



A New Agenda for Europe 2016-2019
PES Roadmap following the UK referendum
Adopted by the PES Presidency on 5th July 2016
Approved by PES Leaders on 7th July 2016

The European Union is facing enormous challenges, of which the result of the British referendum is the latest and most dramatic expression. The coming months will be crucial in determining the future of the European Union and its broad political orientations. The EU is facing an unprecedented series of challenges in particular on security, climate change, migration and the economy. This combination gives an opportunity for populism to rise and spread its venomous rhetoric. From our perspective, it is essential to resist that wave, by proposing and implementing instead our progressive and pro-European agenda. The PES family will work proactively to promote, protect and renew the values on which the EU was founded. We will work tirelessly to make people entrust their hopes and believe in Europe again. We will strive to implement our core values, our Fundamental Programme and the pledges of our Manifesto. People will regain trust in the EU when it becomes more social, more fair, more efficient, improving people's daily lives. The question is not more or less Europe, but what it does. We want a Europe that defends the rights and prosperity of all its citizens, a Social Europe.

Building on the excellent work and cooperation between parties, governments, the S&D Group, Commissioners, YES, PES Women, FEPS, the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions, Rainbow Rose, ESO, PES activists, and other partners, we will need to counter the political forces who want to see the EU downgraded to little more than a free market area, by limiting free movement of goods and people, with our progressive agenda. Our aim is to ensure that Europeans will not be stripped of their rights and prerogatives, and that the EU becomes fully United, Social and Democratic. That is the historical responsibility we have for all the contemporaries, and above all for the younger generations.

1. A Europe of real social added value to its citizens

- a) In a context of rising inequalities and high unemployment, in particular youth unemployment, concrete measures have to be taken to strengthen our social model. Quality employment for all, equal opportunities in education and training, alongside with social protection and intergenerational solidarity are prerequisites for a strong, prosperous economy.
- b) The Commission's proposal of March 2016 on a **European pillar of social rights** offers an important occasion to strike a new balance in favour of a more social Europe. Our expectation for it are clear:
 - A **Social Progress Protocol** that protects fundamental social and labour rights by giving them at least the same legal weight as economic freedoms.
 - A **European social protection floor** that guarantees universal access to quality health services and basic income security.
 - **Consolidate social standards** in Europe and ensure they also cover new forms of work.



- Support an **increase and harmonisation of minimum wage** in all Member States, to be reached either by law or through collective bargaining.
 - Against social dumping, flags of convenience, letter box companies, and bogus self-employment, we want strong standards, clear rules for establishment and stronger means of control for Member States. No company can be allowed to escape its fiscal and social responsibility, just as no employee can be denied their social and labour rights.
 - Guarantee **equal pay and equal rights for work of equal value for all**. In particular, progress quickly on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive.
 - Non-discrimination and equality on all grounds, including sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or belief, ethnicity, disability and age, must be a core principle to guarantee all EU citizens, including mobile workers in a host state, **equal access to social security and social assistance**.
 - A **real gender equality**, closing the **gender pay gap** with clear and binding targets, and **better work-life balance for all**.
 - In all Member States, we must ensure that young people are entitled to the same level of social welfare, wages, and benefits as the rest of citizens.
 - Ensuring an adequate pension for pensioners and closing the pension gap between men and women.
 - **European standards to manage restructuring** in a social and responsible way, supported by adequate funding in the European Social Fund and the European Globalisation adjustment Fund.
- c) It is essential to have a **strong social dialogue** to reach these objectives, and social partners and civil society must be directly involved in the development and **implementation** of policies.

2. Sustainable economic growth and social wellbeing

- a) We urgently need to refocus the EU2020 strategy to make it a success and shape the future face of the EU with a new model for growth. The transition to this new model must be rooted in the principles of sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental factors. We should focus our efforts on promoting quality work and decent wages. Competitiveness and growth must be pursued through improvements in employment and productivity. The approach should be from the angle of innovation, resilience, productivity and non-cost competitiveness, rather than price or wage competition or through internal devaluations and persistently contractionary fiscal policies.
- b) We need a **new programme of progressive reforms**. In the declaration recently adopted by the PES Presidency, we define progressive reforms as those that promote a strong social model, reduce inequalities and guarantee social standards. Reforms that promote innovation, investments, and a new growth model. These are all essential for an economically and socially sustainable future. More attention should be paid to relative **cross-EU differences in wages, productivity and prices**, building on social dialogue in order to protect EU's labour standards, and foster upward convergence in a growth-friendly way.
- c) Creating an **Investment Union** to close the existing **private and public investment** gaps, by mobilising all the means we have in our disposal (such as the EU Budget, the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) and the future Capital Markets Union) but also by working to identify new instruments.
- d) We need to accelerate **investment to the real economy, and especially in SMEs**. Ensuring socially and environmentally useful investment to speed up the ecological and digital transition, especially in broadband networks and digital skills, must be at the top of our political priorities. Promoting an **ambitious investment policy aiming** at low-carbon, smart, digital, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Both private and public investment should be stimulated in this respect to create new and quality jobs and to address the EU's migration and security challenges, as well as the ones of our aging population and the need for more qualifications.
- e) A new vision on the single market built on green and knowledge-based social market economy is needed. Delivering on a globally competitive, innovative and citizen-oriented Digital Single Market is also essential to ensure that consumers, businesses, employees and administrations are equipped for the challenges of the new digital reality.



- f) We should support and invest in the social economy sector as a major job provider which has resisted to the crisis and fulfils social, environmental and democratic goals we share.
- g) Fiscal responsibility must be aimed while providing for an adequate degree of flexibility.
- h) Our aim is to promote fair and **redistributive tax systems** and to make sure that tax justice prevails to render our societies more equal. We also want to **tackle aggressive tax planning**, notably with the implementation of the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (**CCCTB**). Putting an end to harmful corporate tax competition that leads to a fiscal and social race to the bottom. More upward convergence in tax policy is essential for promoting social cohesion and limiting social inequalities. Putting an end to tax evasion and tax avoidance and aiming at **closing down on tax havens**. Measures such as implementing public **country by country reporting**, creating a **black list of tax havens**, bringing forward with **sanctioning** proposals are essential.
- i) **Introducing the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)** has been a strong priority of the PES and an essential political mechanism to re-build trust with the European citizens. The FTT must be implemented, through enhanced cooperation between the Member States concerned, in order to tackle financial speculation and to make the financial sector pay its fair share of the financial crisis.

3. An EMU that delivers economic growth and social prosperity

- a) Making sure that policy mix becomes more balanced. Economic and social policy should go hand in hand and aim towards upward economic and social convergence.
- b) In the future, a **Eurozone budget** should be created for immediate reaction to symmetric and asymmetric shocks, focused on reducing cyclical unemployment and strengthening real economic convergence
- c) The **Banking Union** should aim towards achieving risk sharing and risk reduction. Completing it with the **implementation of the European Deposit Guarantee Scheme** for safeguarding citizens deposits and with a common fiscal backstop to the Single Resolution Fund backstop is essential.
- d) The **Capital Markets Union** should be well-regulated and supervised in order to improve SMEs access to finance without creating new risks to financial stability.
- e) **Democratic accountability and responsibility should be strengthened in the EMU**. The governance of the Eurozone must be based on a workable and democratic structure with parliamentary control. Both national and European parliaments should play a key role in the decision making processes. At the same time social dialogue must play a central role in this process.

4. Act for Youth: Invest in the current and next generations of Europe

- a) A Europe where **one in eight young Europeans under 25 is not in employment, education or training**, and where more than one in four children live at risk of poverty and social exclusion is unacceptable. Not only do they impede individuals' chances and choices in life, but also cause despair, frustration and fuel populism. That is why Europe needs a **European Youth Plan** as proposed by the PES:
 - o We want a **permanent and extended European Youth Guarantee**, with the funding of 21 billion EUR until 2020, to widen the scope of beneficiaries by raising the age limit to 30 years and to ensure good implementation and quality and sustainable offers.
 - o We want a true '**Erasmus for all**' by broadening Erasmus+ in order to enable all secondary school pupils and students engaged in vocational education and training to gain experience in international exchange programs.
 - o We want a **European Youth Culture Cheque**, to be spent on any cultural activity of the young card holders' choice, to facilitate accessibility of culture.
 - o We want to create a **European Child Guarantee**, a specific European fund to ensure children's rights to healthcare, education, childcare, housing and nutrition.
- b) The negotiations on the EU budget's mid-term revision is a key moment to safeguard the necessary means to realise the proposals of the European Youth Plan.



5. An action plan for ambitious climate action

In February 2015, the European Commission presented a plan to make the bloc's energy system more resilient, environmentally sustainable and competitive.

- a) In line with our 21 Progressive Proposals for COP21, we reiterate our call for the introduction of a European system of carbon taxation, accompanied by non-market-based tools, such as standards, rules and public regulations, adapted industrial policies, public investments and incentives. To act as a role model for this necessary ecological transition, the use of fossil fuels and all environmentally harmful subsidies must be phased out by 2020.
- b) The **Energy Union** strategy is the EU's signal to the world community to play its role in the international fight against global warming. We want to take the next steps to complete the Energy Union to make the transition to an energy system based on renewable energy, energy efficiency and smart infrastructure capable of providing **clean and secure energy affordable for all**. The priority must be to develop a social dimension, most immediately through the fight against **energy poverty**, including by targeting energy efficiency measures on energy poor households, empowering energy consumers to play an active role in the energy transition through self-generation and consumption and to take control of their energy bills through improved information, strengthening consumer rights, and freely switching energy provider.
- c) The United Nations "Paris Agreement", concluded in December 2015 in Paris, is historic. For the first time all countries of the world committed to climate action in a partially legally-binding international agreement that will be durable and adaptable to changing circumstances. In the context of the new international climate framework set by the **Paris COP21** Agreement, the EU should raise its targets for greenhouse gas reductions, renewables and energy efficiency for the **post-2020 period**.

6. A more democratic Europe

Respect of human rights and **fundamental values** is a basis that built the Union of peace and democracy. Those values have been attacked by populist rhetoric and extremist ideologies that use EU as scapegoat for everything that is wrong. This is a challenge for all political parties but foremost for PES being one of the founders of the EU project.

- a) Democracy is built on the **respect of Rule of Law**. The European Commission as the guardian of the EU Treaties that can launch infringement procedures as per art 258 TFEU, needs a comprehensive framework that brings together all procedures. The PES has been promoting a **Scoreboard on Democracy** that will enforce EU's values, and we must continue this process.
- b) In order to continue developing inclusive societies, we must propose **effective integration policies** which guarantee a decent standard of living to everyone, secure gender equality, respect minorities and fight discrimination. It must provide all with access to the labour market and basic rights such as education, healthcare and housing. To this regard, PES needs to push very strongly for a quick agreement on the anti-discrimination directive outside of work.
- c) In order to reinforce European democracy, we want to increase the importance and visibility of the European Parliament elections. Our political family was the driving force behind the establishment of the **common candidate** process in the European elections of 2014. We want to not only continue with this process in 2019, but strengthen it through new elements that will encourage a bigger turnout in the European elections. We want this process to be fully inclusive, transparent and democratic. We will further pursue the ambition of democratisation and politicisation of the European Union's debate. And we will explore new proposals leading to further coherence within European electoral law.

7. United against fear

The EU must be an area where not only security is guaranteed but also fundamental freedoms and rights are fully respected.

- a) Terrorism can only be defeated through prevention, cooperation, trust and unity. Good cooperation between law enforcement and judicial bodies across the EU is fundamental. This includes bilateral cooperation as well as efficient use of bodies such as EUROPOL or EUROJUST. Such cooperation and sharing of information must go hand-in-hand with strong protection of fundamental rights, as it was guaranteed through the European Passenger



Records. Member States must play their role in working together and in fully implementing and making full use of European legislation.

- b) It is an absolute priority to work towards preventing the rise of **radicalization** in our societies, alongside having efficient programs to disengage people from radical groups. We will continue to push for the development of measures which empower families, schools and professional social workers into detecting, preventing and acting upon the radicalization of young people. Comprehensive policies to promote social inclusion and integration are key.
- c) A key aspect in the battle against terrorism is related to financing. We will push the European Commission to deliver efficient action plans in this field so as to greatly improve the **tracing of money used to finance terrorism**.

8. For a solidary EU and a common asylum and migration policy

Migration is a fact. We have to develop our lasting, global, welcoming and integration policies. We stand in **solidarity with those fleeing war, poverty and persecution**. It is our moral duty and our legal commitment to take into account the fundamental rights of refugees, the international legal obligations as the 1951 Refugee Convention, and stick to the principles of **solidarity, responsibility and humanism**.

- a) We strongly believe that a **future permanent, binding scheme**, granting the refugees the procedural guarantees they are entitled would ensure the better management of the refugee challenge. This includes the actual enforcement of the special procedural guarantees when individual circumstances of an application, such as gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or the severe forms of violence suffered by a claimant, make them necessary.
- b) The answer to the current challenges of the migratory flows relies on the **fair sharing of responsibilities** and solidarity between EU Member States. This includes the full implementation of relocation and resettlement policies as well as the management of EU external borders, and is complementary to national responsibilities.
- c) Ending conflicts and finding long-lasting solutions for peace and stability in the Middle East region as well as in the Sahelo-Saharan zone are our top political priorities and they are essential in order to tackle the root causes of migration. Fair cooperation with and between countries of transit and origin should be enhanced by EU programmes and financial instruments. We have led the way in developing a **holistic approach** that recognises that many areas of European policy have an impact on migration. Progressive trade, development, international human rights, humanitarian aid, foreign, defence and security policies can play a positive role.
- d) We call for the swift implementation of the **migration compact** that addresses the external dimension of migration policy and creates initiatives and financial instruments that focus, first and foremost, on countries where migrants originate from or transit through.
- e) We call for swift and full integration of refugees into the labour market and their inclusion into our societies based on non-discrimination and equal treatment with a secured sufficient budget.

9. A EU Foreign Policy promoting peace, stability, democracy and development

- a) We will continue to support and **promote democracy and stability outside our borders**. Despite the consequences of the Brexit crises, we are still very committed to pursue integration and reinforce cooperation respectively with Western Balkans and East neighbourhood. We believe that dialogue is the best path to democracy, rule of law and peaceful societies. We strongly support the work of the HR/VP on the various **EU peace and stabilisation operations**, particularly in Africa, in order to tackle human trafficking and terrorism. These efforts can lead to more peace, democracy, education for all and development. We fully support the implementation of the EU global strategy on foreign and security policy.
- b) We believe that **fair and balanced trade agreements** could promote peace and economic development, they must respect labour laws, social rights, environmental standards, and promote good relationship with European partners. We will not accept that trade treaties undermine the democratic power of European citizens. We will ensure that these principles are beneficial to all European citizens and supported by the Commission's work.
- c) We will continue to **support the EU development policy and its 0.7% of GNI target**. We strongly believe that the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is an asset to fight irregular migration



- and to assist our partners for their development policy. We trust that a coordinated development policy of the EU and its member states is an advantage to promote the SDG.
- d) In a context of global threat and because the EU needs to rise to the challenges of its strategic interests, the Foreign and Security Policies has to be more reactive and able to think ahead in order to answer the need for protection, security and solidarity. The European External Action Service should be reinforced to include the following competencies:
- An active European neighbourhood policy that still needs to be clarified in order to give the means to promote co-development.
 - A European security and defence policy to work in partnership with the UN, NATO and regional organisations to protect citizens and promote peace across the world.

