



A stronger PES for a more progressive Europe PES Report of activities 2004-2006

Adopted

In 2005, the PES mourned the loss of two significant figures. On 6 August 2005, Robin Cook, PES President from 2001 to the last Congress in 2004, tragically died during a walk in the Scottish Highlands. A month later, on 13 September 2005, Fiorella Ghilardotti, President of PES Women from 1997 to 2004 sadly passed away. Robin and Fiorella's dedicated work will be remembered for a long time in the PES. A book commemorating Robin Cook's tenure as PES President has been published.

Introduction

The last PES Congress, held in Brussels on 23 & 24 April 2004, elected Poul Nyrup Rasmussen as new PES President and gave him a clear political mandate to engage the Party of European Socialists into a more political direction, making the party more visible, more active and more democratic.

The Congress also elected Giuliano Amato as Vice-Chair and confirmed the members of the Presidency presented by the member parties.

The first meeting of the PES Presidency elected Philip Cordery as Secretary General and Ruairi Quinn, Presidency member from Ireland, as Treasurer.

Two and a half years later, our party is becoming more political. The PES has demonstrated in several occasions that it could be sharp and effective and thereby influence EU Politics.

Social democracy has enjoyed several important victories in Europe: Jose Luis Zapatero in Spain, Jose Socrates in Portugal, Romano Prodi in Italy and Alfred Gusenbauer in Austria have put an end to conservative governments and given new hopes to their people. In the UK, Hungary and Lithuania, the good record of our governments have enabled Tony Blair, Ferenc Gyurcsany and Algirdas Brazauskas to win new terms in office.



But Europe is living a moment of crisis, Europe is doubting. Citizens in France and the Netherlands voted No in the Referendums on the European Constitution. Despite their differences, they expressed a very similar message. A message of uncertainty and worries about the future; citizens are anxious of loosing their jobs, of increasing insecurity, of getting less social benefits.

They believe that globalisation is the cause, but they do not see any clear answers to their worries – they are missing direction and security during this new age of globalisation and permanent change and as long as the national governments in Europe don't cooperate and coordinate investments to create new growth and new jobs, people don't see the European Union as a part of the solution.

Unfortunately, right wing forces still dominate Europe, in national governments and in the European Commission. The conservative leadership of Europe is not responding to this crisis. They refuse to tackle the root causes of the crisis and have as only response ideological liberal measures which can only aggravate the situation.

This crisis must lead us to a fundamental reassessment of how we act together in Europe, of what we deliver as European socialists, of how we communicate the real role of Europe. This is what we have decided to do together. The PES Council met in Vienna on 24-25 June 2005 a few months after the referendum setbacks, and decided to launch important initiatives in this direction, enabling us, as a progressive European political family, to develop a direction for Europe which would enable the citizens to regain confidence in Europe.

This is why we need a strong PES and this is why we are working hard to make of the PES a true European political party, capable of influencing European politics, a party that is more visible, more effective and that can relate to the people and to its members.

I. MAKING THE PES A POLITICAL ACTOR ON THE EU SCENE

1. Influencing the EU Agenda

One of the main goals of the PES is to become a recognised political actor in the European Union and to enable European socialists and social democrats to have a common tool to influence the EU agenda in addition to their national ones.

The first challenge for the PES after the European parliamentary elections was to influence the first steps of the new European Commission, its composition and its programme. The campaign organised by the PES and its parliamentary group against designated Commissioners whose hearings were not satisfactory and showed clear undemocratic tendencies obliged the President of the Commission to proceed with some changes, notably that of M. Buttiglione, before proposing a new college of Commissioners to the European Parliament.

Following the European Parliament elections and the investiture of the European Commission, the PES addressed its objectives in relation to the EU policy agenda to the EU institutions in its political declaration "Developing Europe 2004-2009" of December 2004. We established that three principles (prosperity, equality and solidarity) should guide us in the achievement of our manifesto commitments and shape what Europe delivers to its citizens in this political term. PES President presented the PES declaration to the President of the European Commission.

The declaration adopted in December was largely inspired by the report on the EU Policy Agenda "A Europe of progress" made to the PES by Pascal Lamy (PS-France) who chaired a High level group on the issue and by the outcome of the PES Leaders Conference in Madrid on 26th and 27th November in Madrid.

Several important policy issues, discussed at the PES Leaders meeting in Madrid November 2004, were taken up in this year's work programme of the European Commission. This is notably the case for the following items:

- The Commission will propose the creation of an Agency of Fundamental Rights (June 2005).
- A better approach to industrial restructuring and its employment effects- December 2005.
- A Green Paper on the demographic evolution in the EU (March 2005).
- Upgrade the framework of EU-US relations (April 2005); and deepen the economic partnership.
- Reinforced commitments for the financing of development through a further increase of ODA levels to average 0.6 % in 2010.

In Stockholm, on 24 February 2005, PES Leaders adopted two declarations in advance of the spring European Council: a PES declaration on the Commission's proposal for a services directive and a declaration on the midterm review of the Lisbon strategy "*Developing Europe by creating more and better jobs*". The PES was therefore able to exert positive public pressure on the European Council, in cooperation with the Socialist group in the EP, to heed its calls for a more balanced Lisbon Strategy – focusing on the social and environmental as well as economic dimensions - than the proposal made by the European Commission, and for a reconsideration of the Commission's proposal for a Services Directive. The outcome of the March European Council reflected the wishes of PES leaders to a notable extent on these two issues.



With the aim of achieving progressive implementation of the PES Manifesto for the 2004 European parliamentary elections, "Growing Stronger Together" and our Leaders' declaration on the EU policy agenda for this political period, "Developing Europe 2004-2009", the PES Council in Vienna decided that the PES should adopt **annual priorities** for the EU policy agenda, to be defended by all PES members active in EU politics, whether at European, national or regional levels. The PES Council adopted our first set of priorities for the EU agenda 2006. The 2006 priorities are the following:

- A multi-annual European Growth and Investment Strategy for more and better jobs
- A common effort of member states and European institutions for the doubling of the target for renewable energy
- More effective European anti-discrimination legislation and implementation in the workplace, in particular, with regard to equal pay between men and women and the conciliation of professional and family life.
- More effective legislation to eradicate violence against women in society, as well as in conflict and crisis situations, and the trafficking of women and children.
- An appropriate legal framework for services of general interest in the European Union
- The strengthening of common efforts for economic and social cohesion between Member States, including for example the development of trans-European networks;
- The strengthening of the European social model and the defence of workers' rights by reinforcing European social legislation.

An implementation plan was agreed for the fulfilment of these priorities, making progress in each of the defined fields. The PES Leaders' meeting of July 2006 proceeded with this work, agreeing new priorities for the EU policy agenda 2007, which build on the 2006 priorities. The priorities for 2007 are the following:

- The introduction of a common European energy policy, whose goal should be to promote sustainable development, particularly through a renewed push for greater energy efficiency and renewable energies, including the achievement of the EU's climate change targets for 2012 and beyond.
- Delivering excellence and inclusiveness in education and training to become a key priority for the European Union through fostering closer cooperation with Member States towards a progressive reform of education and training systems and adopting a European reference framework for key competences.
- The evaluation of progress towards the 2010 childcare targets and the intensification of EU efforts towards their achievement by 2010, including the systematic assessment of national childcare strategies, the fostering of best practice and considering EU support to stimulate childcare investments.
- Appropriate legal frameworks for services of general interest in the European Union, respecting the principle of subsidiarity.
- The introduction of an EU strategy for pursuing decent work in the external policies of the European Union.

The PES has agreed a new implementation plan for the fulfilment of its priorities for the EU policy agenda for the 2006-2007 period.



2. The future of Europe

In 2004 and 2005, the PES was very much engaged in the campaign in favour of the new Constitutional Treaty. The first act was the public event held in Rome on 28 October 2004 on the eve of the signing of the Constitution with the participation of many PES Leaders.

The PES set up a network to coordinate the action on the ratification processes in the different member states. Chaired by PES Vice-President Giuliano Amato, it was composed of those in charge of campaigning for the European Constitution in member parties and worked in close cooperation with the Socialist group in the European Parliament.

A seminar on "Winning an EU referendum: Coordination and Experience-Sharing for PES members" was organised in Copenhagen on January 14th 2005.

In February, the Network launched a new website for its work. Members of the Network have exclusive and secure access to it. The website can be used as a platform for debate, but also for exchanging experiences and strategies among parties facing a referendum on the European Constitution.

The second network seminar in Amsterdam on 16 March 2005 dealt with "Socialist Arguments for the European constitution". Network members from nearly all countries facing a referendum took part.

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and Giuliano Amato supported the campaign of the SLD in Poland for a referendum on the European constitution with appearances in Krakow and Warsaw around the 1 May.

The PES network supported the 'Yes' campaign of the PS in France extensively. On 18 May 2005, 35 European socialist and social democratic leaders supported the Parti Socialiste in its campaign for a 'yes' vote of the French electorate.

The No-votes in the Netherlands and France in spring 2005 changed the political context for the implementation of the Constitution. There was a broad agreement among PES party Leaders that every new treaty for Europe has to start from citizens' real concerns. Consequently, the PES supported the decision to organize a period of reflection and to give Europe's citizens a say. The PES Council in Vienna launched the initiative "A People's Dialogue on the Future of Europe", in order to promote debate about the Future of Europe. It is about taking the concerns of citizens as our point of departure for a direction that people can unite around.

Many meetings were organized by PES party members in various countries and the PES website forum dedicated to this dialogue was used to exchange ideas and opinions. PES President participated in two European-wide conferences, in Dublin on 27 January 2006 and in Warsaw on 6 October 2006.

3. A New Social Europe

The PES Council in Vienna decided to launch an important debate between PES member parties to develop a European-wide, social democratic vision for modernizing our welfare systems.

The PES launched its New Social Europe initiative in December 2005 at an opening session, following a highly successful public conference, organised in cooperation with the ETUC in October 2005.

The initiative has been chaired by the PES President and Jacques Delors. The PES appointed Allan Larsson as Special Adviser to the PES on Social Europe. The initiative was structured in three discussion forums, composed of representatives from each member party: the Active Society forum, chaired by Hans Karlsson, Minister for Labour (Sweden), with Angelica Schwall-Düren MP (Germany) acting as rapporteur. The Inclusive Society forum, chaired by Stephen Timms and then James Purnell, both successive Ministers for Work and Pensions (UK), with Marisol Pérez Domínguez MP (Spain) acting as rapporteur. The EU dimension forum was chaired by Anna Diamantopoulou MP, (Greece), with Anne Van Lancker MEP (Belgium, Spa) as rapporteur.

The discussion forums met in the framework of seven seminars held in Sweden, UK, Slovenia, Romania, Germany, Spain and Belgium, organised in close cooperation with PES member parties. Forum participants also submitted written contributions, discussed expert texts and engaged in debate, using specially-created e-mail discussion groups and the PES New Social Europe extranet sites. Two collections of articles were published in October 2005 and September 2006, with contributions from party representatives.

A closing conference and a roundtable seminar with trade unions were held in Paris and Brussels in September 2006.

The New Social Europe initiative will result in a comprehensive report by the two co-Chairmen and a Congress resolution to be agreed at the PES Congress.

4. A new Growth and Investment initiative.

The EU and its Member States face a formidable challenge in trying to stimulate new growth and job creation in the enlarged EU. This year's revision of the Stability and Growth Pact and mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy have focused minds on the appropriate means to achieve lasting growth, more and better jobs and to consolidate sustainable, sound public finances.

The PES growth and investment strategy was firstly agreed among PES Finance Ministers and Spokespersons and subsequently adopted by the PES Leaders and Prime Ministers in London on 26 October 2005, on the eve of the Hampton Court informal European Council. It claims for a balanced economic policy approach and a simultaneous and coordinated investment strategy. In the Spring European Council, the effects of the PES growth and investment strategy were noticed namely through the introduction of a paragraph in its conclusions which asks for the coordination of structural reforms.

5. The PES Lisbon network

The PES Lisbon network has been in place for over three years with the aim of providing a forum for discussion on the Lisbon Strategy and social democratic approaches to its implementation. Chaired by Hans Eichel (SPD Germany) who replaced Robert Goebbels (LSAP Luxembourg) in 2006, it is composed of Ministers and representatives from PES members parties and governments, Mr./Mrs Lisbon, national parliamentarians, the PES group, Committee of regions, Social Partners, NGO's and experts.

The PES held a public conference in Stockholm on the Lisbon mid-term review on 24 February 2005, and the Leaders adopted a resolution in advance of the spring European Council.

The purpose and goals of the Lisbon Network have now been reassessed in light of the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy, and it will now focus on promoting successful implementation of the Strategy. On the one hand, it will serve as a platform for the socialist and social democratic parties in power to learn from each other and to share experiences. On the other hand, and taking the example of socialist and social democratic parties that are in government, opposition parties will be able to develop arguments on how to combat conservative priorities in terms of Lisbon implementation.

The Lisbon network meets four/five times per year and in close co-operation with the Socialist and Social Democrat Presidencies of the Council. It met in July 2006 in a meeting co-hosted by the Finnish Minister for Labour and where all Socialist Ministers of Labour and Employment participated. The Lisbon network has agreed upon its contribution to the tripartite social summit which will take place in Helsinki and will discuss flexicurity. The PES Lisbon network is now starting to prepare its contribution to the Spring European Council.

6. Environment, Energy and Climate change

The PES established a new coordination of PES Environment ministers and spokespeople which met for the first time prior to the Environment Council on 2 December 2005. All participants welcomed the PES initiative and were confident that it would add value to their work. The main agreement was that climate change should be the focus of the group's work. A second meeting took place on 9 March 2006 and a joint discussion paper (presented by SAP - Sweden and Labour Party – Great Britain) on a PES strategy for climate change was considered.

At the PES Leaders meeting in Prague on 10 March 2006, there was a wide ranging discussion on the different aspects of energy policy and the forthcoming Commission Green paper on this issue. It was agreed to develop a joint initiative on energy and climate change which would consider the following elements in an integrated way: security of supply, coherent between climate change and energy policy, the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency.



The PES Leaders meeting in June 2006 adopted the composition of a PES High Level Group on Energy and Climate, chaired by Finnish SDP Leader Eero Heinäluoma, and composed of ministers, spokespeople and representatives from the Socialist Group in the European Parliament and the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions. It was agreed that this group would provide input to a resolution for the Congress. The PES report would feed into the Energy Strategy due to be adopted at the March 2007 Spring Summit. The PES Leaders also adopted a discussion paper which provides the parameters and principal questions for this work. The High Level Group on Energy met twice in 2006 on 11 September and on 6 November.

7. Demographic challenge

Europe's population is due to decline from 2025 onwards, although the ageing of our societies has already begun. The implications of such a decline and ageing are huge: internally, in terms of our economic capacity and our future quality of life; but also externally, in terms of Europe's place in the world. European Commission projections estimate that the pure impact of ageing populations will be to reduce GDP per head to around 20 % lower than could otherwise be expected - if we don't do anything.

In view of this important challenge, PES Leaders and Prime Ministers agreed in their meeting of 26th and 27th November 2004 in Madrid for the PES to identify a social democratic approach to tackling the demographic challenge facing Europe in the 21st century.

The PES established an independent Reflection Group, chaired by Swedish Minister for Health and Elderly Care, Ylva Johansson, and composed of a small number of European experts. The Reflection Group delivered its independent report, containing detailed policy recommendations, to PES leaders and Prime Ministers in October 2006. This work has allowed the PES to play a pro-active and influential role in the current debate on how the EU should tackle the common demographic challenge.

8. Multiculturalism, Diversity and Tolerance

The PES held a first seminar on "The challenges of immigration and diversity for Europe in the twenty-first century" in Amsterdam on 7th October 2005, in collaboration with the PVDA. PES member parties exchanged views and experience on integration and inter-cultural dialogue; illegal migration and regularisation; and the future of immigration policy in Europe.

The PES has launched a campaign on diversity in autumn 2006. The diversity campaign focuses not only on ethnic and religious diversity, but also other forms of diversity, and restates PES opposition to political alliances with extremists who preach hatred and intolerance.



9. Strong presence on the International scene

The Party of European Socialists is deeply involved in international issues. Europe has a major role to play in the international arena and must therefore show its commitments vis-à-vis the rest of the world. The PES is committed to making this world a safer place, a place of shared prosperity, in which human rights and human dignity are at the centre of our thinking and actions.

To strengthen the European Union policy and its role as a global player, the PES has organised various events and initiatives in the last years. This dynamic approach tackled a wide range of international issues.

The PES has launched Networks of **Ministers with International portfolios together with Spokespersons from PES members parties** in opposition: A network chaired by Carin Jämtin, Minister for International Cooperation (SAP Sweden) gathers PES Development policy Ministers and party spokespersons on Development issues. Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, (SPD, Germany), took over responsibility of Coordinator at the end of 2006; the network of PES Defence Ministers and party spokespersons is chaired by André Flahaut, Defence Minister (PS Belgium). A PES Foreign Affairs Ministers Network, chaired by Jean Asselborn, Foreign Affairs Minister (LSAP Luxembourg) has also been launched successfully. The different Networks gathered 2/3 times a year.

The PES Presidency approved the constitution of the **Turkey High Level Advisory Group** to provide information on Turkey-EU relations. The PES HLAG on Turkey with Paavo Lipponen (SDP, Finland) and Georgios Papandreou (Pasok, Greece), as Chair and Vice-Chair, organized a first visit to Istanbul and Ankara on 12-13 October 2005 and a second visit on 8-10 October 2006 to Izmir and Ankara. During both visits, the HLAG met a wide ranging of political figures from the government and from opposition as well as NGOs and trade unions. A meeting of the HLAG with Olli Rehn, European Commissioner, was held in Brussels on 15 June 2006.

A **“PES Working Group on Eastern European Neighbours”** was created to report to the PES Presidency on the transformation and democratisation processes in four Eastern European countries: Belarus; Moldova; Russia and Ukraine. Peter Schieder (SPÖ, Austria) and Tadeusz Iwinski (SDL, Poland), Co-Chairs of the PES W/G EEN, organized delegations to Ukraine on 6-7 November 2005 and 2-3 May 2006, the second one to meet representatives on the Belarusian opposition, to Moldova on 17-18 July 2006. A delegation of Russian politicians, led by the SDPR, was invited to Brussels on 18 October 2006.

The Party of European Socialists organized a Conference on **“The EU and the Balkans: developing a progressive agenda for peace, social and economic prosperity”**, in Sofia 29-30 May 2006. European social democratic party leaders from EU and from the region pledged to give their full support for EU membership of all the countries of the Western Balkans – and to take concrete steps to increase regional cooperation through closer links between social democratic parties in the region.

The PES is developing frequent contacts with the countries of the **Mediterranean** region, also part of the European Neighbourhood policy. The 2nd PES Conference on the **“Euro-Mediterranean Relations”** was organised in Toulouse, France, 15-16 April 2005, on the 10th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process.



A PES delegation visited Lebanon on 13-14 March 2005 in order to express its support to the Lebanese democratic opposition. PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, PES Secretary General Philip Cordery and Coordinator of the PES Foreign Affairs Ministers Network Jean Asselborn visited Lebanon, Israel and Palestine on 12-14 September 2006 after the 2006 summer crisis in the Middle East.

The PES is building **dialogue with the US Democrats** within the framework of our “Global Progress” initiative (formerly known as “Global Alliances for the 21st Century”). This initiative identifies common progressive approaches on priority areas of concern. Nuclear non-proliferation and climate change feature amongst the trans-atlantic policy papers published in 2004. The current project under development focuses on decent work as a global objective, involving George Miller, member of the US House of Representatives, Carin Jämtin and Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. Activities since the last PES Congress have included a fringe meeting at the US Democrats Convention in Boston in July 2004, a seminar in Washington to evaluate the outcomes of the 2004 US Presidential elections, and a roundtable seminar on decent work, organised in collaboration with the Center for American Progress (CAP).

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, PES President and Alexandra Dobolyi, PES Presidency member, visited **China** on 3-8 November 2005, at the invitation of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to meet State officials and representatives of the CPC. The PES Presidency decided on a strategy of critical dialogue with China. A delegation of the International Department of the CPC visited the PES in Brussels on 20 March 2006.

The PES also held seminar on regional integration with SI **Mercosur** Committee on 28 January 2005 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The PES works in very close cooperation with the **Socialist International**. In that framework, the President and the Secretary General participated in the various Council meetings of the SI and seeks regular coordination between the two organisations.

10. Global Progressive Forum

In 2004-2006 the PES continued its strong involvement in the Global Progressive Forum (GPF). The GPF is an initiative of the PES, the Socialist group in the European Parliament and the Socialist International aimed at creating a space for cooperation and dialogue on globalisation between progressive politicians, NGOs and trade unions.

On 9-10 September 2005, the GPF held its **biennial event in Milan**, in the framework of the Festa de l'Unita, organised every year by Democratici di Sinistra. The event featured leading figures from the World Social Forum process, trade unions and NGOs, as well as top representatives of socialist and social democratic parties, with a large representation of our youth movements.



A GPF Leaders' meeting was organised in Geneva on 19 & 20 January to elaborate on the next steps of the GPF. On 30 March 2006, the PES Presidency approved the **GPF strategy and work programme for 2006-2008**, which would have Decent Work as an over-arching theme. Projects to be developed in the coming years include: Decent Work for Africa, Women and Decent Work, People on the move (Decent Work and migration), as well as a strategic high-level network on Decent Work among socialists and social democrats in relevant national, regional and international institutions.

In order to formalise their cooperation, the GPF, Solidar, the ITUC and the Global Progressive Youth Forum (IUSY, ECOSY and SEI-IFM) have set up the **Decent Work Alliance** in order to promote the Decent Work Agenda in the coming years in relevant national, regional and international fora.

In March 2006, the GPF was granted membership of the International Council of the **World Social Forum**. This follows active involvement of the GPF in World Social Forum. In 5th WSF in Porto Alegre (26-31 January 2005), the GPF organised a joint conference on the Social dimension of globalisation, with Solidar, the ICFTU, the WCL and Social Alert. In the 6th WSF in Bamako, Mali on 19-23 January 2006, the GPF co-organised a round table discussion on different aspects of the Decent Work Agenda and its implementation in Africa with the same partners. Harlem Désir, GPF Vice-Chair, attended the European Social Forum in London in 2004 and in Athens in 2005.

In the framework of its project **Decent Work for Africa**, the GPF organised a round table discussion on Decent Work and its relevance for the African development agenda in Brussels on 9 November.

On the occasion of the 6th **WTO Ministerial conference** in Hong Kong on 13-18 December 2005, the GPF and its partners held two public meetings on "Decent Work – Decent Life".

The GPF launched a **campaign against AIDS** with a seminar on 14 October 2004 in London, during the 3rd European Social Forum, and an awareness raising event in the European Parliament on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2005.

The GPF has a website www.globalprogressiveforum.org and has produced a publication "*Making World Trade a Successful Tool for Development*".

II. A more active, more visible and more effective PES

1. Reforming the PES

The process of PES modernisation is growing out of the demands of our member parties. PES member parties are seeking to gain a new political space and stronger political influence in Europe: a political space in which to represent their constituencies and connect to ordinary citizens and political influence in order to achieve our social democratic goals. Achieving a modern vision of social democracy requires action in each of our nations, but also in Europe, if we are to reach our goals. Our action in Europe is necessarily a collective one. The PES must serve member parties as an effective tool for achieving these common goals. For this reason, the PES is called upon to adapt its structures, instruments and practices to this new purpose.

The PES Presidency of 8th July 2004 launched a consultation process amongst PES member parties and the Socialist group in the EP for comprehensive reform of the Party of European Socialists.

The first phase of consultation began in July 2004 with the Presidency's agreement to establish three working groups, responsible for examining how to build a stronger PES as a political player at EU level and as a solid partner to its national member parties and to its parliamentary group in the European Parliament. Working groups were composed of a wide range of individuals from our member parties and the Socialist group in the EP. It sought to achieve a broad cross-section and representativeness of opinion.

Working Group A, on PES relations with the EU institutions, examined how the PES could best formulate common social democrat objectives and influence the EU policy agenda in the achievement of these objectives. Working Group B, on PES-Socialist group in the EP relations, examined how the PES and the Socialist group in the EP could best influence the EU policy agenda in a joint effort to achieve commonly-defined social democrat objectives. Working Group C, on relations between the PES and its member parties, examined the structure of the party, its decision making process and ways to make the PES closer to its members.

The second phase of consultation was launched with the presentation of the three working groups' recommendations in a first report to the PES Presidency on 21st October 2004. The PES coordination team and PES Presidency had an in depth debate during several meetings and elaborated a resolution for the 2005 Vienna Council.

The resolution adopted by the PES Council in Vienna presents proposals for a stronger PES in four areas:

- A more visible and influential PES
- A more democratic and effective PES
- A PES involving its members
- A PES open to its partners

The Council also set up a Statutes Committee, chaired by Ruairi Quinn, to propose a new set of statutes to the 7th PES Congress in 2006.



More focused, effective and influential PES meetings

Since the last Congress, the PES has held **8 Leaders' Meetings**

- On 17 June 2004 in Brussels, PES Leaders evaluated the European elections and discussed the PES strategy regarding the European institutions.
- In Madrid, on 26th and 27th November 2004, PES Leaders gathered, on the invitation of Jose Luis Zapatero, to discuss the EU Policy Agenda 2005-2009.
- In Brussels, on 16 December 2004, PES Leaders adopted the declaration "*Developing Europe: 2005-2009*"
- In Stockholm, on 24 February 2005, in a meeting hosted by Prime Minister Göran Persson, the Leaders adopted two declarations on the eve of the EU Spring Council : "*PES declaration on the Commission's proposal for a services directive*" and a PES declaration on the midterm review of the Lisbon strategy: "*Developing Europe by creating more and better jobs*".
- In Vienna, on 24 June 2005, the Leaders met on the occasion of the PES Council, discussed the situation in Europe following the negative referendums in France and the Netherlands and decided to launch 3 new initiatives for the PES, including the debate on A New Social Europe.
- In London, on 26 October 2005, in a meeting hosted by Tony Blair in 10 Downing Street on the eve of the Hampton Court informal European Council, the Leaders adopted a new *PES Growth and Investment strategy*.
- In Prague, on 10 March 2006, the Leaders gathered, on the invitation of Jiri Paroubek, and launched a new initiative on Energy and climate change.
- In Brussels, on 15 June, PES Leaders adopted the PES priorities for 2007 and discussed the future of Europe.

The **PES Council** met on 24 and 25 June in Vienna. It adopted the PES priorities for the EU agenda 2006 and a resolution on PES reform, 15 proposals for a stronger PES. The Council debated at length the crisis in Europe following the Referenda in France and the Netherlands and agreed to launch the PES initiatives on "A New Social Europe" and "A peoples' dialogue" on the future of Europe.

The Presidency and the Coordination Team have met respectively on 15 and 12 occasions since the last Congress. The Presidency is the political leadership of the PES, providing orientation for PES policies and deciding on political activities. The Coordination Team brings together international secretaries and PES staff and discusses the planning and financing of PES activities.

Ministerial meetings: The PES has also relaunched pre-Council meetings in the following fields: Foreign affairs, Development, ECOFIN, Defence, Employment and social affairs, Environment, Home & Justice and Education. These meetings allow for better coordination between Ministers from PES member parties and opposition spokespeople who participate in at least one meeting per year with the Ministers.



2. Membership in the PES

On 19 May 2005, the Presidency decided to grant Full membership to the **Socialist Party of Bulgaria and to the Social Democratic Party of Romania**. The decision was taken right after the signature of the accession treaty in order to show clear commitment from the PES to this important new enlargement process.

Another important decision was taken by the Presidency on 12 October 2006 when it decided to suspend the provisional membership that it had granted to political party **SMER from Slovakia**. After having won the Slovak General election, SMER joined a coalition with extreme right party SNS. This act was considered unacceptable by the Presidency and against the principles of the declaration adopted by the PES Congress in Berlin in 2001 "For a modern, pluralist and tolerant Europe" which states "all PES parties adhere to the following principles... to refrain from any form of political alliance or co-operation at all levels with any political party which incites or attempts to stir up racial or ethnic prejudices and racial hatred." The situation will be reassessed by the Presidency in June 2007.

3. Strong and renewed cooperation with the Socialist Group in the EP

Since the new legal situation whereby the Party of European Socialists has become independent from its Parliamentary Group, it has been necessary to lay down a new basis for renewed cooperation between these two key players of European social democracy. Martin Schulz and Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, as Presidents of the Group and Party respectively, have developed a strong personal cooperation which has led to an organised and structured programme for cooperation. .

The PES and PES Group have shown that when they combine their influence they can have a stronger impact on the EU policy and decision-making process. This has been illustrated in the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy and the proposed Services Directive.

The PES Presidency and the Bureau of the Socialist group in the EP now meet twice a year to define common priorities and strategies and to discuss their implementation. The first meeting took place on 17 February 2005. This year's joint meeting in February 2006 agreed a joint paper on political cooperation between the PES and the Socialist Group in the EP, proposed by their respective Presidents, establishing the working method and priorities for the cooperation.

The activities of the Socialist group in the European Parliament are described in their own report to the PES Congress

4. PES Women

PES Women brings together women - MP, MEPs and activists - from PES member parties. Zita Gurmai MEP was elected President of PES Women on 21 October 2004. Under her leadership, PES Women entered a new period of reinforced cooperation amongst its members, a stronger role within a stronger PES and a reinvigorated external dimension to its work, in terms of contributing to the European policy process and organizing campaigns.



At the November 2004 meeting, PES Women members agreed to introduce new elements and several changes to its working methods and objectives. One of the major innovations was the organization of an annual conference on a specific theme.

Apart from its annual conference, PES Women meets three times per year to discuss a specific issue of concern which is open to a wider audience than just PES Women members, such as NGOs, trade unions and the media.

PES Women launched an important petition signed by over 22,000 people calling for European action to prevent the trafficking of women to work as prostitutes during the World Cup in Germany.

More detailed information on the activities of PES Women can be found in the PES Women activity report.

5. ECOSY

The PES has continued active support to ECOSY, its youth organisation. More detailed information can be found in ECOSY's own report.

6. PES group in the Committee of the Regions

The PES has increased its relations with the PES group in the Committee of the Regions. Their activities described in their own report to the PES Congress

7. PES activists

"PES activists" was launched on Europe Day, 9 May 2006, enabling individual members of the Europe's Socialist, Social Democratic and Labour Parties to participate in our European political family. It is a new level of involvement for all members of our parties.

This is a real added value to national party membership for all members interested in European politics. "PES activists" is being promoted actively in many member parties. Over 5.000 people have become PES activists since May 2006.

A leaflet has been produced, presenting PES activists.

PES activists is primarily Internet-based and gives the grassroots of our parties the opportunity to take part in discussions with other European socialists and social democrats on a variety of topics, give input on PES policy discussions, establish political links with local individuals and branches in other PES member parties, receive information on what other European socialists and social democrats are up to.

Physical activities are also being developed for PES activists. In many countries, PES activists organize local meetings and sometimes form local clubs. This is particularly true among expatriates.

For the first time in the history of the PES, the Congress in Porto is open to PES activists as guests.



8. European political foundation

As agreed at the April 2004 Congress, the PES has been working on establishing a Foundation which will provide a European forum debate amongst citizens, think tanks and academic on the left, as well as providing training and education for young potential European leaders.

The PES Presidency agreed that the Foundation would provide long-term thinking and in-depth analysis of key European policy issues to European socialist and social democrat structures - the PES, the Socialist group in the EP and PES member parties – and national governments from our family. It would also promote new and existing social democratic ideas and policy proposals on the European political and intellectual scene. It would also provide a much needed forum for debate between academics and national think tanks linked to PES member parties.

Two recent references have been made to European political foundations. Firstly, the Commission states in its White Paper on Communication that *“political parties could involve their members more in European political issues and contribute to the debate through trans-national European think-tanks”*. Secondly, the European Parliament report (Jo Leinen) on European Political parties in the context of present period of reflection on the future of the EU, asks: *“in what way can European political foundations be supported, to assist European political parties’ work of political information and education? Parliament calls on the Commission to submit proposals on this matter”*

Currently, the PES is pursuing two different avenues to establish European political foundations. Firstly, a pilot project has been agreed in the 2007 budget of the European Union. Secondly, in the medium to long term, the possibility of creating a new legal base for the European political foundations is being explored.

The PES is an active member of the steering committee of the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity. The PES President has also met foundations linked to PES member parties to discuss the Foundation proposal.

In that spirit, the PES has decided to support the initiative “Social Europe, the journal of the European left”. Initiated by Detlev Albers (SPD - Germany), this e-journal will be, under the umbrella of the PES, a place for debates of the European left.

9. Representation of the PES

PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, PES Secretary General Philip Cordery, PES Women President Zita Gurmai and other Presidency members have represented the Party of European Socialists in many events.

They have addressed many congresses of member parties, participated in a number of meetings with Party Leaders, other party representatives and PES activists from all different member parties. They also participated in many seminars and conferences at the European, national and regional levels.

10. A new Communication strategy

The PES Presidency adopted a **PES Communications Strategy** in the second half of 2005 which set out the PES communications objective, target audiences and proposed actions in the areas of website, campaigns, media and publications.

The PES adopted at its Council in Vienna in 2005 a **new modern visual identity**, incorporating its existing logo.

The new PES **website** was launched in June 2005. In one year, the number of visitors has grown by 810%. This figure is rising steadily: more than 50,000 people visited our website in September 2006. The website is in constant evolution: a monthly newsletter sent to 25.000 people including all European and national parliamentarians of PES member parties, updated news on PES statements and events, an extranet for the members of the Coordination team and Presidency, an up-to-date calendar, pages for PES activists, chats, blogs, interviews, e-campaigns, discussion forums... Limited resources mean that it is currently available in only two languages.

In March 2006 the PES launched its first ever **campaign** – an online petition against the trafficking of women in connection with the World Cup. This campaign was enthusiastically supported by several member parties and was widely felt to be an excellent innovation. A campaign on Diversity was launched in October 2006.

The PES, alongside the other major European political parties, has become a 'member' of the independent EU affairs portal Euractiv – resulting in a special page for the European political parties and an increase in links between the Euractiv and the PES websites.

PES Leaders meetings and other activities, especially outside Brussels, have generated considerable **media interest and coverage**. The PES is better known to EU correspondents based in Brussels and the President's statements and press activities invariably receive media coverage. There is a steady flow of requests for interviews and other features, and a number of opinion articles published by the President, often co-signed by PES member party senior politicians.

Opinion articles have appeared in Le Monde, Handelsblatt, Il Sole 24 Ore, Diario Economico, Svenska Dagbaldet, Sydsvenskan, De Tijd, Ehnos Tis Kiriakis, Nepszava, European Voice amongst others while interviews have been published in Die Zeit, Le Soir, El Periodico, L'Unita and Eventimentul Zilei to name a few.

PES events such as the visit to Ankara and Istanbul of the High Level Working Group on Turkey, the Balkan Conference, the PES New Social Europe seminar in Romania and the recent visit to the Middle East all generated considerable national and regional media coverage.

Since October 2005, the PES has issued **brochures** on 'A new Social Europe' (2 sets of contributions from member parties), 'A new Growth and investment Strategy', 'Meeting Europe's demographic challenges in the 21st century' and leaflets presenting the PES and PES Women. A book commemorating Robin's Cook tenure as PES President was published in 2006. These publications have been widely distributed and some of them translated in many languages.



The PES has also stepped up very considerably its contacts and collaboration with **communicators in PES member parties**. There are now regular meetings of communicators from the member parties, organised by the PES, to exchange information on campaigns and developments in communications. Press officers in member parties regularly receive PES press releases, the PES newsletter and other information.

11. A new legal and administrative structure for the PES

Following the entering into force on 20 July 2004 of the **new statute** on European political parties, the PES went through numerous legal and administrative changes.

The non for profit association “PES asbl” was set up on 22 June 2004. The PES was **acquired a legal personality** which enables it to be officially recognised as a European political party by the European Parliament and be entitled to receive subventions from the latter. European political parties hence become totally independent from their parliamentary groups. The PES Congress in Porto on 7-8 December 2006 will adopt a new set of statutes transforming the PES into an International non for profit association (aisbl).

In 2006 the European Parliament adopted a report by Jo Leinen (MEP, SPD Germany), proposing a review of the statute for European political parties.

The new statute has had as a consequence for the PES to completely renew its staff and to leave the offices in the European Parliament.

New **staff** was recruited. In addition to the Secretary General, the PES staff is now composed of 6 political advisers, a press officer, a communications officer, an organisation officer, an administrative assistant and 5 secretaries. During the transition period, the team worked for many months in reduced numbers and in difficult conditions. Since 2006, the PES is also hiring interns on a regular basis. We want to thank all the staff for their commitment and their motivation without which this work programme could never have been realised.

Concerning the **offices**, the PES left the European Parliament on 1st July 2004. We were then hosted for 8 months by the Belgian “Parti Socialiste” to whom we are very grateful for their hospitality. Since then, the Secretariat has moved into offices rented near to the European Parliament, in rue du Trône 98. The project of gathering the European and international socialist family in a common headquarters, the “Anna Lindh House” should be realised in the coming years.

ALL DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE PES WEBSITE:

www.pes.org



PES ACTIVITIES 2004	
APRIL	
23-24	PES Congress, Brussels
JUNE	
4	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
15	PES Presidency, Brussels
17	PES Leaders, Brussels
JULY	
8	PES Presidency, Brussels
27	Meeting with US Democrats, Boston
SEPTEMBER	
8	W/G on PES Reform B, Brussels
14	W/G on PES Reform A, Strasbourg
22	W/G on PES Reform C, Brussels
23	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
24	Lisbon network, Brussels
OCTOBER	
11	PES Ministerial Meeting Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg
14	GPF seminar on AIDS, London
19	PES Women Standing Committee, Brussels
21	PES Presidency, Brussels
28	Public Meeting on the Constitution, Rome
NOVEMBER	
2	PES Ministerial Meeting Foreign Affairs, Brussels
12	HLG on EU Agenda 2005-2009, Brussels
22	GPF/DS seminar with leaders of the World Social Forum, Milan
3	PES Ministerial Meeting Development and cooperation, Brussels
26-27	PES Leaders, Madrid
30	PES Women, Brussels
DECEMBER	
30/11 & 1/12	W/G on Transatlantic dialogue, Washington
2	Euro Mediterranean Seminar, Brussels
3	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
7	Lisbon network, Brussels
9	PES Presidency, Brussels
16	PES Leaders, Brussels

PES ACTIVITIES 2005	
JANUARY	
14	Network on European Constitution ratification, Copenhagen
20	European Party Political Debate (EPP, Willy Martens, and PES Poul Nyrup Rasmussen), Brussels
28	Seminar with SI Mercosur Committee, Porto Alegre
28-31	GPF seminar in 5 th WSF, Porto Alegre
FEBRUARY	
10	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
17	PES Ministerial Meeting ECOFIN, Brussels
17	PES Presidency, Brussels
17	Joint Meeting PES Presidency/Socialist Group in the EP Bureau, Brussels
17	Lisbon Network, Brussels
24	Public Conference on the Lisbon Strategy, Stockholm
24	PES Leaders, Stockholm
MARCH	
13-14	Delegation to Lebanon
16	Network on European Constitution ratification, Amsterdam
18	PES Women Annual Conference, Brussels
APRIL	
15-17	Euro Mediterranean Conference, Toulouse
21	W/G on Demographic Challenges, Brussels
28	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
MAY	
1	Network on European Constitution ratification, Warsaw
9	W/G on Demographic Challenges, Stockholm
18	Public meeting on EU Constitution, Paris
19	PES Presidency, Paris
23	PES Ministerial Meeting Defense, Brussels.
23	PES Ministerial Meeting Development and cooperation, Brussels
27	PES Women, Brussels
JUNE	
23	PES Presidency, Vienna
24	PES Leaders, Vienna
24-25	PES Council, Vienna
SEPTEMBER	
2	PES W/G on Demographic Challenges, Brussels
7	PES Sherpas, London
9-10	GPF Conference, Milan
15	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
22	Joint Meeting PES Presidency/Socialist Group in the EP Bureau, Brussels
22	PES Presidency, Brussels
OCTOBER	
7	<i>Seminar on "The Challenges of immigration and diversity for Europe in the twenty-first century", Amsterdam</i>
11	PES Ministerial Meeting ECOSIN, Luxembourg
11	Public Conference with ETUC on A New Social Europe, Brussels
12-13	HLAG on Turkey, Delegation to Turkey
13	Lisbon Network, Brussels



21	W/G Communicators, Brussels
25	PES Ministerial Meeting Development and cooperation, Leeds
26	PES Leaders, London
NOVEMBER	
3-8	Delegation to China
6-7	W/G Eastern European Neighbours, Ukraine
7	PES Women, Brussels
21	PES Ministerial Meeting Development and cooperation, Brussels
21	PES Ministerial Meeting Defence, Brussels
24	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
DECEMBER	
01	Statures' Committee, Brussels
01	PES Presidency, Brussels
01	Lisbon Network, Brussels
02	PES Ministerial Meeting Environment, Brussels
02	Seminar A New Social Europe, Brussels
08	PES Ministerial Meeting Employment & Social Affairs, Brussels
11	PES Ministerial Meeting Foreign Affairs, Brussels
16	GPF seminar at WTO Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong
PES ACTIVITIES 2006	
JANUARY	
19-20	GPF Leaders seminar, Geneva
20-23	GPF seminar in 6 th WSF, Bamako
25	Lisbon Network, Brussels
27	Public conference on Future of Europe, Dublin
FEBRUARY	
02	PES Coordination team, Brussels
03	Seminar New Social Europe/Active Society Forum, Stockholm
09	Joint Meeting PES Presidency/Socialist Group in the EP Bureau, Brussels
09	PES Presidency, Brussels
14	PES Ministerial Meeting ECOFIN, Luxembourg
17	Seminar New Social Europe/Inclusive Society Forum, London
23	PES Women, Brussels
26	PES Ministerial Meeting Foreign Affairs, Brussels
MARCH	
01	Launch of anti-trafficking campaign 'Celebrate the World Cup, fight sexual slavery', Brussels
03	Seminar New Social Europe/European dimension Forum, Ljubljana
10	PES Leaders, Prague
23	PES Coordination team, Brussels
20	Seminar PES & China, Brussels
29	Statures' Committee, Brussels
30	PES Presidency, Brussels
APRIL	
11	PES Ministerial Meeting Development and cooperation, Luxembourg
27	PES Ministerial Meeting Home & Justice, Luxembourg
28	W/G Communicators, Brussels



MAY	
02	Seminar New Social Europe, Bucharest
02-03	W/G Eastern European Neighbours on Belarus, Ukraine
09	Launch of PES activists, Brussels
14	PES Ministerial Meeting Foreign Affairs, Brussels
15	PES Ministerial Meeting Defense, Brussels
19	Seminar New Social Europe/Active Society Forum, Berlin
24	PES Women Annual Conference, Copenhagen
29-30	Conference on the Balkans, Sofia
JUNE	
1	PES Coordination team, Brussels
1	PES Ministerial Meeting Employment & Social Affairs, Brussels
7	Statute's Committee, Brussels
7	PES Presidency, Brussels
15	PES Leaders, Brussels
15	HLAG on Turkey, Brussels
23	Seminar New Social Europe/Inclusive Society Forum, Madrid
28	Seminar New Social Europe/European Dimension Forum, Brussels
JULY	
6	Lisbon Network, Brussels
17-18	W/G Eastern European Neighbours, Moldova
SEPTEMBER	
11	HLG on Energy, Brussels
12-14	Delegation to the Middle East
21	Closing seminar A New Social Europe, Paris
21	Meeting with PES Activists on A New Social Europe, Paris
22	Bilateral seminar with ETUC, Brussels
OCTOBER	
5	PES Coordination team, Brussels
6	Public conference on Future of Europe, Warsaw
7	PES Ministerial Meeting Gender equality, Helsinki
7	PES Women, Helsinki
8-10	HLAG on Turkey, Delegation to Turkey
12	PES Presidency, Brussels
15	PES Ministerial Meeting Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg
16	PES Ministerial Meeting Development and cooperation, Luxembourg
NOVEMBER	
6	HLG on Energy, Brussels
9	GPF seminar on Decent work for Africa, Brussels
12	PES Ministerial Meeting Defense, Brussels
16	PES Coordination Team, Brussels
22	PES Presidency, Brussels
30	Lisbon Network, Brussels
DECEMBER	
04	PES Ministerial Meeting Education, Helsinki
07	PES Presidency, Porto
08	PES Leaders, Porto
07-08	PES Congress, Porto

