



26 June 2014

## 10 priorities for the next European Commission Sergei Stanishev, PES President

In the European Elections of May 2014, European citizens have sent a strong signal on the need to deep change in the European Union. It is therefore important to plan a programme that responds to this challenge, and make the EU a real driver for growth, for jobs, for justice. The focus on jobs and social matters has to be put back at the heart of the European construction.

It must be woven into a new approach to economic policy and economic governance. European citizens have sent a strong signal that we cannot ignore, to preserve the future of our European democracy.

These are our 10 priorities to for the European Commission 2014-2019 mandate.

1. **Respect of EU core values**: The respect of EU fundamental values, freedom and rule of law is the basis of our common European project. It must be respected by all EU member states, and upheld to defend the rights of each and every citizen. The Commission must continue to guarantee women's rights and improve gender equality through policies that empower women economically, socially and politically: policies that encourage women's participation on the labour market with specific targets and tools, that enable combining work and private life for women and men, that combat gender based violence and promote parity representation in the next Commission.
2. **A driver for job creation**: In a context of high unemployment, the first and main priority of the European Commission should be quality job creation. The Commission must propose an Investment strategy, including by looking for new sources, to promote growth in Europe. It must commit to the full implementation of our Youth Guarantee plan for everyone up to the age of 30, with an increased budget and scope. The mid-term revision of the EU Budget must allow more investments for quality jobs and growth for all women and men. The rule on deficit calculation must be revised regarding investments. At the same time, the next Commission must invest in education, to empower citizens and workers.
3. **Foster industrial policy and the digital economy**: The European Commission should develop a new European industrial policy and a re-industrialisation programme to create sustainable, decent and skilled jobs for women and men. The digital economy must be an engine for growth while fully guaranteeing liberty and privacy right. The Commission must promote the European digital services by supporting the infrastructure required, backing innovation, startups and SMEs; close the digital gap and push for a simple Digital Bill of Right to protect liberty and privacy rights in the digital age.
4. **Regulate financial markets in favour of the real economy**: The Commission should further regulate the banking sector and curb financial speculation. The introduction of the Financial



Transaction Tax must be sped up. The Banking Union must give equal and fair access to credit in Europe to our enterprises, and especially SMEs.

5. **Promote labour rights and social standards:** The next Commission must be committed to improve the protection of workers, especially by revising the Posting of Workers Directive, implement decent minimum wages across Europe and introduce a legal framework for Services of general interest. The European Commission should implement strong rules to guarantee **equal pay for equal work** and aim at closing the gender pay gap by 2% decrease per member state per year per group age. The European Commission must relaunch social dialogue and foster new agreements at EU level. It must be committed to the principle that economic freedoms cannot outweigh social rights. The Economic and Monetary Union needs to be rebalanced according to this principle to fight for the reduction of inequalities.
6. **A fair tax system:** The new Commission must commit to promote Tax justice and the principle that benefits are taxed where they are made. Fighting tax avoidance and tax dumping must be strengthened. The target to halve tax evasion by 2020 and eliminate tax havens must be continued.
7. **A driver of green change:** The EU must keep global leadership on the protection of nature and natural resources and the fight against pollution and climate change. As we approach the 2020 deadline, Europe must therefore support further binding targets on the reduction of carbon emissions, the increased use of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency. The Commission must support clean technology and environmentally friendly production. The EU must strive to reduce the cost of energy and dependence on unilateral energy supply with a European Energy policy.
8. **A new European refugee and immigration policy:** The EU needs a new migration and asylum policy with clear values and principles. Our first priority must be to strive to protect human life and dignity, and offer protection to those in need. The European Commission must elaborate the right mechanisms for true solidarity among all EU member states, with sufficient resources allocated. European migration policy must be rule-based approach to give people legal alternatives and fight effectively against human trafficking. It must also include effective integration and participation policies, and assistance to the countries migrants have left.
9. **Protect European standards in Trade negotiations:** All trade agreements, including the one currently under negotiation with the United States, must be bound to the protection of people's human and social rights, decent work, environmental standards, culture as well as corporate social responsibility and fair trade.
10. **Promoting Europe's influence in the world:** In a globalised and changing world, with conflicts and growing inequalities, Europe must be a global player. Europe must have a strong united voice and the proper tools to lead in promoting peace, democracy, women's rights, gender equality and shared prosperity throughout the world. The European Commission must support progress for European enlargement; work on the Eastern Partnership as an important instrument to bring countries closer to EU and promote strong relations with the Mediterranean region. Europe must commit to make the Millennium Development Goals and the UN post 2015 agenda a success.

