



Political Declaration adopted on 24th April 2009, Toulouse

People first: a New Direction for Europe

What's at stake?

The European elections on 4-7 June will be fundamental for people's future. We are in the deepest global recession since the 1930s, mass unemployment could reach 27 million. In the space of two years, we will have lost 10 million jobs, with dramatic social consequences for people all over Europe. In addition, we have a global climate emergency and a humanitarian crisis in the developing world. The European Union urgently needs to change course. That is why we urge European citizens to vote in the European Parliament elections on 4-7 June. If you don't vote, others will decide for you.

What do we want?

Europe's socialists, social democrats and progressives want **a new direction for Europe, putting people first**. Conservatives are saying: "We have done enough against the crisis, it will soon be over". We are saying: "People should not pay the price, they are not to blame. This crisis is not a law of nature, but driven by greed, irresponsibility and financial excesses which demand new regulation. In the European Parliament, the conservative EPP have had their majority. We have seen what they have done with it. That's why our goal is to become the first group in the European Parliament in order to bring about the fundamental changes urgently needed in Europe.

How? Our first hundred days

This crisis is a test for European leadership which Europe cannot fail. We need new European leadership. We demand that in the first hundred days following the European elections, the following 7 steps are taken to fight the recession and mass unemployment and to ensure social security:

1. A new, strong recovery plan for Europe, with coordinated investments in jobs and green growth. We, the PES, have proposed a European recovery plan, which could stop mass unemployment and create a new direction.
2. A European Employment Pact to safeguard employment, create new and better jobs, fight mass unemployment, and strengthen workers' rights, working conditions and equal pay. Special attention must be paid to youth unemployment. Europe is not a market society, but a social market economy. Fundamental social rights must be ensured. These come first – including free collective bargaining, trade union rights - before the single market and economic freedoms. Free movement of labour, including posting of workers, must be based on the principle equal pay and equal working conditions for equal work in the same workplace.
3. A new Women's Rights Charter to improve women's right and opportunities.



4. A Social Progress Pact to tackle the full social consequences of the crisis, preventing a rise in poverty, inequality and exclusion.
5. Effective regulation and supervision of the financial markets, covering all financial actors and instruments, including hedge funds and private equity. The PES has made clear proposals on what to do to avoid devastating new financial bubbles in the future.
6. New mutual solidarity across European member states – between East and West, North and South – ensuring a common roadmap out of the crisis.
7. An urgent, common European roadmap for a global new deal, to be agreed at the G20 before the end of 2009. This is about coordinated action for new jobs on the planet, global regulation of financial markets, a global climate deal, and aid to developing countries.

A new European Commission – a new programme

Our demands for the next 5-year strategy of the European Union will be based on the progressive proposals of our PES manifesto – People first: a New Direction for Europe – and on our proposal for a strengthened, new progressive recovery plan for the European Union.

We will present these demands immediately after the European elections. The demands will be made to all nominees to the new European Commission – we want a new progressive Commission with a new progressive direction for Europe.

It's about democracy and respect for the European Parliament

The European elections of 4-7 June will be the occasion for Europe's citizens to exercise their democratic right to determine the future course of the European Union. For this reason, we demand that the European Council respects and agrees on ensuring the newly-elected European Parliament plays its full democratic role in consultations on the new leadership of the European Commission. We must have the necessary time to form our parliamentary group in order to exercise our full democratic functions.

A clear political choice

The economic and financial crisis is far from over. Men and women across Europe face a choice in these European elections: between a progressive European Union which puts people first in tackling the crisis and the real challenges we face; or a conservative European Union which is passive in the face of worsening recession and mass unemployment, leaving our future in the hands of the market. We, Europe's socialists, social democrats and progressives will not let people down.

A new opportunity: People first

This crisis must be used to turn the future into a new opportunity for people. New European leadership must ensure that no effort is spared to bring an end to the recession. We commit to the men and women across Europe to put their interests first and take Europe in a new direction in June 2009.

