



Brussels, 13 February 2008

**Letter of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, PES President,
On the death of Tom Lantos, Member of the US Congress - 1980-2008**

It is with great sadness and emotion that I have learned about the death of this remarkable man, whose recent nomination as chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US Congress was the crowning achievement of his career.

On behalf of the Party of European Socialists, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of Tom Lantos, to his friends, to his supporters.

Tom Lantos was one of the United States' leading champions on human rights - a struggle that was rooted in his own life story as survivor of the Shoa.

His courage and high moral authority should inspire all those who want to work for the promotion of human rights all over the world. We will always remember his firm engagement towards the crisis in Darfur.

In the memory of Tom Lantos, the Party of European Socialists would like to give all its support to human rights defenders worldwide.

**Poul Nyrup Rasmussen
PES President**

