



11th PES Congress

Lisbon, 7-8 December 2018

Decisions taken by the 11th PES Congress

1. Congress organisation

- Katarína Roth Neved'alová and Ruairí Quinn were unanimously elected as **Congress chairs**.
- **Confirmation of voting rights: 339 voting rights** were considered valid (see composition of delegations, annex 1). Therefore, the qualified majority was at 170 votes (50% + 1), super qualified majority (75%+1) was at 255 votes. Quote for vote, 85 votes (25%)
- The Congress unanimously adopted the **Rules of procedures** (annex 2).
- The following were unanimously elected as **Tellers of the Congress**
 - Mija Javornik, SD Slovenia
 - Tero Shemeikka, SDP Finland
 - Arjen Berkvens, PvdA Netherlands
 - Evin Incr, SAP Sweden
- The Congress unanimously adopted the **Agenda of the Congress** (annex 3)

2. Political decisions on the Activity report, PES Statutes, and PES member parties and organisations

- The Congress unanimously approved the **PES Activity report** (annex 4)
- The Congress took note of the **Activity Reports of the S&D Group in the EP and the PES Group in the CoR**
- The Congress, pursuant article 21.3 of the PES Statutes, unanimously adopted the recommended amendments **to change and update the PES Statutes** (annex 5)
- Following articles 11.6., 11.7. and 21.3. of the PES Statutes, the Congress excluded with 98.8% of votes (4 abstention) the **Party MSzDP (Hungary) from the Party of European Socialists (PES)**.



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- Following articles 9.1., 9.9. and 21.3. of the PES Statutes, the Congress unanimously ratified the PES Presidency decision from 24 November 2017 to grant **Concord-SD Latvia with full membership**.

3. Election of the PES President and Confirmation of the PES Presidency

- Pursuant articles 21.2. and 21.4. of the PES Statutes, **Sergei Stanishev was elected PES President** with 270 “YES” votes (83,9%), 29 “ABSTENTION” votes (9%) and 23 “NO” votes (7,1%). (annex 6)
- Pursuant articles 21.2., 33 and 34 of the PES Statutes, the PES Congress confirmed **the members of PES presidency** (annex 7).

The Presidency meeting following the election of the President on 7 December, gathering the newly elected Presidency members elected the Secretary General, Treasurer, 4 Vice-Presidents and appointed 3 Deputy Secretary Generals. The President communicated the Presidency decisions to the congress on 8 December.

The following were elected : Achim Post (Secretary General), Ruairí Quinn (Treasurer), Iratxe García Pérez (1st Vice-President), Francisco André (Vice-President), Katarína Roth Neved'alová (Vice-President), Marita Ulvskog (Vice-President).

The following were appointed Deputy Secretary Generals: Marije Laffeber, Giacomo Filibeck and Yonnec Polet

4. Debate and vote of the PES Congress Resolutions

After the presentation of the 8 resolutions during the PES Congress and a summarized presentation by the Chair coordinator for the PES Resolutions Maroš Šefčovič, the PES Congress adopted the following resolutions¹:

- **Equal societies: For a Europe of Gender Equality and Empowered Women.**
 - o BSP Bulgaria had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 8)
 - o PL Malta had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 9)
 - o SMER Slovakia had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 13)
 - o The Congress adopted unanimously the resolution **Equal societies: For a Europe of Gender Equality and Empowered Women.**
 - o Following the article 20.7 of the PES Statutes², BSP Bulgaria and SMER Slovakia declared themselves not to be bound by lines 40 to 49 regarding the

¹ PES Statutes, art. 24. The decisions and the documents adopted by the Congress shall be communicated to members of the PES and shall be published on the PES Website <https://www.pes.eu/en/about-us/the-party/congress/lisbon-2018/>

² PES Statutes, art. 20.7 If a full member party declares that it is unable to implement a specific decision taken by qualified majority, it can declare itself not to be bound by such a decision provided it indicates this intention before a vote is taken.



Istanbul Convention. Likewise, PL Malta declared not to be bound by chapter 2 of this resolution. They also requested to have their position on the resolution recorded in the minutes.

- **Equal societies: For fair and progressive asylum and migration policies that work for all**

- SAP Sweden had sent a Reservation Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 10)
- MSZP Hungary had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 11)
- SD Denmark had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 12)
- SMER Slovakia had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 13)
- The Congress adopted the resolution **Equal societies: For fair and progressive asylum and migration policies that work for all** with 327 votes in favour, 6 votes against and 6 abstention votes.
- Following the article 20.7 of the PES Statutes, SD Denmark, MSZP Hungary and SMER Slovakia declared themselves not to be bound by this resolution and requested to have their position on the resolution recorded in the minutes.

- **Equal Societies: For a stronger democracy in Europe**

- BSP Bulgaria had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 8)
- SD Denmark had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 12)
- SMER Slovakia had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 13)
- The Congress adopted the resolution **Equal Societies: For a stronger democracy in Europe** with 333 votes in favour and 6 votes against.
- Following the article 20.7 of the PES Statutes, BSP Bulgaria and SMER Slovakia declared itself not to be bound by 173 to 175 regarding the Istanbul Convention. SD Denmark declared itself not to be bound by this resolution. They had requested to have their position on the resolution recorded in the minutes.

- **Equal societies: For a fair, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world**

- The Congress adopted unanimously the resolution **Equal societies: For a fair, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world**

- **Equal societies: Social Europe**

- SAP Sweden had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 10)
- SD Denmark had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 12)
- The Congress adopted unanimously the resolution **Equal societies: Social Europe**



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- Following the article 20.7 of the PES Statutes, SD Denmark declared itself not to be bound by some parts of the resolution because they are against of a common minimum wage and in favour of an indexation of social and welfare benefits. Also, SAP Sweden declared having reservations towards this resolution. They requested to have their position on the resolution recorded in the minutes.
- **Equal societies: A healthy environment and food, green growth and modern industries**
 - The Congress adopted unanimously the resolution **Equal societies: A healthy environment and food, green growth and modern industries**
- **Equal societies: progressive economy**
 - PL Malta had sent a Reservation Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 9)
 - SAP Sweden had sent a Reservation Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 10)
 - SD Denmark had sent a Statement to the PES Presidency in advance (annex 12)
 - The Congress adopted unanimously the resolution **Equal societies: progressive economy.**
 - SD Denmark declared having reservation on the proposal for increasing the EU budget. SAP Sweden declared having its reservations on this resolution. Following the article 20.7 of the PES Statutes, PL Malta declared itself not to be bound by some parts of the resolution because PL Malta reiterates that matters related to taxation including CCCTB and FTT should remain within the competence of the Member States. PL Malta objects to tax harmonization since such harmonization does not take into account the specificities of small Member States at the periphery of the EU.
- **Equal societies : empowering youth**
 - The Congress adopted unanimously the resolution



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Delegates to the 2018 PES Congress

On the basis of article 22 of the PES Statutes

Party / organisation	Number of Congress delegates	Presidency members	Congress delegates + Presidency members
Austria SPÖ	8	1	9
Belgium PS	6	1	7
Belgium sp.a	3	1	4
Bulgaria BSP	9	1	10
Cyprus EDEK	1	1	2
Croatia SDP	5	1	6
Czech Republic CSSD	3	1	4
Denmark SD	5	1	6
Estonia SDE	2	1	3
Finland SDP	3	1	4
France PS	8	1	9
Germany SPD	32	1	33
Greece PASOK	2	1	3
Hungary MSzP	5	1	6
Hungary MSZDP ³	0	1	0
Ireland Labour	1	1	2
Italy PD	25	1	26
Italy PSI	1	1	2
Latvia Saskaņa -SDP ⁴	3	1	4
Lithuania LSDP	3	1	4

³ On 20th June 2018, The PES Presidency, meeting in Riga, pursuant to article 11.2 of the PES Statutes, decided to exclude the Party Magyarországi Szociáldemokrata Párt MSZDP (Hungary) from the PES (adopted decision).

⁴ On 24th November 2017, The PES Presidency decided to grant Concord- SD (Latvia) with a provisional full membership, according to article 9.9 of the PES Statutes



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Luxemburg LSAP	2	1	3
Malta PL	4	1	5
Netherlands PvdA	3	1	4
Norway	6	1	7
Poland SLD	2	1	3
Poland UP	1	1	2
Portugal PS	13	1	14
Romania PSD	19	1	20
Slovakia SMER	6	1	7
Slovenia SD	1	1	2
Spain PSOE	23	1	24
Sweden SAP	9	1	10
UK Labour	38	1	39
Northern Ireland SDLP	0	1	1
S&D Group in the EP	28	1	29
PES Group in the CoR	9	1	10
YES	2	1	3
PES Women	2	1	3
FEPS	2	1	3
PES President	1		1
PES Vice-Presidents	4		4
PES Secretary General	1		1
Total	339		



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Delegates without voting rights⁵

Party / organisation	Election delegates without Congress voting rights
S&D Group in the EP	159
PES Group in the CoR	340
FEPS	14
PES Women	15
YES	64
PS (Albania)	5
SDP (Bosnia & Herzegovina)	5
pBS (Bulgaria)	5
SDSM (Rep. Of North Macedonia)	5
Samfylkingin (Iceland)	5
DP (Moldova)	5
DPS (Montenegro)	5
SDP (Montenegro)	5
DS (Serbia)	5
PS (Switzerland)	5
CHP (Turkey)	5
HDP (Turkey)	5
Rainbow Rose, the LGBT network in the PES	5
Progressive Alliance	5
Socialist Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	5
Socialist Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE	5
Socialist International	5
Rainbow Rose, the LGBT network in the PES	5
ARF (Armenia)	2
PSD (Andorra)	2
CTP (Cyprus)	2
ESDP (Egypt)	2

⁵ PES Statutes

22.2. The PES Congress shall also consist of the following delegates without voting rights:

- all members of its political groups in the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions not covered by art. 22.1.;
- bureau members of other full member organisations;
- 5 delegates from each associate member;
- 2 from each observer member.



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<i>Georgian Dream (Georgia)</i>	2
<i>Israel Labor Party (Israel)</i>	2
<i>Meretz (Israel)</i>	2
<i>LSDSP (Latvia)</i>	2
<i>Fatah (Palestine)</i>	2
<i>PSD (San Marino)</i>	2
<i>FDTL-Ettakatol – FDTL (Tunisia)</i>	2
<i>USFP (Morocco)</i>	2
<i>CEE Network for Gender Issues</i>	2
<i>European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity (EFDS)</i>	2
<i>European Senior Organisation (ESO)</i>	2
<i>International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI)</i>	2
<i>International Social Democratic Union for Education (ISDUE)</i>	2
<i>International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)</i>	2
<i>Joint Committee of the Nordic Social Democratic Labour Movement (SAMAK)</i>	2
<i>Socialist International Women (SIW)</i>	2
PES Local – Socialist Local Representatives in Europe	2
Total	724

Ex-officio delegates without voting rights⁶

European Commissioners	8
President of the Committee of the Regions	1
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	1
Total	10

⁶ PES Statutes

22.5. The following are also ex-officio delegates, without the right to vote:

- the President of the European Parliament if he/she is a PES member;
- PES members of the European Commission;
- the President of the European Council, if he/she is a PES member;
- the President or 1st Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions, if he/she is a PES member;
- the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe if he/she is a PES member;
- the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, if he/she is a PES Member;
- the President of the European Security and Defence Assembly, if he/she is a PES member;
- the President of NATO Parliamentary Assembly, if he/she is a PES member



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Rules of procedure

PES Congress 2018, Lisbon, 7-8 December 2018

Introduction

These rules are based on the PES Statutes currently in force, adopted at the 10th PES Congress in Budapest on 12-13 June 2015

Composition of the Congress

Article 1

The number of Congress delegates, nominated in accordance with article 22 of the PES Statutes, is listed in Annex 1 of the Rules of Procedure.

The list of other parties, organisations and individuals invited to the Congress, adopted by the Presidency in accordance with article 22.6 of the PES Statutes, is available with the Congress Secretariat.

Registered PES Activists are invited to the Congress, in their own capacity, as guests. In this quality, they may attend plenary sessions without the right to speak or to vote.

Article 2

In accordance with article 44.4, members of the PES are not entitled to vote or take part in the Congress if they have not paid their annual membership fees.

In accordance with article 22.4 of PES Statutes, PES members' delegation must be gender-balanced, (i.e. there should not be more than a difference of 1 delegate between the two genders). If a delegation does not respect this rule, its vote to the Congress will be reduced proportionally.

Powers of the Congress

Article 3

In accordance with article 21 of the PES Statutes, the Congress is the supreme organ of the PES and lays down the political guidelines of the PES.

The PES Congress shall:

- elect the President through an open, transparent and democratic competitive process;
- confirm the members of the Presidency, as proposed by the Member parties and organisations, from among their senior members;
- adopt resolutions and recommendations to parties, the Presidency and its group in the European Parliament ;
- adopt the report of activity of the PES for the preceding period and on the action programme for the future submitted by the Presidency;
- discuss and take note of the report of activity submitted by its group in the European Parliament. 21.3.
- By a superqualified or qualified majority (cf. Art. 20.5.) and on a proposal from the Presidency, the Congress shall:
 - o adopt and amend the Statutes of the PES;



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- decide on the admission and exclusion of members as well as the status of member parties and organisations

Article 4

In accordance with article 12 of the PES Statutes, full member delegates have the right of expression, the right of initiative and the right to vote. Associate member delegates have the right of expression and the right of initiative. Observer member delegates have the right of expression.

The Congress can ratify specific recommendations on the procedure to vote approved by the PES Presidency

Article 5

Speaking time at the Congress may be requested by addressing the Congress Secretariat. The Chair of the Congress and the Chairs of panels shall decide to allocate or not any speaking time taking into account the agenda of the Congress, the sense of the debate and prioritising any potential requests from full member parties and organisations on the basis of their number of delegates.

Conduct of the Congress

Article 6

The internal rules of procedure and the agenda are adopted once the Congress is opened. The Chair/s, the PES President or the Secretary General announces the start and the end of the Congress.

Article 7

Following a Presidency proposal, the Congress elects a Chair/s by simple majority

Following a Presidency proposal, the Congress elects 4 tellers, from different member parties, by simple majority. The Congress tellers are responsible for counting the votes.

The Congress debates are managed by the Congress Chair/s with the assistance of the Congress Secretariat (PES Staff). The Congress Chair/s with the assistance of the Congress Secretariat makes recommendations to the Congress on the procedure for decision-making debates and votes. These recommendations require simple majority.

Decisions and votes by the Congress

Article 8

In accordance with article 20.5 of the PES Statutes, the quorum for votes requires two thirds of full member parties to be present.

Any request for a quorum must be made by 25% of full member parties. In the event that a quorum is requested and not met, the vote cannot take place.



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Article 9

In accordance with article 20.3 of the PES Statutes, political decisions shall, whenever possible, be taken on the basis of consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, they shall be taken on the basis of qualified majority.

According to article 20.5, qualified majority requires 50% of weighted votes cast +1. A superqualified majority requires 75% of the weighted votes cast +1.

The allocation of votes for a qualified majority per party and per organisation is equal to that party and organisation's number of delegates to the PES Congress (see Annex 1).

Proxy voting is not permitted.

Article 10

In accordance with article 20.7 of the PES Statutes, a full member party may declare that it is not bound by a political decision taken by qualified majority, provided it expresses the intent before the vote is taken.

Article 11

The draft resolutions and the amendments recommended by the PES Presidency will be the basis for the debate

Article 12

Amendments to the PES Statutes will be voted in block. The final version of the PES Statutes will be adopted if no amendment is rejected.

Political resolutions will be voted separately.

Article 13

In accordance with article 20.5 of the PES Statutes, votes are cast per member party and organisation.

Member parties and organisations are free to cast their votes individually or collectively.

A show of hands is called. If the result is unclear a roll call per party/.organisation shall be made.

In accordance with article 21.4 of the PES Statutes, elections at Congresses should take place by secret ballot.

Article 14

A vote shall be declared open and closed. Once the vote has been declared open, no one shall be allowed to speak until the vote is closed. The Tellers shall decide whether the result of the vote is valid.



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Procedural Motions

Article 15

Any delegate may be allowed to speak to draw the attention to any failure to respect the Congress Rules of Procedure (Point of order). The delegate shall first specify to which rule s/he is referring.

A request to raise a point of order shall take precedence over all other requests to speak. Speaking time shall be one minute. An immediate decision on a point of order shall be taken, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and shall be announced that decision once a point of order has been raised.

Congress decisions

Article 16

In accordance with article 24 of the PES Statutes, the decisions and the documents adopted by the Congress shall be communicated to members of the PES and shall be published on the PES Website.



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2018 PES Congress

Draft internal programme

PES Congress – ISCTE Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

“Free, Fair, Sustainable: The Progressive Europe We Want”

Friday 7th December

13.00 – 15.30 *Congress Procedures and Election PES President*

13.00 – 13.10 **Congress opening**

Speakers: Achim Post, Fernando Medina, Carlos Zorrinho

13.10 – 13.25 **Statutory procedures**

13.10 – 13.15 ° Election of the Congress Chair

13.15 – 13.25 ° Confirmation of voting rights and election of the tellers

° Adoption of the Rules of Procedures

° Adoption of the agenda

13.25 – 13.45 **Adoption of the PES Activity report**

Speaker: Achim Post

13.45 – 13.55 **Activity Report S&D Group in the EP**

Speaker: Udo Bullmann



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13.55 – 14.05 **Activity Report PES Group in the CoR (10')**

Speaker: Catiuscia Marini

14.05 – 14.15 **Adoption of the PES Statutes**

14.15 – 14.30 **PES memberships**

14.30 – 15.00 **Election of PES President**

° Candidate speech

° Announcement of the opening of the vote for **PES President** until 17.30

15.00 – 15.10 **Gender Resolution** presentation by PES Women elected President (5')

15.15 – 16.10 **Leaders' and relevant personalities' panels**

Panel 1 - **Panel on Migration, Democracy and Fundamental Rights**

Moderator: Marije Laffeber

Speakers: Elke Ferner, SPD Germany, Andreas Schieder, SPÖ Austria, Tanja Fajon, SD Slovenia, Fofi Genimata, Pasok, Greece, Nils Usakovs, Saksana, Latvia, Camila Garfias, Rainbow Rose, Pedro Silva Pereira, PS Portugal, Tytti Tuppurainen, SDP, Finland.

16.10 – 16.55 **Leaders' and relevant personalities' panels.**

Panel 2 – **Building Progressive Alliance for our values in the world**

Moderator: Giacomo Filibeck

Speakers: Paul Magnette (PS Belgium), Carlos Lopes (PS Portugal), Bedia Ozgokçe Ertan (HDP Turkey), Augusto Santos Silva (PS Portugal), Ann Linde (SAP Sweden),

Joao Albuquerque (YES), Alvaro Elizalde (PS Chile)

16.55 – 17.50 **Leaders' and relevant personalities' panels.**



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Panel 3 – PES for Equality, PES for Sustainability

Moderator: Yonnec Polet

Speakers: Karl-Heinz Lambertz, CoR, Corina Cretu, EC, Pedro Marques, PS Portugal, Luca Visentini, ETUC, Tuulia Pitkänen, YES, Finland, Ylva Johansson, SAP Sweden

17.50 – 18.00 Intervention of Jeremy Corbyn

18.00 – 18.10 *Intervention of the chief coordinator of the PES Resolutions, Maroš Šefčovič*

Adoption of the 8 PES resolutions

18.10 – 18.25 **Announcement of the Election of PES President and confirmation of the members of PES presidency**

Saturday 8th December, PES Congress - Auditório Professor Simões dos Santos

09.15 – 09.35 Congress opening

09.20 - 09.25 Opening greetings by Achim Post

09.25 – 09.30 Announcement of newly elected PES Vice-Presidents, PES Treasurer and PES Secretary General

09.35 – 10.10 For a Fair Europe

Speakers: Udo Bullmann, Maria João Rodrigues, *Olivier Faure*

10.10 – 10.20 Speech of Jeffrey Sachs

10.25 – 10.45 For a Free Europe

Speakers: Mette Frederiksen, Lodewijk Asscher, John Crombez

10.55 – 11.05 Dialogue between Sergei Stanishev and Zoran Zaev

11.15 – 12.00 For a Sustainable Europe

Speakers: Pamela Rendi-Wagner, Elio Di Rupo, Mario Centeno



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12.00 -13.30

The Progressive Europe we want

Ana Catarina Mendes and Maroš Šefčovič input and endorsement of Frans Timmermans and PES Common Candidate designated by show hands vote.

Speech of Joseph Muscat

Speech of Pedro Sanchez

Speech of António Costa

Speech of Frans Timmermans



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Fair, Free, Sustainable. The Progressive Europe we want

PES Activity report

2015-2018

Foreword

Dear friends,

I am honoured to present to you the 2015-2018 PES Activity report.

This has been an exciting period for our political family. In 2017, 25 years after the foundation of the PES in The Hague, we obtained a new legal status as a European political party. This was only possible thanks to the hard work of our secretariat.

It has also been a turbulent period, both for us and for Europe. We have faced common challenges in the form of radical changes in the EU, not least the regrettable decision of one of our Member States to leave the European project and the rise of populism in many of our countries.

I am proud of the response of the PES to these challenges. Instead of hesitating in our work, we have doubled our efforts, finding innovative ways to improve our organisation, ensuring we stand united in an ever-changing Europe. We cemented coordination with our member parties, exchanging best practices, sharing electoral strategies and organising events with them to shift the focus from Brussels to member states, and promote our political vision amongst European citizens.

Moreover, the PES has provided the space needed for our member parties to work together to develop an alternative, achievable vision for the future of Europe and its citizens.

Between 2015 and 2018, we worked tirelessly to promote progressive policies at all levels, from supporting our member parties in their respective countries through the network of Modernizing politics and the renewal agenda, to launching Europe-wide campaigns, including for an enhanced European Youth Plan, to standing together at a global level to fight climate change, bringing our own progressive proposals to COP21. And mobilizing and engaging with our members through the activist network and the PES European Training Academy.

These efforts among others have shown Europe that the PES is the European party above all others that is advancing democracy, equality and the respect for the fundamental rights of all people across Europe, that is promoting progress, sustainability and cohesion, and that is advocating a migration and refugee policy based on mutual responsibility, solidarity and respect.

I am pleased to welcome you to Lisbon today for the 11th PES Congress as we approach a crucial juncture for the future of Europe. We should be immensely proud of what we have achieved through the strength of our common endeavour, but we should not be complacent.

As the European elections draw ever closer, other challenges will begin to appear. We must ensure that Europe understands what is at stake. We must fight voter abstention, convincing people that we are listening to them and encouraging young people and women in particular to use their right to vote. Most of all, we must stand united as a political family, for it is only together that we can succeed in bringing about a Progressive Europe.

I want to give thanks in particular to PES President Sergei Stanishev, as well as the PES leadership, member parties, organisations, our activists and last but not least the team working in the Secretariat in Brussels. We all work together to prepare our European party for the future,

Achim Post

Secretary General



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1. The Party of European Socialists

Who we are

The Party of European Socialists & Democrats (PES) The Party of European Socialists (PES) is one of the major political forces in the European Union. In a number of member states our family leads the government, in some states we are part of the government coalition, in others we are the leading opposition party. Our parties are working all over for change and improving people's lives.

PES is a European political party that brings together Socialist, Social Democratic, Democratic and Labour Parties from the European Union and its immediate neighbourhood. We are the European centre-left. Currently, the PES has **33 full member parties** from the 28 European Union (EU) and Norway, **12 associate** and **12 observer parties** from outside the EU. We have international partnerships with a large number of progressive parties around the globe: in Europe, Africa, North and South America, Asia and Oceania.

The PES is our common platform, where our members come together: grassroots, party executives, Secretary Generals, Leaders, MPs, MEPs, ministers and Prime-Ministers of socialist, social-democratic, labour and democratic parties and organizations within Europe. Together, we change the European political agenda. We also exchange best practices and engage in political campaigning.

Founded in 1992, we have advanced from a common initiative to being a major European political party. Together with our members we engage with citizens to pursue the principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, and democracy, as well as to promote the respect of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and respect for the Rule of Law.

Following the application procedure at the instruction of the independent Authority for European political parties and foundations, in the framework of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, the PES has been granted the formal status of European Political party on 14 June 2017. The PES is registered in Belgium and has its seat in Brussels.

2. Our vision for Europe

The Progressive Europe we want

The PES stands for:

Equality We stand for equal rights for all citizens. We fight for gender equality, for LGBTI rights and against all forms of discrimination.

More and better Jobs We are proud of our role in introducing the "Youth Guarantee" – ensuring that every young person in Europe under 25 is offered a job. Now we launched our European Youth Plan and we will not only try to extend the Youth Guarantee up to the age of 30 and with a total budget of 20 billion Euro, but also to provide new opportunities for jobs, education, culture and child rights.

Democracy We promote democracy in all of its forms – from encouraging participation in elections and promoting diversity, to fighting censorship, fake news, sexism and discrimination. The rule of law is crucial for our European Democracy. We believe in openness, transparency and accountability in politics and are committed to invest in political education.

Fair Economy & Finance We want an ambitious, comprehensive and coordinated European economic strategy to boost investment and economic growth with quality jobs.

Cleaner Environment We work to encourage the European Union to lead by example and transform Europe quickly into a low-carbon and green economy. This in order to put a hold to climate change. We can do this by increasing energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy.



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International solidarity We are committed to making this world a safer place, a place of shared prosperity, and place where human rights and human dignity are at the centre of our thinking and our actions.

3. 10th PES Congress, 12&13 June 2015, Budapest

United for Jobs

The 2015 10th PES Congress held in Budapest was the beginning of a new political cycle. The Congress adopted 3 thematic resolutions on the following themes: ***For a Tolerant, Inclusive and Democratic Europe; Towards a strong progressive global agenda and PES Roadmap for a Progressive Europe.***

The Congress elected **Sergei Stanishev** (BSP Bulgaria) as PES President and confirmed the members of the Presidency. During the PES presidency meeting on 13th June 2015, four Vice-Presidents were elected: **Carin Jämtin** (SAP Sweden), **Jan Royall** (Labour Great Britain), **Jean-Christophe Cambadélis** (PS France) and **Katarína Neveďalová** (SMER-SD Slovakia). Ruairi Quinn (Labour Party Ireland) was elected Treasurer and Achim Post (SPD Germany) was elected Secretary General.

Marije Laffeber, Giacomo Filibeck and Yonnec Polet were appointed Deputy Secretaries General serving to support the PES Secretary General with the day-to-day management of the PES Secretariat in Brussels. In 2017 **Marita Ulvskog** (SAP Sweden) and in 2018 **Chi Onwurah** (Labour Great Britain) were elected as Vice-President, replacing the previous ones from their respective parties.

Now, in December 2018, PES Prime-Ministers are leading 6 of the 28 governments in the European Union, and our party is the junior partner in 5 governments coalitions.

4. 2015-2018: A new political cycle

EU policy

A constant changing European framework

2017 marked the 60th anniversary of the European integration project which has brought peace, progress and stability to a continent once dominated by xenophobia, nationalism and war. We want to recall that Europe is where democracy was born, laying the foundations for the fight against obscurantism and state arbitrariness. It is where the first acts of tolerance were issued, where cultural diversity could flourish and the social state was born. This achievement was mostly made possible by the will of millions of citizens to unite and work together towards building a better future for the next generations of Europeans, as well as by courageous political leadership.

This anniversary came at a time of deep societal changes that affect all aspects of life. Unregulated globalisation, the digital revolution, demographic changes, continued urbanisation, environmental challenges, decarbonisation, global financial instability, deep divisions between rich and poor, changes in energy production and consumption: these all continue to change the way people live, work and interact. By their nature, all these changes are disruptive: at the same time as they open opportunities for fair progress, they also create enormous challenges. Their benefits are not equally divided among everyone and often they create more obstacles than opportunities. In particular, the financial crisis affected women more than men, as austerity and cuts in public sector funding hit women hardest. The growing influence and economic power of corporations are disrupting the way nation states operate. We need to shift the balance so that neoliberal globalisation does not prevail. We have a vision for Europe that is socially just, ecological and sustainable. It must be egalitarian and inclusive. Our collective political answer cannot ignore that and it must not be based upon solutions of the past.



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First, we have to acknowledge that some of the challenges our societies are facing are the direct consequences of some of the policies we have not opposed enough in the last decades. Our collective belief in the need for growth-oriented policies, notably through ever-increasing deregulation measures and the depletion of natural resources has unfortunately led to a spreading and deepening of inequalities of all sorts. Income, wealth, social and ecological inequalities as well as inequalities of opportunity are bigger than ever. This has resulted in less territorial convergence and cohesion not only between countries, but also within countries and between our cities and the rest of our countries: pockets of poverty are unfortunately flourishing even within our wealthiest regions. According to some recent estimates, 123 million people are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, representing almost a quarter of the EU population, while almost 50 million people live in severe material deprivation without enough money to heat their homes or cope with unforeseen circumstances.

These structural changes have benefited a few people at the expense of many more, meaning that European societies are now more polarised than ever. The consolidation of inequalities together with the shift in the international balance has generated a feeling of social, economic, alimentary, and political and climate insecurity among the people. At the end of the day, it is the very idea of democracy, which is in danger, and many people, because of our collective failure to address the root causes of inequality, are finding senses of hope in hate-speech spread by extremists forces.

Today, as democracy finds itself under attack, our core European values are under attack on multiple fronts. We are witnessing the rise of extremist movements in all parts of Europe and on all fringes of the political spectrum, with ideologies that promote intolerance, deny people's fundamental rights, disrespect minorities and polarise our societies. At the same time, we have witnessed several cases of foreign intrusion in electoral processes, aimed at destabilising Europe and undermining our democracy. **We want to reaffirm our commitment to protect our model of democracy. We are determined to defend and enhance democracy at national and European levels.** And offer a real progressive alternative to promote open, inclusive and equal societies for a better life for all citizens.

We are firmly pro-European. We are the pro-Europe left. We know that no country can solve these issues on its own. National governments alone cannot create the policies that will promote social justice in their country. National welfare states are the guarantor of social justice and solidarity amongst people, but we also need the EU to protect and support these welfare states against a neoliberal global order, social, fiscal and ecological dumping. Those who propose a nationalist withdrawal to solve global problems are selling false hopes that will ultimately harm their own countries and in particular those who are most in need. These challenges can only be addressed if we have a strong and united Europe. The scale, weight, and ideals of the EU are our best hope to build a better future.

It takes political will to frame these changes so that they benefit society as a whole, rather than just the few. This is the fundament the European Union is built on. Unfortunately, the neoliberal ideology and the austerity-only policies created by the conservative domination of European politics have increased inequalities and has undermined the role of the European Union itself. Solidarity should be a leading principle. However, this principle has been disregarded on many fronts, which has alienated citizens from the EU. The handling of the Eurozone crisis was one of the most prominent examples. It was a costly and painful and the consequences are still being felt today. The actions imposed by the Troika (European Commission, ECB and IMF) on some member states and the adjustment programmes in particular left deep scars in citizens' lives and perceptions of the EU in the region. Thanks to the leading efforts of our political family, the potential disaster of the dismantling of the eurozone and the expulsion of Greece was avoided. Despite not being the leading force in Europe, we fought in all the European institutions to move away from the conservative approach. However, much more need to be done, therefore a progressive Europe with a strong PES in the lead is crucial.



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Recent years have also seen the biggest refugee challenge in Europe since the Second World War. As Socialists and Democrats we promote progressive policies on asylum and migration, which protect human lives, human rights and help those fleeing from violence and unbearable living conditions alike. Migration represents an opportunity as well as a challenge for the European Union, but opportunities cannot be effectively seized and challenges adequately faced unless the European Union is united in its approach. Root causes that are forcing people to leave their countries must be tackled and irregular migration needs to be addressed. The fight against human smuggling and trafficking should be reinforced and we must step up the efforts and investments in the integration of those refugees and other migrants who have the right to stay. Migration is a global issue that requires a multilateral and multilevel approach. We need to foster a positive vision on migration. The PES is making a stand to govern migration and **turn disorderly migration into orderly migration.**

Terrorism constitutes a real threat to democracy, the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The past years several European states have been confronted with terrorist attacks. France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, the UK, Sweden. Only by Europe's citizens standing up against terror and hatred can real solutions be found. We need to find a sense of togetherness that unites us, based on our values of equality, freedom, democracy, respect and tolerance in order to build a truly pluralistic and tolerant Europe. EU member states must collaborate closely, with both preventive and coercive measures, to combat terrorism. Europe needs to equip itself with strong security policies, more thorough controls at its external borders and better cooperation between law enforcement agencies. But we emphasize not simply a security response to dealing with terrorism. Terrorist acts are first and foremost criminal acts and global terror networks are akin to international organised crime. We must counteract the dangerous rhetoric of extremists and fight radicalization. While law enforcement operations aimed at terrorists are necessary and justified, counter-terrorism measures should not go beyond what is necessary to maintain peace and security, nor should they subvert the rule of law and democracy in the cause of trying to save it.

Furthermore, open challenges to the rule of law by conservative governments have been on the rise in Europe. In various countries, the judiciary, the press, and the state institutions have come under attack, from governments which turn a blind eye to common European values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, democracy, human rights, including women's rights, LGBT rights, gender equality, and the rule of law. The existing framework has been insufficient to provide the necessary strong legal and political response. In parallel, we are on the verge of witnessing for the first time the departure of a Member State from the European project. Although we were opposed to the prospect of **Brexit**, the will of the British people has to be respected. While the departure of the United Kingdom from the Union will certainly have a negative impact on the rest of the Union, it is also clear that those who hoped for a domino effect of dissolution have been proven wrong. In fact, Brexit is an opportunity for further integration. The question now is which direction we want Europe to take.

Women make up half of the European population but they are poorly represented in the economic and political decisions. They do not enjoy the same opportunities as men and they receive lower salaries and pensions. Furthermore, one-third of all women in Europe have been victims of gender-based violence at least once during their lives. In addition, human rights and especially gender equality issues are facing a strong backlash in several Member States. This backlash conflicts with our social democratic values.

As a result of all these, many citizens doubt the ability of the EU to deliver solutions and protections for their way of life, social justice, security, jobs and rights. For instance, people do not see the EU fulfilling its role of bringing more economic and social convergence. In 2018, nine EU countries have salaries lower than in 2010. Too many people in particular young people, are still unemployed, and still too many are at risk of poverty.



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The current model of development is not equipped to promote an equitable and sustainable Europe. In a time of risk of “secular stagnation”, economic growth cannot be the only objective of a society. A yearly growth of GDP of 2% in the EU will not be able to eliminate unemployment and poverty. This is even more critical considering that most growth will be generated by industrial innovation towards automation (causing further pressure on employment). We must shape these challenges according to our values of equality and social progress. We have a vision for Europe that is social, ecological, sustainable, and fair for all.

5. Strengthening the PES as a relevant political actor

Statutory

Following the 2014 EU elections, the 10th PES congress in Budapest (June 2015) adopted the PES strategy towards the 2019 European Parliament elections. This resolution ‘PES Roadmap towards 2019’ has been the base for the PES Leadership over the last three years, and its execution, the guideline for the PES work implemented by the Secretariat.

PES NEW LEGAL STATUS AS EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY

Twenty-five years after the foundation of the Party of European Socialists in the Hague in 1992, 2017 was an important **milestone in the advancement of further European political integration**. In 2017 the new Regulation for European Political parties and foundations came into force. **Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014**. Leading to the dismantling of the AISBL status and to the application and implementation of the new legal status of European political party. During many months of preparation, collecting supporting documents, writing reports to accompany the application, legal consultations and notary deeds, the PES application was formally approved by the Authority for European political parties and foundations. **On 14 June 2017 the PES obtained its new legal status as European political party**, which has been published in the monitor Belge. Since that date the PES has been working on the implementation of the new Regulation, which includes a change of Statutes by the PES Congress in Lisbon in 2018, the new regulation for funding and a conversion of the accountancy system to IFRS beginning of 2019. In 2017 the European commission proposed to slightly modify the Regulation adopted by the European Parliament in 2017, to check the Regulation against the practical implementation. The PES worked closely together with the S&D group AFCO committee to help identify and reformulate the Regulation at some crucial points. To make it more transparent and effective. The reformulation was adopted by the Parliament, Commission and Council during the spring of 2018. The implementation and conversion is ongoing.

PREPARATIONS EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

The first steps towards the 2019 European elections were made in 2017. The PES, together with its member parties has requested a group of independent European researchers to execute a RedVote study in 13 member states; in December 2017 the PES council reconfirmed the ambition to nominate a Common Candidate on behalf of the PES for the position of EU Commission President in 2019; in 2018 the foundation was laid for the PES 2019 Manifesto for the European elections and in 2018 the trans-European grassroots mobilization strategy was kicked off by launching the PES 2019 Campaign Academy.



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2019 PES COMMON CANDIDATE PROCESS

In the run up to the 2014 European elections the PES was the first European political party to push for a Common Candidate to run for European Commission President. As expressed by the 2015 PES Congress in Budapest and the 2017 PES Council in Lisbon, our political family aims to run again - in the 2019 European elections - with a PES Common Candidate.

The PES presidency of November 2016 decided to reinstate the **Working Group European elections / Common Candidate selection process**, chaired by PES Treasurer Ruairi Quinn. A first exchange in the framework of the working group was held in November 2016. The 2017 PES council appointed the new representatives of the **PES Working Group Common Candidate 2019**. Each full-member party or organisation could nominate one person to participate, the committee fulfilled the requirement of gender equality amongst its members.

The PES Presidency in June 2019 in Riga, adopted the procedure proposed by the working group, which is open, democratic and transparent.

The nomination of candidates by PES member parties was opened from 1-18 October 2018. On 26 October the PES Presidency acknowledged to have received letters of **two candidates – Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission for Energy Union and **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The nomination was followed by a hearing with both candidates.

The 2019 European elections are not just any election. The future of the European Union hangs in the balance. On 5th November 2018, in order to further strengthen our unity, Maroš Šefčovič announced his support to Frans Timmermans as the Common Candidate to lead the PES family into the 2019 European Parliament elections. This brought the full force of the PES behind one lead candidate, and has allowed us to kick-start our campaign. Maroš Šefčovič will play an important role in the upcoming 2019 election campaign beyond Slovakia, on the European front, especially on the 2019 PES Manifesto elaboration process.

Once more, the PES held an open process for nominations for its lead candidate and the debate among our member parties has allowed us to unite around a strong candidate who will represent all of our parties and all European citizens. The active role of all PES member parties who participated in the nomination procedure and the positive discussions and the fruitful dialogue that followed was very useful ahead of the PES Congress in Lisbon.

PES COUNCILS IN PRAGUE AND IN LISBON

The PES Presidency on average convened 4 to 5 times per year and was preceded by meetings of the Coordination Team. Leaders meetings were held in connection with the PES Councils as well as in response to different political urgent debates. Such as a Leaders meeting in July 2016 in Paris to analyse the Brexit vote and in London in February 2017.

In 2016, the PES organised **the PES Council** taking place on 3rd & 4th December in Prague, Czech Republic, hosted by our member party CSSD and its leader Prime-Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. The Council was attended by 800 people, including leaders, delegates, activists, digital activists and civil society. In addition to the plenary debates, a lively fringe program was organised. With several thematic workshops, gatherings of PES organisations and NGOs. As well as a PES Campaign camp



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attended by 200 people to exchange campaign strategies and a PES Activist forum. The Council delegates adopted the resolution **“Saving Europe: for Youth and Progress.”**

2017 was a challenging year for many PES member parties facing national elections. In December 2017 **the PES Council** took place in Lisbon (1 & 2 December) and was hosted by the Partido Socialista and its leader, Prime Minister Antonio Costa. The Council displayed a massive participation from delegates, activists and Portuguese civil society organisations. Also, Prime Ministers and leaders from PES member parties attended the Leaders’ conference at the fringes of the Council. The Council was an important event for the PES family to show our common determination in standing for our values and political priorities when it comes to jobs, peace and democracy, and on the PES roadmap to the 2019 PES Common Candidate.

The Council delegates adopted the resolutions **“2019 PES Common Candidate roadmap”** and **“#Progressive Europe/Renewal”**. The Council and its political outcome was, therefore, a big political success for our political movement, where activists, elected representatives, delegates and sympathizers renewed their commitment and engagement with the PES.

6. 2015 – 2018: Support and strengthen our member parties in order to win

Democracy

The PES’ path towards 2019

CONTINUING TO EXCHANGE BEST PRACTICES, ELECTORAL STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Within the PES Network on Modernising Politics and Renewal agenda, the PES works strategically with member parties to build together a social-democratic strategy to regain power in the member States, both at national and European levels. To this end, since 2015 the PES has provided **support to our PES member parties, exchange best practices and electoral strategies.**

Network of Modernising Politics and Renewal Agenda

Exchanges among our Parties in power and in opposition have been crucial to strengthen our political family. Therefore, the PES organised its **8th and 9th Conference of Secretaries General** in March 2016 in London and in November 2016 in Belrin. Its **10th and 11th Conference of Secretaries General** in May 2017 in Oslo and in November in Lisbon. And in 2018, its **12th Conference of Secretaries General** in May in Copenhagen. During these conferences the Secretary Generals of our member parties had an exchange on political party building and development, internal democracy, electoral research and strategies, common challenges and views on political party organisation, mobilisation and funding. Also, in this framework, the PES has presented the new report **“Profiling PES Voters 2019”** and first exchanges on the 2019 EU campaign were held during the last two conferences. The presentations and discussions we had were of great value for our future national campaigns as well as for the developing stronger cooperation within our family.

PES Campaign Camp

In 2016 the PES launched its first **Campaign Camp**. The PES campaign camp is the umbrella under which campaign focussed programmes are brought together, such as study visits, high level international electoral exchange and campaign training. The campaign camp is providing programmes to party representatives with campaign responsibilities at different levels. From Secretary Generals and campaign leaders/directors to campaign managers and campaign staff as well as youth leaders.



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In the framework of the campaign camp the PES has organised several study visits to member parties in the EU and to the United States on progressive campaigning. Providing our member parties a platform for exchange and training. Study visits with campaign experts and party leadership representatives were organized to London, Berlin, Stockholm, Columbus, Washington DC, New York and California.

In 2016, the PES organized its **2016 Campaign Camp** at the fringes of the PES Council in Prague. After being considered a very successful initiative, the PES organised its **2017 and 2018 Campaign Camp** as fringe events, both in Lisbon, where activists, campaigners and delegates to the PES Councils and Congress met to learn about the new campaigning technics and on how they could be implemented in benefit to their parties. Also, on a global scale the PES has participated in international progressive campaign platforms and initiatives. These has helped to foster the PES network of campaign managers worldwide, bringing new potentials to our member parties' campaigns.

The ongoing political changes in Europe are putting many common challenges at the level of democratic developments to our parties. Right wing populism, nationalism and fake news are a few examples to mention. Therefore, the PES and its member parties have invested in developing progressive strategies and common answers. The PES has organised several meetings on strategies to counter 'fake news'.

To have a better understanding of political developments in the EU member states in the run up to and after elections, the PES organised **PES Campaign Managers' meetings**. These study seminars (in Amsterdam, London, Stockholm, Berlin, Dublin), held at least once per year, gathered campaign managers of those member parties who had elections and those preparing for elections to exchange their best practices, tools and their knowledge on the use of various campaign techniques.

CO-ORGANISING EVENTS WITH OUR MEMBER PARTIES IN THE MEMBER STATES

As agreed in the PES Roadmap adopted by the Budapest Congress, the PES made an effort **to focus on shifting activity from Brussels to the member States**, to promote our political vision in a European framework together with our member parties amongst European citizens in the member states. These activities branded as **Taskforce elections** are organised to raise awareness on European issues at their own doorsteps, but also to give visibility to the **PES Prime Ministers and leaders**. We thus organised a range of activities together with member parties, in the member states, that have engaged with our members and with voters, that have had a (social) media outreach and that have increased awareness on European politics inside and outside our party. The PES has organised different events, on very different topics, with all the PES member parties and in all EU member states since 2015.

PROVIDING TRAINING TO MEMBER PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS AND TO PES ACTIVISTS

PES European Training Academy

Following the impressive trans-European grassroots mobilization campaign 'Knock-the-vote' in the run up to the 2014 elections, the PES European training academy was launched first in autumn 2014. This in close cooperation with the SPÖ Austria and the Renner Institute in Vienna. The PES Training Academy brings together hand-picked representatives from progressive socialist and social democrat parties across Europe, each of whom works in a prominent role in his or her own party, in a national or European parliament, or in public office - and all of whom are under the age of 38. The PES academy provides in depth workshops on European policies and European politics, as well as training sessions in the areas of community organization, communication and social media skills. After the PES 2015 Congress, the PES European training academy convened sessions in October 2015. In



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2016, the PES asked a committee to review the first training academy programs and provide recommendations to further develop the academy. In June 2016 the **PES European Training Academy** renewed style was held in Vienna.

In 2017 the new set up of 3 sessions with the same group of participants kicked off. The **5th PES European Training Academy** was held in Leuven in June 2017 and was focused on 'new ways of work and employment'. The main theme during 6th PES European Training Academy in October in Vienna was on 'the challenges to democracy: fighting right wing populism, fake news and hate speech'. In 2017, the PES also launched the PES regional trainings for Central and Eastern Europe. In 2018, the **PES European Training Academy was transformed into the PES Campaign Academy 2019**.

Since autumn 2015, we have trained almost **600 young members of our member parties**, fonctionnaires, local leaders and activists of our member parties in European policies, electoral strategies, and in recognizing and combating populists' rhetoric.

PES Campaign Academy 2019

In June 2018 the PES Presidency decided to launch a mobilization training for members of member parties with the aim to train **15.000 campaigners** before the European elections of May 2019. In close coordination with PES member parties, the PES launched its **PES Campaign Academy 2019** in September 2018 in Leuven. Through a train-the-trainers model we gathered 50 young campaigners nominated by our member parties to train them in grassroots mobilizing, social media, messaging, speech writing and in field campaign coordination. This process aims to bring both a new energy and new skill set into campaigning teams so that we can be more efficient than ever in grassroots action and create new habits for the 2019 European election campaign. In Lisbon the second training will take place. The campaigners trained will each train groups of members back home with the support of their party and the PES.

PES EUROPEAN CENTRAL AND EASTERN TASKFORCE

The PES Presidency decided to address special attention to our member parties in **Central and Eastern Europe**. This is the region with the lowest turnout in EP elections. The PES Presidency appointed Christoph Zöpel as special adviser to the PES President on this matter and created the **Taskforce Central and Eastern Europe**.

The PES contributed actively to the creating of a platform for our member parties in the CEE region foster dialogue and exchange between the region and other PES member parties and organisations. In this framework the PES has organised **study visits and fact-finding missions** to all member parties in the region. During the visits and fact-finding missions, there always was a program prepared with the member parties and other progressive forces, journalists and think tanks. This has helped to identify specific challenges, to strengthen the dialogue between progressive forces and to prepare a common strategy to prevent the rise of populism and extremism.

In order to be more present in the region the PES has co-organised and attended the last three editions of **The Economic Forum in Krynica** to take part in panels, discussions and plenary debates. Special efforts were dedicated to Poland, which is the country without left representation in Parliament after last elections in November 2015, where the government is violating constitution and Rule of Law, being one of pillars of EU. Therefore, the PES has organised several **fact-finding missions to Poland** in order to evaluate the situation and stimulate dialogue between progressive forces.

In October 2017, the PES Presidency adopted the **recommendations of the CEE Task Force**, presented by Christoph Zöpel, which has been defined as the strategy to guide the PES activities in the region.



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From 2015 until 2018, one of the strategic goals has been the intensification of the cooperation with parties from Central and Eastern Europe. In the light of upcoming European Elections 2019 PES took an initiative work on improving the vote turnout which in some countries was even below 20% in last elections by training party members and activists on European agenda, PES Program and strategic goals, campaigning. Therefore, the PES has held since 2017 **regional trainings in Central and Eastern Europe**, which is a wide initiative of sessions in party offices for a group of highly motivated members and activists, translated into local language in all the countries of the region. PES CEE training academy sessions have been organized yet in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia.

Finally, since 2018 the PES has put even more efforts on fostering the participation of CEE member parties in PES events and program discussions. Therefore, in a frame of Taskforce Central and Eastern European parties, we have been visiting all CEE parties on the occasion of conferences, Congresses or statutory bodies discussions. We have been also closely cooperating with our partner organisations in the debates with countries from Eastern Partnership or Western Balkans and attending key seminars.

Activists

INVOLVING PES ACTIVISTS AT THE HEART OF THE PES

Our family has a real commitment for a renewed push for progressive change in Europe, and PES Activists are crucial to achieve this aim.

In the term 2015-2018, the PES continued increasing the strength to connect with our most valuable grass roots organisation, thousands and thousands of political activists. They had the opportunity to learn from our politicians but also from professionals in different fields of politics as speech writers, communications experts or campaign managers. They have been gathering at least once per year through the **PES Activists' Forum**, where they presented initiatives, debated about their concerns and hopes around European topics, but also engaged within the PES structures. The Forum is the most suitable place for activists to interact and build networks, vote on interactive polls, start discussions, and exchange campaign ideas. The PES is committed to progressive change in Europe, and the Activists' Forums have been vital to achieve this aim.

The PES Activists are spread all over Europe and the PES has strengthen their communications providing them with different tools, especially the **online Activists Forum** and the PES newsletters. They can start a discussion there, exchange campaign ideas and strategies, and make plans together at any time of the day.

During these years, and in close collaboration with our member parties, we have invited the PES Activists to many interesting panels, debates and inspiring speeches about the current situation in the EU and the visions we have for a better Europe in the future. Some examples like the **Europe turn left!** event in Duisburg in April 2016, or smaller events in all EU member states were a big success for the PES Activists' network. Since 2015, the PES has supported 60 activities of PES City Groups of activists. The PES has opened up possibilities for activists to attend the annual councils and PES congress. To provide them the opportunity to get to know the PES and the debates better. Activists have been put first as main actors for debate with our leaders about the future and how to mobilise citizens to support our family project facing the next European elections. Also, from 2015 until 2018 the PES has organised multiple types of side events in collaboration with other PES organisations, like the last **IUSY World Festival** or the **YES Summer Camps**, where many PES Activists were invited to share good practices and campaign examples with the hundreds of members from our member parties youth organisations.



Finally, the PES is an open party and we act in that spirit. In the run-up of the 2019 EU Elections, the PES has been the first European political party to open our resolutions - which will be the basis of the PES Manifesto for the 2019 European elections - to our members through **an online Activists' consultation**. We wanted the voices of our activists to be heard – they have a valuable contribution to make to our election campaign for 2019. On the Forum, activists could read the draft resolutions, vote on priorities and make suggestions.

In December 2018, the network of PES Activists has 1.000 active Activists registered so far, but we expect this number to increase faster ahead of the elections. They are organised in 197 city groups in 27 Countries. Since 20015 the PES supported financially the PES Activists initiative with 300.000 euros, including the participation of 200 and 300 activists to the PES Councils in Prague (2016) and in Lisbon (2017), respectively. In the 2018 PES Congress, 100 activists are expected to attend.

A COORDINATED PES AND PES MEMBER PARTIES' COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

PES Social and Media Network

The **PES media network** is the format where the communications departments of our member parties can hear from leading communication experts, discuss social media and communication strategies and exchange best practices. Between 2015 and 2018, the network had meetings in Berlin and Amsterdam in 2015, in Zagreb 2016. For the meeting in 2018 the PES chose Dublin so we could learn from the Irish Labour party's campaign to repeal the 8th amendment, which later proved to have been a successful one. The success of these meetings has not only had a positive impact during common campaigns at the national and European level, but also helped in bringing our communications specialists closer, understanding their different political contexts and giving an insight into how to better tailor our message across Europe.

PES Campaigns and media strategy

The **PES communications unit** has been working over these years to inform the **media, the stakeholders and the general public on all activities and policies the party is into**. The PES communications unit has produced lots of press releases, newsletters, movies and publications and also it is updating the PES Web site, mini sites, mobile applications and social media.

Since 2015, the PES has engaged in and provided **communication support to all member parties** that requested it, as it was foreseen in its work plans. The main objective of the PES Communications, as it was decided at our last congress in 2015, is to support the positioning of our social democratic family as the leading progressive force in Europe, to further develop and strengthen the relations between the communication channels of all our parties and to provide support for anyone from our political family when needed.

The PES was represented with **info stands at many events** of our parties and partners such as the open days of the European Parliament with the S&D group, at the SPD 'Debattencamp' in Berlin, the SPÖ congress in Wels, Austria, at PSOE Congress in Madrid in 2017, at the Concord SDP Latvia Congresses, and many more.

The PES Communications provided media coverage, branding and organised press conferences and press points for interviews of the Prime Ministers from the PES family during all our **European Council preparation meetings**. Communications organised and implemented branding, social media coverage, press releases and web articles for all PES activities, such as the PES Campaign Academy, different PES Networks and working groups, and PES Ministerial meetings. Media attention was sparked with our



political reactions about the Brexit, Catalonia, the Philippines, the Macedonian referendum and the prospect of EU accession for the Western Balkans and the **Common Candidate** process.

To prepare for the **EU election campaign**, the PES communications developed gamified apps the likelihood of any given job to disappear because of automation: <https://www.robotsandjobs.eu/en> . The app is a tool to engage people in congresses and events but are mainly used as an email-gathering tool.

Campaigns

In March 2017 – we launched a **campaign on the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties**. Movies on the occasion were produced, as well as a series of publications in European Media such as La Stampa and Politico.

Major communication campaign was **launched during the second European Youth Plan Action Day** in Support of the Pes European Youth Plan – an initiative from the PES for fighting Youth Unemployment, better education, child care and strengthening the roots of the EU via cultural exchange. On 19 of May 2017 in more than 100 European cities there were events in support of the Youth Plan, coordinated and supported with materials by the PE Comms.

In coordination with PES Women, every year public events and awareness rising campaigns were done for the **Equal Pay Day** in March and in October, as well as a campaign on the International Day of eliminating the Violence against Women, in November.

PES Communication results

In 2017 and in 2018, the PES Communication team issued hundreds of web news and press releases. There were: **342 web articles** published on the www.pes.eu ; **188 press releases** & statements issued; **74 media advisories** were sent to our list of **1177 journalist from Europe**

Since 2015, the PES **newsletter “RED ALERT”** was regularly sent each month to a list of 2800 subscribers, including activists, members of from our member parties, other supporters or people with a general interest in the EU institutions. Our PES NEWSFLASH, specifically addressed at PES policy networks or working groups and at the MEPs from the S&D group, was also periodically sent out. In May 2017 PES Communications **introduced the PES NEWSFLASH** – a special mailing service for the members of all PES policy networks and working groups as well as the MEP’s from the S&D group, members of national governments and agencies which contains a summary of our most recent and important political declarations, statements, reports or conclusions of different PES working groups.

The PES has produced different **movies and video tutorials** that have been published in our website and on social media. At least one movie was released after each big PES event such as the European Council preparation Meetings, High Level Progressive Summits etc. A series of promotional movies were produced on the European Youth Plan, the PES Councils in Prague and in Lisbon, and the movie “What is the PES” was translated into 4 languages and was reedited with the most updated info on the party.

Finally, since 2016 the PES has produced and launched a brand new design and content of the **PES web site** www.pes.eu as well as a few mini websites and online applications such as: PES progressive reforms web site www.reforms.pes.eu; PES European Youth Plan - www.youthplan.eu; PES online activists forum www.activists.pes.eu; Youth plan supporter’s mini website <http://supporters.youthplan.eu/>; PES Quiz sites <http://www.pesquiz.com>; and the PES Interactive tour – a mobile app for iOS and Android - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=eu.duurd.pes>; <https://appsto.re/gb/dvIwgb.i>;



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7. Enhancing the PES as an actor in the European and International arena

International

From 2015 until 2018, the International Unit continued to actively support progressive forces around the world.

In 2018, right-wing nationalist governments continued to make gains in many regions of the world, as seen in Turkey, the USA and the Philippines. As well as this, the outcome of the Brazilian Presidential election put the largest country in Latin America in the hands of a dangerous leadership, which threatens the principle of the rule of law and human rights.

In this context, it has been of the utmost importance to continue to develop and strengthen relations between PES and progressive movements outside of the EU. At every possible occasion, we try to mobilise our partners around the world to defend democratic and progressive values.

PES High Level Advisory Group on Turkey

As the situation in Turkey develops and President Erdogan continues on his authoritarian path, the PES continues support our sister parties CHP and HDP. We have organised observation missions and delegations and attended Congresses of our member parties there. A fact-finding mission was organized in cooperation with the S&D Group, YES and the GPF in South-East Turkey in order to assess the situation. The PES also organized a conference on “Minorities in the refugee crisis” in Istanbul in February this year.

In 2017 and 2018 the PES organised regular delegations to mobilise PES member parties and to show support for Selahattin Demirtaş, Co-Chair of HDP. In June, the PES invited member parties to nominate a delegation of Members of Parliament to observe the Presidential Election. After these elections, on the 7 September, Demirtaş was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison, whilst former Member of Parliament for HDP, Sirri Sureyya Onder, was sentenced to three years and six months.

The PES will continue to promote the full exercise of political rights and civil liberties, in particular freedom of opinion and expression. A delegation is scheduled mid-December 2018.

Western Balkans

The PES has continued its support for Macedonia in an increasingly tense and polarised political situation, exacerbated by multiple failed organised elections. In cooperation with the Olof Palme International Centre and the FES, and with PES President Sergei Stanishev at its head, the PES organised a conference ‘Dotting the I’s and crossing the t’s securing fundamentals for a future democratic Macedonia’ in Skopje. Both the PES President and The PES visited Skopje to follow up and support the negotiations with Greece on the name change.

Further European integration and strong cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkans remain instrumental in order to deal with the refugee crisis, revamp the economy, establish an energy union, ensure a secure Europe, fight unemployment and tackle local and regional disputes. The annual PES Balkans conferences took place in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2015, in Skopje, Macedonia, in 2016, in Podgorica, Montenegro and Tirana, Albania in 2018. A Balkans Summit was held in Sarajevo in 2017.



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Asia

The PES attended the conference of SOCDem Asia in Bangkok to contribute his expertise on EU social integration. The conference provided a unique and timely platform for social democrats and progressive actors from Southeast Asia and beyond to discuss the social dimensions of regional integration, particularly key components and underlying principles that make it successful. The aim was to establish a social agenda for people-centred regional integration.

A high-level delegation of the PES led by Sergei Stanishev, PES President, visited China in May 2016. The delegation took place at the invitation of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) in the framework of the 5th China-Europe High-Level Political Parties.

In the Philippines, the Duterte administration has shocked the world with thousands of extra judicial killing in the name of a supposed “war on drugs”. After the delegation of October 2017 organised by the Progressive Alliance, in April 2018 Giacomo Filibeck was detained by border police while travelling to Cebu to attend the party congress of Akbayan, a sister party of PES in the Philippines and fellow Progressive Alliance member. He was subsequently informed that he had been blacklisted by the government for his participation in the delegation of October 2017 and he was deported back to Belgium. This was the first time a foreign national had been expelled from the country for political reasons. The motivation behind this decision was clearly an attempt to threaten those who are on the front line in the fight to defend human rights in the Philippines. One week after that, thanks to the work of the S&D Group and with the overwhelming support of the Members of the European Parliament, a resolution on the situation in the Philippines was adopted.

MENA

In the aftermath of the attacks in Sousse, Tunisia, which killed some 39 people, PES President Stanishev visited Tunis and Sousse to show support and solidarity. The visit was organized in cooperation with PES sister party Ettakatol and included meetings with UGTT Secretary General. In collaboration with the GPF, Solidar and Rainbow Rose, the PES organized a conference in Tunis. This conference aimed at bringing together progressive politicians and representatives of civil society to discuss their vision for a progressive trade agreement between the EU and Tunisia. It demonstrated how progressive forces from both sides of the Mediterranean can work together and have a common progressive position.

In collaboration with ASDF and FES, the PES organised a Seminar “Democracy and human rights in need of social justice” in November 2015 in Rabat, Morocco.

The PES has continued to develop a progressive answer Europe’s collective challenges concerning the refugee crisis, and as a follow up of the High-Level Conference in Beirut in 2015.

On the refugee crisis, the PES continues to develop progressive answers to Europe’s challenges and as follow up of the High Level conference in Beirut in 2015.

In December 2016, the PES, alongside its sister party PUK, organised a conference on “the challenges of ending the conflict – defending freedom from terror, protecting refugees, and promoting democracy” in Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan. As part of this conference, the PES organised half day field visits for participants to visit the Refugee Camp of Arbat and the Peshmerga trenches near Kirkuk.

Progressive Alliance



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The PES continues to invest in international partnerships with other progressive partners around the world. The PES co-organized several events worldwide with Progressive Alliance: the Asia Pacific Campaign Forum in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in April, and a seminar “living together in a New World, Building Solidarity and Social Justice” with PDI Perjuangan in Denpasar in Bali in September. Continuing its cooperation with Progressive Alliance, in October the PES held a conference in Brussels on the promotion of Peace and Justice and will hold another one in Berlin. On 29 April the PES attended the Progressive Alliance Award 2018, which was awarded to Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, for her committed and successful struggle for freedom, justice and solidarity.

Eastern European Neighbours

The PES attended an event organised by the EFDS as part of a project to map social democracy in Europe. The project aims at analysing the transformation of the SEE region in recent years, as well as the roles of social democracy and social democratic parties and external actors in the region. In partnership with the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity and the Georgian Dream party the PES organized a Conference in January in Georgia entitled “2012 and beyond: Georgia’s path”, this conference gave a framework to open the discussion and reinforce the relations between progressive parties and members of the government. Since 2016, the PES and the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity have organized fact-finding missions in Minsk in order to assess the democracy, human rights and media freedom in Belarus. The PES also participated in a mission to Moldova in February 2018.

Latin America

The GPF, the Instituto Iguualdad, PES, FEPS and the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) in cooperation with the Socialist Party of Chile, organized an international conference on EU-Latin American relations under the title "Re-thinking the World", from Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 April in Santiago de Chile. The purpose of this conference was to discuss development cooperation, which is one of the main pillars of the global partnership for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In early June, the Deputy Secretary General attended the Congress of the Brazilian PT in Brasília, where he had bilateral meetings with leadership of the party and former President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva. In November, the PES also participated in the Progressive Alliance Conference on “Empowering the people: Our agenda for a democratic, inclusive and sustainable society”, held in San José, Costa Rica.

In December 2018 the PES will attend the International Conference of PT Brazil. This year the topic reflects the situation post-election - “Defense of Democracy and against Fascism”. The conference will take place on 10 December in São Paulo. In the context of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an “International Act” will be organised as a sign of support for the freedom of former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, who is currently imprisoned.

Progressive Partnerships Worldwide

In November 2017, the PES attended different international congresses and programmes to reinforce our links with progressive parties around the world. These included the congress for the Labour Party in Auckland, New Zealand, and the congress and 51st anniversary of the Fatah in Ramallah, Palestine.



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The PES took part in the International Progressive Campaign Forum and the conference on 'Progressive Labour Agenda: Tackling Inequality' in Sydney. In both 2017 and 2018, the PES attended the annual Global Progress Summit in Montreal, Canada. Global Progress is a collaborative work programme launched by the Centre for American Progress, which connects progressive think-tanks, initiatives, institutions, movements and leaders from around the world.

OSCE PA Social Democrats, Socialists and Progressives Group and PACE SOC Group

The PES continued to work with the SDSP (Social-Democrats and Socialists) in the OSCE PA (The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly) and the SOC (Socialist group) in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Since 2016, there has been a strong Socialist Group (SDSP), which is currently made up of 105 members from 39 countries. For almost two years, the group has managed to have some of its members elected to the presidency, as well as to have one member elected to a position in each committee. This collaboration not only supports the work of the two Socialists Groups in the OSCE PA and in PACE, but it has also led to better coordination and cooperation of the Socialists Groups in the European Parliamentary Assemblies.

8. 2015-2019 Policy priorities

PES POLICY AGENDA FOR A FAIR, PROGRESSIVE, DEMOCRATIC AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

From 2015 until 2018, the PES focused in particular its attention to certain **key issues**. One key priority has been the support and promotion of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and putting in place the measures that will lead to its implementation. At the same time, we worked with our members and partners on defining and pushing for the next steps in the completion of the **Economic and Monetary Union**. We believe that these overarching objectives are fundamental in order to make the EU more social and work for its citizens. Third, we continued promoting in particular our policies for Europe's youth. We have launched a major campaign on the **European Youth Plan**, which encompassed and continued our campaign on the **youth guarantee and on child poverty**. The campaign, which featured three important action days, is the main political priority of the PES, and is structured around 4 priorities:

- 1. Employment:** A permanent and extended European Youth Guarantee
- 2. Education:** A broadened Erasmus+
- 3. Culture:** A European Culture Card to facilitate accessibility of culture
- 4. Child Guarantee:** Ensuring children's rights to healthcare, education, childcare and nutrition

Together with our work other fundamental dossiers, such as the fight against **tax** fraud, tax evasion and tax havens; **job** creation; the role of **investment**; **posting** of workers, etc; we have sought to promote our progressive policies in this last year before the European elections.

For a more sustainable world, and to prepare our position in 2015 for COP21, we European socialist and democrat leaders came together in Paris, at the invitation of PS France, and adopted our common PES declaration "**21 Progressive Proposals for COP21**" to show our willingness to achieve an ambitious, legally-binding, universal and dynamic agreement that limits global warming to maximum of two degrees.

The PES hosted in 2015 and in 2017 its first and second **high-level conference on investment and growth**. The event, titled PES Fair Growth Conference took place with the participation of PES President **Sergei Stanishev among other high-level speakers**. The PES Fair Growth Conference brought



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together representatives of PES member parties, Members of National Parliaments, Members of the European Parliament, trade unions, civil society representatives and academics. The main topic of the debate was the **need to reconcile investment policies, budgetary responsibility and social justice**.

In 2018, the PES concluded the work of the **PES High Level Working Group on the Future of Europe** that was launched in 2017 as a forum for strategic discussion. We undertook discussions on the means and frameworks that can foster greater convergence on key policy issues such as the social dimension of Europe, the completion of the EMU, the future of the Eurozone or the reform of European democratic processes and institutions.

Since 2015, we have actively worked to launch, relaunch, and strengthen our **thematic party networks and working groups**. The **Working Group on Progressive Reforms** held several meetings, leading to the adoption of an in-depth proposal for a socialist programme of alternative reforms that was welcomed in a declaration of the PES Presidency. This working group strongly built on the discussions held at the PES Fair Growth Conferences to identify new ways to install Europe on the path of a long-term, sustainable, and fair growth. Similarly, the high-level **working group on the Economic and Monetary Union** held three meetings, exchanging and deepening our proposals for the future of the Economic and Monetary union.

The conclusions of the **PES High Level Working Group on the Future of Europe** are being published. This comes to complement previous brochures that we continued promoting, including brochures presenting the conclusions of the **High-Level Working Group on the Economic and Monetary Union (2016)** the **Working Group on the Progressive Reforms (2016)** and the report of the PES Environment and Climate Change Network (2018))

PES POLICY NETWORKS

We have continued strengthening our policies notably through the **ministerial meetings**, also involving representatives of the **S&D Group, PES Commissioners**, and high-level representatives from **PES parties in opposition** when relevant. The three most established networks, that is to say EPSCO (**Employment and Social Affairs**) who adopted several joint **declarations** on Fair mobility in the EU, 2014, on the UK referendum and Social Europe, 2016, on the Youth Guarantee 2016, on the European Pillar of Social Rights, 2017, on Social Protection in the digital economy, 2017, on A social turn for Europe (2017) and on an ambitious ESF towards a strong Social Union 2018, the GAC (**General Affairs Council**) and ECOFIN (**Economic and Financial Affairs**) networks, have continued their operations, cementing the cooperation within our political family, and further deepening our work and impact on the core policy issues of this mandate.

They are further complemented by the organisation of ministerial networks and exchanges in other policy areas wherever possible. This included the **Energy** ministerial network, the Justice ministerial network who adopted a declaration “For a fair penalties’ system in Europe” (2017), the Health ministerial network who adopted the declaration “For a progressive health agenda” (2018), as well as the establishment of a new **Cohesion policy** ministerial network who adopted a declaration on “EU solidarity post 2020: an ambitious Cohesion policy” on the 12th of April 2018. The discussions, **Ministerial declarations** and initiatives taken in all these networks have, since 2015, fed into the strategy discussions at the **PES Council Preparation meetings** with PES Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers, Presidents of EU Institutions and EU Commissioners from our political family and the President of the S&D Group.

From 2015 until 2018, in parallel and complementary to these, we have organised **thematic party networks** and continued with the promotion and dissemination of their results.



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In addition, the conclusions of more recent discussion of these years in our policy networks were also prepared as publications. This includes the work of the **Social Europe Network on Combatting inequality in the European Union** (May 2018) and on **Workers' rights and social progress in the Digital Economy (2017)** and of the **Environment and Climate Change Network on A Just Clean Energy Transition** (November 2018). These networks, together with the **Economy and Finance Network** gave our parties the possibility to have a deeper discussion and deepen our policy analysis and proposals the main policy issues of the moment, including those mentioned above as well as others such as the creation of a Eurozone budget; the use of the European Stability Mechanism; the European Labour Authority; the Directive on fair and transparent working conditions; the Written statement directive; the European Child guarantee; the next Multiannual Financial Framework; Cohesion funds and future of the European Social Fund; the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals; fighting energy poverty; clean mobility; consumer rights and protection; etc.

2018 PES POLICY RESOLUTIONS AS BASIS FOR THE 2019 PES MANIFESTO

In the runup to the **2018 PES Congress in Lisbon**, we have sought to crystalize the political and policy priorities in our area of work in a series of **eight thematic resolutions**, all linked together by the focus on our fight against **inequalities**. The resolutions focus on : social and employment policy, economic and financial policy, youth policy, environmental policy, migration and asylum policy, democracy, gender equality, and international policy.

In preparation of these resolutions, and in order to reach out to citizens and civil society, we have held several rounds of consultations with NGOs and Trade Unions, where we discussed priorities for the elections, as well as the texts of our draft resolutions. The input of our partners gave rise to specific amendments that were discussed with our parties, and helped strengthen the texts that have been agreed with them. The texts of the resolutions have also been shared with the PES activists for their input.

Finally, in preparation of 2019, we have already started planning our work around the PES manifesto for the European elections, including by seeking to identify with our parties, as well as with our NGO, Trade Union, and activist partners, what are the key priorities to focus on. In parallel, we have started work to develop the priorities the PES family would like to see included in the European Commission Work Programme for the next mandate, seeking to compile them into a document in cooperation with our partners in the S&D Group and FEPS.

Democracy Initiatives

PES DEMOCRACY INITIATIVES

Democracy is not just a set of principles like the rule of law, representation, freedom of speech, media freedom, fight against discrimination, respect for privacy and human dignity; democracy is a process we should all advance constantly. We have fought to make sure that citizens can live in fair societies where democracy prevails in all areas of life and where the rule of law is a reality.

Enhancing European Democracy is our main priority and we want to engage the public and policy maker around three main pillars: fundamental rights, accountability and transparency and participation.

Under the Democracy Unit, and through the **PES Democracy Network** chaired by Tanja Fajon (SD Slovenia), the PES focused its work on topics that are related to Democracy and respect to the rule of law. To follow-up the big challenges for the European Union from 2015 until 2018 – migration and refugee crisis, terrorism, respect to rule of law and freedom of expression – the PES focused its Democracy activities to very important topics at European level, mostly on the preservation of the Rule of Law and respect of Human rights. These topics were discussed at the most important political level



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at the PES, and we adopted several declarations to tackle the challenges that our European democracies are facing. The PES closely cooperated with NGOs and organisations working on the advancement of Democracy and the Rule of Law.

In the run-up to the 2019 elections, the PES decided to tackle one of the biggest democratic issues: active citizenship and more democratic participation. This is why the PES launched a **Study Group on Fighting Voting Abstention**, chaired by DNA Norway Secretary General Raymond Johansen. The final report was adopted by the PES Presidency in March 2016, and it includes best practises and recommendations on early voting, electronic voting and strategies to tackle youth abstention by promoting youth participation during elections and on daily basis.

PES MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION INITIATIVES

The promotion of a holistic approach on migration and asylum policy based on solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility continues through the activities of the **PES Migration & Integration Network (MIN)** within the Democracy unit. It held its first meeting in September 2015 after the PES Presidency re-launched the network. The PES Migration & Integration Network brings together PES member parties, MEP's of the S&D Group and PES member parties' organisations to discuss asylum, migration and integration policies from a progressive perspective. The Network continues cementing the cooperation within our political family and helps the promotion and further development of the PES position on, amongst others; the reform of the CEAS, the European Commission's Agenda on Migration and integration policies. The network is chaired by Carina Ohlsson, MP for the Swedish Social Democratic Party (SAP).

Parallel and complementary to the PES MIN, we have organised several **thematic public events** on migration and integration; like **"High Level Migration & Refugees Conference"** in Athens in 2015, **"Refugees Our Progressive Answers"** in Paris in 2016, **"The reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)"** or the **"Local solutions for global challenges, best practices of integration in the EU"**, both in 2018. The outcome of these meetings is reported back to the PES member parties to continue with our efforts in the development and the promotion of our PES progressive position on asylum, migration and integration which is based on the principles of mutual responsibility, solidarity, respect, gender equality and humanism. The discussions and initiatives taken in the PES MIN and other events have fed into our strategy discussions at the **PES Council Preparation meetings** with PES Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers, Presidents of EU Institutions and EU Commissioners from our political family and the President of the S&D Group.

As members of the FEPS Global Migration Group, the PES has contributed to the development of the FEPS book **"Prioritising people: A progressive narrative for Migration"** and was represented at the event **"United for a different migration"** on the UN Global Compacts on Migration in New York in September 2018.

Looking ahead to the European elections, we organised several PES Migration & Integration Network meetings to discuss and exchange ideas on the **PES Congress Resolution on Asylum, Migration and Integration** which will be voted at our PES Congress in December 2018. Our aim was to develop the PES Congress Resolution in a truly participatory way, internally and externally. Therefore, we have held two meetings with **civil society organisations** to discuss the PES Congress Resolution on Migration. The various suggestions and proposals of the civil society organisations will also feed the preparation of our **Work Programme for the next Commission**.



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PES women

ENHANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS THROUGH PES WOMEN

PES Women **has brought together women - MPs, MEPs and activists - from PES member parties** to discuss and promote gender equality and women's rights within and outside the PES and Europe between 2015 and 2018.

Yearly, PES Women held 3 executive meetings to prepare the statutory meetings, the yearly budget and work programme and to set the priorities and to assure ongoing work of PES Women throughout the year. Also, PES Women had yearly on average 3 statutory meetings to discuss and reinforce its position and demands on the Istanbul Convention with national governments, member parties and Members of European Parliament, on the Equal Pay Call to Commissioner Vera Jourová and Vice-president Frans Timmermans, on Work-Life Balance with national and European MPs, on SRHR, migrant and refugee women and #metoo phenomenon with civil society organisations and international partners as well as how to mobilise and transform the political movements towards a closer connection with citizens. The Members also worked on several PES position papers and resolutions to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the PES work.

The **PES Women Annual Conferences in 2016 and in 2017** focussed on economic issues and the role of women's movements. For the economic issues, PES Women looked at the future of the labour market and the place that employment and work - with all the transformations - has, in particular for women and on the women's mobilisation; in other words how has women's economic empowerment been affected with the digitalisation, new forms of employment, increased push for self-employment while guaranteeing work-life-balance, closing the gender pay gap and addressing the gender pension gap. In 2017, the PES Women examined how in the EU and across the globe, citizens' movements, women's mobilisation and engagement in civil society organisations can keep momentum and be translated into political engagement..

For the Annual Conference on **6 December 2018** in Lisbon, PES Women took a closer look at an issue that is hindering women's progress towards equality. Under the slogan "Violence against Women in Politics: A Cost to Democracy!" PES Women analyzed the current state of play when it comes to violence against women in politics and elections from an internal and external perspective, looked at the causes, challenges and consequences to address the issue. Moreover, PES Women worked around the strategies and tools to combat these types of violence as well as on to change our political culture in the long run.

Activities and promoting PES Women priorities

To raise awareness on the persistent gap between women and men when it comes to equal pay for equal valued work as well as the underlying causes of the gender pay and pension gap, PES Women marks yearly the European Equal Pay Day (EPD), a day that reflects the European average gender pay gap in days (16,2 %) and which indicates that women need to work almost 2 months more each year to earn the same salary as men earn the year before.

1.2. Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights

2. Violence against women

To raise awareness on this inequality, PES Women collaborated with different partners to create a European wide awareness campaign. From 2016 – 2018, PES Women produced different video-clips, in which PES Women and our partners contributed in the production and dissemination of an Equal



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Pay video clips. The Belgian Equal Pay Day thus evolved into a European Equal Pay Day campaign under the logo of PES Women and our Belgium Partner Organization Zij-Kant. All Members of PES Women were able to join this common EPD action; boosting the video clip, disseminating and supporting it through their national EPD actions. PES Women had with these TV and web clips also the opportunity to put forward its demands on European level and to promote examples and leadership in good practices outside Europe on gender pay gap actions.

PES Women continued supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of European women struggling in this field, such as in Poland, Ireland, Malta etc. PES Women exchanged with the Council of Europe and reported back to European Parliament and governments to find wider support and to write reports.

Fighting violence against women as one of PES Women's main priorities, each year on 25 November, PES Women takes the opportunity of the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, to raise awareness on one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today and to put forward our demands on European level, especially regarding the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention in all Member State and at European level.

1. Empowering youth and women in the EU and regionally

PES Women worked closely together with organisations such as the PES Group in the European Committee of the Regions, the Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Equality Issues (CEE Network), Socialist International Women, Progressive Alliance, Global Progressive Forum, the Young European Socialists and the International Union of Socialist Youth. While supporting each other, PES Women also cooperated in joint events and conferences in order to strengthen our feminist network, to include the youth and to promote gender equality in the EU and on a regional level.

2. International Missions

The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Each year PES Women is sending a delegation to the United Nations CSW-Session to take part in the events, but also to take the opportunity to strengthen our network and partnerships by organising side events, such as round-tables, conferences, transatlantic dialogues and Gender Equality Ministerial Meetings. Moreover, PES Women organises bilateral meetings in order to exchange with civil society organisations on gender equality issues, based in the US and from around the world.

PES Women partners up with organisations such as the Global Progressive Forum, Progressive Alliances, Socialist International Women and FEPS to build alliances across the globe but also to fight for common causes and share solidarity with women around the world.

Promoting LGBTIQ rights

PROMOTING LGBTIQ RIGHTS THROUGH RAINBOW ROSE

As the PES, we know that the fight for human rights of LGBTIs is an ongoing fight. Even though many European countries have achieved great things that give us hope, our struggle continues. We are going through a period where the language of hatred, violence and intolerance is rising. Many LGBTIs living in Europe are becoming even more isolated and vulnerable.



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One of the biggest achievements of our political family was the adoption in 2017 of the **PES LGBTI Roadmap** by the PES Presidency in June 16th. The role of the PES, as a European party, is to promote a consistent approach against LGBTI discrimination, leading by example; this document makes us the only European party with such a document to guide and ensure the promotion of LGBTI rights by our member parties and rest of political family.

At this year's IDAHOT Forum - a summit of the European Ministries with LGBTI portfolios - in Lisbon, the PES organised a delegation of activists, MPs and MEPs to join our Government Representatives from Portugal. There they learned best practice on LGBTI policies and established dialogue with the European institutions representatives as well as gave a clear message on our demands and standards to achieve at European level.

As the PES, we are more committed than ever to fight against attempts to hinder progress on human rights. We need to achieve a more equal and just world for everyone. This is why we included a specific section on LGBTI demands among our resolutions for the PES European Election Manifesto.

In 2015 the PES has decided to join the Europride in Amsterdam organising a political conference on LGBTIQ rights with the PvdA. Joining the Euro, World and national Pride events has turned to be one of the most important aspects of promoting social acceptance and showing our support and solidarity from 2015 until 2018. We are extremely happy with the increasing participation in Prides and together with Rainbow Rose, we successfully showed our support through our social media networks and directly with relevant parties. PES brought large delegations of party members to the Madrid World Pride in 2017 and organised a 2-day conference on LGBTIQ rights with our member party PSOE. In 2018 a large PES Rainbow Rose delegation took part in the Europride conference where we hosted several workshops and panels and we walked together with SAP Leader and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and 14 Ministers from the Swedish Government in the Europride march.

The EU Strategy for the Accession of the Balkans has also strengthened our relations with our Member parties in the region. We have joined several Ministerial and Parliamentary meetings in Albania, Montenegro and Skopje. We also participated in the ERA LGBTI Conference, which gathered 300 activists together with politicians to discuss an agenda for the community in the Western Balkans.

PES Youth activities

STEPPING FORWARD FOR THE YOUTH THROUGH YES

Since 2015, and in coordination with YES, we discussed and worked on activities, and we have launched common campaigns to define the Europe we want from the youth point of view. The conclusions of this very good cooperation have achieved the relevance that we were looking for through **the PES Youth activities, in coordination with YES**. Our common political activities have focussed on several issues, to make Europe the place that puts human dignity before deficit rates. We debated on bringing solutions to enable students to travel but also to find a decent job.

Since 2015 we have worked together to show that our political family's values have never been so needed in Europe. The good coordination between the PES, YES and its youth organisations was strengthened to be more and more turned towards European issues, and we are happy to say that YES plays very important role in that process, we can still do much more to foster our common influence and create new actions together.

8. Organisation and Finance

The PES statutes state the following about the PES secretariat:

- The secretariat shall execute the decisions of the PES. In particular it shall be responsible for:
- Assistance to the President;



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- Preparation and organisation of meetings;
- Contact with member parties and organisations and institutions;
- Relations with the press and public;
- Update websites;
- Finance and keeping of accounts;
- The keeping of the archives;
- Distribution of documents

The President with the assistance of the secretariat shall ensure:

- the day to day administration of the PES and the preparation of meetings of the Presidency;
- the implementation of Presidency decisions and any general or specific instructions given by the Presidency;
- liaison between the PES and the parties, the group in the European Parliament;
- representation of the PES in any organisation or institution, in particular the institutions of the European Union, European trade unions, professional organisations, co-operatives and associations.

Following the implementation of **Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014**, the successful application procedure and the publication in the moniteur Belge, the PES has been granted the legal status of European Political party on 14 June 2017. The previous legal entity of the Party of European Socialists – International non-for profit organization (AISBL) - thus automatically terminated as per implementation of Regulation No 1141/2014. The PES is registered in Belgium.

The application and registration of the PES as European political party was a pre-condition set in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. Only those parties granted the status of European political party before September 2017 could apply for European funding with the European Parliament for the year 2018.

Following the implementation of the new Regulation, financial and funding requirements set by the European Parliament and supervised by the Authority for European political parties and foundations have become stricter as of January 2018.

In order to get ready for the new requirements, the PES has **implemented a new accountancy system**. This to **digitalize and modernize the PES finances** and meet the requirements set in the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. After the testing phase in 2016, special training sessions to get used to working with the new system have been provided to the team and will be repeated regularly. Currently we're working with our external accountancy team to prepare another new requirement regarding the financing of European political parties: the **IFRS conversion**. So far we have been preparing and reporting the accounts in line with the accountancy rules set by the Belgian authorities. However, all parties and foundations have been instructed in September 2018 to prepare their accounts in a new and separate way, dating back from January 2017 to today to be in line with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This would make it easier for the European Parliament to objectively compare each party and foundations' finances, based on the same accountancy standards. Rather than comparing different national accountancy frameworks. To enable the IFRS conversion, more supporting documents will have to be provided during audits, which means that all internal financial procedures to justify any expense will have to be updated in line with IFRS requirements. We also are requested to regularly renew and assess supplier contracts and tender our long-term suppliers as per instruction of the European Parliament. The new regulation promotes transparency. At the same time



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has increased the level of bureaucracy regarding the financial organization of European political parties and foundations.

Own resources and funding

The PES is depending on annual membership contributions (15% of income, classified as own resources) by its member parties and on that basis receives funding from the European Parliament (85% of resources, classified as a grant). The PES accounts are prepared by the financial department, checked by an external accountant, who reports monthly to the PES Treasurer and Secretary General, audited annually by an independent auditor, approved by the PES Presidency, published online on the website of the European Parliament and monitored by the European Parliament DG Finance, the EP Budget Committee and the independent Authority for European political parties and foundations. The Party of European Socialists is audited by an external independent auditor working at request of the European Parliament DG finance every year in February/March. As of January 2018 each European political party will be audited separately a second time by the independent Authority for European political parties and foundations.

One of the main goals for the PES since 2015 has been and is to maintain the own resources at a good level, despite electoral losses of several of our member parties. The loss of elections may lead to a reduction of the own resources. We need our own resources/membership fees to come in, in order to be allocated funding by the European Parliament. The auditor for European political parties has informed us in the spring of 2018 about a new requirement. All full member parties must publish the PES logo on a prominent place on their website, sign a declaration that they are full members and had to pay their membership fees before 1 September 2018. All our full member parties are in compliance with this new requirement.

Our strategy to maintain a good level of own resources has been two-fold.

On the hand our aim was and is to reduce the loss of own resources caused by missed membership fees. For every 15 euro not paid in membership fees (fees are adopted during the first PES Presidency meeting of each year) to the PES, the PES loses and additional 85 euro in EP funding. We have successfully reduced the number of parties with membership debts during the last three years by implementing an active monitoring and follow up system.

	Own resources – membership fees received	Other contributions received from member parties	Total budget
2015	1.029.666,-	164.108,- (CIK)	7.974.000,-
2016	1.059.761,-	77.282,- (CIK) 240.000,- (extra contributions)	9.504.473,-
2017	1.092.727,-	6.336,- (CIK) 230.000,- (extra contributions)	8.518.219,-



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In 2015 the PES received CIKs of its member parties with a value of 164.108,- euro, which equals an amount of 929.945,- euro in funding.

CIK 2015	Amount	Extra EP funding received
PS France	51.119,10	289.675,-
PL Malta	35.181,64	199.363,-
SPD Germany	29.377,70	166.474,-
SPÖ Austria	15.581,35	88.294,-
PD Italy	13.950,12	79.050,-
SAP Sweden	7.228,79	40.963,-
BSP Bulgaria	4.861,75	27.550,-
PvdA Netherlands	4.591,79	26.020,-
PSOE Spain	1.153,50	6.536,-
DNA Norway	702,00	3.978,-
Total	164.108,-	929.945,-

In 2016 the received CIKs of its member parties with a value of 77.282, - euro, which equals an amount of 437.931,- euro in funding

CIK 2016	Amount	Extra EP funding received
UK Labour	15.004,50	85.026,-
PS France	14.296,68	81.015,-
SP Switzerland	12.808,25	72.580,-
SMER Slovakia	7.391,20	41.884,-
PS Belgium	5.355,53	29.781,-
SD Denmark	4.537,85	25.715,-
SPÖ Austria	4.133,18	23.421,-
SAP Sweden	3.967,19	22.481,-
SDP Finland	3.384,80	19.180,-



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SDP Croatia	2.772,31	15.710,-
Saskana Latvia	1.959,80	11.106,-
SD Slovenia	1.670,55	9.466,-
Total	77.282,-	437.931,-

Since 2016 the PES has received extra financial contributions from:

2016

Party	Amount extra contribution 2016	Extra EP funding received
SPD Germany	200.000,-	1.133.333,-
PvdA Netherlands	35.000,-	198.333,-
SPÖ Austria	5.000,-	28.333,-
Total	240.000,-	1.360.000,-

2017

Party	Amount extra contribution 2017	Extra EP funding received
SPD Germany	200.000,-	1.133.333,-
PvdA Netherlands	30.000,-	170.000,-
Total	230.000,-	1.303.333,-

2018

Party	Amount extra contribution 2018	Extra EP funding received
SPD Germany	200.000,-	1.133.333,-
PvdA Netherlands	12.000,-	68.000,-
PS Belgium	31.000,-	176.000,-
Total	243.000,-	1.377.333,-



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Organisation – the team

We have continued our efforts to invest in the education and training of PES staff. In 2014 18 members of staff received an external education/training. Between 2015 and 2018 the PES has provided for several in-house and external education and training opportunities. All staff has received an in-house training on working with Exact-globe for purchase requests and expenses. As well as an in-house training on internet security provided by our external IT consultancy team. 7 staff members have taken part in a first aid training provided by a professional trainer of Mensura. 19 members of staff have taken part in a speech writing course provided by two professional progressive communication experts. 3 staff members took part in a personal career coaching. 8 staff members took part in French language courses, 2 in an Arab language course, 2 in a German language course and 2 in an English language course all of them provided for by the PES.

To contribute to the wellbeing of the team, the PES has introduced monthly in-office ‘massage at work’ session for each team member by a physiotherapist specialized in providing advice on Ergonomics and treating neck, back and arms.

Education and training for the team provided for by PES

Type of Training	Number of staff taking part
Exact Globe training	All
Internet security	All
Speech writing	19
French language	8
First Aid	7
Career coaching	3
English language	2
German language	2
Arabic language	2

Our motto ‘member parties in the lead’ became the foundation of our way of working, organisational structure and spirit. We’ve implemented this vision in the organisation of staff and finances. The PES secretariat exists to serve its member parties. There is a clear organisational structure (see organogram) with a division of tasks and job descriptions for each team member. We have continued to invest in the diversity of the secretariat team and with the efforts to – when new staff is being recruited – to prioritize candidates with experience in one of our member parties, organisations or parliamentary groups. At current the PES employs 18 men



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and 17 women, representing 16 different countries (compared to 12 different countries represented in the Secretariat in 2012). Three PES staff members are assigned to support the PES Women secretariat.

PES staff composition

	May 2015	December 2018
Spain	3	4
Belgium Wa	4	4
Belgium Fla	2	4
Germany	1	2
France	5	2
Italy	3	2
Romania	2	2
Greece	2	2
UK	1	2
Poland	-	2
Netherlands	2	1
Bulgaria	-	1
Portugal	2	1
Ireland	2	-
Croatia	-	1
Sweden	-	1
Austria	1	-
Slovenia	1	-
Norway	1	-
Total	32	31
+ trainees	2	4

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In 2016 the lease of the offices the PES rented at Rue de Trone 98 in Brussels expired. Therefore a search for a new office was launched. After having received the approval of the PES Presidency the PES office moved to its new location at Rue Guimard 10 in Brussels in October of that year. The office suits well to serve as European campaign Headquarters during the upcoming European election campaign.

GDPR

In the months running up to May 2018, the PES prepared itself to work in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. We've scanned all data and have updated our systems where needed. The PES works in compliance with the GDPR regulation.



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CHANGES to PES Statutes
Adopted amendments to the PES Statutes by the 11 PES Congress, 7-8 December, Lisbon

	Article	PARTY	AMENDMENT
1	<i>Replace article 1.1.</i>	PES Secretariat	Replace article 1.1. Article 1 – Name 1.1 An international not-for-profit association is set up under Belgian law A European political party is set up under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union under the name “Party of European Socialists”, abbreviated to and hereafter referred to as “PES”, in order to gather together the socialist, social-democratic, labour and democratic progressive parties and organisations within Europe.
2	Article 2 – Legal basis <i>Replace Article 2.1, 2.2,</i> <i>Modify and Add in Article 2.3</i>	SD Slovenia and PES Secretariat	Replace article 2.1., 2.2.. 2.1. Article 11.4. 10.4. of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 12.2. of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union recognise that, “political parties at European level contribute to forming a European awareness and to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union.” 2.2. The PES carries out its activities, pursues its aims and is organised and financed in conformity with the Regulation (EC) n° 2004/2003 of the European Parliament and Council of 4 November 2003 Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding, the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations. Modify and Add in Article 2.3. 2.3. The association European political party is governed by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 and by Heading III of the Belgian law of 27 June 1921 on not-for-profit associations, international not-for-profit associations or foundations.
3	Article 3.1.	SD Slovenia	3.1. The object of the PES is to pursue international aims in respect of the principles values on which the European Union is based founded , namely principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, democracy, respect of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and respect for the Rule of Law.



4	Article 3 – 3.3	PES Women	Original: “Having regard to diversity of peoples within Europe and our history, the PES promotes the value of tolerance and specially condemns racism and xenophobia.” New: “Having regard to diversity of peoples within Europe and our history, the PES promotes the value of tolerance and specially condemns racism, and xenophobia , sexism and homophobia .”
5	Article 3 – 3.4 – point 6	PES Women	Original: "to promote equality, diversity and equal representation in society in our internal bodies and meetings, especially for women and young people, and to encourage their active participation;" New: "to promote equality, diversity and equal representation in society, politics and in all positions of power, as well as in our internal bodies and meetings, especially for women and young people, and to encourage their active participation;" <i>Reason: Clearer and stronger wording</i>
6	Article 4 – Headquarters <i>Replace article 4.1.</i>	PES Secretariat	Replace article 4.1. 4.1. The Headquarters of the PES is Rue Guimard 10-12, 1040 Brussels, in the judicial district of Brussels.
7	9.1.	SAP, SPD, SD, PD	Socialist International or Progressive Alliance parties in European Union Member States or in states having signed an accession treaty with the European Union, and having had national or European parliamentary representation in one of the past two parliamentary terms, may become full member parties of the PES. Non-Socialist International or Progressive Alliance parties respecting these criteria may also become full member parties, following the rules stated in Article 9.9.
8	9.3.	SAP, SPD, SD, PD	Socialist International or Progressive Alliance parties in countries that are candidates or “potential candidates” for accession to the European Union, or are EFTA Member States, or in countries from the European Neighbourhood Policy with a signed association agreement with the Union, and having had national parliamentary representation in one of the two past parliamentary terms, may become associate parties of the PES. Non-Socialist International or Progressive Alliance parties respecting these criteria may also become associate member parties, following the rules stated in Article 9.9.
9	9.9.	SAP, SPD, SD, PD	All applications for membership of parties and organisations shall be examined on a case by case basis by the Presidency and decided upon by the Congress. In the period between two Congresses, the Presidency may grant provisional memberships to an applicant member, pending the acceptance of the Congress. All applications for membership are voted upon on the basis of a qualified majority, except those from non-Socialist International or Progressive Alliance members, which are voted upon on the basis of a superqualified majority (cf. article 20.5). Applications for individual observer membership shall be decided upon by the Presidency by simple majority.



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10	Article 15	PES Women	<p>Original: "The "PES Women" standing committee consists of representatives from all PES members, according to the rights and obligations defined in Article 12 of these statutes. Its mission is to formulate and implement the objectives relating to women's policy within the framework of the PES. It adopts its own "Standing Orders" to specify its functioning."</p> <p>New: "The "PES Women" standing committee consists of representatives from all PES members, according to the rights and obligations defined in Article 12 of these statutes. Its mission is to formulate and implement the objectives relating to women's policy gender equality and women's rights policies within the framework of the PES and to take necessary actions (such as campaigns) outside of the PES to further gender equality and women's rights in and outside Europe. It adopts its own "Standing Orders" (in annex) to specify its functioning. PES Women is represented at all levels and in all PES (working) bodies. The PES will ensure gender mainstreaming in any planned policy.</p> <p><i>Reason: Clearer description of the activities of PES Women as well as the need to consult PES Women regarding the gender aspect of decisions</i></p>
11	20.4.	SAP, SPD, SD, PD	Decisions concerning the admission of Socialist International or of Progressive Alliance members are taken by qualified majority. Decisions concerning the admission of non-Socialist International or Progressive Alliance members, suspension and exclusion of members, and decisions to change the Statutes are taken by superqualified majority.
12	21 <i>Powers of the Congress</i>	PES Secretariat	<p>Add a new article 21.6</p> <p>21.6. Policy proposals may also be presented by three hundred signatures of PES Activists who are members of at least one quarter of full or associate PES member parties, and speak of these before the PES Congress.</p>
13	22 <i>Composition of the Congress</i>	PES Secretariat	<p>Add in article 22.3.</p> <p>Parties shall elect or nominate delegates no later than two months prior to the Congress. The number of delegates from each party with voting rights following the rules stated in Article 20.6 shall be laid down in an annex to the internal rules of procedure of the Congress.</p>
14	22 <i>Composition of the Congress</i>	PES Secretariat	<p>Delete in article 22.5.</p> <p>22.5. The following are also ex-officio delegates, without the right to vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the President of the European Security and Defence Assembly, if he/she is a PES member;



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15	Article 23	S&D Group	Change article 23.3. The Congress shall be convoked by the Presidency, with at least 6 months' notice. The invitation shall be sent by mail, fax , e-mail or any other written form.
16	25 <i>Powers of the Election Congress</i>	PES Secretariat	Add a new article 25.3 25.3. Policy proposals may also be presented if they have three hundred signatures of PES Activists who are members of at least one quarter of full or associate PES member parties, and speak of these before the Congress.
17	27.3	PSOE Spain and PES Secretariat	27.3. The Election Congress shall be convoked by the Presidency, with at least a 6-month notice 4-month notice . The invitations shall be sent by mail, fax , e-mail or any written form.
18	31.2.	S&D Group	Change article 31.2. 31.2. The Council is convoked by the Presidency of the PES, with at least 4 months' notice. The invitation shall be sent by mail, fax , e-mail or any other written form.
19	33	PSOE Spain and SPD Germany	33.3. The composition of the PES leadership should reflect gender-balance and geographical diversity. The Presidency shall, after an open and transparent nomination and consultation process, following the proposal of the President: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elect the Vice-Presidents (maximum 4) ; and define the tasks and responsibilities of the Vice-President(s). President and Vice-President(s) should be geographically and gender-balanced ; • elect the Secretary General and the Treasurer and, if need be, the Deputy Secretary Generals. 33.4. The Presidency can also appoint other office holders for specific mandates and, if need be, Deputy Secretaries General of the PES. 33.5. The Presidency shall also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decide on the length of the mandate of the Vice-presidents, the Secretary General, the treasurer, the auditors and office holders and Deputy Secretaries General; • approve the annual accounts and budget and fix the membership fees; • adopt its internal rules of procedure.



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20	34 <i>Composition of the Presidency</i>	PES Secretariat	Add a new article 34.6 34.6. Decisions on suspension or exclusion of the members of the PES Presidency follow the rules stated in Article 11 of the PES Statutes, and they are taken by a superqualified majority.
21	37.1.	SAP, SPD, SD, PD	The President, in co-operation with the Vice-Presidents and with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the day-to-day administration of the PES and the preparation of meetings of the Presidency; • the implementation of Presidency decisions and any general or specific instructions given by the Presidency; • liaison between the PES and the parties, the group in the European Parliament and the Socialist International, the Progressive Alliance and other international initiatives such as the Progressive Alliance and the Global Progressive Forum; • representation of the PES in any organisation or institution, in particular, the institutions of the European Union, European trade unions, professional organisations, co-operatives and associations.
22	39.1.	SAP, SPD, SD, PD	The Leaders' Conference consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General; • PES Heads of Government; • the Leaders of the full member parties; • the Leaders of full member organisations; • the President of the Socialist International; • a Member of the Board of the Progressive Alliance; • the President of GPF • the President of the European Parliament, if he/she is a PES member; • PES Members of the European Commission, including the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, if he/she is a PES member; • the President of the European Council, if he/she is a PES member; • the President or 1st Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions, if he/she is a PES member.
23	VIII – PES Leaders' Conference	40 <i>Meetings of the Leaders' Conference</i>	Change article 40.1. 40.1. The Party Leaders' Conference should be convened at least once twice a year.



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24	IX: Administration of the Pes	NEW art. 44 PES Working Bodies	<p>Add a new article 44</p> <p>44. PES Working bodies</p> <p>44.1. The PES carries out its daily activities through the PES Working Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PES policies Networks and Secretaries General Network, for policies and political organisation development; - Ad Hoc Working groups and Task forces – for organizational matters, internal issues, temporary or specific tasks/relations within PES (between member parties) or with international partners; - Ministerial and Pre-Council meetings - to improve the coordination of PES Heads of State and Government or Ministers and develop common positions for European Council meetings. <p>44.2. The PES Working Bodies are regulated by the PES Presidency and shall reflect the priorities of the PES. They aim to deliver political positions and recommendations to the PES Presidency, in accordance with the framework of the adopted PES resolutions and statutes.</p> <p>44.3. The composition of the PES Networks, Working Groups and Task forces shall consist of full member parties and organisations. Other PES member parties, independent experts, civil society representatives and academics can be invited on a permanent or ad hoc basis.</p> <p>44.4. PES Ministerial and Pre-Council meetings may welcome leaders of PES parties in opposition.</p> <p>44.5. A list of PES Working Bodies is published in the Standing Orders of the PES.</p>
25	X – Finances	46 Audit	<p>Change article 46 (now article 47)</p> <p>46. The control of the financial situation, of the annual accounts and the certification that the operations stated in the annual accounts are in conformity with Belgian law, the PES statutes, the international accounting standards and the financial regulations of the European Union, is entrusted to one or several auditors, nominated by the Presidency from among the members of the Belgian “Institut des Réviseurs d’Entreprise”.</p>
26	NEW CHAPTER XI - Transparency	CHAPTER XI - TRANSPAR ENCY	<p>Add new chapter XI and new article 48</p> <p>CHAPTER XI -TRANSPARENCY</p> <p>Article 48 – Transparency and General Data Protection</p>



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			<p>48.1. The PES ensures, according to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014, the highest level of transparency in all its activities, decision-making processes, financial management, donations and in the operation of the organisation.</p> <p>48.2. The PES, following the European Union regulation, will carry out an external audit report on the annual financial statements, which will be published together with its annual budget on the PES website.</p> <p>48.3. The PES carries out its activities, webpages, online applications and emailing tools in a manner compatible with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 for all individuals within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA), as formulated in the EU law on data protection and privacy.</p>
27	NUMBERING	Correct numbering of the following articles	<p>Article 44 - Financing of the PES will be art. 45</p> <p>Article 45 - Financial year will be art. 46</p> <p>Article 46 – Audit will be art. 47</p> <p>Chapter XI- MISCELLANEOUS will be Chapter XII</p> <p>Article 47 – Representation of the PES will be art. 49</p> <p>Article 48- Limited liability will be art 50</p> <p>Article 49 – Change of statutes will be art 51</p>



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Result of the Election of PES President 11th PES Congress

Number of voting rights: 339
 Number of votes cast: 323
 Number of valid votes: 322
 Number of blank votes: 1

Number of votes Sergei Stanishev		
YES	270 votes = 83'9 %	
NO	23 votes = 7'14 %	
ABSTENTION	29 votes = 9 %	

Lisbon, 7 December 2018

PES Election Congress Tellers

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Members of the PES Presidency

Confirmed by the 11th PES Congress

7-8 December 2018, Lisbon

The following are members of the PES Presidency representing their Parties and organisations

FULL MEMBER PARTIES	PES PRESIDENCY MEMBER
Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs – SPÖ (Austria)	Andreas Schieder
Parti Socialiste – PS (Belgium)	Marie Arena
Sociaal Progressief Alternatief – sp.a (Belgium)	Saïd El Khadraoui
Bulgarska Sotsialisticheska Partiya – BSP (Bulgaria)	Deniza Slateva
Socijaldemokratska Partija Hrvatske – SDP (Croatia)	Tonino Picula
Kinima Sosialdemokraton – EDEK (Cyprus)	Maria Vasiliadou
Ceská strana sociálně demokratická – ČSSD (Czech Republic)	Vladimír Špidla
Socialdemokratiet – SD (Denmark)	Peter Hummelgaard
Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond – SDE (Estonia)	Madis Roodla
Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue – SDP (Finland)	Tytti Tuppurainen
Parti Socialiste – PS (France)	Boris Vallaud
Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands – SPD (Germany)	Udo Bullmann
The Labour Party (Great Britain)	Chi Onwurah
Panellinio Sosialistiko Kinima – PASOK (Greece)	Sylvana - Anastasia Rapti
Magyar Szocialista Párt – MSzP (Hungary)	Balázs Bárány
An Luch Oibre / The Labour Party (Ireland)	Brian McDowell
Partito Democratico – PD (Italy)	Piero Fassino
Partito Socialista – PSI (Italy)	Pia Locatelli
Sociāldemokrātiskā partija "Saskaņa" – SDP (Latvia)	Iveta Sers
Lietuvos Socialdemokratu Partija – LSDP (Lithuania)	Algirdas Raslanas
Lëtzebuurger Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei – LSAP (Luxembourg)	
Partit Laburista – PL (Malta)	Marc Vella Bonnici
Partij van de Arbeid – PvdA (The Netherlands)	Kati Piri



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Social Democratic and Labour Party – SDLP (Northern Ireland)	Colin McGrath
Det Norske Arbeiderparti (Norway)	Anniken Huitfeldt
Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej – SLD (Poland)	Andrej Jan Szejna
Unia Pracy – UP (Poland)	Waldemar Witkowski
Partido Socialista – PS (Portugal)	Francisco André
Partidul Social Democrat – PSD (Romania)	Rovana Plumb
SMER - sociálna demokracia – SMER-SD (Slovakia)	Katarína Roth Neved'alová
Socialni Demokrati – SD (Slovenia)	Tanja Fajon
Partido Socialista Obrero Español – PSOE (Spain)	Javi López
Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetareparti – SAP (Sweden)	Johan Hassel

FULL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS	PES PRESIDENCY MEMBER
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialist & Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)	Udo Bullmann
PES Group in the Committee of the Regions	Catiuscia Marini
PES Women	Zita Tunde Gulyasne Gurmai
Young European Socialists (YES)	João Duarte Albuquerque
Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)	Maria João Rodrigues

ASSOCIATE PARTIES	PES PRESIDENCY MEMBER
Parti Socialist e Shqipërisë – PS (Albania)	Edi Rama
Socijaldemokratska partija Bosne i Hercegovine – SDP (Bosnia & Herzegovina)	Sasa Magazinovic
Pariya Bulgarski Socialdemokrati – pBS (Bulgaria)	Ina Sotyanova
Socijaldemokratski Sojuz na Makedonija – SDSM (Republic of North Macedonia)	Radmila Sekerinska Jankovska
Samfylkingin (Iceland)	Heida Bjorg Hilmisdottir
Partidului Democrat din Moldova – DP (Moldova)	Vlad Cebotari
Demokratska Partija Socijalista Crne Gore – DPS (Montenegro)	
Socijaldemokratska Partija Crne Gore – SDP (Montenegro)	Ranko Krivokapic
Demokratska stranka – DS (Serbia)	
Sozialdemokratische Partei der Schweiz/Parti Socialiste Suisse – PS (Switzerland)	Mario Carera
Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi – CHP (Turkey)	Kader Sevinç
Halkların Demokratik Partisi – HDP (Turkey)	Eyyup Doru

ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS	PES PRESIDENCY MEMBER
Rainbow Rose, the LGBT network in the PES	Camila Garfias



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Progressive Alliance	Konstantin Woinoff
Socialist Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Frank Schwabe
Socialist Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE	Doris Barnett
Socialist International	



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BULGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY

National Council

Sofia, 4th of December 2018

TO

**ACHIM POST
PES SECRETARY GENERAL**

Dear Achim,

Between 6th and 8th of December 2018 the next PES Congress will be held in Lisbon. The discussions, which will take place during the Congress will have the objective of adopting the set of resolutions.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party has always supported and worked towards the political priorities and the main policies that tackle the key challenges in front of Europe. However, in relation to the draft PES Congress resolution “Equal societies: For a Europe of Gender Equality and Empowered Women”, we would like to affirm our previous statement from 8th June regarding the adoption of the aforementioned resolution. In accordance with the decision of the Constitutional Court of Bulgaria, delivered on 27th July, **the Bulgarian Socialist Party declares in advance the opt-out option and not to be bound to the following particular text of the resolution:**

- *Lines from 40 to 49 “The PES and PES Women urge all EU Member States to ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention...”*.

In addition, taking into consideration the above-mentioned circumstance, the Bulgarian Socialist Party also declares in advance the opt-out option and not to be bound to the following text of resolution “Equal societies: For a stronger democracy in Europe”:

BG-1000 Sofia, 20, Pozitano Str., Tel. +359 2 8107212, Fax: + 359 2 9815708
E-mail: bsp@bsp.bg Web Site: www.bsp.bg



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- *Lines 173 to 175 "...which can be done by ratifying the Istanbul Convention and encouraging Member States to implement it fully in their national laws".*

According to the Constitutional Court the Istanbul Convention contradicts Bulgarian Constitution and finds the Convention to be self-contradictory and as having a broader scope than the title suggests, which may compromise the rule of law in Bulgaria.

I would like to stress that the Bulgarian Socialist Party has been actively working towards reforms that will directly address violence against women. In the beginning of April 2018 on a recommendation by the Parliamentary Group "BSP for Bulgaria" the Bulgarian National Parliament adopted at first reading changes to the penal code towards more severe criminal investigation and punishment of domestic abusers, strengthening the criminal responsibility for violating a domestic violence protection order and establishment of Crisis Centers in each district city as a state funded activity.

We request the above statement be recorded in the minutes of the meetings.

Sincerely yours,



KORNELIA NINOVA
CHAIRWOMAN
BULGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY



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Dear Mr. Post,

On behalf of the Partit Laburista of Malta, I would like to clearly indicate our Position on PES Congress Resolution, Equal Societies: For a Europe of Gender Equality and Empowered Women, Point 2 My Body, My Rights.

Whilst the Partit Laburista fully supports Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive health. We would like to clearly indicate that the Partit Laburista does not in any way support the right to Abortion.

Regards,

Marc Vella Bonnici
International Secretary

Partit Laburista



e: marc.vellabonnici@partitlaburista.org

w:

www.partitlaburista.org



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Reservation on PES Congress Resolutions 2018 by the Swedish Social Democratic Party

Since its start, the European Union has not only assured peace and stability in Europe but also strengthened the conditions for growth and jobs through free trade and increasingly integrated markets. Today, the single market consists of about 500 million consumers and around 20 million companies. It offers EU companies a large home market and EU citizens the right to work and study in other EU countries.

At the same time, the European Union faces several difficult challenges. While the Euro Area has recovered from the euro crisis, the crisis has left significant scars. Several countries still struggle with high unemployment, weak competitiveness, impaired balance sheets of banks and high levels of public debt. Furthermore, the European Union as a whole struggles with handling large migration flows, increased geopolitical and trade tensions, terrorism and managing the climate challenge.

Dealing with these challenges requires great delicacy in order to achieve a successful outcome. Many issues demand joint action among the Member States, but at the same time, European citizens question the democratic legitimacy of the European Union. It is therefore of key importance to strike the right balance between ambition and focus on the one hand, and between EU and national responsibilities on the other. As we are approaching elections to European Parliament it is important to remember that all elected representatives' legitimacy stems from their local constituencies within their countries.

We believe that strengthening the resilience of the Member States' economies, allocating EU's resources with enhanced precision, completing current projects and finding new ways to create more and better jobs are all proper responses to the economic challenges we face. In addition, common and sustainable migration policies must be implemented. Rather than broadening the ambitions of the European Union, we should prioritize among its current undertakings to allow for an enhanced focus on endeavours with a clear rationale.

Strengthening the resilience of Member States economies

Sound public finances are a prerequisite for growth and employment – not a constraint. Jobs and growth must be built on a solid foundation regarding the sustainability of public finances. It is therefore desirable that Member States' fiscal rules support prudent fiscal policies. In a monetary



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union, unsustainable public finances in one Member State can have strongly negative spillovers in other Member States. This justifies fiscal rules at EU and Euro Area level that prevent countries from building up too much public debt. It is important that Member States follow such rules. To create ever more flexible rules or ways to bend the rules that we have all agreed on is not the way forward – quite the opposite.

Allocating resources

With regard to the financial and political implications following Brexit, an expansion of the EU budget would be ill-advised. The United Kingdom is a large contributor to the EU budget, and 15 percent of the funding of the budget will disappear when the UK leaves the union. The expenditure side of the budget should reflect that. The EU must cut its coat to suit the limited cloth of its income going forward.

Also, rather than expanding the budget, it is necessary to cut expenditures on some budget items to free up resources to areas with a strong added value. In order to preserve EU support in non-euro countries it is also of great importance that non-euro countries do not end up paying for Euro Area measures.

Although EU-institutions and bodies are best suited to address common cross-border challenges, national authorities are far better at identifying challenges, as well as shaping and executing policies, at national level. One such area is taxation. Each member state has different economic and political conditions. National tax systems are designed to suit the trade and industry structure in the respective member state. Therefore, taxation is a national competence. In cases where international coordination is called for, the OECD is better suited to elaborate on common solutions. Such issues apply globally and need to be resolved along with nations outside the European Union.

Completing current projects

In working towards a solid financial sector and a strengthened EMU, a key objective should be to complete the Banking Union. This will be crucial for breaking the link between weak banks and weak public finances, which has been a destructive force during the euro crisis.

Legacy assets are still a problem and need to be dealt with to pave the way for agreement on elements of risk sharing still missing from the banking union, most importantly a backstop for the single resolution fund (SRF). It is generally important that the banking union is constructed in a manner that creates sound incentives to limit moral hazard.

More and better jobs

Free trade and openness to foreign as well as domestic competition is a fundamental driving force behind increased prosperity and more jobs. We should continue our efforts to tear down trade barriers so that we can all benefit from the free movement of goods and services. It is a natural step to control foreign investments, especially in order to safeguard national security, but we must safeguard that it is not used in pure protectionist purpose.. The EU needs to secure more free trade agreements and continue to deepen the single market. This is especially important in view of current trade tensions at the global level and the risk of further protectionist measures by large economies such as the United States.



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It's time for a more social Europe. We welcome the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which consists of twenty principles that put citizens' interests first and that should be regularly monitored. It now rests a strong responsibility on the member states and stakeholders to implement the objectives of the social pillar. It is through this kind of structured cooperation that we can bolster each other and together strengthen citizens' rights in Europe. The advancement of the social agenda must be done with respect to national labour market models, with a strong presence of the autonomous social partners. We should never accept that people are paid wages that they cannot live on or work under conditions that jeopardise their health. Therefore we support the revision of the Posting of Workers directive, which guarantees equal pay for equal work, regardless of where workers come from.

Sustainable and common migration system

One of the most important issues for Europe the last years has been migration. It is obviously a common challenge, and must be addressed with common solutions. No country can manage it on its own.

Handling migration requires a comprehensive approach. First, we must do our utmost to prevent armed conflicts and oppression that force people to flee for their lives. We must also fight poverty as it deprives people of their future, driving them away from their homes. Addressing the root causes of migration and cooperating with countries in our neighbourhood on trade, development and education should thus be highly prioritized. Secondly, we must reinforce our external borders. It is the only way we can ensure free movement within the European Union. Human trafficking is an inhumane business that must be stopped, and more needs to be done to save lives at Sea.

Finally, we need a common asylum system in the European Union, with common rules and regulations, where all countries take their responsibility. For asylum seekers who have been found to lack legal grounds to stay, we need enhanced cooperation on returns. For those who have the right to stay in Europe, the process of integration in the Member States must improve, mainly through employment or education.

/ Johan Hassel, international secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Party and member of the PES Presidency and delegate to the PES Congress.



Dear friends,

As discussed before, hereby I officially inform you on behalf of MSZP Hungary that due to our reservations the MSZP Delegation abstains by the vote on the PES Resolution on Migration. I request that this act is put in the Congress Minutes. This act shall be considered as on opt out.

Thanks,

Balázs Bárány

International Secretary, MSZP

--

BÁRÁNY Balázs



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On behalf of the SD Denmark, we:

- voting against the resolution on migration and asylum.
- voting against the resolution on a stronger democracy in Europe.
- are taking a reservation on the proposal for increasing the EU budget in the resolution on Progressive Economy.
- are boring the the ambitions set out in the resolution on Social Europe, should respekt and take into consideration the special character of the Nordic Labour Market Model. That means that we are against a common minimum wage and are in favour of an indexation of social and welfare benefits.

Best regards,

Peter Hummelgaard
Member of Parliament (SD)
Member of PES Presidency



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Dear Friends,

As we indicated in advance on behalf of SMER - Social Democracy according to the article 20.7 of the PES Statutes I would like to ask for an opt out on the following parts of the resolutions being adopted at the PES Congress in Lisbon on December 2018. Our political party requests not to be bound by this parts of the resolutions:

For a Europe of Gender Equality and Empowered Women - lines 40 to 49 regarding the Istanbul Convention

For a stronger democracy in Europe - lines 173 to 175 regarding the Istanbul Convention

For fair and progressive asylum and migration policies that work for all - the resolution itself in full

Thank you very much for your understanding,

Katarina Roth Nevedalova
International Secretary
Head of the International Department
SMER- Social Democracy
Slovakia



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