EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
23–26 May 2019

PES
SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

A **NEW** SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR EUROPE.

Party of European Socialists
2019 Manifesto

Draft - to be adopted at the PES Election Congress, Marid, 23 February 2019

#ProgressiveEurope

Our Commitment.

The European Union must better serve its people. **The May 2019 European elections are our opportunity to change the EU and build a fairer Europe**. Our societies are still bearing the social costs of the 2008 economic crisis, and we have urgent challenges to face.

Europe needs to **overcome inequality, fight for tax justice, tackle the threat of climate change, harness the digital revolution, ensure a fair agricultural transformation, manage migration better, and guarantee security for all Europeans**. Europe needs a change of leadership and policy direction, leaving behind the neoliberal and conservative models of the past, and **focusing on quality jobs for its people, a healthy environment, social security and an economic model which addresses inequality and the cost of living**. The status quo is not an option.

Radical change is required to build a project for the future which all Europeans can believe in. Nostalgic nationalists are selling nothing but dangerous illusions, putting past progress and European values at risk. We – Socialists and Democrats – must **guarantee citizens' wellbeing** and ensure **social and ecological progress, leaving no person and no territory behind in the green and digital transitions**.

Europe must move to a circular model of production and consumption that **respects our planet's limits**. We want to strengthen Europe's unity while respecting its diversity. **As Socialists and Democrats, we propose a new Social Contract for Europe**.

A free and democratic Europe.

Democracy is a **founding value of the EU**. It must be respected in Europe and promoted abroad. **We pledge to defend and improve our democracy**, empowering citizen participation from the local to the European level.

- Civic engagement, public accountability and fair and transparent decision-making processes must be **enhanced at all levels.**
- We want **open and vibrant societies**, where individuals have equal rights and can live free from discrimination, prejudice and sexism, and with full respect of their privacy and safety.
- Cultural diversity enriches Europe and its people. Diversity is part of Europe's identity and strength; **the rights of all minorities must be protected**.
- We propose that **Europe Day on 9 May become a public holiday** in all Member States to celebrate peace and unity in Europe.
- We will **fight those who preach hatred, intolerance and discrimination** against others.
- We will **defend the rule of law and human rights** in all Member States and ensure that the EU has **all the necessary tools to do this**.
- We want strong measures to **prevent any misuse of EU or public funds**, whether this happens for private profit or to reinforce political power.
- We will **ensure that organisations protecting citizens do not face undue pressures** on their funding and their right to operate.
- We **stand against those who put our democracy under pressure** through spreading 'fake news', manipulating public debate or deliberately disrupting democratic exchange.
- **Free and independent media and civil society must be supported** and allowed to play their role in democracy
- **Whistle-blowers must be protected**.
- **Strengthening police and judicial cooperation** will boost the fight against cross-border organised crime and terrorism.

A Europe of solidarity for the many, not the few.

We will not bow to uncontrolled market forces and we will finally put an end to austerity policies. Europe must create economic opportunity for all, and ensure that prosperity is sustainable and shared fairly by all Europeans.

- We need a **long-term Investment Plan** to prepare our industries and workers so they benefit from the green transition, the digital revolution and the growth of artificial intelligence.
- Europe's **industrial strategy** must channel investment into **research and innovation, support training and life-long learning**, and ensure that **jobs are created** and protected in the EU.
- The **Eurozone needs substantial reform and its own budget**.
- European **fiscal rules must be reviewed** to make sure that they **foster sustainable growth and employment**.
- **Social rights for citizens must take priority** over economic freedoms for big corporations.
- We want **tax justice** and will continue to lead the **fight against tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning**.
- We will promote a common European approach to **ensure a proper level of effective taxation and stop downward corporate tax competition**.
- Every citizen and every company must make a fair contribution to society by respecting their tax obligations. **Profits must be taxed where they are generated**.
- We will **strengthen the rules of the financial and banking sectors** because citizens should not bear the cost of mistakes made by banks or see their deposits at risk.
- **Europe needs a stronger budget to ensure cohesion and solidarity** between citizens, regions and countries, improving living standards throughout Europe and reducing inequalities.

A progressive Europe with a youth plan.

Our societies will face the future with more optimism **once our youth have better prospects** and our elderly no longer fear insecurity in later life.

- **Young Europeans must be empowered** and given the skills to shape their future and become active citizens.
- The development of future generations must be built upon the principle of **intergenerational solidarity**.
- It is unacceptable that close to one in four children is at risk of poverty. **Every child must have access to quality healthcare, childcare, education, housing and nutrition**.
- We will **implement a European Child Guarantee** to make sure this becomes a reality.
- To reach our goals of full youth employment and reducing social exclusion, we will also **extend the Youth Guarantee** – which already helps millions of young Europeans to get a quality job, traineeship, or further education.
- **Education** is a right that **must be accessible to all**.
- We will continue to **support and reinforce Erasmus+** and ensure that it can benefit people from all social backgrounds.
- We want **European Culture Cheques** to support young people's access to culture.

A feminist Europe with equal rights for all.

Any form of discrimination is unacceptable in our modern European societies.

- We want a **binding EU Gender Equality Strategy**, through which we will continue to lead the fight to **end the pay and pension gaps, combat sexual harassment and gender-based violence**, and ensure that every individual has access to their **full sexual and reproductive rights**.
- Every person has **the right to decide over their own body**.
- We believe in a society where **women and men enjoy the same work-life balance** and **equal political participation**; every woman has the right to a career, just as every man has the right to raise his children and care for his family.
- We will be relentless in our fight to **end all forms of discrimination**.
- **Europe should remove legal and societal obstacles for LGBTI people to live freely, equally and with respect**.

A sustainable Europe that protects our Planet.

Europe must be a **leader in fighting for the environment and tackling climate change**, particularly as some of our international partners are falling behind. Europe must protect biodiversity on our continent and globally and stop pollution. **Our vision combines the protection of our planet with the interest of all our citizens**.

- **Clean air, clean water, clean energy and quality food** must be **accessible to all**.
- The EU must adopt a **Sustainable Development Pact** with social and ecological targets to ensure that **economic interests do not trump the environment**.
- A **Just Transition Fund** will help to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals by 2030 in a socially fair way.
- We will **raise the EU's climate ambition** in line with the Paris Agreement and the latest science on climate change.
- Protecting the environment requires the renewal of European industry to make us a leader in renewable energies and **become climate-neutral by 2050**, at the latest.
- **CO2 emissions should be taxed EU-wide in a socially fair way**, making polluters pay and supporting investment in affordable clean energy.
- By improving mobility and air quality and providing affordable and energy-efficient housing we can improve citizens' quality of life. To deliver this, we will promote **a Plan for Affordable Housing and Clean Public Transport** in Europe.
- We will **fight energy and water poverty**, and guarantee accessible, healthy and good quality food, safe products and an end to damaging exposure to toxic chemicals
- A **reform of the EU's agricultural policy** should help meet new societal demands, including sustainable production methods, better nutrition, reduced food waste, better animal welfare, climate protection and the preservation of biodiversity.

A Europe of equality and fairness.

Inequality must be dramatically reduced and the concentration of wealth and property in the hands of a privileged few must stop. A Europe of welfare with **strong welfare states, social safety nets, and quality public services is crucial** to preventing poverty and protecting those in need, including youth, elderly people, vulnerable workers and the unemployed.

- We have a duty to **protect people if they fall sick, lose their job, suffer disabilities or fall on hard times**.
- The **right to quality healthcare, education and decent pensions** is universal and must be defended.
- People of all ages have a **right to work and to live in dignity**. Unemployment and social exclusion must be tackled collectively, not dismissed as individual failings.
- The principle of **equal pay for equal work at the same place** must be respected.
- All workers must have the same rights: **no job without a contract, no job without a fair salary**, and a **ban on zero-hours contracts and fake self-employment**.
- We will fight for **decent minimum wages across Europe**. In-work poverty is morally and economically unjustifiable.
- We want a **European complementary unemployment insurance mechanism**, to support Member States in the event of a strong increase in unemployment.
- **Effective social dialogue and trade union membership** are the best way to guarantee the protection of working people and increased wages.
- We want a **strong European Labour Authority empowered to combat social dumping** and ensure fair labour mobility throughout the EU.
- **A Social Action Plan is needed to turn the EU Pillar of Social Rights into binding rules** that strengthen welfare systems, respect labour market models and improve living standards.

A strong and united Europe that promotes a better world.

In an increasingly unstable world, Europe must be a **beacon of democracy, peace and stability**, as well as a **benchmark for social justice, dialogue, multilateralism, human rights, decent work, the rule of law, sustainable development and gender equality**.

- We must **be united** in the face of unpredictable and isolationist partners, and **promote a different form of globalisation**.
- At the same time, the EU should **push for a reform of the United Nations**.
- We will make sure the EU includes, in all future trade agreements, binding social and environmental standards, human rights, consumer protection and workers' rights.
- These agreements should be subject to **democratic oversight**, ensuring the due participation of civil society.
- We oppose the old-fashioned private arbitration system.
- We will stick to the **promise of investing 0.7% of our GNI in official development assistance**, and strengthen our partnerships with developing countries.
- We will further **develop our common European defence**, pooling and sharing our resources to ensure peace and security, in cooperation with NATO and other international organisations.

Europe needs a fair common asylum and migration policy, based on **shared responsibility and solidarity** among Member States, and **cooperation** with countries of origin and transit. We could all benefit from a well-managed, regular and fair migration system; it can help **strengthen the economy, generate new jobs and maintain our welfare system**.

- Europe must **manage migration** in a more dignified, just and orderly way, maintaining effective control of its borders while fighting human trafficking and the criminal exploitation of people, and enhancing the protection of those in need of asylum.
- To do this, we must open safe and legal channels, support protection capacities in adjacent regions, and tackle the root causes of migration, including climate change.
- This will require **a new partnership with Africa** and a comprehensive **European Investment Plan for Africa**.
- We will promote **better funding of integration policies and support host cities and communities**.

#ItsTime

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The European elections in May 2019 are the moment to sign a new Social Contract for a Europe which protects citizens' rights and promotes solidarity and a Europe that guarantees a better life for the many, not the few. We are in a fight for the soul of Europe, and for our common future. The Party of European Socialists will bring progress and will improve citizens' lives in villages, towns, cities and regions throughout Europe. By supporting PES member parties, you will be supporting and building this Europe.

Austria SPÖ | Belgium PS | Belgium SPA | Bulgaria BSP | Croatia SDP | Cyprus EDEK | Czech Republic CSSD | Denmark SD | Estonia SDE | Finland SDP | France PS

Germany SPD | Greece PASOK | Hungary MSZP | Ireland Labour | Italy PD | Italy PSI | Latvia Saskana | Lithuania LSDP | Luxembourg LSAP | Malta Labour | Netherlands PvdA

N.Ireland SDLP | Norway LP | Poland UP | Poland SLD | Portugal PS | Romania PSD | Slovakia SMER | Slovenia SD | Spain PSOE | Sweden SAP | UK Labour

Party of European Socialists
Rue Guimard 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

T **+32 2 548 90 80**
info@pes.eu www.pes.eu

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