

Berlin Democracy Declaration of the Party of European Socialists 4th of May 2024

Europe is built on democracy, freedom, fair economic cooperation and social cohesion. It is a historic project of progress that has brought peace and shared prosperity to our continent over the past decades and that gives us common strength to shape our future together as Europeans. Europe is the world's most advanced project to build a transnational democracy with a strong parliament at its heart, the European Parliament.

The rise of the far-right in Europe is a threat to this European project and it is a threat to the citizens, to their rights and their personal well-being. It is a poison for democracy. Where the far-right is in government today, they cut down the right to strike and workers' rights; they undermine press freedom and the rule of law, they attack women's rights and try to cancel LGBTI rights. They apply authoritarian, autocratic means to undermine freedom and democracy.

In society, they are divisive, by spreading conspiracy theories, drawing up deportation plans for people with migrant backgrounds and opponents and targeting civil society, journalists, and trade unions. On security matters they lack any reliability. They are accomplices of the autocratic regime in Russia and its sabotage of Europe's own common security within EU and NATO.

The far right's ideology, programme, and policies are everything we fight against. Our values are irreconcilable with theirs. They represent some of the darkest pages of our history.

In clear contrast, the history of the PES family is to bring people together, not set them against each other. We fight inequalities, division, and intolerance. We proudly stand for offering a quality of life to everyone, for the rule of law and fundamental rights, for civil

society and freedom of press, for women's rights and gender equality, and we proudly stand against all forms of discrimination and hate speech.

Our solutions are inclusive, progressive, and deliver a better life for all citizens. Our solutions tackle economic inequality and insecurity; they seek to provide opportunities for all, investments in local innovation, and strengthened public engagement at local and regional level.

In recent weeks, millions of citizens have taken to the streets to protest against the far-right in Europe. Socialists and Democrats stand with them. We will protect democracy, fundamental rights, and the most vulnerable in society across Europe. We will always stand in solidarity!

As PES, we firmly condemn conservative and liberal parties that have enabled far-right parties to access power, whether through coalitions or parliamentary deals. Without their readiness to cooperate with the far-right, this would not have happened. And it should never happen again!

For our political family, there is no ambiguity:

- We will always condemn and fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination at all levels.
- We defend social cohesion, justice and solidarity and will defend vulnerable groups from becoming targets of hatred, division, and intolerance.
- We protect the independence of the media and take effective action against disinformation, so that Europeans have the freedom to inform themselves independently and form their own opinion.

- We support the timely and full implementation of the rule of law conditionality mechanism to ensure that EU funds do not reach autocratic governments.
- We support the reform of the Article 7 procedure to ensure that the Commission and Member States can act more quickly in cases of serious breaches of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in EU Member States.
- We will always defend international law, the rules-based international order and stand up against the Russian aggression.

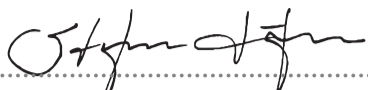
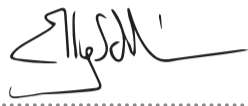
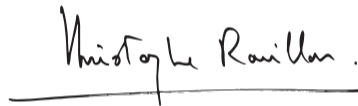
Based on these principles we, the Party of European Socialists, are making an unshakable promise that every voter in Europe can rely on:

We will never cooperate nor form a coalition with the far right! This also means: no cooperation or alliances with ECR or ID in the European Parliament.

At the same time, we call on all democratic European parties to firmly reject any normalisation, cooperation or alliance with the far-right. We expect them to include this formally and unequivocally in their election manifestos and party declarations as we do in our PES manifesto and in this PES leadership declaration. This is the only way to assure voters that there is a reliable and firm firewall against the far-right after the European elections.

As socialists and social democrats, we fight for an inclusive, free, and equal society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

These values are the foundation of the European project and principles that we will always defend!

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PES Common Candidate**Saskia Esken,**
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Social Democratic Party of Germany**Pedro Sánchez,**
Spanish Socialist Workers' Party**Robert Abela,**
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Social Democratic Party of Romania**Iratxe García Pérez,**
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Dutch Labour Party**Magdalena Andersson,**
Swedish Social Democratic Party**Andreas Babler,**
Social Democratic Party of Austria**Paul Magnette,**
Socialist Party Belgium**Melissa Depraetere,**
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