PES
SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS

PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS
LISBON, 7-8 DECEMBER 2018

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EQUAL SOCIETIES:

For a fair, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world

We are living in a very complex, multipolar, unpredictable world. Alliances are shifting and the parameters of international relations are strongly challenged by the rise of nationalism and protectionism policies. It is up to the European Union to play the role of a reliable, principles-oriented, credible and peaceful power, unconditionaly committed to the rules-based multilateral international order – especially to the UN, which is clear about its values and transparent in its action, cooperative and inclusive. We are indeed a community based on the rule of law and democracy, where fundamental human rights are respected more than anywhere else. Therefore, facing the necessity to influence for a better regulated order and based on its history and fundamental values, the European Union has a key role to play.

As Socialists and Democrats, we know which role we want the European Union to take in the world. Our overall challenge is to make European Union stronger and acting in line with

our core principles of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, gender equality and solidarity, a European Union with a powerful unified voice,

and a European Union guided by its principles to meet its international responsibilities and face new challenges.

At a time when multilateralism is being challenged in all global matters that can affect the life of people including European citizens, with unilateral actions in breach of international treaties and rules, we have to stay firm to our belief that a multilateral system and its institutions, the international criminal court, the WTO and above all the United Nations, are at the core of the only sustainable rules-based global order. The European Union's strength has always been in influencing the world through soft power.

Building peace is in Europe's DNA. For centuries, Europe was the theatre of bloody wars and destruction. On the contrary, the idea of the European Union is based on tolerance, trust and peaceful coexistence of nations. It is the reason why we believe that

the European Union has to become a force for peace and reconciliation

We support the great work done by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, not least in leading the negotiations to preserve the nuclear deal with Iran. We believe that the war in Syria can be ended through meaningful political talks between all parties, with particular attention to the Kurdish community for their fight against Daesh, and through a negotiated solution in the framework of the Geneva talks led by the United Nations.

We are worried about the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, particularly the absence of dialogue between Israel and Palestine and the recent increase in violence. We continue to support a two-

state solution, with a viable Palestinian state and a safe and secure Israel, with Jerusalem as capital of both, in accordance with the UN resolutions. The time has come for an unified European initiative in order to create the conditions for a balanced resuming of negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

We are concerned about the deterioration of democracy, human rights and freedom of expression in Turkey. We consider that the next elections cannot be free and fair while our member's parties, HDP and CHP, have their leaders or parliamentarians arbitrarily detained in prison. Hereby we resume our call for their immediate release. We also worry about the deterioration of the freedom of speech and we should therefore also keep raising awareness for the imprisoned journalists in Turkey.

As Socialists and Democrats, we are convinced that **the Western Balkans are Europe and will be part of the European Union's future.** We welcome the European Commission's new strategy for enlargement to the Western Balkans, provided that they meet all the strict conditions. Alongside this, we think that enlargement is an opportunity for the European Union and the Western Balkans, an opportunity to improve the stability, security and prosperity of our continent. It is also clear that the process must be merit-based and requires clear political commitment. We are pleased by the European Commission's positive assessment of the progress made by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, both led by members of our family, and the recommendation to open accession negotiations. We appreciate and support the effort and commitment deployed by the new government in Skopje towards reaching a deal with their Greek counterparts on the name change. We also welcome the fact that Montenegro and Albania are aligning their positions with European Union foreign and security policy.

We also believe that the **Eastern Partnership** is still well alive although a lot still remains to be done. The focus should now be on implementing existing commitments and delivering tangible results for the citizens in the partner countries. We emphasize the need for reforms in the Eastern Partnership countries in order to strengthen civil society and promote European fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Regardless of the intensity of each co-operation, every partner is of the same value to the EU. At the same time, we reiterate that the Eastern Partnership is not directed against anyone.

We stress the importance of the strategic cooperation with Latin America on common global challenges, particularly on multilateralism, fight against climate change, sustainable development, social justice and tackling inequalities. We are also concerned by the political situation in some countries in the region. We support our sister parties in their fight for our shared progressive values.

We are committed to a global order based on international law, human rights, sustainable development and peace

We are committed to **the European Union Global Strategy, including the contribution of the European Union to collective security**, working closely with partners, primarily NATO. We need a strong and secure Europe for our citizens at home and to promote peace and security as well beyond our borders. The European way to security and defence is unique, as it mixes civilian and mili-

tary action, aiming to increase security in Europe, Africa and the Middle East through preventing conflict, fostering resistance, peacekeeping tasks, joint disarmament and crisis management. As Socialists and Democrats, we support the development of a robust European defence policy and welcome the multiple and inclusive Permanent Structured Cooperation projects adopted by the Council. We are convinced that we, as Europeans, should make full use of the instruments enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. We strongly support UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda including three priorities: disarmament to save humanity, disarmament to save lives and disarmament for future generations.

As Socialists and Democrats, we support the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, call for their full implementation in the EU and worldwide and believe that in order to attain them, it is essential to involve all levels of government in the decision-making process, particularly local and regional authorities; and include the civil society organisations. The European Union and its member states are the largest donor of development assistance and humanitarian aid. We must ensure that austerity and reduced budgets do not impact development aid. We insist that member states fulfil their commitment to spend 0.7% of GDP on Official Development Assistance. We back the

New European Consensus on Development, which is aiming to eradicate poverty, fight inequality and achieve sustainable development. We fully support the Paris agreement and its implementation.

We think that a real partnership with Africa is a priority, a partnership between equals with respectful dialogue and cooperation based on mutual ownership and the principle of shared responsibility. From security challenges with radicalisation, terrorism and trafficking to climate change and fair trade, we are facing the same issues and must act together to find solutions. While all Sustainable Development Goals are equally important, we make particular reference to Goal 5 on gender equality to ensure that with a global backlash against girl's and women's rights, member states, include the EU, will commit to the UN 2030 Agenda and work towards parity and respecting the Beijing platform, and to Goal 10 on the reduction of inequalities within and among countries, which would ease many of the challenges that we are currently confronted with. With the UN, we commit to the Global Compact for Migration and Refugees. We have to protect human rights and save lives, to fight smugglers and to offer a more effective framework for legal and safe avenues to refugees and other migrants". We strongly support the UN reform project led by the Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

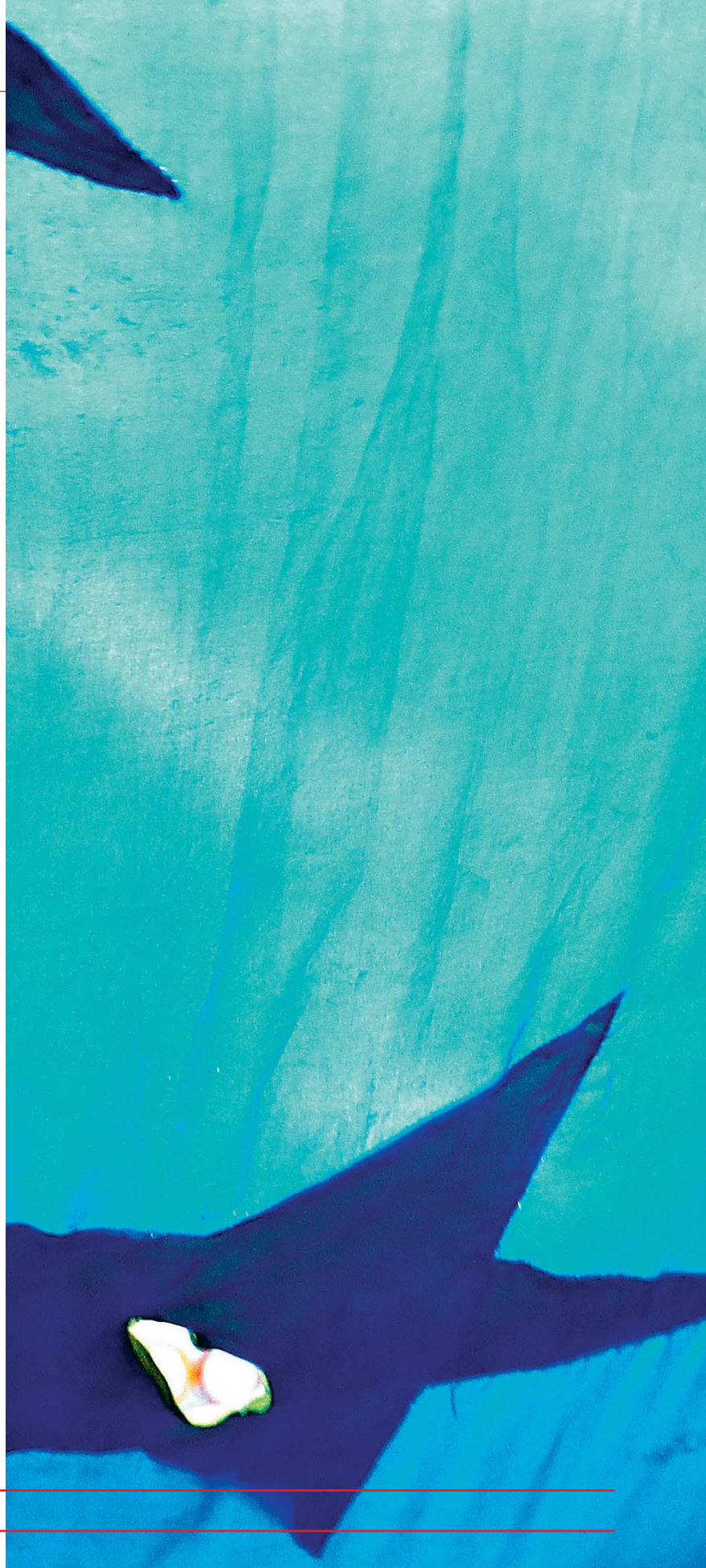
The threats launched, in particular by the US administration and its confrontational attitude towards other trade partners, risk blurring the rules. In this respect, it is of upmost importance to reinforce our approach towards multilateralism and respect as well as defend the rules set out by the WTO. As one of the most powerful traders in the world, the European Union has to use its capacity to ensure that **social and environmental standards, social justice and human rights, and protection of consumers and workers shape globalisation**. We believe that the Sustainable Development Goals and the rules of the International Labour Organisation must be compulsory elements for trade relations across the globe and the guidelines for the EU's trade relationships in the world. In the center of EU-Trade, there must be a clear commitment to Due Diligence also among the supply chains. We want all stakeholders, including trade unions and NGOs to have an input at certain stages of the negotiations in order to achieve fair and transparent trade agreements. We are in favour of the establishment of a Multilateral Investment Court to decide on investment dispute. However, **the state's right to regulate is not negotiable.** Furthermore, it is clear to us that future EU trade agreements must be preceded by territorial impact assessments and must not prevent governments at all levels from providing, supporting or regulating public services, or from expanding the range of services they offer to the public.

Considering the changes in the trade

situation, with an increase in protectionist attitudes and aggressive policy toward the EU, we stress the importance of **strengthening EU trade defence instruments, the need for strong anti-dumping and anti-subsidies legislation, and the possible need to control foreign investments** in order to preserve our strategic industries.

We have to defend our European model, and resist protectionism and demonstrate that the model promoted by populist and nationalist forces in Europe would only weaken our Nations and aggravate further the world's disorder. We aim at fighting inequalities worldwide. We will put social justice, fair growth, sustainable development and democracy at the heart of our external policies, to shape a globalisation that delivers for all people and for the planet

As Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a fair, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world . It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a progressive economy, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a social Europe, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.



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