



## **Rules of procedure of the 8<sup>th</sup> PES Congress Adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> PES Congress**

### **Introduction**

These rules of procedure, adopted by the Presidency on 19 November 2009 are proposed to the Congress in accordance with article 24.2 of the PES Statutes.

These rules are based on the PES Statutes currently in force, adopted at the 7<sup>th</sup> PES Congress in Porto on 7-8 December 2006. They do not rule out any amendments tabled by the Presidency to the Congress which are adopted by the Congress itself.

### **Composition of the Congress**

#### **Article 1**

The number of Congress delegates, nominated in accordance with article 17 of the PES Statutes, are listed in annex 1 (delegates with voting rights) and in annex 2 (other delegates) of the Rules of Procedure.

The list of other parties, organisations and individuals invited to the Congress, adopted by the Presidency in accordance with article 17.6 of the PES Statutes, is available with the Congress bureau. Registered PES Activists are invited to the Congress, in their own capacity, as guests. In this quality, they may attend plenary sessions without the right to speak or to vote.

#### **Article 2**

In accordance with article 35.4, member parties of the PES are not entitled to vote if they have not paid annual membership fees.

### **Powers of the Congress**

#### **Article 3**

In accordance with article 16 of the PES Statutes, the Congress is the supreme organ of the Party.

#### **Article 4**

In accordance with article 16.4 of the PES Statutes, full and associate members may put forward and defend proposals at the Congress. The Presidency or the Congress bureau may invite guests to address the Congress.

## **Article 5**

In accordance with article 16.2 of the PES Statutes, the Congress shall :

- elect the President;
- confirm the members of the Presidency, as proposed by the Member parties and organisations;
- adopt resolutions and recommendations to parties, the Presidency and the group in the European Parliament;
- give its response to the activity report of the PES for the preceding period and on the action programme for the future submitted by the Presidency;
- discuss and take note of the report of activities submitted by the group in the European Parliament.

In accordance with article 16.3 of the PES Statutes, the Congress shall by a qualified majority and on a proposal from the Presidency:

- adopt the PES Statutes (after having adopted amendments to the Statutes), which will take effect at the closing of the Congress ;
- decide on the admission and exclusion of members as well as the status of member parties and organisations.

## **Article 6**

Speaking time will be shared fairly between Full member parties and organisations on the basis of their number of delegates.

## **Conduct of the Congress**

### **Article 7**

In accordance with article 24.2 of the PES Statutes, the Presidency sets the date and venue for the Congress. It proposes the internal rules of procedure and the agenda which are adopted once the Congress is opened.

The President or the Secretary General announces the start and the end of the Congress.

### **Article 8**

Following the Presidency proposal, the Congress elects by simple majority, a Congress Bureau, including a Congress Chair, and 4 tellers.

On the Presidency's proposal, the Congress debates are managed by the Congress Bureau. The Congress Bureau makes recommendations to the Congress on the procedure for decision-making debates and votes. These recommendations require simple majority.

## **Decisions and votes by the Congress**

### **Article 9**

In accordance with article 15.5 of the PES Statutes, the quorum for votes requires two thirds of full member parties to be present.

Any request for a quorum must be made by 25 percent of full member parties. In the absence of a quorum, the Congress Bureau shall declare that the result cannot be announced without the quorum.

## **Article 10**

In accordance with article 15.3 of the PES Statutes, political decisions shall, in principle, be taken on the basis of consensus whenever possible. If a consensus cannot be reached, decisions regarding policy areas subject to majority voting in the Council of the European Union shall be taken on the basis of qualified majority. Qualified majority is based on more than 75 percent of the votes cast. The allocation of votes for a qualified majority per party and per organisation is equal to that party and organisation's number of delegates to the PES Congress (see Annex 1). Proxy voting is not permitted.

## **Article 11**

In accordance with article 15.6 of the PES Statutes, a full member party may declare that it is not bound by a political decision taken by qualified majority, provided it expresses the intent before the vote is taken.

## **Article 12**

Rules concerning voting procedures:

- (1) Election of the PES President: by simple majority;
- (2) Confirmation of Presidency members: by simple majority;
- (3) Adoption of resolutions and recommendations to the parties, the Presidency and the parliamentary group: in accordance with articles 9 and 10 of the current rules of procedure;
- (4) Delivering an opinion on the PES activity report for the preceding period and the future work programme submitted by the Presidency: by simple majority;
- (5) Delivering an opinion on the activity report submitted by the Parliamentary Group of the PES in the European Parliament: by simple majority;
- (6) Amendments and adoption of PES Statutes: by qualified majority on a proposal by the Presidency;
- (7) Decisions on the membership and status of parties and organisations as well as exclusion of members: by qualified majority on a proposal by the Presidency.

## **Article 13**

Amendments shall have priority over the text to which they relate and shall be put to the vote before the text. If two or more amendments have been tabled to the same part of a text, the amendment that departs furthest from the original text shall have priority and shall be put to the vote first. If it is adopted the other amendments shall fall. If it is rejected, the amendment next in priority shall be put to the vote and similarly for each of the remaining amendments.

## **Article 14**

In accordance with article 15.5 of the PES Statutes, votes are cast per member party and organisation. Member parties and organisations are free to cast their votes individually or collectively. The Congress bureau shall call for a show of hands. If the result is unclear the Chair shall make a roll call per party.

The vote for the PES President shall be cast by secret ballot. Voting will start at 10.00 on 7<sup>th</sup> December and close at 12.00 on the same day. Individual ballot papers will be distributed to

the Heads of voting delegations, or their representatives, who will organise the vote inside their delegations and cast the vote on behalf of their full delegation

#### **Article 15**

The Congress bureau shall declare a vote open and closed. Once the vote has been declared open, no one except the Congress bureau shall be allowed to speak until the vote is closed. The Congress bureau shall decide whether the result of the vote is valid.

#### **Procedural Motions**

#### **Article 16**

Any delegate may be allowed to speak to draw the attention of the Congress bureau to any failure to respect the Congress Rules of Procedure (Point of order). The delegate shall first specify to which rule s/he is referring.

A request to raise a point of order shall take precedence over all other requests to speak. Speaking time shall be one minute. The Congress bureau shall take an immediate decision on a point of order, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and shall announce that decision once a point of order has been raised.

#### **Congress decisions**

#### **Article 17**

In accordance with article 19 of the PES Statutes, the decisions and the documents adopted by the Congress shall be communicated to members of the PES and shall be published on the PES Website.

**Annex 1 - Delegates with voting rights to the 8<sup>th</sup> PES Congress 2009**  
(as adopted by the PES Presidency on 2 September 2009, on the basis of art. 17.1 and Annex 3 of the PES Statutes)

<b>Country</b>	<b>Party / organisation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Austria	SPÖ	8
Belgium	PS	6
	Spa	5
Bulgaria	BSP	8
Cyprus	EDEK	4
Czech Republic	CSSD	11
Denmark	SD	7
Estonia	SDE	4
Finland	SDP	6
France	PS	23
Germany	SPD	28
Greece	PASOK	11
Hungary	MSzP	8
Hungary	MSzDP	2
Ireland	Labour	7
Italy	DS	20
Italy	PS	3
Latvia	LSDSP	3
Lithuania	LSDP	7
Luxembourg	LSAP	4
Malta	MLP	5
Netherlands	PvdA	10
Norway	DNA	7
Poland	SLD	17
Poland	UP	3
Portugal	PS	11
Romania	PSD	14
Slovakia	SMER	8
Slovenia	SD	4
Spain	PSOE	26
Sweden	SAP	9
United Kingdom	Labour	22
Northern Ireland	SDLP	2
	S & D Group in the European Parliament	28
	PES Group in the Committee of the Regions	3
	ECOSY	3
	PES Women	3
	FEPS	3
	PES President	1
	PES SG	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>355</b>

**N.B. The number of delegates includes the Members of the Presidency**

**Annex 2 - Delegates without voting rights to the 8<sup>th</sup> PES Congress 2009**  
(as adopted by the PES Presidency on 2 September 2009, on the basis of art. 17.2 and  
17.5 of the Statutes)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Party / organisation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full member organisation		S&D Group in the EP	156
Full member organisation		PES Group in the CoR	36
Full member organisation		PES Women	9
Full member organisation		ECOSY	46
Full member organisation		FEPS	5
Associate party	Bulgaria	PBS	5
Associate party	Croatia	SDP	5
Associate party	Fyr Macedonia	SDSM	5
Associate party	Switzerland	PS	5
Associate party	Turkey	CHP	5
Associate party	Turkey	DTP	5
Associate organisation		Socialist International	5
Associate organisation		Socialist Group in OSCE	5
Associate organisation		Socialist Group in CoE	5
Observer party	Andorra	PSD	2
Observer party	Bosnia & Herzegovina	SDP	2
Observer party	Iceland	SDA	2
Observer party	Israel	Labor Party	2
Observer party	Israel	Yachad-SDI	2
Observer party	San Marino	PSD	2
Observer party	Serbia	DS	2
Observer organisation		EFDS	2
Observer organisation		ESO	2
Observer organisation		IFM-SEI	2
Observer organisation		ISDUE	2
Observer organisation		IUSY	2
Observer organisation		SAMAK	2
Observer organisation		Rainbow Rose	2
Observer organisation		SI Women	2
Observer organisation		USLRRE	2
Ex-officio delegates		PES Commissioners	6
Ex-officio delegates		SG European Council	1
Ex-officio delegates	President Parliamentary Assembly CoE		1
Ex-officio delegates	President Parliamentary Assembly OSCE		1
<b>Total</b>			<b>338</b>