

# MANFRED WEBER



THE POWER OF **WE**  
**WEBER** 

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



***My work is to  
listen, to learn,  
and to lead.***

*Manfred Weber*



# ABOUT ME

## **Family**

Family is the most important thing for me. As the second of three sons, born in 1972, I was able to practice my assertiveness and teamwork early on. I have been married for almost 17 years. My family is the ultimate retreat for me.

## **Beliefs**

I am a person of faith. For me, faith means being sustained, having an orientation and strength in difficult times. Freedom of belief is one of our society's central achievements: respect is the main point. Today, I am active in Catholic lay organizations: for example, the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK).

## **Roots**

An engineer by trade, I started two successful companies after my studies. Guided by the values of Christian democracy, I have been active in politics from an early age. Deeply rooted in rural Lower Bavaria, I first won a seat in the Bavarian Parliament at the age of 29. Today I am Vice-President of Bavaria's CSU, the third-largest party in Germany. I live with my wife in a small village in Lower Bavaria.

## **Music**

Since elementary school I have played the guitar, with some trumpet early on as well. Soon after I founded a band with friends, which I was a part of for almost 20 years. Our performances at dances, parties and carnival balls were incredibly enjoyable for me. It really shaped me.

## **Entrepreneurship**

Building a company, being my own boss — this is what I dreamed about during my studies in mechanical engineering at the Munich University of Applied Sciences. Thereafter I started with a partner my first company in the field of environmental management; a second followed a few years later. I no longer own either company.



# MY GOAL



## **My Approach**

I want to give Europe back to the people. I want a Europe where the people of all countries shape a better future together. My Europe is a Europe of common dreams and joint achievements.

## **My Track Record**

Since I became Chairman of the largest political group in the European Parliament in 2014, our EPP Group has been the Parliament's most united political force. Thanks to this unity, many of our key ideas have become law: we have pushed through vital new rules on air passenger records, to step up the fight against terrorism; we initiated a new mechanism to suspend visa-free travel in case of emergency situations; and we proposed free Interrail tickets for all 18-year-olds, so they can discover and experience the beauty of our continent. The recent proposal to recruit 10,000 additional Frontex border and coast guards to protect our common borders was also led by our group. Based on the EPP Group's record of unity and strength under my leadership, I was honoured and thankful to be re-elected as Chairman in 2016, with 98% of the vote, so we could continue to build a better Europe together.

## **My Mandate**

In November 2018, my EPP political family gathered in Helsinki to choose one of two candidates to carry forward the EPP's vision for Europe. I had the honour to be elected with an overwhelming majority as the EPP's Lead Candidate for President of the European Commission. I want to open a new chapter for Europe.

## **My Political Career**

2002 – 2004 Member of the Bavarian State Parliament

Since 2004 Member of the European Parliament

Since 2009 Deputy Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

Since 2014 Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

2008 – 2016 District Chairman of the CSU Lower Bavaria

Since 2015 Deputy President of the CSU

2018 – Elected as EPP Lead Candidate for President of the European Commission

# MY GUARANTEE:

## A STRONG EUROPE

### ✓ **10.000 European Border Guards by 2022**

By 2022, we will equip the European Border and Coast Guard with at least 10.000 new officers and the latest technology including drones, with a direct right of intervention along our common external borders. We put a definite stop to the cynical business of smugglers and human traffickers.

### ✓ **European FBI to fight terrorism**

By doubling the Europol personnel and turning it into a European FBI, where joint investigation teams combine all information on offenders and radicalised persons, we will enable our national police forces to catch terrorists before they can carry out a first strike against our citizens.

### ✓ **Stopping accession talks with Turkey**

We will put a stop to Turkey's accession negotiations. Europe and Turkey should focus on partnership and cooperation in concrete fields - close economic cooperation and the EU-Turkey refugees Statement are successful examples - but Turkey is moving further away from European values. EU membership, therefore, is not an option for Turkey, and negotiations must be stopped.

### ✓ **New Rule of Law mechanism**

We will let no one undermine our fundamental democratic principles. By establishing a new rule of law mechanism, we will take concrete actions with an effective instrument to protect our rule of law. Only a transparent, independent body, shielded from political pressure and equally assessing all Member States can ensure that the independence of judiciary, freedom of press, and the fight against corruption are upheld in our Union.

## A SMART EUROPE

### ✓ **European Master Plan against Cancer**

More than 40% of all Europeans will have to face cancer in their lives. By pooling all our talents, knowledge and resources, we can truly join all our forces in the fight against cancer. We want to address what really matters to our citizens, what makes a difference in their lives. By coming together, we can save thousands of Europeans.

### ✓ **Smart homes for the elderly**

When growing old, many people in Europe have to leave their home and move into a retirement home. By combining all our efforts, we can develop smart houses where elderly people can continue to live at home with independence and close to their families.

### ✓ **5 million new jobs for our youth**

Our goal is to create 5 million new jobs across the EU in the upcoming years. All Europeans deserve a chance, especially our youth. We want to create new jobs to stop brain drain by investing in the great European potential through a strategy based on four pillars: trade, infrastructure, innovation, and our social market economy.

### ✓ **Cutting over 1.000 outdated regulations**

To reduce the burden of bureaucracy in Europe, we will abolish outdated, unnecessary legislation and cut the number of functionaries in EU institutions for the current tasks of the European Union. We will make the system more efficient to ensure it is more accessible and friendly to the citizens.

# AND A KIND EUROPE

## ✓ **Digital Transition Fund for factory workers**

By establishing a Digital Transition Fund, we will stand behind our workers to make sure no one is left behind when digital disruptions in the labour market occur. Markets are crucial, but we also believe in the social responsibility of firms. By introducing a Digital Fair Tax, to partly finance this new fund, we will make sure that the Googles and Facebooks of our world, benefitting from our market, also pay their fair share and contribute to our society.

## ✓ **Home-building loans for young families**

Many people in Europe struggle with high rents. By introducing home-building loans financed by the European Investment Bank, we will make sure that young families do not have to live in their childhood rooms at their parents' overcrowded flats anymore.

## ✓ **Global ban on child labour**

We want to preserve our values and make the EU a role model for the world: if not Europe, who else could protect children's rights around the globe. We will ensure that all our fair trade agreements will include a ban on child labour clause and enforce it. No one should be allowed to exploit children's innocence to make profits.

## ✓ **Global ban on single-use plastic**

Climate change threatens the existence of humankind and the future of our children. That is why we will keep honouring the Paris and Katowice agreements and continue building on this ambition. By jointly investing into the development of low emission aeroplanes, we can revolutionise air transport and be environmental technology leaders. We will not allow our planet to turn into the biggest garbage dump in the universe: as pioneers of clean technologies we will call for a Global Treaty to ban single-use plastic.

# WITH THE POWER OF WE

*Dear citizens of Europe,*

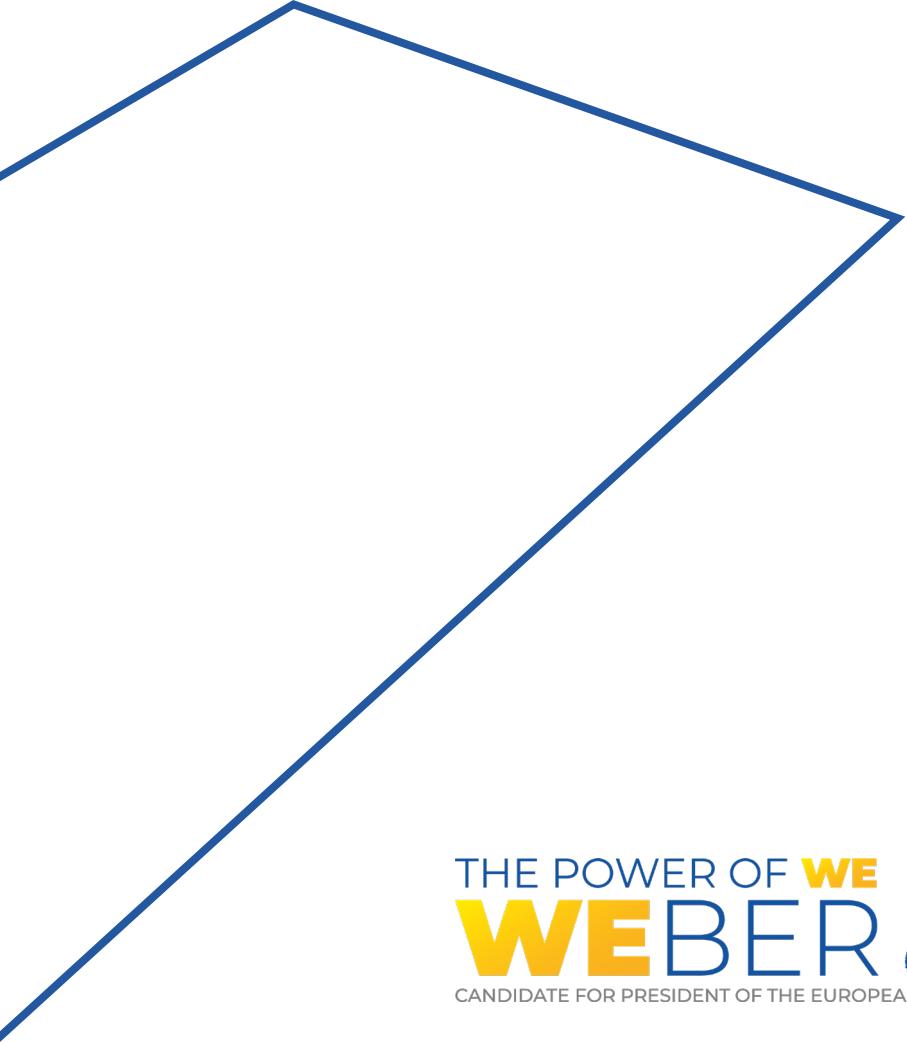
*My philosophy is to listen, to learn and to lead. These are my proposals for a strong, smart and kind Europe. With your vote and a mandate from millions of Europeans, we, the European People's Party, can do it together. I give you my guarantee: if you choose me as your next European Commission President, these proposals will see the light within the next 5 years.*

*Sincerely yours,*



**Manfred Weber**

EPP Lead Candidate for President of the European Commission



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Person responsible - Dara Murphy, EPP Campaign Director