



PES Presidency declaration on the new European mandate 2024-2029

Adopted on 19 December 2024

As the new European Commission begins its new mandate, we reiterate our commitment to the fundamental values of the European Union: peace, democracy, solidarity. We want to embark on a comprehensive agenda that advances social progress with the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Green Deal, and an ambitious Cohesion Policy. Our solutions must be ambitious and innovative. As Party of European Socialists, we stand committed to upholding European values and the rule of law against attacks. As the leading progressive force in the European Parliament with the S&D Group, we are unambiguous in our European, democratic, and progressive stance.

The rise of the far right endangers democracy the rule of law, peace, stability, the welfare state and the future of the EU. It also threatens gender equality and the rights of citizens, of women, of minorities and of LGBTI people. It jeopardizes the position of Europe in the world and international cooperation. By seeking to undermine European solutions, they weaken Europe collectively and each country individually. Last May, the PES Berlin Declaration called on all democratic European parties to firmly reject any normalisation, cooperation or alliance with the far right. We therefore denounce the fact that the EPP has collaborated and formed majorities with populist, nationalist, and Eurosceptic forces, as they did in several recent votes in the European Parliament, such as on the deforestation law, the externalisation of our borders, and on Venezuela. We call therefore on the EPP - the only pro-EU political group in the European Parliament not to have signed - to join our May Declaration "In Defence of Democracy" and firmly reject any normalisation, cooperation or alliance with the far-right. We also condemn the way in which the EPP has handled the process of hearings of the new European Commission and has enabled the far right to gain a vice-president position in charge of the critical issues of cohesion and reforms. By siding with the far right, they are setting a dangerous precedent for the sake of political power. At a time of instability in Europe and the world, they are weakening further the standing of a Commission that was elected with the smallest majority ever. The support to President von der Leyen is not a blank cheque. It comes with a clear mandate and specific commitments: to ensure that progress on the just transition, the rule of law, and social issues are delivered to European citizens. Our support to this new Commission is not unconditional and depends on this. We expect a strict commitment, and not to cherry-pick and rely on the support of the far right. To achieve these objectives, we will cooperate with the other progressive and pro-European forces.

Staying true to European values is all the more important given the current political context. This also follows from the report by Mario Draghi on the future of European competitiveness. The global geopolitical situation is dire. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East are dragging on. The risk of spillover is real. In these circumstances, Europe should proactively strengthen its defence and diplomatic capabilities and readiness to ensure a just peace in all parts of the world still torn apart by war. We need to develop a European defence strategy to improve our crisis preparedness, not to shift into



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war economy. This strategy includes reshaping our European industrial policy, encompassing, security, environmental and social spending. Investments in defence should not be detrimental to social and cohesion spending. The European defence industrial network and its financing must be able to match the new global realities, for our security and our sovereignty. At the same time, the dangers coming from climate change become increasingly obvious to everyone, and so does the necessity to press on with the green and just transition. Many people feel a sense of insecurity in the face of all this, as well as to the changing realities of work. Here too, Europe must be proactive, ready, and bold in pressing for the Made In Europe strategy that we asked for in our manifesto. Supporting SMEs, industries, the rights of workers, and a future with decent opportunities for the youth is the only way to ensure that Europe will remain prosperous, strategically autonomous, and that European workers will continue benefiting from the social policies that our political family always defends.

In the face of the rise of the far right and the backlash against democracy and fundamental rights, we fight for equality, cohesion, progress, and the rule of law. These foundations of the PES are the best way to defend a better future for all, promote equal societies, enhance access to affordable public services, health and care services, and defend everyone against the rising cost of living, energy poverty, unaffordable housing, and exploitation. Our political family will continue to work for the progressive policies that leave no one behind. We welcome the appointment of the PES Commissioners in key positions to deliver these objectives and have a direct positive impact on the lives of citizens.

As Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, **Teresa Ribera** will keep Europe on course to meeting its environmental commitments and has the vision to lead Europe towards a clean, just, and prosperous future. She will have our support in ensuring that a European Green Deal with a red heart is delivered through world-leading innovations while keeping the European industry competitive in the global marketplace.

As Executive Vice-President for Quality jobs and social rights, education, skills and preparedness, **Roxana Mînzatu** will fight to create a fairer and more prosperous Europe. We will support her efforts to empower women and men, protect workers and boost their skills, promote gender equality, strengthen collective bargaining, and guarantee preparedness. We will continue working for the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Across Europe, our citizens continue to face real challenges with the cost of living, as energy and housing remain two of the biggest concerns for Europeans. As Commissioner for Energy and Housing, **Dan Jørgensen** will work to secure clean and affordable energy, put an end to Russian energy imports, and ensure quality housing for all, particularly for young people and vulnerable families. He will have our support in his initiatives such as an energy union and the first-ever European Affordable Housing Plan.

Taking the helm of Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport, **Glenn Micallef** will ensure that the younger generations of Europeans have their voices heard. Enhancing their social well-being is a priority of our political family. We will stand behind him in supporting the wellbeing of younger and older generations, as well as intergenerational solidarity.

The progressive Commissioners have our full support through our governments, the S&D in the European Parliament, our local and regional representatives, and through our parties. The PES political family will continue to promote the objectives that we set out in our election Manifesto for the European elections and fight for social rights, equality, and democracy.