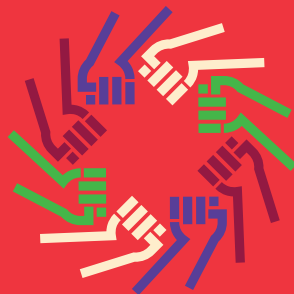




PES 2025 Congress Resolution

For a Just Green Transition



**Progressive
MOBiLi
SATiON**

For a Just Green Transition

2024 was the warmest year on record and the first year to exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for the annual global average temperature. **All scientific evidence shows that our planet is warming at an unprecedented rate.** The disastrous impacts of climate change are impacting all corners of the world, causing extreme weather conditions, forced displacement, and conflicts over water and food resources, affecting women and the most vulnerable, especially in the Global South. **The fight against climate change is a fight for social justice** and a transition that creates new job opportunities, builds resilient, sustainable economies, and leaves no one behind.

In the European Parliament, the EPP has been siding with the far-right to undermine the European Green Deal. Under the guise of ‘simplification’, they are trying to water down strong environmental and human right standards; we oppose any provisions in the “omnibus packages” that undermine climate neutrality, environmental and nature protection, or weaken workers’ rights. We remain committed to ensuring that future legislation is good, designed for smart and easy implementation. Moreover, conservatives attempt to weaken key files on the restoration of nature, against deforestation, on reducing harmful pesticides, soil monitoring law, opposing binding CO2 and renewable energy targets for 2040, and on limiting CO2 vehicle emissions. Most recently, they have abused the institutional position of the European Commission to undermine the Green Claims Directive which would have protected consumers and the environment from greenwashing by companies. **The EPP are also attacking environmental NGOs, jeopardising a key part of the democratic fabric.** Civil society ensures democratic debates; it informs citizens and counterbalances the power of corporate lobbies. All this, coupled with the dramatic rollback of environmental policies at a global scale, including by US President Donald Trump, reinforces our resolve to be on the right side of history.

As members of the Party of European Socialists, we reiterate that there can be no pause in the green transition. European socialists and democrats must lead the fight against the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. As progressives, we fight for a Just Transition, for secure, affordable, and clean energy, decent housing, and for a decarbonised future where nature is preserved and restored. We support global commitments in fighting climate change and social inequalities, as well as sustainable agriculture.

1. A strong European Just Transition

Socialists and Democrats are at the forefront of climate action. We fought for the European Green Deal to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. To get Europe to this target, we have pushed for concrete steps to **reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030** with the “Fit for 55” package, to put a price on carbon pollution for imported goods with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, and to tailor decarbonisation paths to individual industry needs. The Emission Trading System (ETS) and Effort Sharing Regulation are key instruments to cut emissions in polluting sectors such as energy, industrial production, transport, and housing, and set binding national targets for member states. To support vulnerable households in this transition, our political family established the **Social Climate Fund** to financially support those that are at risk of energy and transport poverty. It is essential to foresee sufficient funding to support vulnerable groups, local and regional authorities, workers, and SMEs in the green transition.

- ★ Our S&D Group in the European Parliament successfully put social priorities at the core of the **Just Transition Fund**. Now **we call for the continuation and strengthening of the Social Climate Fund** using ETS revenues, as well as direct payments for low-income households at national level.
- ★ **The next Multiannual Financial Framework should continue to dedicate direct funding for environmental and transition programmes** with enhanced support for transformative investments in industry and for communities struggling in the transition, and apply harmonised environmental and social conditionalities in public procurement including the “Do No Significant Harm” principle across funding instruments.
- ★ **The cost of the green transition must be shared fairly.** Large polluting companies and windfall profits must contribute proportionally while workers and low-income households must be protected. A fair climate taxation system and the redistribution of revenues from carbon pricing are essential to strengthen social justice and ensure broad public support for the transition.
- ★ **Green and social funding must not be cut at the expense of defence spending.**
- ★ **The EU should develop a stronger just transition policy framework** that incorporates short- and long-term measures, integrating environmental and social dimensions from the start, and addressing them in a complementary and cohesive manner. Particular attention must be paid to industrial ecosystems and workers whose jobs are at risk. **We call for strong EU support for green reindustrialisation, industrial reconversion, and vocational training** in regions undergoing structural changes to ensure that no one is left behind. Moreover, research and innovation must be embedded in this framework, ensuring that technological progress supports decarbonisation while also creating inclusive opportunities, so that the transition is both fair and effective for all regions and communities.

2. Building a decarbonised and sustainable future

Decarbonising energy-intensive industries and sectors, including energy, transport, and industry, and promoting circularity of products, is central to the EU's strategy to reach climate neutrality, strengthen our industrial competitiveness, build a prosperous economy, and improve the health of our citizens and planet.

- ✳ **Public and private investments are essential to boost clean, renewable energy sources and technologies**, including flexibility sources like demand side response, energy storage systems, and batteries. This must go hand in hand with the reinforcement and modernisation of electricity grids and the acceleration of strategic interconnections to support system integration and energy security.
- ✳ **The “Energy Efficiency First” principle must guide all EU climate and industrial actions**, ensuring the most cost-effective, sustainable, and socially just path towards climate neutrality.
- ✳ **We want to improve the energy efficiency and performance of buildings**, including housing stock, by promoting energy-efficient solutions and climate adaptation tools, such as the installation of heat pumps for district heating and cooling. Energy-efficient renovation and construction, especially for low-income households, is key for addressing the housing crisis. The use of EU instruments and public financing is key to a tailored place-based response according to national, regional, or local needs.
- ✳ **We support continued investment in the Trans-European Transport Network** (TEN-T network), which lays the strategic foundation for sustainable, efficient, and low-emission transport across the EU by favouring the shift to low-carbon transport options, enabling infrastructure for clean mobility, and investing in less-connected regions to provide clean and modern transport for everyone, including European rail.
- ✳ **We push for zero-emission mobility with the phase-out of internal combustion engines of new cars and vans by 2035**, the promotion of EU technological sovereignty, and the deployment of clean technologies to support the green transition and to make European industries sustainable and competitive.
- ✳ **We want to address transport and energy poverty by making electric vehicles more accessible and affordable** by expanding charging infrastructure in cities and regions. European and national policies must make European sustainable mobility accessible to all; this could be achieved with measures such as social leasing schemes to support low and middle-income groups.
- ✳ **Improving and expanding access to affordable and sustainable transport modes** is key to support a fair and just transition. We want a fair and accessible transport

system which guarantees sustainable travel options for all with modernised user access to rail tickets, affordable transport tickets, and easy access across transport operators and borders.

- ★ We acknowledge that the increasing use of energy, data, and compute-intensive technologies and infrastructure, including generative AI and data centres, risk undermining our energy efficiency gains and endangering our energy use reduction targets. We commit to **monitoring the evolving energy and water use of IT technologies** and to weigh the economic, social, and scientific utility of these technologies against their environmental costs.
- ★ We promote clean tech manufacturing and drive demand through public procurement, regulation, and fiscal incentives. **We support the revamp of the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework (CISAF)**, giving Member States a facilitated and fast route to finance renewable energy projects, industrial decarbonisation, and strategic clean technology manufacturing.
- ★ **We call for a robust financial tool to close Europe's clean investment gap.** EU and national instruments must mobilise large-scale, affordable capital for both SMEs and energy-intensive industries. Moreover, EU legislation must be implemented at national level with firm commitment from the European Commission to monitor and enforce existing rules.



3. Secure, affordable, and continuous energy

The provision of reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy has enormous ramifications, impacting our economies, the climate, our businesses, our households, and our security. We are committed to delivering a just and ambitious transition that leaves no one behind. **We strongly support the work of Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera and the implementation of the Clean Industrial Deal to turn decarbonisation into a strategic driver of competitiveness, sustainable growth, and social progress.** This means boosting investments in renewables, lowering energy bills, scaling up clean tech manufacturing, and creating high quality, gender-inclusive green jobs. **We support the thorough implementation of Commissioner Dan Jørgensen's Action Plan for Affordable Energy to complete a genuine Energy Union by 2030, improve energy efficiency, and lower bills.**

a. Affordable energy for people and businesses

To support our citizens and protect vulnerable households and industrial competitiveness, we need predictable, affordable, and clean energy, and to ensure the stable, fair, affordable, and interconnected flow of energy throughout the EU.

- ✳ **We call for a strategy to eradicate energy poverty and guarantee affordable energy for all**, taking into account the specific challenges faced by women, single mothers, low-income groups, and older people, and building on the National Social Climate Plans currently under development.
- ✳ **Member States must implement the prohibition on energy disconnections to ensure that vulnerable and energy-poor groups are protected.** Public services must play a central role in guaranteeing universal access to affordable, clean energy. We support the development of public energy providers and energy communities to combat energy poverty, strengthen democratic control over energy, and accelerate the clean energy transition.
- ✳ **All households must benefit from sustainable energy**, at an affordable price, through individual solutions, as well as energy communities and citizen-driven energy action. These are essential to guarantee a fair transition and to empower households and citizens to drive the clean, energy transition locally.
- ✳ **We want to implement the reform of the electricity market and accelerate long-term contracts for clean energy** to enable flexible, transparent, and integrated electricity systems and better protect citizens. We call for additional measures to decouple electricity prices from fossil fuel-based energy to guarantee price stability and affordability from renewable energy sources to benefit consumers and reduce price shocks.

b. For European Security and resilience

- ✳ Europe's dangerous dependence on imported fossil fuels was brutally exposed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While Europe has taken emergency steps to curb energy price shocks, with the RePowerEU plan to save energy and accelerate renewable energy roll-out and by setting a temporary windfall tax on fossil fuel companies, it is not enough. **The EU must achieve true energy sovereignty by diversifying its supply, increasing electrification across sectors, and driving a rapid deployment of renewables** to guarantee our climate objectives, energy resilience, and security. We reiterate our support for the RePowerEU Plan and Roadmap with the goal of fully ending dependency on Russian gas by 2027.
- ✳ We want to increase investments in renewable energy to **reach a completely renewable and clean energy mix**.
- ✳ We need to continue investing in our energy infrastructure, flexibility, storage capacity, and national and cross-border electricity grids.

4. The conservation of our nature and a resilient, pollution-free future

The health of the environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems is vital as they act as important carbon sinks, habitats for species, and provide critical life-supporting functions. They are our greatest ally against climate change, yet they are under severe threat from human activities, which reduces their positive impact.

- ✳ **We demand the full implementation of EU environmental legislation**, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Nature Restoration Law, and EU Deforestation Regulation to restore degraded ecosystems and biodiversity, and minimise the EU's market impacts on global deforestation and forest degradation.
- ✳ **We urge member states to fully implement the Water Framework Directive** and its daughter directive, **the Nitrates Directive**, as well as the Water Resilience Strategy and European Ocean Pact as important steps to ensure clean, sufficient water for all, and healthy oceans.
- ✳ **We call for the revision of the REACH Regulation** to ensure that products placed on the EU market do not contain harmful chemicals and better protect public health and our environment while maintaining the competitiveness of the chemicals sector. We continue our fight against plastic and chemical pollution, including PFAS "forever chemicals" and microplastics.



“ Climate change is not just about science. It's about people, about fairness and justice. About the world we want to leave to the next generations.”

Lotte Demarteau
student, The Netherlands

- ✳ **We support ambitions for a UN-led Global Plastic Pollution Treaty** to end plastic pollution, curb new plastic production, reduce microplastic pollution, and hold polluters accountable.
- ✳ **We call for stronger action to advance the European Union's zero-pollution agenda** on air, water, and soil, and to reach its targets across the economy.
- ✳ **We want to swiftly transition to a circular economy** to shift to sustainable modes of production and consumption, with higher resource efficiency, strengthened material recycling targets, and tangible economic incentives to increase repair and reutilisation to prolong the lifecycle and durability of products and to reduce waste generation and pollution.
- ✳ **We call for a new European Climate Adaptation Plan** to strengthen the resilience of the EU and member states against growing climate disasters.

5. Support farmers' livelihoods and their transition to sustainable agriculture

Agriculture is a strategic sector in the European Union. It is vital for food security, ensuring a stable supply of safe, healthy, and affordable food for citizens, and to provide jobs, opportunities, and support to communities in rural areas, which could otherwise be abandoned. Farmers are a backbone of our societies. **We are fighting to support farmers' incomes, quality jobs, and fair working conditions to all agricultural workers, while protecting them from unfair competition, especially from third countries.** Small and medium-sized farms, rural farms, women, and young farmers deserve our particular support in this context. These conditions are crucial to making the agri-food sector more attractive, sustainable, and accessible to younger generations, to maintain vibrant rural communities, and to ensure that farmers who wish to retain ownership of their lands and assets can continue to do so to secure the future of farming in Europe.

- ✳ **We want to strengthen the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with a just transition approach, stronger social conditionalities, and fairer working conditions.** The farming sector is particularly impacted by unfair trading practices, coupled with inflation and price spikes; we need regulation on the markets to tackle this and to address other challenges that European farmers face.
- ✳ **We want to secure fair remuneration for farmers** and strengthen their position in the food supply chain.
- ✳ **We call on the European Commission to present an ambitious generational renewal strategy to support young people and the future of EU farms.**

- ★ **The future CAP must be fairer and take into account the realities of the different Member States for the allocation of income support.** This includes gradually overcoming the hectare-based distribution of direct payments and introducing mandatory capping and degressivity, providing more targeted support to young, new, and women farmers, prioritising small and medium farms, and farms located in remote and disadvantaged areas, and rewarding those who meet the social, environmental, and biodiversity standards.
- ★ **We support sustainable farming practices**, such as organic farming and agroecology, that respect planetary boundaries, adopting the “One Health” approach, and contribute to our intermediary 2040 climate goals and climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest. This can be achieved through decarbonisation efforts, including methane emission reductions, securing sustainable, long-term, quality food production, and fostering the competitiveness of farmers in a complex global market.
- ★ **We want the future CAP to go hand in hand with the restoration of nature and support the development of rural areas** to keep our territories alive, and to be more sustainable by improving soil health, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and by reducing chemical pesticides. We will ensure that agrifood imports abide by the same standards.
- ★ **We want higher animal welfare standards** with the adoption of strong and ambitious legislation to guarantee the health of animals and to protect them from harmful and illegal practices, in line with the Five Domains model.
- ★ **We want short and equitable supply chains** to value local and regional production, strengthening local economy and communities.
- ★ **We want quality and healthy food** to be fair and accessible to all.

6. Global commitments to fighting climate change and social inequalities

This year, US President Donald Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement, undermining the multilateral system and collective efforts to tackle climate change. **The EU must double down and be a leader in global climate action and cooperation**, while promoting women's leadership in climate diplomacy. COP 30 this year marks 10 years of the Paris Agreement, a significant milestone in assessing our efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C and for countries to submit new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

★ **The EU must submit its Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by September 2025**, with a new 2035 greenhouse gas reduction target that significantly cuts emissions within this crucial decade and that recognises the important contributions of local and regional governments in reducing emissions and implementing climate action on the ground.

★ **Global solidarity must be at the heart of climate action.** The EU should establish stronger mechanisms to continue cooperation with the Global South in facing climate impacts by scaling up climate finance, transferring clean technologies, and promoting fair trade rules that respect climate and social standards.

★ **We call for adopting a reduction by 2040 of 90 to 95% in net emissions compared to 1990 levels in the EU Climate Law**, and for establishing the EU's intermediate 2035 climate goal.

★ **We must continue working towards reaching the objectives of other COP agreements**, including COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels and COP29 to mobilise \$300 billion annually to developing countries by 2035. We must fully deliver on the EU's obligations under the COP15 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to halt and reverse nature loss, phase out environmentally harmful subsidies, and to protect at least 30% of the Earth's land and marine areas by 2030.

★ **We urge all EU Member States to swiftly ratify and implement the UN High Seas Treaty** (BBNJ - Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction). This landmark agreement is essential to ensure the conservation of marine biodiversity in the high seas, to strengthen international ocean governance, and for the EU to continue implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



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