

# EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

*breathe life into the existing treaties*

- 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

