



United for secure, tolerant and open societies
PES Presidency declaration on recent terrorist attacks
Adopted on 19 November 2015

We, the Presidency of the Party of European Socialists strongly condemn the terrorist attacks that hit Paris last week. Nothing can justify the targeting of civilians, whether in Paris, Beirut, Sinai, Ankara, Tunis, Brussels, Copenhagen, or anywhere else. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families. But our shock gives us the strength to be united against this global threat.

Last Friday in Paris, terrorists used their victims - many young people, old, French, Europeans and citizens of the world - threaten our values, our way of life, our principles of tolerance, openness and unity in diversity. They want to challenge our values through their barbaric acts. They want to divide us. They want us to stigmatize Muslims, migrants and refugees, turning them into scapegoats. We will not fall into this trap and enter this vicious cycle. We will not give them that victory.

With these attacks, ISIS terrorists want to bring fear and division. These are attacks against our values: peace, tolerance and stability within democratic governance and the respect of Human Rights. But we will not let them win. We will remain united and strong. We must take every measure to ensure the security of our citizens, and carry on our battle to promote and defend a Europe where everyone has their place irrespective of race, religion, origin, gender and sexual orientation.

The European Union and its Member States need to act drastically with joint action on security measures, intelligence sharing and foreign policy to prevent such atrocities. EU citizens must live their lives in security. The roadmap to fight against terrorism adopted by all EU Member States in the European Council on 12 February must be urgently implemented: with a solid Passenger Name Record policy, systematic and coordinated controls on Europe's external borders and the exchange of information on criminal records. We strongly support the

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unanimous decision of European Defence Ministers to support France's call for assistance under article 42.7 of the Lisbon Treaty, and we call on Heads of State and Government to find a European solution.

We can only fight terrorism with a better approach to firearm controls, common actions to uncover terrorist networks and exchanges of information on criminal records. It should also be a key priority to discover and freeze their financing assets, but also to take measures to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism.

We denounce all those who want to capitalize on these events and spread their ideologies of hate. We firmly reject any form of racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of intolerance and extremism. Instead, our answer grounds security in democracy, the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights.

We reject any attempt to link this act to the refugees, who are fleeing dictatorship, persecution, and the very people who perpetrate these atrocities. They come to our shores seeking protection and we have the moral and political duty to welcome them with dignity and safety.

Our sorrow strengthens our unity. The fight against radicalization and extremism has to combine action on security with preventive measures that promote more social cohesion, better integration, more solidarity. We will continue working for a Europe where everyone has their place irrespective of race, religion, origin, gender and sexual orientation. A Europe of rights and shared prosperity. A Europe that lives up to its responsibility to shelter those who are in need of protection.

Recalling the PES declaration of February "*United against fear*", we strongly believe that 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 want to ensure internal security and protection of all Europeans while fostering a sense of belonging based on a confident inclusion of all and not the fearful exclusion of some.

All of these can only be achieved through more and better cooperation between European states, not less. Because now more than ever it is clear: we are stronger if we are united. Together, we will fight against terrorism, and to preserve our open, tolerant and secure societies.

