



A Progressive European Agenda for Globalization
PES leaders' Declaration
12th December 2007

Today's globalization has made countries around the world more interconnected than ever before. The experience of growing exchanges in trade and communications and of peoples and cultures is enriching many. But globalization is also bringing new challenges, which must be met for the good of Europe's peoples and peoples across the world. It is time for the European Union to make the opportunities and challenges presented by globalization its primary focus.

It is clear that no one country can shape its own destiny alone, whereas working as part of a strong and progressive European Union offers the possibility of greater security, prosperity and equality within the Union and beyond. Globalization can generate new opportunities, of far greater prosperity and improved living standards, both in Europe and the developing world. But, in order to enable all to share in these new opportunities, we must shape policies for a more inclusive globalization and forge a new path for sustainable development of the planet. It is essential that we address continuing imbalances of wealth and tackle climate change.

The European Union is a major global actor, as demonstrated by its economic weight and its leading role in international trade and development. The Single Market has placed European countries in a stronger position to compete in a global marketplace, based on high European standards for consumer protection, decent work, health and safety and environmental protection. Nevertheless, there is still further work to be done to ensure that we achieve a genuine Single Market in the EU.

The EU's Lisbon strategy is still the key to meeting and managing the challenge of globalization for Member States, based on the goal of making the EU into "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" by 2010. However, the EU has not gone far enough towards implementation of this Strategy. We must now focus on implementation, creating new synergies between its economic, environmental and social pillars. In this respect, we welcome the call of this year's Spring European Council to strengthen its social dimension, with a renewed commitment to proactive social, education and labour market policies within the EU. We emphasise the need for the fight against climate change to become a central commitment, making environmental policies a dynamic, contributing factor to economic growth.

The European Union's approach to globalization must be grounded in our shared values – in social justice, equality, human dignity, democracy, freedom and solidarity. Globalization must become inclusive and benefit those who are currently least able to meet global challenges. We are resolved to make our progressive European agenda both adaptive and pro-active in response to globalization. Building bridges for all to share in new opportunities, as part of inclusive societies, and also proactively shaping the globalization of the future.

The European Union, as a successful model of regional integration and as a leading global actor, is well-placed to play a proactive role in improving the global governance system, providing more effective ways to manage and meet global challenges.

The international community needs to find new and more effective ways to address global challenges in the social, economic and environmental fields, as well as in the area of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building. These must include appropriate institutional reform, including the enlargement and strengthening of the UN Security Council in order to better reflect today's world.

Fighting climate change is a global responsibility. The European Union has set out binding targets in March 2007 and commits to taking the lead in reaching a global climate agreement to follow the Kyoto treaty. The Emissions Trading Scheme must become a strictly enforced and effective global scheme for reducing carbon emissions. Developing countries must be supported through knowledge transfer and financing to meet climate targets. International institutions must ensure more effective coordination and create better synergies towards sustainable development.

Many of the world's poorest countries are struggling to meet the UN Millennium Goals and will find it even harder in future under the impact of climate change, notably in Africa. Market opening must be accompanied by rising living standards and environmental protection. The EU must meet its commitments in terms of development aid and supporting the definition of more effective, integrated development strategies. These countries will need greater support for capacity-building than they are receiving currently. Europe should use its influence to extend the initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative to provide full cancellation of the great bulk of multilateral public external debt of the poorest countries. European member states must honour the promises they made to increase aid to 0.56% of GNI by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015. The EU must promote the positive completion of the Doha Development Round (DDR), which will bring new trade opportunities to the world's poorest countries. Furthermore, international governance must ensure better coherence and coordination of policies towards the achievement of the UNMDGs.

Poverty, conflict and under-development are amongst those issues that have led to rising migration flows, which have become a major cross-border challenge that require European and international responses as well as improved governance.

As globalization becomes more intense, risks in the financial system also have potentially greater reach and impact. Therefore international institutions must seek to increase transparency and regulatory cooperation to ensure that these risks can be managed more effectively. We must reinforce our common efforts to ensure the stabilisation of financial markets and to enable the financing of essential long-term investments in our societies.

Effective multilateralism must equally be strengthened to tackle both continuing and new threats to world security – including arms proliferation, failed states, and terrorism. The Member States of the EU must strengthen their own collective efforts, reinforce cooperation with our strategic international partners, and seek to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations.

Each one of these elements should form part of a new, global agenda. The Lisbon treaty gives the European Union a strengthened capacity to meet the global challenges that all of our citizens faces in today's world. We commit ourselves to promoting a progressive European approach to globalization by forging this new, global agenda through strengthened dialogue - with countries outside the EU, with stakeholders and civil society, and at global level within all international institutions.