



We, European Socialists and Democrats continue our fight for a change in Europe because the bitter reality too many Europeans face remains unacceptable. Austerity did not work. We will continue to propose concrete answers to the economic, social and budgetary challenges European countries experience for more than six years. We strongly believe Europeans, women and men, must have decent jobs that allows good quality of life. This should be the core objective of European policies.

Six months after the European elections, the shift we brought to the European political debate is clear. The Commission and the Council recognise that investment is needed to create growth and jobs. There are also new elements. The European Central Bank (ECB)'s implementation of a quantitative easing programme contributes to a better risk sharing deal and to fight against the threat of deflation. The recent elections in Greece have shown a rejection of drastic austerity policies and of the Troika.

We want to accelerate the change towards more convergence and cohesion in Europe. We want a stronger coordination of economic policies, to foster fair and sustainable growth, quality jobs and a credible exit to the crisis.

1. PAVING THE WAY FOR CHANGE

>> We will remain restless to ensure that this political change translates into an improved day-to-day economic and social reality for all Europeans.

We fought hard for an ambitious investment programme to trigger growth again, and the European Council took a first step towards more investment in December 2014, when it endorsed the set-up of a European Fund for Strategic Investment.



We insist that the investment fund is launched by mid-2015 and that investments go immediately to a smart re-industrialisation, social capital, strong infrastructure and diversified and green energies. It should create quality jobs, a European added value, and it should support the Member States that need it most. To complement the investment fund, further contributions from both the EU and national budgets are important. In parallel, the European Union must accelerate the use of structural funds to invest in research and innovation, energy transition and small and medium sized enterprises.

In January 2015, the Commission changed its approach to the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact and now acknowledges **the need for a greater use of the flexibility clause as a stimulus for sustainable investment and growth**. This is another positive step in the direction of more room for manoeuvre for investment. We will further the discussions on mutualising responsibility and rights within the Eurozone.



We will make full use of this new budgetary room for manoeuvre to invest in quality job-creation and therefore bring down deficits in a sustainable and fair way. We remain committed to responsible management of our budgets. Flexibility should also benefit the countries that need it most, to compensate the current asymmetry.

The EU agreed on our proposal for a youth guarantee that allows young people to successfully step in the labour market and made funding available for it.



Member States need to continue their efforts to set-up operational youth guarantee schemes. We call on the European Commission to provide all necessary technical support to overcome difficulties in implementing the guarantee. **We want to increase the funding available and work toward the extension of the age-limit to 30.**

The Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) is entering the final stage of negotiations between eleven EU Member States.



We are committed to quickly finalise the set-up of a substantial FTT, ensuring that the financial sector contributes significantly to the fiscal effort and the creation of new revenues.

2. LET'S ACCELERATE CHANGE IN EUROPE

>> We set the ground for more investment, for more job-creation, for better access to employment. Yet, the change in Europe needs to go further, in the direction of more decent jobs and a fairer society. We want to get results that benefit all Europeans.

A coordinated and fair fiscal system is needed, where no one avoids their responsibilities to society, and everybody contributes to ending the crisis.



For a truly efficient taxation, **we will promote tax rules that prevent tax dodging, ensure transparency and a fair corporate taxation.** We will crack down on tax evasion and havens. **The country where a company makes its profits must be the country of taxation.**

New jobs created should enable Europeans to earn a decent living. Considering low wages in some countries are a major reason for reduced consumption, maintaining or raising the purchasing power of wage-earners in Europe is crucial. It is not only about social justice, it is also about economic efficiency.



We will introduce decent minimum wages across Europe, either by law or through collective bargaining. We will insist on the quality of jobs created to fight the ever more precarious contracts, especially among women, and at the same time, cap indecent bankers' bonuses.

We are determined to eradicate the gender pay-gap once and for all and to ensure that women and men equally share work, power, time and roles.



A binding target for narrowing the pay-gap by 2% each year in every Member State would be a strong step forward for gender equality. We will ensure more investment goes to improving childcare and elderly care, for more women and men to get in quality employment. We will keep fighting for a revised Maternity Leave Directive, guaranteeing a minimum level of paid leave and protection in the EU.

Putting an end to social dumping, precarious employment, letter box companies, bogus self-employment and ensuring the principle of equal pay for equal work for national and mobile workers alike is a priority for us. We need to ensure that European legislation does not allow for market distortions at the expense of employees and local SMEs.



We will push to revise the Posting of Workers Directive to prevent the exploitation of posted workers and unfair competition between companies.

The number of people at risk of poverty has increased by seven million in Europe. We urgently need more decisive action and policy coordination to fight inequalities and poverty, especially child-poverty.



Five years after its adoption, the social dimension of Europe 2020 got lost on the way. **We call on the Commission to conclude the revision of the Europe 2020 Strategy.** We will make sure that the fight against poverty and social exclusion is put on equal footing with macroeconomic objectives in

the European Semester, with binding targets on poverty and social cohesion. At all levels, we will continue to insist on combatting rising inequalities, which are threatening the European social model.

Equipping Europeans with the right set of skills and competencies is as essential for their employment as it is to Europe's economic competitiveness and recovery.



To facilitate everyone's access to the constantly evolving labour market, **we will further support high-quality education, training and life-long learning.**

<< WE, LEADERS OF PES MEMBER PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS, CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE DIFFICULTIES EUROPEANS ARE CONFRONTED WITH, AT ALL LEVELS. FOR US, STRUCTURAL REFORMS MUST BENEFIT ALL, THEREFORE WE WILL PROPOSE PROGRESSIVE REFORMS FOR GREEN GROWTH, QUALITY JOBS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION. WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE INVESTMENT TURNS FROM PROMISE TO REALITY, THAT IT DELIVERS SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, DECENT JOBS AND MORE SOCIAL JUSTICE ACROSS EUROPE. >>