

2022 PES Congress Berlin Decision taken by the 12th PES Congress

Decisions taken by the 12th PES Congress, held in Berlin from 14 to 15 October 2022, hosted with SPD Germany

1. Congress organisation

- **Confirmation of voting rights:** 278 voting rights were considered valid (see composition of delegations in Annex I)
- The Congress unanimously adopted the **Rules of Procedures** (see Annex II)
- Alicia Homs and Caroline Gennez were unanimously elected as **Congress Chairs**.
- Tero Shemmeika (SDP Finland), Neva Grasic (SD Slovenia), Anne Lambelin (PS Belgium) and Alberto Bondesio (PSOE Spain) were unanimously elected as **tellers**.

2. Elections

- **Election of the PES President:** Stefan Löfven (SAP Sweden) was the only candidate. He was elected by the Congress with 255 votes in favour, 7 abstentions and 0 against. (Annex IV)
- **Election of PES Presidency:** The Congress unanimously confirmed the PES Presidency Members as presented by the PES full Member Parties and organisations (Annex V)
- **PES Leadership:** At the proposal of the new PES President, the newly elected PES Presidency at its meeting on 14 October unanimously elected the following persons as part of the PES leadership and the Congress was informed of the Presidency decision:

Vice-Presidents

- First Vice President: **Iratxe García** (PSOE Spain and S&D President)
- Executive Vice President: **Katarina Barley** (SPD Germany)
- Executive Vice President: **Francisco André** (PS Portugal)
- Vice President: **Tanja Fajon** (SD Slovenia)
- Vice President: **Victor Negrescu** (PSD Romania)
- Vice President: **Kati Piri** (PvdA Netherlands)
- Vice President: **Andrzej Szejna** (Lewica Poland)
- Vice President: **Radmila Šekerinska** (SDSM North Macedonia)



Treasurer

- **Caroline Gennez** (Vooruit Belgium)

Secretary General

- **Achim Post** (SPD Germany)

Executive Secretary General

- **Giacomo Filibeck** (PD Italy)

The following persons were – at the proposal of the newly elected President - appointed by the PES Presidency as **Deputy Secretary Generals**:

- **Saar Van Bueren** (PvdA Netherlands)
- **Yonnec Polet** (PS Belgium)

3. Reports

- The Congress unanimously adopted the **PES activity report**.
- The Congress unanimously took note of the **S&D group activity report**.

4. Resolution

- The Congress unanimously adopted the resolution “Leading Europe through change” (Annex VI)

5. Membership

- The Congress unanimously welcomed Democratic Coalition (Hungary) as associate member.
- The Congress unanimously welcomed HLAS-Social Democracy (Slovakia) as associate member.
- The Congress unanimously welcomed Articolo Uno (Italy) as observer member.
- The Congress unanimously welcomed Pro Romania (Romania) as observer member.
- The Congress unanimously ratified the exclusion of Unia Pracy (Poland) from the PES.
- The Congress unanimously confirmed the name changes of Vooruit (Belgium) and Nowa Lewica (Poland)

6. Statutes

- The Congress unanimously adopted amendments to PES Statutes (Annex VII)



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Delegates to the 2022 PES Congress On the basis of articles 22 of the PES Statutes adopted by the PES Election Congress

There were 987 delegates to 2022 PES Congress

- 278 delegates with voting rights
- 699 delegates without voting rights
- 10 ex-officio delegates without voting rights

Please note that according to Articles 22.4 of PES Statutes, **all delegations 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 Election Congress will be proportionally reduced.

Delegates with voting rights¹

Party / organisation	Number of Congress delegates	Presidency members	Congress delegates + Presidency members
Austria SPÖ	6	1	7
Belgium PS	5	1	6
Belgium sp.a	2	1	3
Bulgaria BSP	5	1	6
Cyprus EDEK	1	1	2
Croatia SDP	2	1	3
Czech Republic CSSD	0	1	1
Denmark SD	5	1	6
Estonia SDE	2	1	3
Finland SDP	4	1	5
France PS	6	1	7
Germany SPD	29	1	30

¹ 1 PES Statutes

Article 26 – Composition of the Election Congress The composition of the Election Congress shall follow the rules laid down in Article 22.

Article 22 – Composition of the Congress

22.1. The PES Congress shall consist of the following delegates with voting rights:

- representatives from full member parties, with the following calculation: 1/45th of weighted votes as defined in article 20.6, rounded upwards;
- a representative from each National delegation of the Group in the European Parliament;
- representatives of the group in the Committee of the Regions, equal to 1/3 of the number of National delegations, rounded upwards;
- two representatives from each other full member organisation;
- the members of the PES Presidency.



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Greece PASOK	3	1	4
Hungary MSzP	3	1	4
Ireland Labour	1	1	2
Italy PD	18	1	19
Italy PSI	1	1	2
Latvia Saskana	2	1	3
Lithuania LSDP	2	1	3
Luxemburg LSAP	2	1	3
Malta PL	4	1	5
Netherlands PvdA	4	1	5
Norway	1	1	2
Poland SLD	8	1	9
Poland UP	0	1	1
Portugal PS	16	1	17
Romania PSD	13	1	14
Slovakia SMER	3	1	4
Slovenia SD	2	1	3
Spain PSOE	34	1	35
Sweden SAP	8	1	9
UK Labour	1	1	2
Northern Ireland SDLP	1	1	2
S&D Group in the EP	26	1	27
PES Group in the CoR	8	1	9
YES	2	1	3
PES Women	2	1	3
FEPS	2	1	3
PES President			1
PES Vice-Presidents			4
PES Secretary General			1
Total			278



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Delegates without voting rights²

Party / organisation	Election Congress delegates without voting rights
S&D Group in the EP	118
PES Group in the CoR	320
FEPS	15
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
<i>CTP (Cyprus)</i>	2
<i>ESDP (Egypt)</i>	2
Georgian Dream (Georgia)	2
Israel Labor Party (Israel)	2
Meretz (Israel)	2

² 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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LSDSP (Latvia)	2
Fatah (Palestine)	2
PSD (San Marino)	2
FDTL-Ettakatol – FDTL (Tunisia)	2
USFP (Morocco)	2
CEE Network for Gender Issues	2
European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity (EFDS)	2
European Senior Organisation (ESO)	2
International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI)	2
International Social Democratic Union for Education (ISDUE)	2
International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)	2
Joint Committee of the Nordic Social Democratic Labour Movement (SAMAK)	2
Socialist International Women (SIW)	2
PES Local – Socialist Local Representatives in Europe	2
Total	699

Ex-officio delegates without voting rights³

European Commissioners	9
President of the Committee of the Regions	1
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	1
Total	10

³ 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 2022, Berlin 14-15 October 2022

Introduction

These rules are based on the PES Statutes currently in force, adopted at the 11th PES Congress in Lisbon on 7 – 8 December 2018

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 45.4, 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.



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- 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;
 - o 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 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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Following a Presidency proposal, the votes can be cast by the head of each delegation.

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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2022 PES Congress External programme

Thursday 13th October

- 10:00 – 18:00 YES-Jusos Seminar (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Room 1.38*)
- 14:00 – 17:00 Progressive Alliance Board Meeting (*FES*)
- 15:00 – 18:30 PES Women Annual Conference (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Room HJV*)
- 17:00 – 18:30 ESO fringe meeting “Peace, international solidarity and development in the changing world” (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Kasino*)
- 17:00 – 19:00 Activists Meet & Greet with SPD and PES politicians (*Clash bar*)
- 19:00 PES Women & International Guests Reception (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Atrium*)

Friday 14th October

- 09:30 – 12:00 PES Women Statutory (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Room HJV*)
Election of PES Women Board
- 09:30 – 11:30 S&D Group fringe meeting “Progressive policies to end the energy crisis” (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Atrium*)
- 10:00 – 12:00 FES fringe meeting “Zeitenwende: Navigating the Disarray of European Security” (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Kasino*)
- 11:00 – 11:30 PES Activists welcoming (*Verti Music Hall – 3rd floor*)
- 11:00 – 12:00 European Forum for Democracy fringe meeting “What’s Left in Eastern Europe” (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Room 1.38*)
- 11:00 – 12:30 FEPS fringe meeting “The future of the European project: ENLARGEMENT versus DEEPENING” (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Kasino*)
- 11:30 – 13:00 PES Activists meet EuropeTalks: Connecting our bases on the run to the European Elections 2024 (*Verti Music Hall – 3rd floor*)
- 12:00 – 13:00 PES Presidency (outgoing) with lunch (*Willy-Brandt-Haus – Room HJV*)
- 13:00 – 13:30 Solidarity meeting with SD Platform Ukraine (*Verti Music Hall – 3rd floor*)
- 14:30 PES Congress Opening (*Verti Music Hall - plenary*)



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- 14:30 Opening Talk with *Achim Post* and *Katarina Barley*
- 14:40 Speech of PES President Sergei Stanishev
- 15:05 Presentation and speech from PES President Candidate: Stefan Löfven
- 15:20 Congress Election Procedures and Opening of votes
- 15:25 PES & S&D Group Activity Report Video followed by Achim Post and by Iratxe Garcia
- 15:35 Introduction of the panel by Lars Klingbeil
- 15:45 - 16:15 **Panel I: “Our Europe: Next to its citizens”**
1. Elisa Ferreira
 2. Attje Kuiken
 3. Vasco Cordeiro
 4. Peda Grbin
 5. Ivana Bacik
- Moderator: Kata Tüttö
- 16:20 - 16:50 **Panel II: “Our Europe: Respect for the people”**
1. Olivier Faure
 2. Zita Gurmai
 3. Esther Lynch
 4. Maria Joao Rodrigues
 5. Robert Biedron
- Moderator: Agnes Jongerius
- 16:50 – 16:55 One-on-one with Franziska Giffey
- 16:55 – 17:25 **Panel III: “Our Europe: Respect in the world”**
1. Conner Rousseau
 2. Alicia Homs



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3. Edi Rama
4. Anneliese Dodds

Moderator: Kati Piri

- 17:25 – 18:25 Discussion on the PES Congress resolution with delegates
- 18:25 Announcement of the adoption of the PES Congress resolution
- 18:30 Announcement of the Election of the PES President
- Greetings by the newly elected PES President
- 18:40 Closing of Friday's plenary session
- 19:00 – 19:20 PES Presidency (incoming) (*Verti Music Hall – last floor*)
- 19:30 S&D Reception (*Hotel nhow Berlin*)
- 20:30 Leaders Meeting Dinner (*Bolle Festsäle*)
- 22:00 Rally for Rainbow Rose: 10 Years of Achievements and Ambitions (*Lido*)

Saturday 15th October

- 10:00 PES Congress Plenary (*Verti Music Hall - plenary*)
- Opening speech by new PES President

10:15 – 11:00 **Panel I: “Leading Europe through change”**

1. Pedro Sanchez
2. Antonio Costa
3. Robert Abela
4. Magdalena Andersson

Moderator: Saar & Giacomo

- 11:10 – 11:15 Keynote speech Frans Timmermans

11:15 – 12:00 **Panel II: “Our Europe: Respect for the planet”**

1. Iratxe Garcia
2. Pamela Rendi-Wagner



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3. Paul Magnette

4. Nicolas Schmit

Moderator: Giacomo Filibeck

12:00 – 12:05 Side Talk with PES Activists

12:05 – 12:50 **Panel III: “A new European Momentum”**

1. Enrico Letta

2. Tanja Fajon

3. Ylva Johansson

4. Marcel Ciolacu

5. Josep Borrell

6. Lars Klingbeil

Moderator: Yonnec

13:15 Speech by Germany’s Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz
Closing words by the new PES President

13:40 Closing of the Congress

14:00 – 14:30 PES Leaders meet PES Activists and YES (*Verti Music Hall*)

14:30 – 15:30 #UpToYouth: Recharge to ride lunch (*Verti Music Hall*)

15:30 – 17:30 #UpToYouth: Born to ride (*Berlin on Bike – Alexander Platz*)



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2022 PES Congress Election of the PES President

Results: 2022 PES Congress presidential election

Do you confirm the election of Stefan Löfven as PES President?

YES: 255

NO: 0

ABSTENTION: 7



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2022 PES Congress Election of the PES Leadership

The Congress unanimously confirmed the PES Presidency Members as presented by the PES full Member Parties and organisations.

Full Member Parties	
Austria SPÖ	Andreas Schieder
Belgium PS	Anne Lambelin
Belgium Vooruit	Caroline Gennez
Bulgaria BSP	Kristian Vigenin
Croatia SDP	Tonino Picula
Cyprus EDEK	Maria Vasiliadou
Czechia CSSD	Tomas Petricek
Denmark SD	Lasse Ryberg
Estonia SDE	Madis Roodla
Finland SDP	Tytti Tuppurainen
France PS	Christophe Clergeau
Germany SPD	Katarina Barley
Great Britain Labour	Chi Onwurah
Greece Pasok	Eleni Chronopoulou
Hungary MSZP	Balazs Barany
Ireland Labour	Ivana Bacik
Italy PD	Lia Quartapelle
Italy PSI	Pia Locatelli
Latvia Saskana	Iveta Sers
Lithuania LSDP	Juozas Olekas
Luxembourg LSAP	Marc Angel
Malta Labour	Marc Vella Bonnici



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Netherlands PvdA	Thijs Reuten
Northern Ireland SDLP	Claire Hanna
Norway Labour	Åsmund Aukrust
Poland Lewica	Andrzej Szejna
Portugal PS	Jamila Madeira
Romania PSD	Victor Negrescu
Slovakia Smer-SD	Katarina Roth Nevedalova
Slovenia SD	Matjaž Nemeč
Spain PSOE	Javi Lopez
Sweden SAP	Johan Hassel
Full Member Organisations	
S&D Group	Iratxe Garcia
FEPS	Maria Joao Rodrigues
YES	Alicia Homs
PES Women	Zita Gurmai
PES COR	Christophe Rouillon



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**WITH COURAGE FOR EUROPE
LEADING EUROPE THROUGH CHANGE
PES Congress Resolution 2022
Adopted by the PES Congress on 14 October 2022**

Europe is in the midst of a horrific war that we thought we would never see again on our continent. We have expressed solidarity with the people of Ukraine, as have millions of European citizens, and we will continue to oppose the Russian aggression in every way possible. Solidarity with the people of Ukraine is the expression of the love of freedom, democracy, and fundamental rights. The Party of European Socialists condemns without reservation this illegal, unjustified, and unprovoked aggression. It is clearer than ever before that the world of freedom and equality can only be defended and promoted with a strong, fair and united European Union that works for all. It is also clear that the war is impacting everyday life through higher food and energy prices, disrupted supply chains and many other aspects. We must ensure that we stop inequalities, and that the poorest people are not those who pay the highest price. Europe must seize this momentum to become a Union that offers prosperity to its people and is fit for the challenges of our times, including through more integration and more cooperation. Times of changes and challenges are times for unity and resolute action.

When Covid-19 hit, we redoubled our efforts to protect the most vulnerable, invest in services of general interest and strong public services and push for a strong and inclusive recovery. In the face of the climate crisis, we put forward the Green Deal to ensure that the ecological transition happens without delay, in a way that benefits all. When women's rights are being harmed, we stand up for full gender equality. When the rule of law is undermined by radical right-wing and populist governments and politicians, we stand up to defend democracy and human rights. When young people's futures are being taken away from them, we fight for a Youth Guarantee and quality youth employment. Today, when Putin's Russia attacks Ukraine, we stand for the respect of international law and the rules-based international order, and for Ukraine's right to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We advocate for a stronger role for the EU in international efforts to stop Russia's war of aggression and invasion of Ukraine, and for the protection of those fleeing war, including through a gender-sensitive response, as well as those staying in the country to fight, protest or report on the war, through art, other cultural expressions or journalism. In all the major challenges of recent years, socialists and democrats have been the engine of progressive momentum for change and must continue to play this role. Our conservative and liberal opponents have already taken aim at our achievements of the recent past, arguing that a commitment to ambitious climate policies paired with a concern for societal well-being would overburden our Union in these times of war. We must stand firm in the face of such short-sighted political analyses. Only a fully sustainable and socially just Europe can achieve the strategic autonomy that is required in the current geopolitical context. In the current energy prices crisis, and to avert its dire social impact, we want a **European Pact for Affordable Energy and Social Cohesion** in order to protect European citizens and their purchasing power, along these axes:

- Ensure energy security through reliable and affordable suppliers, including through the use of joint procurement.
- Adapt energy policies and state aid rules to ensure that countries can directly support their citizens and industries through this crisis while allowing for the appropriate fiscal flexibility to promote necessary green and digital investments, and at the same time ensuring the sustainability of public finances.
- Revise and regulate the energy market, so that volatility and speculation are tamed and gas prices no longer set the price for electricity, so that energy bills can be effectively reduced as we increase the share of green energy sources over the coming years.



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- Implement as soon as possible this year the European framework to recuperate windfall profits on the energy market and allow for price capping to ensure social justice and promote fiscal sustainability.
- Building on the proven success of the employment support fund SURE and adapting it to continue supporting millions of European workers and households while preserving the European Social Model.
- Enhance our strategic independence through massive investments in sustainable energy alternatives, in interconnections and other infrastructure, and in innovation, notably in LNG and hydrogen as laid out in the REPowerEU Plan. Create a comprehensive European grid and storage infrastructure, providing cheap and dependable energy to all corners of the EU.
- Set a coordinated strategy to promote energy savings and creation of an EU coordination Task Force for Energy Security, promoting solidarity between Member States.
- Fight against energy poverty and guarantee uninterrupted access to energy for the most vulnerable households.

One of the most worrying challenges in the EU is the consistent degradation of the rule of law and democracy in some Member States, and the rise of the far right. Nationalists, extremists and populists are fanning the flames of division. They play with people's fears and anxieties for their future in order to exist. Their ascent to government was made possible by the active support of EPP and RENEW political parties. It is a political and historical mistake that can undermine democracy, and only reinforces our resolve to fight for a Europe where everyone is respected and a Europe that keep its historical memories alive. Nationalism and populism offer no real solutions to the complex challenges facing our societies. As socialists, we fight nationalism and populism in the field of principles, but we also fight them in the field of policies. We will always be staunch defenders of an EU of democracy and the rule of law. We are witnessing an increasing influence of transnational, well-funded fundamentalist and right-wing organisations, which is clearly linked to the efforts to divide societies and damage the quality of democratic life and to the backlash against women's and LGBTI rights globally and within the EU. We will not accept backsliding on women's rights, as gender equality and women's rights are indispensable and indivisible parts of human rights. As such, they represent the very basis and purpose of the rule of law at national, European and international levels, as well as the most adequate indicators of the health and resilience of our democracies.

Our actions are clear, as demonstrated by the trust citizens continue to give us in towns, cities, regions, countries, and at European level. We have proved that our response based on more solidarity and sustainability is the real alternative to the failed austerity response given to the 2008 financial crisis. With all our Prime Ministers and participation in 13 EU governments, the momentum to implement policies that improve the lives of millions of Europeans is with our political family. We are striving for full equality, more sustainability, strengthened social protection and rights. PES parties, organisations and leaders are the ones behind the Green Deal, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Next Generation EU recovery plan, the employment support fund SURE, a New Pact on Migration, the Action Plan on Inclusion and Integration, the Gender Equality Strategy, the LGBTI Equality Strategy, the European Child Guarantee, the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Just Transition Fund. We are the political family ensuring that change is accompanied by greater fairness. We are the political family that anticipates change and comes up with solutions. We are the political family that brings solidarity and stability and that leaves no one behind. Through our action we made sure that Europe acted swiftly for the wellbeing of its citizens. But we must proactively review its institutional framework to ensure that the EU is not only acting in reaction to crises, but structurally ready to prevent them or react to them decisively and quickly. We want to give citizens confidence that a better future is possible. That the next generation will enjoy the same rights and better living conditions. We will continue the work to improve the lives of every European, continue winning elections and come out of the 2024 European elections as the largest party.



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The PES is building a European Union for the people. A Europe that is equipped with the appropriate institutional architecture and tools to realize our common ambition: A Social Union of quality jobs and inclusion, a Union of Equality that challenges structural discrimination and barriers, an Economic Union of shared prosperity, justice and cohesion, a Sustainable Union that leaves no one behind, an Energy Union for affordable and climate-friendly power, an Industrial Union of innovation and cohesion, a Health Union for all, a Democratic Union of rights, equality and inclusive citizenship, that promotes human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide, and a Defence Union for peace and stability. We are determined to take all the decisions needed and seize this European momentum.

RESPECT IN THE WORLD

Change for a rules-based multilateral system

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is not only an attack against the sovereignty of Ukraine, but also against the European peace order and European values. As Europeans and as social democrats, we must lead the response to this threat to the very foundations our European Union is built upon. Our answer will be solid, and it will be firmly anchored in values. We express our support to the Ukrainian people. Our commitment to supporting Ukraine's right to full sovereignty within the borders recognized by international law is a given. We will continue to support them in every way we can, by supporting their defence capabilities and by supporting the Ukrainian people who have stayed at home or have been forced to flee as a consequence of this war and of the resulting humanitarian crisis. The PES calls on the international community to prepare an assistance and recovery plan for Ukraine to support Ukraine's economy, its institutions and public services, and the reconstruction of its destroyed infrastructure. The European Union must lead this reconstruction effort to help redress and rebuild what has been destroyed. A basic tenet of the global balance has been that borders do not change through war or violence. Putin's reactionary denial of that principle is trying to bring the world many decades back. We will continue to support tough sanctions until Russian forces withdraw completely from Ukraine and a just peace is re-established. We underline EU unity in addressing the war and its consequences. Beyond Ukraine, we are also deeply concerned by the all-out authoritarian turn in Russia, and the attacks against democratic forces, human rights defenders and media in the country and abroad. Furthermore, we denounce the harsh repression against the democratic opposition in Belarus, and the support provided by the dictatorship to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. We also stand ready to support other regions of the world against the fallout of this war, notably when it comes to ensuring global food security, especially for the most vulnerable in the Global South. We need to continue working to increase public and strategic communication efforts to counter Russian disinformation and anti-EU propaganda. Not only is the current food crisis not caused by the EU or the sanctions imposed on Russia – which do not ban imports of Russian agricultural goods or fertilizers, nor the payment for such products – but, on the contrary, the food crisis has been caused by the war started and waged by Russia against Ukraine. The EU is doing more than anyone in the world to help those countries affected by Russia's invasion address its consequences. For food security alone, the EU has set aside EUR 7.7 billion until 2024 and we, the social democrats, will support the extension of this aid, as needed. The crisis in Ukraine shows how necessary it is to sustainably change our food system. An effective way to tackle this emergency is to invest in climate-resilient food systems in collaboration with small-scale farmers and fishers. We pay special attention to those areas in the world that are sensitive to famine. As Europeans, we are proud of being among the staunchest supporters of the International Criminal Court as an independent body that impartially investigates and prosecutes war crimes committed by individuals, driven by the rule of law and not by the rule of arms, and of an ad hoc international tribunal to investigate and prosecute crimes committed during the Russian aggression against Ukraine



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Europe has taken bold action to do away with the reliance on energy supplies from Russia and to find alternative sources. The EU must ensure our strategic autonomy, less dependence on other countries, and at the same time guarantee energy that is clean and affordable for all. This is a radical shift with broad consequences, but one that is both urgent and necessary. The Green Deal is central in the effort to achieve Europe's green strategic autonomy. Furthermore, the Strategic Compass presented and supported by our political family provides the framework to strengthen the EU's role in the world, as a more reliable partner and security provider, enhance the EU's autonomy and thereby our ability to defend and promote our fundamental values of democracy and human rights. We support a more robust Common Security and Defence Policy that complements NATO. This includes concrete actions such as collaborative development and procurement, coordinated defence spending, countering hybrid threats, cyberattacks and disinformation, boosting EU intelligence cooperation, as well as the EU defence industrial sector. European cooperation and integration to develop jointly a European framework for an air defence system is particularly critical. We want to see the creation of a real European Headquarter and the development of Rapid Deployment Capacity by 2025, as well as the establishment of a separate Council of EU defence ministers, while respecting the specific security and defence policies of each EU Member State. We support Finland and Sweden's NATO membership, and welcome Denmark's decision to lift its opt-out from the EU Common Security and Defence Policy.

Together with our international partners, we must create a strong momentum to restore and reinforce the multilateral system. This is the best framework that humanity has created to promote peace and collaboration between nations. We want to strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the UN, and to make use of and strengthen the Global Gateway resources to enhance relations with partners who are committed to democracy, peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. We support the granting of candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova, and the readiness to grant it to Georgia. Their future lies inside the European Union, and we want that to happen as soon as possible, once they have met all the accession criteria, including those on the rule of law and democracy. The PES welcomes all the effort and dedication of the UN Secretary-General towards a solution to the conflict.

With regard to the Balkans, we welcome the opening of negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia and urge for all necessary reforms and processes to be concluded as swiftly as possible in view of their future accession to the EU. At the same time, we must continue the accession negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia, insisting on the respect of fundamental values. We stand ready to grant candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina, insisting on the implementation of all political commitments and necessary reforms. As for Kosovo, we insist that the visa liberalisation be implemented without delay. All preconditions are met, as has been stated by the European Commission and the European Parliament for several years. Moreover, we are ready to support a rapid deepening of Switzerland's integration into the EU family on the basis of a mutually beneficial institutional framework agreement and wish to extend cooperation to new areas.

The EU must strengthen its sovereignty in the key areas of industry and digitalisation, health, defence, food, financial services and energy. It is crucial to ensure European sovereignty by having the means to choose our own destiny. Europe will continue to be a reliable international partner and to promote our values in development and in trade, as we know that no country can thrive on its own on the modern world. Multilateral cooperation is the foundation of our international action. We must lead by example by adopting mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence rules and corporate accountability, including a ban on products made with forced labour, which should apply to the entire value chain of companies, for operations inside and outside the Union, based on international standards adopted by the UN and the OECD. In all multilateral fora, we must continue to work for the advancement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the respect of the Paris Climate Agreement. We will continue to support constructive and equal partnerships, stability, security, human rights, the rule of law and democracy in all regions of the world, including Asia, Africa, the Middle



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East, countries of the Eastern Partnership and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Covid-19 pandemic is not over, and the EU must redouble its efforts for international vaccine solidarity with the Global South, continue its support to the COVAX Facility and to strengthening the health systems of developing countries. The International Treaty on Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness being negotiated at the World Health Organisation must be a driver for sustained worldwide investment in public health. At the same time, the EU must have a strong and resilient vaccine and pharmaceutical industry. To this end, the European Commission must facilitate voluntary joint procurement of treatments, materials and equipment outside of crisis situations. These two objectives must not be hindered by competition rules. We want to set up an effective long term EU global health strategy. Following the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, we need more than ever a comprehensive and integrated global health response to future health crises, to build resilient and equal societies.

We want strong and constructive transatlantic relations with the United States, and to continue our dialogue on trade matters towards a common progressive agenda on social and environmental standards. We will continue efforts to engage with our international partners to promote the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, fair global trade rules and the respect of international commitments, including on social rights, gender equality and climate change. We condemn any action or occupation that violates the integrity and sovereignty of nations anywhere in the world, including in Cyprus in our continent. We will continue to maintain and strengthen our relations with our partners in Latin America, with an ambitious trade and investment agenda. When it comes to our neighbourhood, we want to enhance EU relations with the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, the Middle East and North Africa and to promote economic ties through the NDICI-Global Europe Instrument, including to improve living standards in these regions and therefore contributing to tackling the long-term root causes of forced migration. We also want to strengthen the EU-Africa partnership to address common challenges, and seek a common path, accelerating sustainable growth and the green and digital transitions, and tackling common challenges including on health, migration, food security and security. In that respect, we consider of utmost importance the urgent conclusion of the post-Cotonou agreement.

[Change for the protection of people in need](#)

The war in Ukraine has displaced millions to the EU and other neighbouring countries of Ukraine. We are proud of the continued commitment of Europeans to offering asylum and protection to those who need it. This is not the first time in recent years that the EU has seen massive arrivals of people fleeing war and persecution. The right to protection and asylum needs to be universal, irrespective of origin or any other consideration. European nations and the EU have a particularly strong, shared obligation towards refugees from our own European region, which was demonstrated by the EU's response toward Ukrainian refugees. However, this must never lead to the application of double standards when it comes to offering asylum, protection and humane treatment to people fleeing conflicts and persecution, no matter their origins. The unity with which EU countries and citizens have responded to the Ukrainian crisis, and the quick activation of the Temporary Protection Mechanism, prove our point that with policies based on solidarity, we can deal even with the biggest of crises. Particular attention must be paid to the protection of children and women, who constitute the majority of displaced refugees from Ukraine. As hundreds of thousands of displaced families in vulnerable situations search for way to support themselves far from home, the risks of trafficking, sexual exploitation, gender-based violence, and conflict related sexual violence is very high. It is also critical to ensure access to mainstream education as well as vocational education and training to those still in learning environments to help them overcome the trauma experienced and regain a semblance of normal lives.

This crisis must be a turning point in Europe, towards a progressive narrative on asylum and migration that applies to all refugees, people with a migration background and the welcoming society, and the adoption and implementation of all the relevant policies put forward by our family. Now is the time for



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a swift agreement of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the fight against smugglers and traffickers through the Anti-Trafficking Directive, strengthening the responsibilities, role and transparency of Frontex, and a coordinated and properly funded EU approach on Search and Rescue to save lives. We also support the establishment of humanitarian legal avenues as well as effective avenues for labour migration. Cooperation on equal footing with third countries is essential, especially in Africa and Latin America. A progressive asylum and migration policy looks beyond the arrival of people or their country of origin. We must therefore implement the EU Action Plan on Inclusion and Integration with particular attention to unaccompanied minors, people from disadvantaged groups and women. Integration and inclusion happen mostly at the local level, so we must support regional and local authorities in addressing change and promoting empowering and inclusive integration measures.

RESPECT FOR THE PLANET

Change for sustainable societies

Action to stop the climate crisis is urgent. It was urgent before the war and is increasingly urgent even more so now. The need to transition to greener and fairer societies and to mitigate climate change is a given. However, the way in which we do this, and the impact that the transformation will have on our daily lives is a matter of political choice. Our choice as PES is that the European Green Deal should move us as rapidly as possible to new economic, industrial and agricultural systems leaving no one behind. and ensuring that the working class and the most vulnerable do not end up paying the bill and suffering the consequences. By framing the sustainable transition with the Green Deal, we can reconcile achieving dynamic economies, environmental protection and quality of life, and a true Social Europe. The Green Deal empowers consumers to be the actors and beneficiaries of the green transition. Consumer habits and choices play a significant role in tackling climate change and environmental problems. Instruments such as the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition or the Right to Repair Initiatives can help us move towards a more sustainable consumption and production. Climate and ecological crisis could unleash a whole new source of social injustice. If this growing injustice is not addressed, more inequalities will arise and deepen our social crisis, in a never-ending vicious circle. Progressives are committed to building an alliance between ecological and social progress.

With instruments and initiatives such as the Renovation Wave, the Just Transition Fund and the Social Climate Fund, but also the good implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the incorporation of investment and reforms in energy into the Recovery and Resilience Facility through the REPowerEU programme and Next Generation EU, we can support all those who would be otherwise negatively impacted by the transition. The use of multiple instruments should work in a coherent manner and be managed in a way that does not lead to increasing complexity on the ground for managing authorities. The EU shall support regions, cities, coastal and rural areas in the drive to strengthen and further develop sustainable and affordable public transport, exploring free travel for target groups such as the young, the elderly and low-income families, renovate and build new affordable and sustainable housing, insulate older buildings and social housing, and ensure that everyone in Europe has access to affordable energy. This is all the more important in the current geopolitical context, with the increase in energy prices caused by the war in Ukraine. We are fighting energy poverty and ensuring that all citizens have access to affordable energy. We therefore applaud the concrete measures that our governments have taken to support citizens through this energy crisis. As the energy crisis continues, it is, however, imperative that short term fixes do not create perverse incentives that lock in the continued use of fossil fuels and reward operators of fossil fuel infrastructure with subsidies. As the current crisis makes clear that inflationary dynamics can be attributed to the cost and volatility of fossil energy rather than to measures to transition to a system of renewable and equitable system of energy provision, we stress the need for structural reforms to address prevailing inequalities and energy poverty. As international energy prices reach new heights, we must



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recuperate the windfall profits of energy companies to ensure a fair burden-sharing in our societies. We will support the purchasing power of Europeans. We are taking action for a stronger Energy Union and the energy autonomy of the EU, reducing our reliance on Russia with REPowerEU, accelerating the rollout of renewable sources and investing in interconnections, increasing energy efficiency and promoting structural changes to reduce energy demand to ensure our preparedness in the face of the current crisis as well as future price shocks. Europe needs to invest in comprehensive grid and storage infrastructure, in an integrated internal energy market, providing cheap and dependable energy to all corners of the EU by harnessing the different potentials and energy sources of all member states.

The Green Deal will rapidly put the EU on the path to ecological sustainability, underpinned by a fair and just transition. It ensures this transition with policies from our political family such as the Climate Law and the Fit For 55 Package, policies promoting the circular economy, more sustainable agriculture and green taxation of emissions, kerosene and plastic taxes, and by addressing carbon leakage through the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. The Green Deal will bring fundamental and positive societal changes. Europe's investment strategy must be a strategy that fast-tracks the transition, ensuring measures to counterbalance the costs and compensate the efforts in order to make this transition a socially fair transition. With the right framework and implementation, the green transition will also be the transition towards greater equality. It requires us to support the regions and territories that are struggling from the impact of transitions and to promote long-term solutions for those places suffering from industrial decline, rural desertification and urban segregation. The question of territorial justice is inseparable from that of a fair social and ecological transition. It will also bring more and better jobs by harnessing change, conditions for better physical and mental health and wellbeing for citizens with better biodiversity, the protection of Europe's forests, air, water and soils, oceans and seas, and a green, social and fair Common Agricultural Policy. We consider access to clean air and clean water as human rights. Social, economic and environmental priorities must all work together, on an equal footing. This is what the Sustainable Development Goals stand for. In this respect, a shift in perspective is needed to better integrate growing challenges to the sustainability of the food system. The CAP should ensure full policy coherence, covering agricultural, food, biodiversity and climate policies.

RESPECT FOR PEOPLE

Change towards societies of wellbeing

The eradication of all inequalities will always be the central goal of our political movement. We have achieved much throughout our history and since the last European elections. We now want to redouble our efforts to bring even more positive change, even faster, to even more people. We are determined to bring wellbeing and greater fairness. We are working for a rewarding and human-centred work-life balance for all. We must address the profound changes in the nature of work based on a rewarding, inclusive and human-centred approach. Social and income inequality, gender inequality, labour market inequalities, inequalities in accessing quality healthcare, education or housing, or discrimination on any ground have no place in our societies. After the Covid-19 pandemic that badly affected our economies, the war in Ukraine has even broader consequences that must be addressed. It is time for action.

Our commitment to full employment and a job guarantee remains at the heart of our progressive pledge and political action. As socialists and democrats, we put people's welfare and social justice at the centre of our political action in the EU and in our countries as proven by the Gothenburg and Porto Social Summits. We therefore support the biannual high-level Porto Social Forum to take stock of social progress in the EU. It is time to further build the Social and Health Union. We must continue on the path started in May 2021 with the Porto Summit to provide the EU with the tools to support welfare and health systems. With the European Pillar of Social Rights and the social targets established in



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the recently approved Action Plan, we are not just bettering the lives of people today, we are also preparing for the changes of tomorrow. This is why the Treaties must include a Social Progress Protocol: without fundamental social rights there is no real freedom. We remain committed to the objective of zero fatal accidents at work and call for an EU action plan to reach this goal. Public procurement must promote high social standards and good collective bargaining practices in public contracts. Fighting all forms of poverty and rebuilding social safety nets that protect citizens against suffering and deprivation is a task we take most seriously in this regard. Given persistently high poverty rates in Europe and the current cost of living crisis that is caused by high inflation, we advocate for the introduction of a European Anti-Poverty Law that obliges the EU and its Member States to work towards the full eradication of poverty in Europe by 2050.

Every day we fight for quality and sustainable jobs, decent working conditions, higher wages, equal pay for work of equal value, fair and decent minimum wages, with respect for national specificities, and fair labour mobility. We fight for pay transparency and the reassessment of the social-economic value of work in highly female-dominated sectors. We defend all workers, and fight to ensure that platform workers have the same rights as other workers. The increase of telework and the use of information and communication technologies has further blurred the line between rest and working time. We defend workers' right to disconnect. We support a reduction of working time enabling workers to better combine their professional and private obligations. Unemployment is a human tragedy that we must fight, including with innovative proposals such as zero long term unemployment zones. Our aim is to reach a job guarantee and full employment, taking advantage of the huge potential of the green and digital transitions. Concrete actions and good results of our governments in those fields speak for themselves. Our family was behind the SURE instrument which allowed governments to fight the economic and social impact of the coronavirus crisis, to mitigate unemployment and protect citizens. Building on the success of this initiative, developing it as a permanent tool would permit countries to address current and future emergencies. We advocate for well-funded and inclusive schools, early childhood education and care, long-term care infrastructures, hospitals, and other people-centred public services such as home-based care. We fight against health inequalities, for every European to have access to excellent healthcare. We need an EU Mental Health Strategy to help identify resources and needs, fight stigma and improve standards and practices. Likewise, we fight against care inequalities, for every European to have access to the daily support they need and to provide care without it being considered a burden but rather a core value. We have made future generations a priority: our political family launched the European Youth Guarantee and the European Child Guarantee. We support the younger generations through the many challenges they are facing. Young people across Europe have suffered massively and disproportionately from the impact of the successive crises, losing opportunities for education, employment and self-development, leading to financial pressures, a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion and worsening mental health. In this European Year of Youth, we are putting their needs at the centre of our agenda by joining forces with the Young European Socialists in our "Up To Youth" campaign, in collaboration with the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions, young local politicians and young activists. We will continue to fight for free, quality education at all levels (including extensive support for students facing financial or social difficulties), the automatic mutual recognition of degrees, the recognition of non-formal and informal learning experiences, strengthened youth work structures, quality jobs with decent wages and stable contracts, paid traineeships, as well as equal access to physical, mental, sexual and reproductive healthcare. We work for intergenerational solidarity, ensuring that we create age-friendly communities with affordable care services for people of all ages, and fair and gender-responsive pensions for men and women alike, rebalancing the disadvantages incurred by women such as through maternity adds-on inspired by the example of Spain. We work for safe living and working environments, for inclusive societies where everyone has a role to play and can thrive without oppression, discrimination and violence. We work for the right to housing, with a European Plan for Affordable Housing that reforms the state aid rules to allow national and local authorities to invest more in public housing. In those fights we count on



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social dialogue and stress the central role of trade unions to support workers, including in the transition to new forms of work. Strong welfare states, well-funded public services and workers who enjoy a good standard of living in a quality job are the best ways to prepare our societies for the unpredictable.

All this must be underpinned by a strong economic policy that works for all. The recent crises have proven us right when we insisted that public investments are the key to a solid, sustainable and fairer economy. Liberal and conservative austerity policies ripped resilience out of health and care infrastructures before the pandemic hit. Furthermore, the current energy crisis confirms, as did the Covid-19 crisis, that we need to act united. We can neither leave our future to the markets, nor can we approach it each as Member State in isolation from one another, else we risk a dramatic fragmentation of our internal market and our societies. For us, economic issues cannot take precedence over social issues and citizens' wellbeing – economic responsibility and social justice go hand in hand. Economic growth is not just quantitative, it needs to be qualitative to reflect wellbeing. If we do not invest in education and childcare, elderly and long-term care, in affordable and quality healthcare, mental healthcare and care for all, our societies will never become more equal. Since many challenges exceed national borders, bold new European answers are needed to invest in the green transition and to put Europe at the helm of the digital transition and to ensure public profits. The prosperity that this will generate has to be fairly distributed among all groups in society. The success of Next Generation EU, the biggest investment plan Europe has ever had, of which we are proud, is a case in point. We continue to stand for a permanent long-term EU investment capacity with real European solidarity taking into account the success of Next Generation EU funding, and a truly ambitious EU budget consistent with gender-responsive budgeting principles and fit to answer the challenges of today and tomorrow with enhanced own resources. We want the deepening of the Capital Markets Union, the completion of the Banking Union to protect citizen's deposits and to reform the fiscal rules. We want a progressive reform of the Stability and Growth Pact to bring it up to date with the realities and necessities of today and to give Member States more flexibility, accountability and ownership of their debt management. To be able to invest in education to the extent needed for it to be the backbone of a fair twin transition, we reiterate our call on Member States to invest more consistently into education. Europe needs both to support SMEs and social economy initiatives and at the same time to invest in large-scale green, digital and industrial policies that can bring better quality of life for all, higher wages and shared prosperity. Recent crises have made clear that we cannot rely entirely on external trade for many strategic products, be they medical masks, computer chips and semiconductors, car batteries, medical products and equipment, energy, cyber security and space. Europe needs a "Made in Europe" strategy by 2030. In the current context, we must be ready to intervene with a European rescue framework to protect our industries, business and SMEs that are the foundation of our economic structure. We must enhance our strategic independence through massive investments in sustainable energy alternatives, in innovation, and in the promotion of a circular and green economy. Competition policy should be put in service of these goals. We must invest in research and development in the EU, and deepening capital markets as well as ensuring a resilient, inclusive and future-oriented banking system for greater private long-term investments in the green and digital transitions. We must always protect SMEs against the abuse of monopolies and dominant market position of a few large corporations that create unfair competition in the single market, while at the same time taking measures against destructive speculation and the over-financialisation of the economy. We must put a stop to the race to the bottom that has been the main driver for transferring production of these strategic goods out of the EU. Europe must also protect its businesses against extraterritorial laws and sanctions.

After the financial crisis, thanks to the efforts of our political family, we have managed to address shortcomings in the regulation of the financial sector. In times of crisis and cross-border challenges, we should protect these achievements while making sure that our economic and financial policies are there to serve the objectives of social justice, the green transition, gender equality, and progress. They are geared towards building resilience and wellbeing, and that serve social justice and



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sustainability. We fight for fair, redistributive and progressive tax policies, for expansionary fiscal policies and sustainable debt management. We fight for a well-regulated financial sector, for more harmonisation of taxation policies to avoid harmful tax competition, the implementation of common minimum corporate taxes in line with the OECD/G20 agreement, and for increased financial transparency to fight tax evasion, tax avoidance, money laundering and tax havens and moving towards the extension of qualified majority voting in specific tax matters. We fight for an economy where the power of corporations is kept in check and businesses contribute to the achievement of social and ecological goals, especially through accountable and regulated forms of corporate responsibility and extensive due diligence provisions. All these are needed to fund the welfare state and ensure equality and prosperity. We cannot allow current inflationary pressures to be a burden on our societies, nor should their cost be shared unfairly. Our answer is always sustainability and solidarity, never austerity and regression. A progressive programme of investment, public action and tax justice is the best way to gear our economies for the future. This also means that the rules in place, notably around the European Semester and the organisation of the European economy must be fit for the green and digital transitions. We must integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in the European Semester to transform the outdated European Semester into a driver for change to build a sustainable, social and inclusive recovery, adapted to the world of today and tomorrow. We also need a strong and sustainable CAP, and to adapt competition and state aid rules to be able to build European sovereignty in strategic sectors. We need to develop our resilience and be prepared to face new crises and protect people.

Change towards more democratic societies

The strengthening of democracy is one of the most fundamental fights that the EU faces today, and we will continue to support and reinforce it as we have always done. Every citizen must have a real and equal say on our collective future. We fight for societies that are open, inclusive, feminist, intersectional, diverse, that foster social cohesion and are free of all form of discrimination, be it on the basis of gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, age, disability or the interaction thereof. Societies where trust in democratic institutions prevails and where equal opportunities, prosperity and security for everyone is achieved without harming individual rights. We stand with civil society and promote their further involvement in the shaping of our society's future. Populist national governments have threatened the rule of law in the EU. The rule of law is at the heart of our European democracy, and we will continue to protect it as we have done in the past by supporting the conditionality mechanism, tying European funding with respect for these fundamental values. We want to build a more democratic Union, capable of using all the tools at our disposal to act effectively against governments that threaten the rule of law, by strengthening the role of the European Parliament and empowering the European Commission with new effective tools to protect our fundamental values.

The digital transition has a real and complex impact on almost every level of our society. It also creates new dynamics and realities across our globe. The EU can and should be a leader, promoting a digital revolution that is in line with our fundamental values and principles and leaves no people and no territories behind. We want to promote not just massive investments in European digital infrastructures, research and development and innovation projects, but also a digital sphere where the protection of privacy, children's safety, media freedom, pluralism and independence are guaranteed. A world in which we frame the development of human-centred artificial intelligence so that it is at the service of societies and citizens without reproducing and exacerbating existing stereotypes and biases. The Digital Markets Act will finally tame the power of "Big Tech" platforms, which provide essential services for the functioning of the society, through the establishment of fair market conditions. It will provide citizens with a true choice of digital services and protect better their rights, for instance by banning "dark patterns" or by introducing deterrent fines. As we enter a new digital age, we want a safe digital sphere where everyone is fully protected from cybercrime, including women, children, the elderly, journalists and whistle-blowers, while simultaneously ensuring that security online is fully aligned with the protection of our fundamental rights. We need to ensure that



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social media platforms are properly regulated, and the right to access is guaranteed for all, while non-digital alternatives for basic and essential services are available for everyone, notably for elderly citizens and people with disabilities. To bridge the digital divide, we must invest in ensuring that everyone has the means and knowledge to access digital services while continuing to protect and value the importance of human social interaction for a strong and equal society. We want to promote digital cohesion in a changing world, recognising that access to decent digital infrastructures is a fundamental right.

We want to promote democracy and active citizenship at every level, from the local and the regional to the national and European elections. The EU embarked on a broad consultation of its citizens with the Conference on the Future of Europe. This exercise marked the beginning of a transformation process that puts citizens at the centre. The new geopolitical realities make the perspective of an enlarged, more united, and stronger EU a necessity. This requires changes for a good functioning of the EU, including more majority rules in certain policies, and a stronger role for the European Parliament, moving towards the right of initiative. We must therefore engage in a debate and assess whether the treaties and the functioning of our institutions are well-adapted, and what changes are necessary, to achieve real European sovereignty, to promote social justice and our European values, to make Europe more sustainable and more equal, and to promote the role of the EU in the world, through the opening of a Convention that should seek the necessary support and potentially leading to changes in the Treaties. It is time to engage in a real debate on the modernisation of the EU's architecture and decision-making processes, to strengthen democracy, social justice, and the ability of the EU and its Member States to thrive in the world. At the same time, we want to protect and promote the Schengen Agreement which one of the greatest achievements of the European Union, and see Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia join it without further delay. The war has made it clear that Europe must have the tools to act quickly, decisively, transparently, which includes a gradual transition towards more efficient decision-making processes, including moving towards majority vote in certain common foreign security policy areas. We are proud of the positive change we are bringing in this European mandate, through our commissioners, our elected representatives in the S&D Group, and our governments in the Council. In all the challenges of recent years, socialists and democrats were there to push for the decisions that put the citizens first. We are ready to continue this work and engage in an active campaign for the next European elections, with a *Spitzenkandidat*, and continue the discussion towards European transnational lists that ensure a fair representation of all 27 member states, in view of achieving better representation of EU citizens, to become the largest political group in the European Parliament and nominate a progressive President of the Commission and more progressives to the leadership of EU institutions.

There is no true democracy if there is no true gender equality. The feminist fight is at the core of our political movement, and we are proud that the EU Gender Equality Strategy and the EU Care Strategy were put forward by our political family, and that we defended the Women on Boards Directive and are pushing for the adoption of a strong Pay Transparency Directive. We continue to fight for parity democracy, with equal and meaningful representation and participation at all levels of economic and political decision-making, including through the establishment of a formal Council configuration for gender equality, diversity and anti-discrimination. Especially in times of crisis, women have to be part of every solution and sit at the negotiation table, which is why we want also a feminist foreign policy. We fight against patriarchal structures that perpetuate gender stereotypes and biases, and to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence including through the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. We continue to call for the fulfilment of the goals set up in the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and to add gender-based violence to the list of EU crimes. The Europe we build is one where everyone can fully enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights without sexual exploitation, with the right to sexual and relationship education, legal, safe and affordable access to contraception, abortion care, and menstrual hygiene to end period poverty. Due to the growing backlash against women's



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right to choose, we join the European Parliament's strong call to include the right to abortion to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Likewise, discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity has no place in a democratic society. We will continue to fight for full rights for the LGBTI community. We work towards a feminist economy, for a system of equality that works for both women and men and that puts people before profit. We need a strong Care Deal for Europe, building on the European Care Strategy, rooted in progressive principles and that recognizes care as a right and backbone of our society. This care economy must address the acute feminisation of informal care. It should aim to establish a fair work-life-balance for all and close the gender pay- and pension gaps. It must also acknowledge the centrality of care in everyone's life by guaranteeing sustainable and quality care infrastructures as well as public services accessible to all. Without care, there could be no economy, no society, no politics and no culture. A feminist Europe also means working towards a gender sensitive recovery, gender budgeting at all levels of governance and gender mainstreaming of all policies including the digital and green transitions. It also means addressing the different ways in which crises affect women and men.

A EUROPEAN MOMENTUM FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

Throughout our history, we have never shied away from bringing about the changes necessary to make those ideals a reality. Contrary to others, we do not play with people's fears. Nor do we leave the fate and wellbeing of citizens up to the markets. The PES is the party of progressive solutions and reforms, the motor of positive changes that accompany citizens. The foundations on which we build our action are the principles on which our political movement rests: solidarity, social policies, sustainability, wellbeing, feminism, democracy and justice. A central role of politics is to frame changes, plan ahead, and act to ensure that they benefit everyone. This is our position as socialists and democrats.

There is a real European momentum for a strong Europe that works for all its citizens. The Conference on the future of Europe has triggered a debate about the future of our union. We are ready to lead those discussions and global challenges, to promote our vision of an EU that is always more social, more democratic, more feminist, more sustainable and closer to its citizens. We must ensure in that process that the EU has all the powers and tools necessary to respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Together, as members of the PES, we built a true European party, based on our shared values, that is more than the sum of its parts. In the PES, we have created a European space where social democracy can thrive, bringing together our parties in government or in opposition, our parliamentarians, our commissioners, ministers and heads of state and government, our local and regional representatives, our friends in the trade unions and civil society and all the activists who work for social democracy across Europe. In recent year, if there is something that this pandemic and this war has shown us is that unity, coordination and solidarity within our family have made us stronger and able to deliver many successes to improve the life of European citizens. Citizens trust us on the basis of our progressive and European agenda, with real solutions and hope, not the false promises of populists. As the leading progressive force in Europe, our political family must engage with progressive, social and ecological forces, with our partners, with our activists, with trade unions, civil society and citizens to drive the change in a pro-European perspective. We have been able to put our policies into action thanks to the many electoral successes, locally, nationally, and in Europe. We are building a better present and a better future for everyone in Europe. We will continue to strengthen social democracy in every corner of our continent in the same spirit of collaboration and activism.

The times are difficult, which is why we take action to protect and empower every European. We will continue the positive work we are doing for millions of Europeans through the remainder of this European mandate, accompanying all Europeans through the different challenges we face. Together



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and united, we are preparing to engage in the next European elections in 2024, and to come out as the leading political family in Europe, so that we can guarantee more protection, more respect and more equality to citizens, in a social, sustainable and fair Europe.



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Amendments to the PES Statutes
Adopted by the PES Congress on 14th October 2022

Line	Party - Country	Amendments
78 / Art. 3.4	PSOE - Spain	to promote equality, feminism , diversity and equal representation in society
81 / New Point	PSOE - Spain	<u>To lead the fight against climate change, protect biodiversity and preserve our planet by ensuring an ecological transition with a strong social component that leaves nobody behind.</u>
353	PES	<u>Add: 20.8 All statutory meetings could be held either in presence or remotely through videoconference, teleconference or any other technological means of communication allowing all participants full participation and expression.</u>
582	PES	33. The composition of the PES leadership should must reflect gender-balance and geographical diversity.
584-585	PES	elect the Vice-Presidents (maximum - minimum 4 and up to 8); and define the tasks and responsibilities of the Vice-President(s).
592 / Art 33.5	PSOE - Spain	<p>CHAPTER VII: THE PRESIDENCY</p> <p>Article 33 – Powers of the Presidency</p> <p>33.1. The Presidency is the highest organ for the management of the day-to-day business of the PES and for the execution of the tasks as set out by these Statutes.</p> <p>33.2. The Presidency shall implement the decisions of the Congress and of the Council and fix the political guidelines of the PES during the period between Congresses and Councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It shall draw up recommendations to the Congress concerning general political guidelines and statements of principle, the Statutes of the PES, admission, status and exclusion of members of the PES; ● It shall convene the Congress, fix the date and venue and propose the rules of procedure and agenda of the Congress; ● It shall convene the Council and set its agenda; ● It shall also be empowered to organise special conferences or meetings, nominate rapporteurs and set up committees and working parties, in respect of which it shall appoint the Chairs and secretariat and lay down terms of reference.



		<p>33.5. The Presidency shall also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Elect the PES Leadership</u> and decide on the length of the mandate of the Vice-presidents, the Secretary General, the treasurer, the auditors, office holders and Deputy Secretaries General; • approve the annual accounts and budget and fix the membership fees; • adopt its internal rules of procedure. <p>33.6. 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.</p>
667 / new article 38	PSOE - Spain	<p><u>(new) Article 38 – The PES Leadership</u></p> <p><u>38.1 The PES Leadership is elected by the PES Presidency and executes, together with the President the PES Presidency mandates with the support of the PES Secretariat.</u></p> <p><u>(current 33.3. new 38.2)</u> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elect the Vice-Presidents (maximum 4); and define the tasks and responsibilities of the Vice[1]President(s). • elect the Secretary General and the Treasurer <p><u>(current 33.4. new38.3)</u> The Presidency can also appoint other office holders for specific mandates and, if need be, deputy Secretaries General of the PES.</p> <p><u>38.4. Office holders will implement, in coordination with the PES Vice Presidents and the Secretary General, the needed actions to achieve the strategical and political goals of the PES. They report to the PES Presidency and their functions will be regulated in the PES Standing Orders</u></p> <p><u>38.5. The PES Leadership shall meet as often as necessary, but not less than once per month</u></p>
1016	PES Women	<p>Building on the achievements of the feminist movement, we continue to fight for <u>gender equality</u>. This means that women and men equally share work, share power, share time and share roles, both in the public and in the private realms. This means that we fight inequalities at its roots by overcoming patriarchal power structures, by closing the gender gaps in all areas of life and by putting a gender lens on all policy areas.</p>

