



## **From 'New Social Europe – 10 principles for our common future'**

Resolution adopted unanimously on December 8, 2006  
by PES Congress in Porto, Portugal

One principle for New Social Europe is 'Universal child care' and the resolution states about universal childcare

"Some say that child care is a private matter and nothing more.

We, the PES, have made our choice: European countries should move towards child care for all who want it. High quality, affordable and accessible child care is an enormously positive investment both in the short and long term. It gives children the best possible start to their education, while giving them important social skills for life. Good local nurseries and crèches integrate parents and children alike into the community, and lay the foundations for stronger communities now and in the future. Parents often find that the contact with child care workers and other parents provides invaluable support.

Child care frees parents to enter paid employment, essential for ensuring equal rights for women and men, ending child poverty and tackling the economic challenge posed by demographic change. Child care creates local jobs - which further stimulates economic growth, particularly in deprived communities."

