



03 May 2007

PES MANIFESTO CONSULTATION WORK PLAN

Adopted by PES Presidency on 03 May 2007

PES Leaders agreed in Berlin on 24th March to launch a consultation as part of the new bottom-up process to create a PES manifesto for the European elections of June 2009.

This bottom-up consultation will involve member parties and member organizations as well as party members, including PES activists, party-linked foundations and experts, as well as trade unions, and NGOs. The public dimension of the consultation will have an open and informal character. While the consultation will contribute to the PES' efforts to achieve a highly relevant manifesto, the formal decision-making procedure in relation to the drafting and adoption of the PES manifesto would remain those provided for by the PES statutes.

The present paper sets out the objectives, main target audience, structure and tools of the consultation, to be launched at the Leaders' meeting of June 2007.

1. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the PES manifesto consultation will be to ensure that the final manifesto effectively addresses the concerns and aspirations of Europe's citizens and fully reflects the perspectives of the European socialist and social democratic family for the European Union's political strategy and programme 2009-2014.

The consultation process must contribute to making the manifesto a substantial political document and to preparing the subsequent election campaign itself.

In this sense, the consultation process will be of highest relevance to member parties and organizations through the following objectives:

- a. To ensure that the PES manifesto for the European elections of June 2009 is relevant to the aspirations and concerns of Europe's citizens.
- b. To gather the best ideas for the PES manifesto in relation to the EU's political programme 2009-2014 on each of the four themes chosen.
- c. To ensure that PES member parties and member organisations – through all relevant decision-making levels – genuinely shape and have ownership of the PES manifesto to ensure its relevance for their European election campaigns;
- d. To raise awareness and encourage mobilisation of members of our parties, notably PES activists, on European issues in view of the campaign for the European elections;

2. MAIN TARGET AUDIENCE

In line with these four objectives, the target audience of the consultation is the following:

- a. PES member parties, the PES Group and other member organisations
- b. Party members, particularly PES activists
- c. ETUC members, NGOs, and socialist and social democratic foundations



3. STRUCTURE AND TOOLS

The consultation must be designed to meet the four objectives, reaching each target audience as appropriate, which implies a differentiated approach.

The public consultation will have its own name and visual identity, which will be used both by the PES and member parties and organisations. The PES will develop all necessary communication tools, in consultation with member party communicators' (first consultation will take place at the PES Communicators' seminar on 27th April 2007). The PES will investigate new communication techniques, in collaboration with member party communicators, for example those being discussed and developed by the US Democratic Party to engage members and the electorate in new, effective ways.

A. Consultation with the member parties and organisations

- a. Member parties and organisations will conduct the consultation with their national executives and their relevant policy-making bodies as part of an internal process.
- b. The PES will provide discussion papers on each theme in the 4 working languages.
- c. Member parties will make written submissions, on the basis of their internal consultation and taking account of the results of their public consultation (see point B).

B. Consultation with members of our parties, notably PES activists and the wider public

- a. There will be two pillars to this part of the public consultation: a consultation undertaken by the PES, in English and French, on its website, stimulating grassroots debates and contributions; a consultation undertaken by member parties and socialist members of the European Parliament via their websites, public meetings and local party sections.
- b. All contributions submitted to the PES will be made available to PES member parties and organisations and information will be circulated regularly on activity in each member state.
- c. The PES will develop a specific website section and web tools for its consultation with activists and the wider public. An online questionnaire and discussion papers will inform and stimulate debate on each theme. The purpose of the website will be to encourage the highest level of interactivity and participation possible.
- d. The PES will launch a campaign from June to December 2007 to stimulate participation in the public consultation process.
- e. The PES will liaise with PES activists to stimulate debate in each activist group. Each group could name one person responsible for animating the consultation process in their section. Speakers could be provided where possible for debates, for example, local MEPs.
- f. Member parties will conduct their own public consultations: providing web content for translation and web tools as appropriate; co-organising public meetings in their member states, for example with their EP delegation; the PES will provide shorter discussion papers for translation and a starter kit.

C. Consultation with external European stakeholders (ETUC, NGOs, Foundations)

- a. The PES will solicit their responses to the PES' manifesto discussion papers.
- b. The PES will organise or co-organise public meetings on the different themes of the manifesto with stakeholders.
- c. The PES will encourage the foundations to organise public meetings in their own countries to discuss the themes.



4. DISCUSSION PAPERS

There should be four public discussion papers, each covering the manifesto themes: New Social Europe; Saving our Planet; Europe in diversity and democracy; Europe in the world.

The discussion papers will be structured as follows:

- a. Context and Challenges
What is the theme, what is its political and policy context at present?
Why have we chosen this theme? Why is it a major challenge for the EU?
- b. Ideas for a progressive vision
What has the PES and its members been doing on this theme at EU level, what are our ideas/ reflections so far, also in relation to the right-wing?
- c. Questions for defining a progressive EU vision and policies for 2009-2014
Broad questions, each with a few paragraphs of explanatory text and further more detailed questions, if necessary

5. TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION PROCESS June 2007-June 2008

PES leaders agreed in Berlin that the consultation should run from June 2007 to June 2008, allowing five months between the closing of the consultation and the launch of the final manifesto document at the PES Council of November 2008.

The timetable below sets out the main stages of the consultation during this year-long period:

1. Launch of consultation: 21st June 2007 at PES Leaders' meeting.
2. The presentation of the first results of the consultation and debate on the four themes at the PES Council of November 2007. PES activists are invited to present the results of their debates.
3. Report on progress of consultation and first internal PES discussion paper on manifesto, PES Leaders' meeting, March 2008.
4. Deadline for written submissions to consultation, May 2008.
5. End of public consultation at a closing event prior to the Leaders' meeting of June 2008.

