German employers are committed to European integration and the Union’s values (article 2 TEU), which are more relevant than ever.

We employers want to promote the objectives of the EU (article 3 TEU): the internal market and a competitive social market economy, full employment, social justice as well as economic, social and territorial cohesion.

All action by the EU must rightly respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality (article 5 paras 3 and 4 TEU): decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level and close to citizens; they should not go beyond what is absolutely necessary.

Accordingly, the focus must be on core tasks: the EU should in future be active only where it can add value – it should be big on big things and small on small things.

The EU should speak louder with a single voice where necessary: majority decisions should be enabled in foreign and security policy. If the EU wants to play a role on the international stage, it must present itself as a single player. An individual Member State – even a large one – is too small on its own to address global policy issues on an equal footing with other players.