



28 January 2010

PES Strategy 2010-2014 A Mandate for Change

Adopted by the PES Presidency on 4 February 2010

“As long as Europe’s citizens are facing monumental challenges, as long as their jobs and livelihoods are at risk, as long as our planet is endangered, we will stand by people and fight on behalf for their futures. For this reason, we intend to learn the lessons of [the 2009 European] elections results and define a new way forward. In order to achieve this, we commit to strengthening the Party of European Socialists”. (PES Congress resolution “A New Way Forward, A Stronger PES”, Prague, 07-08 December 2009)

The PES Congress of Prague made it very clear that **the PES needs to be further strengthened** in order to become a real player on the European political stage.

In this light, our mandate for change, our strategy for 2010-2014, will be built on three highly interdependent objectives:

- **to influence the European Agenda.**
- to regain credibility among our voters by proposing **a new program for Progressive Societies.**
- to **strengthen the PES and develop a strategy to regain power in 2014.**

The present strategy aims to detail the priorities and instruments for implementing this Mandate for change during the next five years.

1. Our progressive European agenda

The EU is led by a right-wing majority in all institutions. Our double task is thus **to influence EU policies** together with social-democrats present in all institutions (MEPs, Commissioners, Ministers) and at the same time **to clearly oppose the conservative and liberal policies.**

Our political priorities for 2010-2014 are based on our campaign Manifesto, on the Declaration of our Leaders in Toulouse (24.04.09) and on the PES Congress Resolution “People first: A new Progressive European Agenda” adopted in Prague (8.12.09). We will fight to have them implemented through all social-democrats present in EU institutions and common action of our leaders; because we believe they are the right way to improve the lives of citizens. **Our role as PES is to coordinate our political family, and to impulse a common strategy.**



Our political priorities for 2010-2014 are the following:

- **A strong progressive recovery and a new sustainable and socially just growth model.**
The PES shall push forward a **progressive response to the economic, financial and social crisis** we are facing. **Preserving people's jobs and living standards** and building a fair and sustainable new model of growth is our priority.
Our concrete objectives are to fight for a progressive EU 2020 Strategy: a shift towards a smart green growth, a stronger European cohesion policy, an entry strategy into the labor market, a fair and green-oriented industrial policy, progressive social policies to fight poverty, exclusion and inequalities and an inclusive knowledge-society with an ambitious lifelong learning.
- **A fundamental reform of the financial markets.** The PES underlines that **future crisis can only be prevented if the financial markets are fundamentally reformed.**
Our concrete objectives are to fight for financial regulation over all financial actors, products and transactions, putting an end to tax havens, efficient supervision for monitoring, sanction and intervention and a financial transaction tax.
- **Fight against climate change and a clean energy policy.** The PES was disappointed by the COP15 outcomes. We are deeply aware of the **dramatic social and environmental consequences of climate change** and are calling for the EU to act now.
Our concrete objectives are to fight for a 30% reduction of emissions by 2020 and 80-95% by 2050 and the establishment of a global carbon trading system and of a global climate fund.
- **A New Social Europe: strong, fair and effective welfare systems.** The crisis is jeopardizing the social cohesion of our societies. The PES is determined to **strengthen welfare systems at the European level**, to limit the effects of the crisis.
Our concrete objectives are to fight for a European Social Progress Pact, a social progress clause in every piece of EU legislation, a European pact on wages, guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, a European Employment Pact, a European legal framework for strong public services and more effective anti-discrimination legislation.
- **Gender equality.** Gender inequalities are incompatible with our vision of a fair society. **Equality has always been at the heart of our fights** and we will struggle for equal rights in every field between women and men and support the work of PES Women.
Our concrete objectives are to fight for a European Women's Rights Charter, the improvement of parental leave rights and child care, the promotion of women's reproductive rights and the eradication of human trafficking.
- **Managing migration effectively.** The PES will address the issue of migration and asylum seeking based on our values of fairness, democracy, human rights and solidarity **upholding international conventions** on migration and asylum and **turning migration policy into a dynamic factor economically and socially.**
Our concrete objectives are to achieve fair and responsible legal migration based on the follow-up of the Stockholm Programme and Migration Pact and to fight illegal migration and human trafficking as well as ensuring a just common and coordinated asylum policy based on human rights and burden sharing between all Member States.
- **A new global order: peace, security, human rights and fight against world poverty.** We are now facing global challenges, which require global answers. The aim of the PES is to secure progress for people all around the world.
Our concrete objectives are to fight for a progressive European external agenda, promoting peace and tackling global security challenges, promoting a new global governance and democratic institutions; promoting fair trade, sustainable economic relations, international solidarity and policies against world poverty.



Our tools for consolidating the PES political agenda will be the following:

- Make our PES leaders' meetings more effective. Leaders should have focused debates and decide on the strategical political issues.
- Further develop Prime Ministers' and Ministers' meeting before each European Council or Council of Minister, to coordinate policies before EU meetings, and strengthen their sherpas' network in order to coordinate EU policies
- Strengthen the cooperation with and between the PES commissioners.
- Strengthen our cooperation with the S&D group in the European Parliament and with the PES group in the Committee of the Regions.
- Develop coordinated policy work within our thematic network (Social Europe, Climate Change, Economic and Financial)
- Strengthen our international relations with our partners around the world with particular attention to the US, Japan & China and neighbouring countries through our networks (Balkans, Eastern Europe, Mediterranean) and our High level group on Turkey.

2. Our renewal agenda

The PES should not only be a platform for member parties and organizations to discuss European policies, but also the place where member parties come together to formulate the political vision, strategies and policies for progressives across Europe.

Our parties are facing the same problems; we thus need to have such a reflection at a European level, to come up with **a comprehensive response to the crisis of social-democracy**. That is why the PES will initialize a parallel process of renewal of both our progressive project and of our way of doing politics.

2.1 A new vision for Progressive Societies

The PES will engage a process of **renewal of our progressive project**, around the definition of **our vision for Progressive Societies** in the 21st century. The Prague Congress launched the start of a deep reflection to elaborate our new comprehensive vision. Our project shall be **based on our core values** (solidarity, social justice, etc.) but it should **address today's global challenges**. We want to engage a comprehensive reflexion since our vision for social democracy and a progressive society must be **coherent at local, regional, national and European levels**. We need to tackle such fundamental issues as equality and the place of the individual in society, the role of public authorities (Nation States and Europe), redistribution of wealth and the organization of solidarity in a new globalized world.

Our concrete objectives are to elaborate:

- a PES declaration of principles, expressing our core values and principles,
- a PES fundamental program expressing our renewed social-democratic vision, a framework for our Progressive Societies.

Our reflexion will be developed along the following process:

- A core group of 6 to 8 Leaders will be set up to lead the process, identify the main challenges and define the way forward.
- An expert group and networks will deepen the reflexion.
- Decentralised debates will be organised by each party in each country.
- Cooperation with the FEPS who will support our reflexion through the organization of seminars and the production of discussion and reflection papers.
- Web-debates will take place to receive input from our activists.



The calendar for the set up of this process will be the following:

- March 2010 Leaders' meeting: agreement on the framework and on the composition of core group.
- May-June and October 2010: meetings of the core-group.
- December 2010 Council: intermediate report
- April 2011: start of the drafting phase
- June 2011: 1st draft of the Declaration of principles to be circulated to parties (to be adopted by the Council in December 2011)
- Early 2012: 1st draft of the Fundamental program to be circulated to parties (to be adopted by the Congress in June 2012.)

2.2 Modernising our parties

At the same time, the PES will engage a process of **renewal of our way of doing politics** and becoming more attractive.

We will **identify issues of interest for all our parties**, among which:

- Reaching out the society (to sympathizers, trade unions, civil society, etc.)
- Internal democracy, including selection of leaders and candidates, better representation of diversity in party structures
- Communication strategy
- Social-democratic rhetoric
- Recruiting members

Our reflexion will be developed along the following process:

- A network on Modernizing politics will be set up.
- A first meeting of the Secretaries General from all member parties will launch the network (May-June 2010).
- Thematic working groups addressing the identified issues will bring together specialists from each member party, to allow exchanges of best practices.

3. Regaining power in Europe

The role of a political party is to promote its values and goals and **to win and exercise power in order to implement its political vision and program**. The same should apply at the European level; if not, the PES is not a real political party.

3.1 Strengthening the link between the European and the National level

Winning a majority in the European Council is just as important to give a new direction to the European Union. Winning national elections is therefore the concern not only of national member parties but also of the PES as a whole. Our aim is thus **to bridge the gap between the PES and its member parties**.



In order to develop a more integrated cooperation between the PES and the Member parties, the PES will:

- Develop a strategy and set up a task force to support member parties in their electoral campaign for the national elections.
- Develop a strategy to support our parties who have won elections.
- Create of a platform for cooperation between our national parliamentary groups.
- Organize regular visits to the member parties by the PES President and the PES Secretary General.
- Consolidate the role of PES activists: creation of a PES activists' initiative, building bridges with national party structures, involvement of local politicians.
- Develop a PES campaign each semester. (For 2010, 1st half: a campaign on financial reform; 2nd half: a campaign on smart green growth).

3.2 Developing a strategy to win in 2014

We have learnt the lessons from the 2009 European elections. We know that, if we want to put Europe in a new direction, we need to start preparing the 2014 campaign now. If we want our electorate to come and vote for us, if we want to appear as a united family, around a coherent project, we need to prepare the basis for a common campaign strategy.

The Congress decided that the next European election campaign will be led by a common candidate for the European Commission Presidency around a common manifesto and a common campaign strategy.

The following process will be elaborated:

- The 2010 Council will adopt a process and a calendar for the designation of the PES candidate.
- After the 2012 Congress, the PES will develop a strong common Manifesto inspired by our new vision for Progressive Societies.
- After the 2012 Congress, the PES will adopt a common and integrated European campaign strategy.
- The 2013 Council will elect the candidate and adopt the Manifesto, in order to have enough time to campaign all over Europe.

4. General timetable

2010 (November-December) Council: Adoption of procedure and timetable for the selection of the PES candidate to the European Commission Presidency

2011 (November-December) Council: Adoption of PES Declaration of Principles

2012 (May-June) Congress: Adoption of PES Fundamental Program

2013 (May-June) Council: Adoption of the PES manifesto and selection of our common candidate

2014 (March-April) Campaign launch: Adoption of a set of concrete legislative proposals.

