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**Peace, democracy, solidarity  
between people and culture**

Council of the Socialist International

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Check against delivery



Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends and comrades,

I would like to share with you my happiness to be present today in Athens for this important moment in SI's history.

Today the SI will open a new page of its long history and I did not want to miss this moment.

Today, let's enjoy this opportunity to be here together, with Mamadou Issoufou, Ibrahim Keita, Amir Peretz, and my fellows European Jose Socrates, Sergei Stanishev, Martin Schulz and as we are so many today, all the party leaders, to give a new impetus to our organisation and to express our support to the new SI President, George Papandreou.

George, I want to congratulate you.

I want to thank you for having accepted this important challenge.

I want to express and guarantee my full support and the PES full support and commitment to your work. We will be at your side to shape a new SI.

Dear Friends,

**The SI is on the move and we are all here to say: "We are united with you George, to make the best of our work and to provide answers to today's world!".**

Let's work hand in hand PES and the SI.

Let's work hand in hand the PES, the SI and the PES Group, with Martin Schulz, President of the PES Group and Harlem Désir, Vice-President of the PES Group, in the **Global Progressive Forum**.

The Global Progressive Forum is the joint initiative of the Socialist International, the PES and the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. It is an excellent tool for socialists to present a new approach, our approach, to globalisation.

With the Global Progressive Forum, we are connecting with progressives from all over the world, we are working in close cooperation with our friends from the trade unions, nationally and internationally; with the ETUC, ICFTU and WCL that will soon unite, and of course with NGOs such as Solidar.

It is part of our strategy to build an alliance of progressives forces from all over the world, to build coalition and platforms to counteract the neo-cons agenda and to refuse neo-liberal policies. We were present in Porto Alegre, in Hong Kong, in Bamako.

Let's continue, I am sure that we can do more and better.



**We have to multiply our forces and be present**

- **everywhere we can do something,**
- **everywhere there are injustice and inequalities,**
- **everywhere people are mobilised,**
- **everywhere we are called.**

This is our task, the task of the Global Progressive Forum, the PES and the SI.

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Dear Friends,

**The relevance of today's discussion on the theme of Peace, Democracy and Solidarity is indisputable.**

As cornerstones of our identity, we have to carry a strong and clear message while violence persists, dictatorships subsist and inequalities are growing in the world.

The consequences of the fatal equation of **Wars, Oppression and Poverty** are at the heart of all reflection of progressive forces. Add to this, **environmental problems**, which are indirect consequences of human behaviour, and we have the last piece of humanity disasters.

The globalisation of economies creates certain levels of insecurity among ordinary people.

This lethal combination pushes people in a strong desire of security, security of conditions of existence. Both in the Northern and the Southern part of the planet people feel insecure about their future. Be it the textile worker in Manchester, the industrial worker in Bihar, the mechanic worker in Detroit or the cotton farmer in Niger, all are wondering "how and if" they will benefit from globalisation.

**The concept of Human security is a combination of elements granting to live with dignity.** It designates that not only wars and conflicts are sources of insecurity but also hunger, poverty, natural disasters ...

Social democrats must answer to the basic needs of people: The right to live in dignity, to decent work, to receive an education, to express their opinion ...

**It demands a holistic approach: fighting the root causes and not only the symptoms.** Here and now, for example cross border crime, terrorism have to be fought, but we must never forget, that for developing sustainable peace, we need the conditions to be created for peace.

This approach differs from the right wing approach that believes in the survival of the fittest.



Our approach is based on the respect of people, regardless of their differences, their religion, their culture and their history.

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**I would like to open the discussion with the question of the link between Peace and Development.**

One thing is for sure; Globalisation has an enormous potential, but also, needs guidance and global governance.

On the one hand; over the last 10 years the world's growth was as much as the past 80 years, but on the other hand what about wealth distribution? What is at stake regarding exclusion? The disparity between North and South? Between regions in the same nation? Within society? The market can't do it alone. Our international institutions need to be reformed and strengthened in order to give guidance to the market.

We cannot just leave it to the market, we cannot just restrict ourselves to the existing free market agreements to answer our demands. I think that we must find rapidly a balanced approach between trade and development. This is the right factor for peace.

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I was in Hong Kong last December and I believe that we have to make a proper and honest analysis of what happened at the WTO Ministerial Conference.

Yes, an agreement was eventually reached after painful negotiations. From the LDCs' year, the Everything but arms initiative, in fact, nothing new.

Yes, the WTO still on track, multilateralism in trade is one of the key principles promoted by the EU to rule global governance. And I agree.

Yes, a new impetus was necessary and expected to conclude the Development round after the collapse of the negotiations in Cancun. And I agree.

But only few advances have been achieved and the promises made to developing countries in Doha 2001 are not yet delivered. **The agreement reached in Hong Kong is disappointing.**

Therefore, I appeal to the industrial world to ensure that the developing countries are pursuing the talks in Geneva as a genuine opportunity rather than a threat. The industrialised world needs also to be ready to make the necessary compromise for the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) completion.

I haven't seen the free round announced by Developed countries. The EU offer was disappointing and it is not surprising that no fair deal could be reached. The EU bears a heavy responsibility to ensure that negotiations will deliver a breakthrough in 2006.



The EU must deliver better offers in agriculture and pursue CAP reform that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) so desperately need.

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**I am very much in favour of including the “decent work” agenda that guarantees good working conditions, good pay, equality between women and man, collective bargaining and representation. It should be implemented in this new global policy approach, in parallel to the WTO negotiations. This is not concealed protectionism but a right for workers and a prerequisite for human development.**

They represent productive factors and not a burden on society. The implementation of the ILO’s Core Labour Standards is a priority in my view and in that for the PES and the SI.

Women’s employment and economic empowerment is progressing but poverty and the negative effects of globalisation hit harder. Both in Europe and globally, we must ensure women have the opportunity to participate in the labour market on an equal footing to men. Women play an essential role in the labour market and communities for economic growth, social cohesion, sustainable development

I believe that trade is a means, not an end. This is why trade should abide by social, environmental and health rules. Some goods and services are not for sale, others should be protected.

In Hong Kong, I was in the demonstrations with trade unionists from all over the world and I remember the very clear slogan that people shouted during the demonstration **“Our World is not for sale”**.

There in Hong Kong, I met the leaders of the World Trade Union Movement, Guy Rider from the ICFTU, John Sweney from the AFL-CIO, Zwelinzima Vavi, General Secretary of the COSATU, John Monks from the ETUC and many others.

And let me tell you that we all agree to convey a simple message: **“Decent work for decent life”**.

We are going to work together to push that concept higher up the agenda of international institutions. We have to start at the national level to influence our government to make it a priority.

Let me give you the example of the WTO. Pascal Lamy is very clear on this point. He says that he has a mandate from the WTO member states to ensure the policy coherence between the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO but no mandate regarding the coherence between WTO and the ILO! And he would like to have have it!

For the citizens of the world to benefit from globalisation, putting decent work on the agenda would be a step forward. Therefore, we must continue demanding a multilateral and fair trade system through the WTO working with other global



institutions such as ILO and the UN. I think that decent work should be our joint objective and focus.

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### **A joint agenda for Peace: the links between peace and democracy**

A recent study has shown that the number of conflicts around the world is diminishing. Maybe and fortunately so.

But, after the end of the Cold war, the world has seen many conflicts emerging, in the Balkans, in the Great Lakes region in Africa, in Iraq.

But, there are still some major unsolved conflicts, especially in the Middle East, and several threats exist.

I believe that the Middle East is an essential element of world stability today.

A few days ago we have seen a major development in the region: the elections in Palestine.

I want to congratulate President Mahmoud Abbas, in the difficult situation, for having ensured the organisation of the elections, that were free and fair elections.

Despite that positive element, the result of the elections is a disillusion for all of us. The reasons of the victory of Hamas are diverse and numerous. I believe that the responsibilities rely on the shoulders of many players. You know that and I know.

I may just say that every time the international community was calling not to support Hamas or threatening in case of its victory, it was just reinforcing it !

It may be easy to say it today, but the international community has not acted wisely.

In the actual situation, I want to focus on four objectives:

1. **Winning democratic elections gives you certain legitimacy but it is not making you a democratic movement per se!** Hamas must respect democratic rules and principles. Hamas must respect the freedom of speech, of association, of religious beliefs, of gender equality. We will be close watchdogs of this!
2. **The international community should respect the choice of the Palestinian people.** We can't be accused for not accepting democracy when the results go against our expectations. But we can expect from Hamas to act in a responsible way by respecting the legitimate rights and interests of the Palestinian people. Hamas bears a historical responsibility now. It must demonstrate that it can transform itself into a governing party, accepting the engagements and commitments of the Palestinian authority. First and foremost to its neighbours, first and foremost the acceptance of Israel, and the



international community, first and foremost the implementation of the Road map.

3. **Negotiations are and remain the only way to reach a just and comprehensive peace.** Unilateralism is doomed to fail. Violence is doomed to fail. The Israeli government must engage in negotiations. Hamas must renounce the use of violence.
4. One thing must not be forgotten: Democracy came with Fatah. **Fatah, and Mahmoud Abbas, has brought democratic culture into the recent Palestinian political life and should be recognised for that.** I hope that it will take the benefit of this experience to be strong again soon because we need a secular, progressive and committed partner in power in Palestine. I wish to express my support for you in this difficult time, to find your unity quickly and to be an offensive opposition force.

I would also like to mention that according to my experience, it is difficult to achieve anything if it has not been prepared through dialogue. The future Palestinian government will soon have the opportunity to demonstrate its ambition, which will therefore give the indication on the policy to adopt. I believe therefore that doors must remain open, at least until we know.

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I want to express my support to the people on both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, that advocate the end of this conflict through peaceful negotiations.

The Israeli general elections are coming soon, and I want to address my support to Labor and Yahad-Meretz for a good result.

We are with you Amir (Peretz), the new leader of the Labor party. You have brought a new dynamism in Israeli political life with a strong social democratic message.

We support you !

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Peace and democracy are essential and vast issues, and I would like to present you how we can foster a joint agenda for Peace.

**First**, by promoting multilateralism and multilateral governance. Multilateralism and respect for international law are pillars of the EU foreign policy.

**Secondly**, to empower the UN to respond effectively to future global challenges. The UN is the pivot of the multilateral system. I advocate United Nations reform as an important part of this process. The UN World Summit held in New York on 14-16<sup>th</sup> September 2005 has not fulfilled the objectives: a fundamental reform of the Organisation and a more vigorous dynamic in the fight against poverty.



I welcomed the reforms introduced: the Peace Building Commission, the reformed Human Rights Council, an agreed definition of terrorism and a renewed impetus for reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

The new Human Rights Council will give a new credibility to the UN's will to struggle against human rights violations. It is an essential element of EU Foreign policy to promote Human Rights all over the world. **Europe is also engaged in the campaign against the death penalty that should be a target for every society.**

Good steps, but not sufficient progress. In the future an agreement must be reached on the membership of the Security Council. The UN system must be democratised and should better represent the world's new, big and fast-growing economies.

An equally important priority must be the reform of ECOSOC and to create an UN Human Development Council. I am talking about an Economic and Social Security Council, that oversees a reformed and more democratic WTO, the Bretton Woods institutions and the ILO. **This new Human Development Council should be the coordinator of all efforts to promote the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).** It should guarantee the coherence of their policies and respect of the MDGs.

**Thirdly**, Peace and peaceful resolution of conflicts is a must. We must engage in fighting the root causes of conflicts; poverty, injustice, oppression. **We must fight and condemn terrorism by acting with preventive policies not preventive wars.**

**Fourthly**, proliferation of nuclear technology and the accompanying risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are major challenges faced by the international community and are high on the agenda.

**Fifthly**, Africa must be at the heart of global politics. The Millennium Development Goals must receive all our support in order to deliver its objectives in 2015. Unfortunately, the battle is badly engaged and requires bigger efforts to fight poverty in Africa. **We support the campaign to "Make poverty history"**, as the Global Progressive Forum did during its last big event in Milan in September last year.

Europe has a political responsibility of solidarity with the rest of the world. Unfortunately Europe is not playing the role it should play on a world scene. I want the PES to play a role in the way Europe contributes to today's globalisation challenges.

Europe must strive for a globalisation that benefits humanity: a fair and human globalisation. I want to say to all members of SI: "You can count on the PES, we will be very consequent and maximise our forces to promote Europe's solidarity with the Developing world".

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The PES and the social democratic movement have a vision to answer to the concerns of the citizens of the world.



Our agenda can provide answers to the rise of extremism, fanaticism and intolerance, that we see growing in different parts of the world. We want to bring people and culture closer through an Alliance of civilisations as Jose Luis Zapatero presented recently.

We refuse simplistic and demagogic answers that create distance and deception with politics. We want to demonstrate that politics is made of different approaches by convincing people and not fooling them or playing with their fears. The PES wants to be creative, innovative and offensive to be a real actor of change in European politics.

With strong national parties, we will have a strong PES. **With George, I wish that PASOK will win the next elections in Greece.** With a strong PES, we will develop a strong SI.

**With a strong SI, let's be all together the actors of change to the benefit of all people.**

