



## European Solidarity against Terrorism Declaration adopted by the PES Presidency on 22 April 2016

The Party of European Socialists **strongly condemns** the recent terrorist attacks in Brussels, Brussels Airport and beyond, Copenhagen, Paris, Bamako, Istanbul, Jakarta, Grand-Bassam, London and Madrid. We express our complete solidarity and heartfelt condolences with the families and friends of the victims. We all feel victims, we were all attacked.

We **are outraged** by these continuous violent acts of terrorism that have now reached the capital of the European Union. We are determined to prevent such attacks, which senselessly cost the lives of the innocents and strike at the very heart of our European values – democracy, unity and freedom.

We **unequivocally denounce** any attempt to justify violence, or its use to stigmatize any religious or ethnic community.

We **firmly reject** all forces attempting to provoke hatred and mistrust amongst people by wrongly associating them with terrorists – be it through their religion, their country of birth or the colour of their skin. The goals of these violent acts of terror are to create chaos, to instil fear, mistrust and hostility, not only amongst nations or communities, but neighbours, co-workers and citizens. We shall not allow these attacks to be successful in their aim to change the ways we live in our peaceful and democratic societies. For the sake of stable and safe societies for all citizens we must step up our efforts. Our resolve to continue our fight for democratic, free, open and inclusive societies is unshaken.

These acts of terror are crimes which need to be dealt with accordingly:

- Europe has a common responsibility and must answer this threat **united**. We need to strengthen law enforcement cooperation, better coordination and exchange of information through our intelligence services within our countries and between Member States, including through EUROPOL and the new European counter-terrorism Center. Our response has a European but also international dimension, and must be expressed with **stronger cooperation on sustainable development as well as reinforced cooperation of security, judicial and police forces, enhanced cooperation and information exchanges with third countries** and stronger actions involving all the EU tools and institutions that are necessary in prevention and the fight against terrorism.
- Through this process, we will continue to defend our conviction that we refuse sacrifice of our rights and freedoms for a false sense of security. There **cannot be any security without the respect for democratic principles** and the Rule of Law. Fanaticism will not get to dictate how we use our freedom of expression, or push us to create more closed or intolerant society.
- We believe that the fight against radicalisation and extremisms must also be taken through preventive measures at local, regional, national, European and at the international level. We believe that our elected representatives hold a special responsibility to strengthen measures of inclusion, prepare strategy on counter terrorism and to enable an **inclusive community** that empowers every



individual to have a sense of participation, engagement and belonging. We need to invest much more on culture, which plays a crucial role in promoting respect for diversity, pluralism and human rights, our common fundamental European values.

Radicalisation is a phenomenon that attracts young people (not seldom with criminal records), recent studies show that it is happening much faster than a few years ago, they are also younger and less religious. Continuous fight of radicalisation should foster strategic communications and counter narratives policies. **We will support measures to address the underlying factors of radicalisation and support initiatives** related to education, vocational training, job opportunities and integration. Prevention should be guaranteed with continuous work with third countries, we will build up capacity regarding strategic cooperation and communication.

**We are convinced that terrorism can only be fought through international cooperation, trust and unity.**

Europe has a **common responsibility** and must respond united to this threat, stand firm in the fight against contemporary totalitarian ideologies, against extremism and violence, stand firm in the fight for democracy, equality, justice, freedom and human rights.

The Party of European Socialists will work at European level, together with our Member Parties, our organisations, our Leaders, our Ministers, our Commissioners, the S&D Group in the European Parliament and the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions, FEPS and our civil society partners to fight terrorism and radicalisation, to promote education, discuss integration and inclusive policies at every level.

The PES will organise soon a meeting with member parties' Ministers, MPs, MEPs, elected representatives of local and regional authorities and experts in charge of Justice and Home Affairs issues.

