



PES

A New Direction for Progressive Societies

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PES appeals to the world governments: Do not miss this historic opportunity – make the Copenhagen Climate Negotiations a success
Adopted by the 8th PES Congress

Certain things cannot be postponed

European socialists and social democrats are deeply concerned about the grave consequences climate change will have for mankind. Rising sea levels, desertification, floods, decline in agricultural yields, spread of dangerous disease and consequently huge economic losses will affect especially the poor and disadvantaged. We have a window of opportunity of just a few years, before dangerous climate change becomes inevitable.

Act now and make it binding

We call upon all governments not to waste the historic opportunity offered by the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. We appeal to them to agree on a legally binding Climate Change Deal to reduce global emissions by a minimum of 30% until 2020, compared to 1990 figures. By postponing the agreement to late next year we would lose precious time in the race against climate change.

The industrialised world bears historical responsibility for climate change. We therefore appeal especially to the governments of developed countries to put forward ambitious national targets to reduce emissions by at least 30%. Vulnerable development countries should be supported to adapt to the consequences of climate change and mitigate emissions. An adequately resourced global climate fund for mitigation and adaptation as well as a global carbon trading system must be established. To complement the international agreement, midterm targets and action plans to reduce emissions by 80-95% until 2050 should be agreed in the next years.

Climate policy is also social policy

We urge all participants in Copenhagen to include in the agreement a strategy to protect the most vulnerable in developing, emerging, but also developed countries from climate change. Every individual, independent of his or her income, should be enabled to make a personal contribution to prevent climate change.

Europe should take the lead

The European Union must continue being at the forefront of the fight against climate change. We as social democratic and socialist governments commit ourselves to continue adopting and implementing ambitious climate policies on the national and the European level. We urge all liberal and conservative governments to do the same. We demand from the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the European Commission to agree within the year 2010 to adapt the climate and energy package to the 30% target, independent of whether other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emissions-reductions or not. Future EU legislation must have positive or at least neutral impact on the EU climate reduction targets. We believe that reforming our economy to a carbon free economy requires every sector in Europe, including transport, energy production, industry, services and agriculture, to reduce energy consumption and make maximum use of renewable energy. It is still more expensive to produce carbon free than producing carbon-intensive in Europe. We must fully implement the "polluter pays" principle and considerably increase the price of emitting green house gases into the atmosphere. This way, much more private investments will flow into green. To finance the necessary public investments, tax policies should be shifted to more green taxes and new financial instruments should be developed, such as green bonds.

More than words

We have been a leading force in fighting climate change. Unlike the conservatives and liberals, we socialists and social democrats have moved beyond rhetoric: our politicians on the European, national, regional and local level have introduced comprehensive legislation and public support schemes for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The first carbon-neutral congress

We appeal to all socialists and social democrats to make their own, personal contribution to protecting the climate. The Party of European Socialist makes a direct contribution to reducing green house gas emissions by holding its first carbon-neutral Congress in Prague. Emissions are reduced considerably and remaining emissions will be offset by supporting a renewable energy project in India. Further steps to reduce emissions by the PES long-term will be introduced in the coming months.

We can do it

Climate change is not inevitable. With the right political measures, sufficient private and public investments into renewable energy and energy efficiency and the readiness of all actors to transform production and consumption patterns, we can avoid devastating climate change effects. The PES and all its member parties are committed to work towards this goal and invite everyone to join us in these efforts.