JD FoE Foundation

one Europe one market for all

One Europe, One Market

Four Priorities for the 2026 State of the Union

September 2026

1. One Europe, One Market is Europe's structural response to a transformed strategic environment

Europe's agenda is driven by one crisis after another. Against that backdrop, one point must be made loudly: the One Europe, One Market Roadmap is not an abstract agenda. It is a structural condition for a Europe that is more secure, more resilient and better able to protect its interests – and for greater joint prosperity and the financing of the digital and climate transitions.

The link between market integration and Europe's capacity to act must shape both policy choices and the political narrative. One Europe, One Market belongs at the heart of the Union's agenda for security, autonomy, sustainability, prosperity and protection.

Cut off from the debates that dominate the moment, it will look remote from Europe's real concerns. This framing also matters for delivery. Without it, each new crisis will push long-term reform aside and produce yet another round of emergency measures – while Europe's structural weaknesses go unaddressed.

2. Provide political leadership – without a top-down process

Delivering the Roadmap needs sustained direction from the European Commission and national leaders. But leadership must not become an exclusively top-down process. The European Parliament must play a key role. Excessive vertical steering would complicate legislation, create institutional friction and weaken the broad ownership on which delivery depends.

The European Commission's leadership must therefore go hand in hand with close coordination with the European Council and, crucially, the elected representatives of the European citizens. Social dialogue is part of the process, not a side exercise.

The Roadmap will keep its momentum only if it is carried across institutions, levels of government and Europe's wider political and civic space. That broad ownership is also what will identify blockages early – and overcome them.

3. Turn the Brussels agenda into political and social consensus in the Member States

The central challenge is now delivery. That means building the political and social coalitions that can carry difficult reforms through legislation and implementation.

Today the Roadmap is still confined to the Brussels policy community. It is barely present in national capitals and even less in public debate. This narrows the space governments have to back contested reforms.

The next phase must put visibility, communication and consensus-building on a par with policy development.

Members of the European institutions carry a special responsibility. They are European decision-makers, but also national leaders who shape the debate at home. One Europe, One Market must become a visible part of their political narratives in their own countries.

4. Restore political hierarchy: concentrate attention on four transformative priorities

The Roadmap's breadth – 42 measures across much of the economic agenda – is both a strength and a risk. Without a clear hierarchy, political attention disperses and pressure on the most transformative dossiers fades.

Political leadership should therefore concentrate on four priorities:

Finance: build a truly European financial system, with the Savings and Investments Union at its core.

Energy: advance the Energy Union, starting with the Grids Package.

Industrial transformation and digital technology: strengthen Europe's industrial and technological capacity across the full technology stack – from the Industrial Accelerator Act to the Cybersecurity, Digital Networks and Cloud and AI Development Acts.

Social cohesion: ensure access to opportunities, quality services and investment in every territory, so that people can build their future without being forced to move.

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