybrid wars" that combine conventional and "asymmetrical" warfare. Norway must be better placed to understand and resist this kind of hybrid warfare.

The world is undergoing a technological revolution; we must anticipate major consequences for international and security policy. It will also affect Norway's defence and the threat environment we have to manage. Autonomous weapons, cybernetics, positioning technology, new materials, biological and medical breakthroughs will also, as in previous industrial revolutions, radically change the way wars and conflicts are conducted. These new weapons can also be used by private groups or individuals. For a country like Norway, this has consequences for both defence and disarmament policy. The Norwegian Labour Party will advocate closer international cooperation to tighten regulation in this area.

The Nordic countries will become increasingly interwoven in terms of security policy. We believe there is still untapped potential to be gained from Nordic cooperation on security and defence policy.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strengthen defence capabilities in line with the adopted long-term plan and support the objectives of the 2014 NATO Summit, whereby member countries commit to gradually increasing their defence budgets to reach 2 percent of GDP within a decade, and new investment in the armed forces will constitute at least 20 percent of member country's annual defence budgets
- Safeguard the armed forces through maintaining a long-term equilibrium between duties, structure and finances
- Continuously modernise the armed forces by channelling relevant and mutually reinforcing resources into our land, sea and air powers
- Pay special attention to the development of modern, powerful and mobile land forces – including helicopter army support based at Bardufoss – with self-defence capabilities and the capacity to tackle both traditional and non-traditional threats. The home guard plays a key role in this regard and must be allocated more resources.
- Preserve the community on Andøy through restructuring funds, state investment in infrastructure and safeguarding the future running of the Andøya Space Center and Andøya Test Center

- Ensure up-to-date civilian and military preparedness plans that are compatible with our current threat environment, our obligations to our allies and new security challenges, including the risk of hybrid warfare
- Take seriously the increasingly pivotal role played by autonomous weapons systems in current technological development
- Ensure diverse composition of expertise and increase the proportion of women in the armed forces
- Look after our veterans before, during and after their service, prioritising healthcare and social follow-up, financial security and support for next of kin
- Reinforce the Nordic Defence Cooperation as a supplement to the NATO alliance and set up a Nordic Defence Commission

PEACE AND SECURITY

Europe's neighbours are marked by instability. Vulnerable, authoritarian and failed states are hotbeds of war and conflict, humanitarian crises, radicalisation and extremism. The terrorist organisation, IS, is striking the civilian population in the Middle East and challenging our security through terrorist attacks on innocent civilians in Europe. We need a wide range of tools to go up against these threats. Norway must contribute to the fight against extremism and terrorism. The most important method of preventing humanitarian suffering and refugee flows is settling armed conflicts. Sexual violence is an integral part of warfare, both through the strategic use of rape and as a means of breaking down social norms. State-building is the long-term solution for vulnerable states.

Peace and security is best ensured through predictable international cooperation based on international law. NATO is the anchorage point for Norwegian security policy within the general framework of the UN. The Norwegian Labour Party sees NATO as both a political and a military ally. Debate around how best to achieve peace in the North Atlantic Region forms a key part of our NATO policy. Another goal is to preserve and strengthen NATO's collective military capacity, not least through closer cooperation on procurement, training exercises and doctrine development.

Backing up UN efforts to achieve peace and security, including through contributing to the UN's peace operations, safeguards our own security too.

Neighbourly relations with Russia must be characterised by cooperation and dialogue, steadfastness and predictability. We must stand together with our allies and European partners wherever we encounter violations of international law. Parallel to this, we must be especially protective of the cooperative efforts in the North that have helped defuse tensions in the High North.

Nuclear weapons constitute a threat to human existence but disarmament and non-proliferation efforts have all but ground to a halt. The ultimate goal should be a world free of nuclear weapons. The international non-proliferation treaty, NPT, must be followed up. Pressure to disarm must be exerted on the nuclear powers. Disarmament efforts are currently in need of fresh initiative and direction.

New technologies will create new, fully or partially self-guiding weapons systems, including drone-based weapons. These new weapons can also be used by private groups or individuals. New threats such as these must be tackled and regulated through international regulations.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Actively participate in the fight against international terrorism
- Ensure that Norway's participation in armed international operations is based on a UN mandate or approved by international law
- Strengthen Norwegian efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation through new initiatives and reviewing the experiences of the last decade with like-minded nations and actors

- Aim to introduce end-user certification for all countries and strive to make this the norm within NATO
- Strive for balanced and mutual nuclear disarmament within the framework of the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) with the long-term goal of an international ban on nuclear weapons
- Increase Norwegian participation in UN operations
- Advance efforts within international arms control and disarmament and take the necessary initiative to regulate the development and use of fully and semi-automatic weapons systems and other new technologies that may challenge the fundamental principles of the Law of Armed Conflict
- Strive to put in place abortion and follow-up services for women who have been subjected to sexual violence and rape, including within war zones
- Ensure that Norway adopts a leadership role in removing remnants of war and clearing out arms warehouses in vulnerable states that are emerging from conflict

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND RIGHTS

The Norwegian Labour Party's foreign policy will safeguard Norwegian interests and is rooted in our fundamental social democratic values of freedom, international solidarity and cooperation, democracy, human rights and sustainable development. We are part of a community that transcends national borders. Our goal for our own society will be best reached if we contribute to preserving international norms, organisations and codes of conduct. Norway must be an active and recognisable member of the international community.

Global development trends affect the development of our society and the frameworks for our policies here at home. The world's financial pivot and centre of political power has shifted. Open global trade has helped millions of people out of poverty. At the same time, capital and trade flows exert pressure on our traditional rights and create new inequalities. Tax revenues are withdrawn from community solutions. There are increasing disparities in income and living standards. Digitalization and new technologies create both opportunities and challenges for economic growth, labour markets and distribution. Climate change challenges are a global threat and the Paris Agreement demands global follow-up and financing.

Since the Second World War, Norway, a small country with an open economy, has benefited immensely from strong multilateral cooperation based on international law. We will strive to preserve and strengthen the UN's role and legitimacy. Parallel to this, the UN System and other global partners must be continuously brought up to date in order to reflect our current reality.

Core values such as equality and workers' rights are under pressure. The same applies to freedom of speech and religious freedom. Promoting freedom, democracy, feminism and universal human rights remains a priority. We must continue to fight against the discrimination and oppression of women. While keeping pace with increasing international competition and economic growth in many developing countries, we must also strive to strengthen the rights of workers. The UN's labour organisation, the ILO, has played a key role in setting norms and standards and we will now direct special focus on compliance with these norms, in close cooperation with the trade union movement. A living democracy also needs an active civil society to challenge the authorities and hold them accountable for the political decisions they make.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Promote multilateral cooperation and contribute towards strengthening the UN and the role and effectiveness of multilateral organisations
- Through our input to UN organisations, promote improved coordination among the sectors and encourage moving a larger proportion of activity out into the field

- Seek fundamental reform of the UN Security Council to better reflect current global power dynamics
- Secure Norway a place on the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term
- Bolster women's economic, political, social and cultural rights, including education, employment, health and reproductive rights, as well as their participation in peace negotiations and reconciliation initiatives, and in the leadership of social institutions and decision-making processes
- Take on international responsibility for strengthening initiatives to combat human trafficking
- Defend and strengthen the WTO and the regulations that facilitate global trade at a time when both are being challenged from many different angles
- Strengthen workers' rights at the global level through our foreign, trade and development policies, and ensure the implementation of the ILO's core conventions
- Defend and promote universal human rights and the goal of a world free from persecution, torture and the death penalty
- Engage in international efforts to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation
- Strengthen efforts to secure the rights of children
- Promote the rights of children with physical and mental disabilities, combat discrimination and strive to provide them with access to education
- Take a global leadership role in ensuring "sea health" and combating marine pollution

HUMANITARIAN AID AND MIGRATION

Widespread and increasing migration will make its mark on international politics over the next few decades. Fundamental underlying causes include: wars and conflicts, lack of social and economic development and increasing inequality. In conflict zones, neighbouring countries take in the most refugees, shoulder the heaviest burdens and are most in need of assistance. The relationship between humanitarian efforts and long-term development must be revisited, and cooperation between humanitarian organisations and other sectors, such as local business sectors, must be strengthened.

Norway is closely involved in European cooperation. It is important for Europe to stand united on an effective external border control system. Europe's neighbourhood is our neighbourhood too. Individual European countries closing their borders and declining to take part in unifying solutions for fairer burden-sharing does not provide a basis for sustainable and long-term solutions.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure Norway's role as a major and effective contributor of humanitarian aid and make active efforts to improve coordination and responsiveness within the international humanitarian system, and re-open discussion on demarcation between the humanitarian sector, long-term aid providers and other parties
- Strengthen humanitarian and development aid for vulnerable states and strive to better equip them to ensure the security and welfare of their own citizens
- Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and criminal networks that exploit refugees
- Strengthen humanitarian efforts in countries bordering conflict zones
- Mobilise international support to strengthen the protection of aid workers and health services in war and conflict zones
- Promote the implementation of long-term initiatives for refugees, especially in the areas of healthcare, employment and education

- Promote solutions in relation to the safe passage of quota refugees out of conflict zones
- Promote a common European response to the refugee crisis based on solidarity, responsibility and sustainability
- Strive to preserve and bolster the Schengen Agreement
- Revoke the current au pair scheme and replace it with a scheme that provides genuine cultural exchange opportunities. Norway should ratify ILO Convention no. 189 on domestic workers.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The goal of Norwegian development policy must be to reduce inequality by dismantling unfair structures. The main route out of poverty is through economic growth, jobs creation and fair distribution within a framework of stable states. For the developing countries, the relative significance of aid is steadily decreasing. Transfers, investments and trade currently constitute far greater cash flows. Our solution is solidarity, not charity.

Altered operating conditions make greater demands on our ability to prioritise. We will focus on the areas in which Norwegian expertise, experience and technologies may prove useful for developing countries, such as oil management, renewable energy and fishing. We have to demonstrate that we understand the developing countries' own priorities, while at the same time recognising that aid is most effective when it is aimed at countries that show a genuine will to help themselves. Dependence on aid must not become a substitute for sound local governance. Global consensus on the UN's sustainability goals, financing objectives for development and the Paris Climate Agreement form a platform for our development policy.

Decent work gives developing countries the ability to create well-being through tax revenues and fair distribution of income. A profitable business sector creates jobs but depends on investment and fair trading conditions. For the business sectors of developing countries to become competitive, citizens must possess skills. Vulnerable groups must be guaranteed access to schools and education. In these days of international division of labour and increasingly restructured employment, workers in vulnerable states and poor countries are particularly susceptible to exploitation. Development policy will therefore build on a foundation of decent work. Fair distribution is not only an important political and social goal but has also proven to be the best foundation for lasting, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Equal rights and the distribution of power and resources through trustworthy institutions are the cornerstones of any democracy. We will strengthen people's rights to organise and participate in civil society. The North-South balance of power must be challenged. Organisations in Norway should more frequently entrust organisations in the south with power and authority. Financial resources and expertise should be transferred closer to aid recipients.

Through state-building, the public sector in developing countries must be enabled to independently deliver services, including healthcare and education services. Broad-based and fair taxation plays a key role in strengthening the accountability of public officials to the citizens, and the capacity to promote social and economic development. We will contribute to strengthening the capacity of recipient countries to secure tax revenues for their communities. A functioning, broad-based taxation system is essential to any country striving to fend for itself.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Stick to the goal that Norwegian aid should constitute at least one percent of GDP and focus attention on the orientation and effects of aid
- Set clear and verifiable requirements for the recipients of Norwegian aid

- Set requirements for regular evaluation and documentation of achieved results to ensure knowledge-based aid
- Prioritise industrial and commercial development, employment and decent work in the allocation of development aid within the framework of formal employment
- Continue to be a driving force behind goal-oriented and effective international mechanisms for development based on the templates provided by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We want to see more solutions where public funding for development triggers private investment.
- Strengthen its commitment to securing universal access to schools and education
- Strengthen institution-building and sustainable taxation systems through the “Tax for Development” programme
- Further develop the Clean Energy initiative and integrate it into the climate change focus within development aid
- Promote the prioritisation of marginalised groups by integrating initiatives for this group into all areas of our development policy
- Support civil society groups in developing countries and challenge the power balance between North and South
- Cut down on the proportion of resources that are left behind in Norway and ensure that professional expertise is built up as close as possible to target groups
- Ensure that our development policy contributes to decreasing social disparities and thereby reducing poverty
- Through our development policy, promote democracy, good governance, human rights, equality and fair distribution
- Strengthen development aid for vulnerable states and developing countries harbouring large numbers of refugees, with particular emphasis on work, healthcare, education and democratic development
- Extend our commitment to reducing infant mortality and improving maternal health, strengthening primary health services in developing countries and prioritising the health of girls and women
- Be a global driving force for women’s contraception and abortion rights
- Undertake aid management reform to improve the division of labour, governance and result measurement in terms of development policy
- Strive to give Norway a clear voice and actively combat land and sea robbery in developing countries

TRADE, CAPITAL FLOWS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Increased capital flows and trade demand increased international cooperation. The Norwegian Labour Party will prioritise safeguarding rights, combatting inequalities and securing tax revenues for community solutions.

Negotiations within the World Trade Organisation have stagnated. At the same time, major regional trade deals are being agreed. The WTO must take a central role in setting the parameters for world trade. Regional and multinational trade agreements must ensure fundamental standards and rights.

Not only does tax evasion contribute to weakening confidence in and legitimacy of the taxation system but it also leads to higher tax burdens for ordinary people and undermines the ability of nation states to finance their welfare systems. We need far stronger international cooperation to block the opportunities for and uncover tax evasion. The Norwegian Labour Party will contribute to achieving this goal through multilateral organisations as well as through cooperation among parties in the employment sector.

A higher tax base is also a prerequisite for strengthening vulnerable states and making countries less dependent on aid.

In service negotiations, the Norwegian Labour Party emphasises the significance of the Trade in Services Agreement for Norwegian value creation and employment. These are key factors for Norwegian workplaces and technological development. The international services market is vast and we have offensive interests linked to Norwegian service providers gaining increased access to the global market. It is a prerequisite that agreements on trading services do not limit the political room for manoeuvre in terms of the monitoring and governance of public services and welfare provision. This also applies to the option of reintroducing, through passing political resolutions, state ownership and governance in previously private sectors.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Endeavour to strengthen the role of the WTO
- Strive to ensure that regional and multinational trade agreements incorporate fundamental standards and rights that can also be integrated into global trade agreements under the auspices of the WTO
- Promote a leading role for Norway in international efforts to combat illegal capital flows and tax evasion
- Expand the ethical guidelines for the Government Pension Fund to include requirements for multinational companies concerning openness and reporting procedures. Companies whose reporting is seriously deficient should be excluded.
- Demand that agreements on trading services do not create obstacles in terms of regulating such things as consumer protection, healthcare, security, the environment and workers' rights

EUROPE AND THE NORDIC REGION

The European countries are Norway's most important political and economic partners. Many of them are our allies in NATO. Our interests are best served through cooperating with other countries in Europe on key areas such as trade, climate and the environment, energy policy and migration, and asylum.

The EEA Agreement has been a good platform and has furthered our broad economic interests in cooperation with the EU for over 20 years. This was a good period for the Norwegian business and employment sectors. Despite increasing competition we have experienced record high growth in employment and real wages, ongoing stable wage distribution and strong growth within public services. The collective agreements have been strengthened and third-party cooperation extended. In big picture terms, we have preserved and developed our social model. EEA cooperation and large-scale labour migration to Norway have also, however, posed several challenges in relation to employment; meeting these challenges requires powerful political measures. Coordinated wage determination and broad collective wage agreements are key elements for this model and for a well-functioning jobs market in Norway. Clearly communicating this standpoint is an important part of our active policy in relation to the EU.

The Norwegian Labour Party champions strong political cooperation in Europe. Our recommendation in two previous referendums was to say yes to Norwegian membership of the EU. But there is always room for differences of opinion when it comes to the EU. If the issue of membership comes up again, this will be discussed at a national Labour Party conference.

The Nordic model has proven to be both robust and flexible even during international economic downturns. We will extend the Nordic model, safeguard the welfare state, strengthen third-party cooperation and implement powerful measures to prevent social dumping and ensure a well-functioning and inclusive employment sector.

Nordic cooperation has a long tradition of strong grassroots support. The Nordic countries now have a common energy market. New political initiatives should be introduced to extend Nordic cooperation on those areas that can strengthen the Nordic region's position in Europe – including within the area of security policy.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Focus efforts on furthering growth in Europe and strengthening European cooperation
- Unequivocally defend the values of an open, cooperative and closely connected Europe, at a time of increasing nationalism, protectionism and xenophobia
- Take full advantage of the scope of the EEA Agreement through early participation in decision-making processes and implementing political measures to promote a genuine formal employment sector
- Strengthen the rights of labour migrants in the jobs market and facilitate higher union membership
- Endeavour to strengthen the EEA's Global Fund for Decent Work
- Strengthen Norwegian cooperation in Europe and introduce more Nordic global initiatives.
- Take further steps to extend and deepen Nordic cooperation on key areas for modern economies: environmental technology, climate change policy, infrastructure and reforms within education and research
- Continue to utilise our full membership of the Party of European Socialists (PES) to promote our vision for the development of Europe

THE HIGH NORTH

Industrial and commercial development

The High North is an arena for far-reaching ambitions and opportunities for the whole country. In the next chapter of our commitment to the High North, value creation, infrastructure, expertise, new technologies and “Ocean Space” are central themes. Expertise must form the basis for the choices that are made in the High North. Our starting point will be the natural assets found in the North and within our strong knowledge clusters.

Exploitation of natural resources on land and at sea, energy, maritime operations and new industries based on marine and land-based resources are becoming increasingly important. People and communities are the most important building blocks for our High North policy. Vigorous local communities are essential for this to happen in a sustainable way that safeguards the environment, the climate and indigenous populations. The exploitation of resources in the North must produce the widest possible ripple effect, enabling High North policy to lay the groundwork for the workplaces of tomorrow. This strategy will make jobs in the North attractive to young people in the North.

The High North is rich in natural resources and has a significant surplus of renewable energy and major opportunities for increased production. Norway is the only country in the world that has Arctic agriculture. Research and innovation are required to be able to exploit the opportunities and potential this brings.

We will focus on industry in the North. The ocean, agriculture, forest resources, mineral deposits, water and wind energy all provide major industrial opportunities. Natural resources in combination with technology and high levels of expertise provide vast future opportunities. Norway has a strong industrial culture. As we continue to build on current skills, infrastructure and technology, rapid readjustment and reduced risk may be advantageous in the development of existing and new industries. Cooperation between major industrial companies and the oilfield service industry is integral to developing the industries of the future. We will pave the way towards industrial exploitation of water

resources in Norway since this provides higher levels of value creation and employment than exports alone.

The infrastructure to and from the High North must be adapted for exporting our raw materials, such as fish and minerals, and ensure environmentally friendly transport options. We will focus on building an infrastructure that will further new industrial development.

Parallel to this, climate change is hitting the High North harder and faster. Norway will therefore take a leading role within climate and environmental research. The strong specialist field environments in the North must be further developed.

Svalbard is Norway's northernmost region, the archipelago is strategically located in the High North and has a well developed infrastructure between the settlements of Longyearbyen and Ny Ålesund. This gives Norway a strategic advantage over many other areas in the Arctic. Melting ice is exposing major economic assets, ocean areas are becoming more accessible and the sea's biomass is moving northwards. In a vulnerable and isolated area, policies must secure the required levels of predictability for Norwegian settlements, industry and commerce and the authorities, within strict but necessary environmental management practices.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Ensure consistent assertion of sovereignty and environmental monitoring in the High North, including through proximity and monitoring on the part of the Coast Guard and the armed forces, and meet the future preparedness and security needs of the Arctic region
- Strengthen knowledge hubs and ensure an efficient division of labour among the universities in the North and higher levels of cooperation with all relevant knowledge hubs in the North and abroad
- Further develop established industrial clusters and power-refining industries
- Facilitate the establishment of power-refining industries in the North
- Create the conditions for the development of the petroleum industry in the High North to produce wider ripple effects and more jobs for Northern Norwegian industry and commerce
- Focus on renewable energy in the North
- Secure future growth in the aquaculture industry within sustainable parameters
- Encourage the development of more green industry workplaces in the North
- Develop a clear-cut tourism policy for the High North
- Be supportive of environments that are using and developing new technologies
- Focus strategically on value creation and Ocean Space expertise
- Devise an action plan for the High North based on the "New Building Blocks in the North" model from 2008
- Establish a new space technology programme for the development of new technologies and technological transfer and make Norway the leading space nation in the Arctic by extending and bolstering the formation of knowledge clusters around the space- and earth-related operations that have developed in the North
- Based on a review of accessible technology, decide how Svalbard's future energy needs will be met
- Create the conditions for year-round workplaces within the tourism industry
- To safeguard the population and preserve a solid Norwegian family community in Longyearbyen, the settlement must be secured against the various natural hazards that threaten many of the buildings
- Develop a clear-cut tourism policy for the High North

The international dimension

We will resurrect the High North as the most important strategic focus area in Norwegian foreign policy. We want Norway to put the High North back on the national and international agenda. The international dimension of High North policy must be further developed, including through active participation in the Arctic Council and the Barents Cooperation, the most important bodies for cooperation in the High North.

Norway's relations with Russia must continue to be based on firmness, predictability and the long term. When the conditions are right, closer ties should be formed with Russia in order to strengthen neighbourhood policy, civic, economic, energy and industrial cooperation and intergovernmental action on environmental challenges to ensure continued peace and stability in the High North. At the same time, the High North policy should also play a more significant role in Nordic cooperation by strengthening cooperation with Northern Sweden and Finland through infrastructure, industry and commerce, employment and defence.

Shipping activity in the North is increasing. Around 80 percent of all maritime activity in the North is in Norwegian waters. Effective security and preparedness demands both civil and military presence and good civilian-military cooperation. We will ensure that Norway takes on its share of this responsibility through providing effective search and rescue services in the region.

THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY WILL:

- Strive for further development of the Arctic Council with a focus on sustainable business operations, stronger local and regional influence and a more active role in meeting climate change challenges, and increased involvement in relation to Ocean Space
- Strengthen cooperation with Sweden and Finland in the North
- Further develop the international and inter-regional Barents Cooperation
- Further develop Norwegian-Russian cooperation in the Barents Region with particular focus on people-to-people cooperation, cultural exchange, educational collaboration and cooperation on industrial and commercial development
- Include Asia in strategic thinking on the High North



Stem Arbeiderpartiet 11. september

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