



PES • PSE • SPE  
European Parliament  
rue Wiertz  
B 1047 Brussels

## **DECLARATION OF THE PES CONGRESS ON THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST**

Brussels, 24 April 2004

The Congress of the Party of European Socialists proposes a comprehensive set of policies for the future of what is defined as the entire Middle East. In general the EU should commit itself to promoting democracy and economic development in the region. This will help tackle poverty, improve living standards and create sustainable development in a sensitive region. In addition, the PES demands greater collective security in the region and wants to ensure that any fundamental decisions regarding the future are taken by the region itself.

### On the Middle East conflict

The PES calls for a negotiated settlement on the basis of the roadmap established by the Quartet. We oppose any attempt at unilateral changes to the 1967 borders. We condemn the building of the security wall, the development of settlements in the occupied territories and the killing of Palestinian leaders. We also condemn the suicide attacks carried out by terrorists. We call on both parties to end the violence and return to negotiations on the principle of land for peace.

### On Iraq

The PES supports the ambition of the Iraqi people for freedom and democracy but we are very concerned about the present lack of political stability and the continuing violence. Every effort should be made rapidly to hand over power to the Iraqi people in a way that guarantees democracy and stability. A new UN resolution is urgently necessary to grant the UN authority in the international reconstruction efforts and other aspects of the transformation process. We deplore the loss of civilian lives in the continued violence. We recognise the legitimate need for a response to terrorist attacks but demand that it be conducted in accordance with international law and the Geneva Convention and with respect for innocent civilians.

### On Iran

The PES supports the critical dialogue maintained by the EU with Iran. We should strengthen the moderate forces in an attempt to promote more democracy. The EU should keep the pressure on the Iranian government to fully comply with the additional IAEA protocol in a cooperative way with the intention to keep Iran nuclear free.

### On Afghanistan

The PES supports the role of the international community in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Our efforts should aim at strengthening the role of the central government against divisive forces. The democratic process should be promoted which requires greater stability all over the country. In this context the fight against the production of and trade in drugs should be stepped up. The PES calls on NATO, the US and the EU to commit to strengthening peace and security throughout Afghanistan, not just Kabul and its surrounding region.