



10th June 2010

Strategy for jobs, growth, inclusion, fairness and sustainability **Joint Declaration adopted by the PES Presidency and the S&D Group in the** **European Parliament on the Europe 2020 strategy**

The European Council on 17 June will take a crucial decision on the Europe 2020 strategy. At its meeting in March 2010, the European Council missed a historic opportunity to draw all the necessary lessons from the current crisis and to define a truly far-sighted, ambitious and coherent strategy for a greener, smarter and inclusive Europe.

We put people first and therefore call for a new direction for Europe – for **decent jobs, growth, inclusion, fairness and sustainability**. In order to more effectively fight unemployment, social and labour market exclusion, social and gender inequalities, and ecological degradation, we call for the June European Council to make the Europe 2020 strategy an agenda for true sustainable development by deciding on the following key issues:

1. **A robust macro-economic coordination for jobs and growth:** The June European Council should make a clear statement that fiscal stimulus to sustain demand will be kept in place until the recovery on the labour market is secured; that coordination of national fiscal policies will be improved to generate positive spill-over effects across Member States; that the Union and Member States make efforts to increase the proportion of taxes raised from carbon and financial sources, and in public spending towards job creating investments; that financial regulation must be improved; and that the strategy needs to be underpinned by an adequate financing programme, with new EU financing instruments, including Eurobonds, green taxes and financial transaction tax, and financing of major development of Trans-European Transport and Energy networks.
2. **A strong social dimension for inclusion and fairness:** To redress the imbalances in the European economy, to restore the confidence of Europe's citizens and to fulfil the promises of the Commission President to reinforce the social model, the June European Council should decide to introduce a) an ambitious headline target for poverty reduction and b) a qualitative headline target to increase the quality of work for women and men, young and old, and to tackle precarious work. The latter should comprise an additional flagship initiative, including the proposal for a new legislative agenda to strengthen workers' rights, working conditions and social inclusion.
3. **A green European economy for sustainability:** The June European Council should call for concrete proposals and legislation needed to profoundly transform our long-term patterns of production, consumption and transportation, in order to decarbonise our economy, become more energy independent and build an economy compatible with the resource limits of our planet. The European Council should strengthen the emission reduction target to 30%, introduce specific measures to boost renewable energy and



support public transport. Concrete programmes to create green jobs, to skill and train workers for green jobs and to ensure a just transition to a carbon-free economy should be introduced. Ensuring ecological sustainability, for example by making real efforts to protect biodiversity, must be introduced into the strategy.

Working method

An effective governance: our central demands are a) a commitment to a lead role for the Commission in target-setting and bench-marking (which should of course take account of differing national circumstances); b) increasing the accountability of Member States on reaching the targets they set themselves; c) the democratic legitimacy and ownership of the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, which should be gender mainstreamed and based on intergenerational solidarity, should be strengthened by more involvement of national parliaments and all levels of government, social partners and civil society, and by increasing the formal involvement of the European Parliament; d) the Stability and Convergence Programmes should be consistent with the National Reform Programmes; e) the set of criteria for surveillance of budgetary discipline should include employment; and f) external action tools need to be used in order to improve environmental and social standards globally.

