

OUR

ALTERNATIVE

VISION FOR EUROPE.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS.



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



"THE FIRST 100 DAYS TO CHANGE EUROPE"

Together, we have the choice. Together, we can change Europe and offer 500 million European citizens a new direction. We want a different Europe: fairer, socially balanced and democratic. Don't settle for the way Europe is run now, falling apart and a far cry from the values it was originally founded on.

It's your choice. In May 2014, there will be elections to a new European Parliament and the outcome of the Parliamentary elections will determine who leads the new Commission.

Europe does not work - we have to get it back on track

The global crisis has not only led to failing banks. Even states themselves have suffered the fallout of the banking crisis, leading to thousands of people losing their jobs and savings. The European Commission has imposed austerity with such rigour that we see massive protests in the streets, especially in southern Europe, and the younger generation has been hit most cruelly by the crisis. Youth unemployment has reached a level no one would have believed just a few years ago.



A different vision for Europe - progressive and socially balanced

The Europe of today is being eroded and is in a state of despair, with many citizens losing trust in the European project as a whole. The European social model, based on solidarity and co-operation, is under attack. The 50 years of peace that the EU has brought are no longer enough to compensate for its weakness in tackling the problems which people are experiencing today.

We welcome the first feeble signs of recovery, but Europe is still in a deep crisis: economically, socially and politically. For us, true recovery starts when employment is going up and people have jobs they can live from.

The slow growth expected for the next months and years will not be enough to make the the social, psychological and even health consequences of the economic crisis disappear. We need to put right the distorted distribution of incomes and reduce income gaps between rich and poor, between men and women, and between migrants and non-migrants. That will need budget and tax policies based on fairness, which bring down the debts of EU countries by boosting growth and jobs.

For our alliance of progressive forces, social equality and economic

efficiency go hand in hand. We are fighting for a Europe based on solidarity – among European countries and among their people.

An end to austerity

Throughout the crisis, the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament has fought against the damaging conservative obsession with cuts in public services and investment. We have offered a different, more forward-looking political agenda. We have also started, through our work in the European Parliament, to construct new rules for the financial sector. This will reduce the instability we have all suffered because of deregulated financial markets. But more must still be done to bring stability, growth and employment back to our European economy.

Re-industrialising Europe - driver for jobs and growth

Europe needs an industrial renaissance to cut unemployment and create decent, skilled jobs. Structural changes will be needed. The most successful economic countries in the world are those which have fostered agriculture, industry and services together. We are proud of Europe's world-leading service industries, but we need a better balance with a stronger industrial sector. We call for a new European industrial policy and a re-

industrialisation of Europe to create sustainable jobs in new and existing companies. And rapid action on the youth guarantee to combat youth unemployment is vital. Conservatives accept mass unemployment as something Europe must learn to live with – we do not. Our pledge to restore full employment will be our highest priority.

We cannot leave Europe to populists and nationalists

Economic and social crises often lead to political radicalisation and extremism. We need a clear strategy to preserve democracy and civil liberties – a vital part of our European identity. We see populist parties rising dangerously in several European countries, minorities suffering discrimination and basic rights under threat. Still more worrying, some once-respectable mainstream conservative parties have tried to exploit these tendencies for political advantage, endangering democracy and media freedom. As progressives, we stand for a citizens' Europe where all of us can feel at home and where discrimination of any kind is rejected.

A democratic and accountable Europe trusted by its citizens

The rule of law and respect for European values must be guaranteed throughout the EU, in every country and by every

government. Human rights, enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, are just as important as social, economic or environmental progress in the Europe we want to build.

Europe in the world - only together can we be strong

Too many European decisions are being taken behind closed doors by national leaders at the never-ending series of EU summits – without proper accountability at either national or European level. This anti-European and anti-democratic tendency must stop. We need member states to make a clear commitment to Europe. Of course, the EU political system is complex and diverse. But it can work if we use it the way it was originally intended – as a democratic institutional set-up respecting national interests and finding common interests where possible for the benefit of all its citizens. Whether in foreign affairs, international trade or climate policy, we can only make an impact and change the world if we work together.

Responsibility of the Council!

There are huge tasks for the new European Commission taking office next year and for the first time its president will be chosen on the basis of the European Parliamentary elections. To face the challenges ahead, we need a

new Commission president who, like Jacques Delors, is strongly committed to Europe and has a clear vision of a socially just and democratic Europe.

To make Europe work, we also need to see a more responsible approach from the Council of Ministers. The majority in the Council and within the Commission, infected by neo-liberal ideology, are imposing misguided and counter-productive austerity which is weakening the European Union. Instead of pushing yet again for a weak Commission, the Council should have the courage and vision to appoint a Commission which would be the engine of the European Union. We urge and expect the Council to choose the most capable candidate, and to make that choice from among the candidates proposed by the political families elected, in line with the Lisbon Treaty.

The first 100 days of the future European Commission

This publication lays down our call for action to the new European Commission and its first 100 days in office. We highlight three areas that cry out for urgent change: creating growth and jobs, reindustrialisation and civil liberties. We set out what we have achieved in the last few years and spell out what still needs to be done.

Of course there is much to be done in other policy fields too – foreign affairs, climate change and many others. We shall spell out in coming months where we stand on all of them.

These progressive proposals can transform Europe from an economy of recession and a society of despair to an economy of growth and a society of hope. We have a vision to help Europe's citizens return to a decent life.

As president of the S&D Group, I represent 194 Socialist and Democrat MEPs. Yet, to be effective in Europe it is important to bring together a coalition of progressive forces. In our work in the European Parliament we have long experience in that and after the elections we look forward to working together with all those who share our values and want to build a better, fairer Europe.

It's your choice – Europe is in your hands. Take this opportunity and make it a better place to live in – for all of us.



Hannes Swoboda
S&D Group President



4' 11"

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**OUR TARGET: TO COMBINE
COMPETITIVENESS AND
REFORMS WITH EMPLOYMENT
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

1. THE CRISIS RECOVERY, FAIRNESS AND GROWTH

In the five years since the 2009 European elections, the political landscape has been transformed. The gap between left and right has widened in Europe, on economic and social policy in particular, as it has become clear that there are two very different views on how to respond to the global financial crisis of 2008 and the recession that has followed.

The conservatives: harsh austerity, citizens pay. In 2009, rapid intervention was starting to bring Europe out of recession. By spring 2011, unemployment had fallen by 700,000 and GDP was up by 3.7%. But then unemployment began to rise again, putting almost 4 million more people out of work. What happened to the recovery? Europe switched from stimulus to austerity. Country after country lost its nerve and tightened its fiscal belt, urged on by the conservatives at the European Commission. Europe's recovery was stifled by the dogmatic politics of its conservative-dominated leadership, while the US, for example, has continued a slow but steady recovery.

The right has chosen to treat public spending as the problem and

prescribed a poisonous 'cure' of ever-increasing austerity, targeting the hard-won employment and social rights which protect European citizens. The inevitable price has been mass unemployment, stagnating economies and savage cuts in public spending and social provision. The right has safeguarded the interests of the banks and financial markets which caused the crash, and transferred the cost to taxpayers and ordinary citizens.

The social-democrats: growth, jobs, sustainability. The S&D Group has continuously fought for a different response to the crisis and an alternative vision of Europe's future. We have looked at the underlying causes of the crisis and set out an

alternative strategy to put them right and get Europe back to prosperity and fairness. We will ensure that public debt is reduced gradually to sustainable levels and that the European Union plays its full part in maintaining sound public finances, by promoting growth and employment and fighting tax evasion.

Our vision would reform and regulate the dysfunctional and self-serving financial sector, end the social inequalities – including the widening gap between rich and poor – which have contributed to economic instability, and redesign the flawed architecture of the eurozone and Europe's economic decision-making.

“**TAX EVASION IS MONEY
STOLEN FROM THE PUBLIC
AND GROWTH AND JOBS
LOST. IT IS TIME TO STOP
FRAUDSTERS AND TAX
EXILES!**”



S&D ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SINCE 2009

Since the last elections in 2009 the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of Ministers have been largely dominated by the right, so we have had a tough battle on our hands to combat the right's dogma of austerity. As wages, social protection systems and public services have repeatedly come under fire, the Socialists and Democrats have been able to give a voice to the millions of Europeans who have rejected the frenzy of cuts, showing that there can be a different Europe from the stumbling failure we have seen in recent years.

Our achievements speak for themselves and despite not having a majority, the Socialists and Democrats have won many important victories in the Parliament since 2009, defending a strong, socially just Europe:

- The S&D Group's tough stance on the **financial transaction tax** put the issue at the top of the EU agenda as a vital way to curb the excesses of financial institutions, ensure they pay their fair share of tax and **ease the tax burden** on the public. We commissioned an academic study

to measure the real benefits of the scheme, won the Parliament's backing and helped push the Commission to propose an EU-wide levy in 2011. Despite fierce lobbying from the financial sector, the financial transaction tax has now been agreed and will soon be introduced by 11 out of 28 European countries. We'll fight on to get it adopted by all 28.

- We **challenged the right-wing economic consensus** and took up the **fight against austerity**. We set the agenda by commissioning three independent

PHOTO ON TOP: Response to EU crisis, European Parliament, Brussels, 28 March 2012

From left to right, Paul Magnette (President of Parti Socialiste, Belgium), Harlem Désir (First Secretary of Parti Socialiste, France), Hannes Swoboda (President of the S&D Group, European Parliament) and Jacques Delors (Former President of the European Commission)

economic institutes to produce an **Independent Annual Growth Survey** to make space for independent analysis and question the Commission's own Annual Growth Survey, the cornerstone of their dogged austerity politics. This study demonstrated that an alternative economic strategy is needed to put an end to recession and restore jobs and growth. Against this background, we successfully amended the new EU budget rules to help safeguard growth and investment.

- The Socialists and Democrats led the campaign for the **European Youth Guarantee**, to help tackle the catastrophe of ever-rising youth unemployment. In February 2013, the Council finally agreed €6 billion for national governments to set up the guarantee for unemployed workers aged under 25. It's a start but not enough – at least €20 billion is needed, according to the International Labour Organisation – and we won't stop until we succeed.
- Well before the 2008 financial crash which plunged the world into recession, the Socialists and Democrats were sounding the

alarm. We published a report in 2007 calling for **better regulation of the financial sector**, especially hedge funds and private equity firms. Following the crash we insisted on a **European Parliament investigation** into the causes and consequences, and successfully persuaded the Parliament to adopt our hard-hitting report. Since 2009, the Socialists and Democrats have led

the drive for reform and intense regulatory work has been carried out – despite the hesitancy of liberal and conservative MEPs. Our successes include regulation of **credit rating agencies**, caps on **bankers' bonuses**, higher capital and stability requirements for banks, the creation of new **European supervisory authorities** and bans or checks on some of the most risky speculative practices.

“**THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC MODEL MUST BE BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES: COMPETITION WHICH STIMULATES, CO-OPERATION WHICH STRENGTHENS AND SOLIDARITY WHICH UNITES.**”

Jacques Delors
former President of the European Commission

■ From the start of the crisis, our Group was the first to recognise that stronger European economic co-ordination demands far more effective **democratic scrutiny**. In 2011 we won the European Parliament's support for an S&D report calling for a more open and accountable system of economic decision-making.

■ We never missed an opportunity to fight to bring down the ruinous interest rates on sovereign debt and we were the first to call for the European Central Bank to **calm financial markets** by making clear it was ready to intervene. It finally conceded in September 2012, bringing down the sky-high borrowing costs which had deepened the crisis in several EU countries. And we successfully pushed a hesitant European Commission to take the first steps towards mutualising the debt of EU countries, to **bring**

down interest rates

and safeguard the public purse against financial speculators.

■ The S&D Group were the first to raise the scandalous issue of **tax evasion** and **tax fraud** at EU level. We defined an alternative strategy and in February 2012 commissioned an S&D study which revealed that **tax cheats cost EU governments and taxpayers €1 trillion every year** – a figure that has since been accepted by the Commission and many other organisations. Thanks to this pressure, tax evasion has come to the top of the agenda for the G20 and many governments. In May 2013 the European Parliament adopted our radical proposals for a crackdown on tax evasion, avoidance and **tax havens**, designed to halve tax fraud by 2020. Again, we will work together to achieve tax justice.

“**IN SOME COUNTRIES IN EUROPE 1 IN 2 YOUNG PEOPLE CAN'T FIND WORK. THE TALENTS OF A WHOLE GENERATION OF BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING WASTED**”



OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2014 AND BEYOND

A Europe of democracy, growth and fairness. By 2014, when a new European Parliament and Commission will take office, Europe will have wasted six years mired in recession and stagnation as a result of misguided and divisive economic policies. The Socialists and Democrats in the next Parliament will demand urgent measures from the new Commission to start putting Europe's economy right.

Make European economic policy accountable. We start with democratic accountability because much of the blame for Europe's six wasted years lies with secretive and undemocratic decision-making.

To get better decisions, we need to open up European economic governance to democratic scrutiny.

Abolishing the Troika is the first essential step towards a democratic EU. Since 2010, a 'Troika' of unaccountable officials from the European Commission, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank – steered by the European Council – has demanded cuts in public services, welfare benefits, jobs and salaries.

Too much EU economic policy is made behind closed doors by the Council of Ministers, or by committees of civil servants. We

need **democratic and publicly debated decision-making** with a strong voice for the European Parliament and more parliamentary scrutiny at national level.

Restore jobs and growth. The new Commission must put **employment at the heart of economic policy**, with full employment as the central objective of EU economic co-ordination and an integrated active employment policy.

The **European Youth Guarantee** – ensuring young people get an offer of good-quality employment, training or education within four months of becoming unemployed

PHOTO ON TOP: Competitiveness and cohesion in the eurozone, Progressive Economy conference, Lisbon, 8 July 2013

“A EUROPE OF SOLIDARITY, INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IS A WIN-WIN STORY”

– should be extended to everyone under the age of 30. Adequate financial backing and standards for internships and apprenticeships are urgently needed or we will fail a whole generation.

Europe desperately needs a **balanced strategy for investment**. Independent studies show governments could invest an **extra €80 billion a year in growth and employment creation**, even within current budget rules. The new Commission should promote investment by giving investment a special status and governments an incentive to spend wisely.

Another key task for the new Commission is to set out proposals to **reform the European Central Bank (ECB)**. The ECB's decisions have had profound effects on financial stability, interest rates, the value of the euro and employment. But it currently has just one objective – price stability – and it is not answerable to any elected authority.

We want to see progress on **Eurobonds** to ‘mutualise’ debt and reduce financial vulnerability. This would bring benefits to both weaker and stronger EU economies, reduce public borrowing costs and reduce the instability of financial markets.

Under current rules, EU spending actually worsens the ups and downs of the economic cycle through spending more in good years and less in bad. We will press for action to **strengthen Europe's protection against economic instability** by creating a financial reserve of around 1% of GDP.

We will be tough guardians of public money, cutting out waste and directing expenditure to get the best value for Europe's citizens.

Build a more socially just Europe. Europe's recession has been made longer and deeper by deluded right-wing leaders who have seen public spending cuts as the answer to every problem, further depressing

confidence and reducing spending power. The Socialists and Democrats have argued for an economic, social and monetary union with a **balance between economic and social objectives** and stronger social rights.

We want to see a **social progress pact** to complement the stability and growth pact – including a scoreboard on **employment and social indicators**, and benchmarks for the ‘EU 2020’ strategy for growth. Social policy targets should be built into the ‘European Semester’ (the EU's forum for economic co-ordination), including a ‘better jobs’ target using the **EU Decent Work Index**, which the S&D Group has helped develop. We will continue to fight for a social charter to safeguard labour and civil rights, an employment and social investment programme, stronger dialogue between trade unions, business, government and civil society, and a special eurozone council to deal with social issues.

One of the most urgent priorities for Europe has to be **combating poverty**. The Commission must design a strategy to **eradicate child poverty**, backed by binding targets across the EU through the European Semester, the EU's policy co-ordination system. Our vision is for EU-wide social protection guaranteeing **universal access**

to health care, minimum levels of income and social rights that continue to protect people across borders.

Alongside social support, we want to see an EU framework for **living wages**, requiring member states to ensure that all full-time workers receive a wage above the poverty threshold – either by law or through collective bargaining – with pro rata guarantees for part-time workers. We want to see proposals for an **EU benefit scheme for short-term unemployment** to ensure a minimum level of economic security for workers hit by economic downturns. Equal pay is also a major concern and we would require member states to **reduce the gender pay gap** by 2% a year.

Working conditions are not an extravagance to be sacrificed in tough times, but a basic right for workers. We want to revise the Working Time Directive to respect **health and safety standards**. We would also introduce legislation to ensure all workers have equal legal protection regardless of the sector they work in and fight against unscrupulous practices that create job insecurity, including subcontracting, bogus self-employment, zero-hours contracts and abusive use of temporary work. Labour rights have to extend to

equal treatment for cross-border workers. We will push for improved legislation on equal pay and conditions for workers transferred to any EU workplace, ending the erosion of trade union rights and the threat of exploitation.

Reshape the financial sector. Continuing the work we have already done to reform the culture and stability of Europe's banks, we would take steps to **restructure the banks**, strictly separating commercial and investment activities so that risk-taking does not endanger savers, businesses and taxpayers. We must also **regulate the shadow banking system**, whose secretive activities helped disguise the risks that caused the 2008 global crash.

The EU can take an active role in creating a safer and more stable financial climate and we want to see Europe's **banking union** completed, with a single European supervisory mechanism, a deposit guarantee mechanism to protect savers and a resolution and recovery fund to allow the orderly closure of failing banks, financed by the financial sector not the taxpayer. **Credit rating agencies** cannot continue to have an undue and often damaging effect on the markets and we would establish an independent, public European

credit rating agency to offer an alternative to the US agencies whose errors helped cause the global financial meltdown.

Crack down on tax cheats. Tax justice is an urgent priority and we want the new Commission to commit to our targets and **halve tax evasion** by 2020. The EU needs a clear strategy to achieve this and it must be one of the goals of EU economic co-ordination.

We will fight to bring in **common company tax rules** to simplify the tax law jungle, cut the scope for tax avoidance by multinationals and prevent erosion of the tax base. With just one set of rules throughout the EU, even if tax rates differ, it will be easier for businesses but harder for tax cheats. Another priority will be to **get tough on tax havens**. The EU needs a law which establishes a clear definition so tax havens can be identified and a public European blacklist of tax havens so that political and economic pressure can isolate and eliminate the problem. And finally, we will fight to **take action against rogue financial advisers**. We will push for rules to suspend the banking licences of financial institutions and advisers which assist in tax fraud and to ensure they do not get access to EU funding, state aid and public contracts.



**RELAUNCHING
EUROPEAN INDUSTRY -
DRIVER FOR JOBS
AND GROWTH**

2. EUROPE'S INDUSTRY RENEWAL, INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY

EU industry accounts for roughly 75% of European exports and a third of all jobs. It provides a living for 57 million people and accounts for 80% of research and development spending. And its knock-on impact on employment is even greater, because each job in industry creates around two more jobs elsewhere.

But a profound crisis has hit European industry, whose needs in recent decades have too often been neglected in favour of services and – especially – the financial sector. European industrial policy has been the victim of the misguided idea that markets should regulate themselves. Action taken by European countries has mostly been limited to fire-fighting problems and Europe has lacked proactive strategies for industry, based on forward-looking analysis and cross-border co-ordination.

Europe's future is not just about cost-cutting. Often the one idea behind industrial policy has been to bring down labour costs in the name of competitiveness. But workers are not just a cost factor: they can be drivers of innovation too, which is the true basis of European

competitiveness. There is no future in trying to undercut the wage costs of Europe's global competitors. Investing in people is paramount, along with dynamic management, flexible organisation, smarter working and improved working conditions.

We need a new approach to the role of public authorities. State aid, for instance, cannot be seen as just a matter of competition law. It should be used to foster innovation and new products, and to help manage essential restructuring, for instance through retraining and redeploying employees. The skills needed to modernise and renew European industry are in short supply – more investment is needed in education and training.

Public and private research expenditure in the EU for the next few years must be significantly increased, especially for high-risk, cutting-edge projects and small and medium-sized firms. Administrative procedures, especially for access to research funds, need to be simplified.

Policies for transformation and sustainability. To build a more

sustainable economy, Europe needs a special focus on new ways of using energy and raw materials more efficiently and sustainably.

Europe needs stronger, better-co-ordinated and technology-neutral policies for leading sectors like environmental industries – which already employ 3.5 million people with a turnover of €300 billion a year and 50% of the global market. Special strategies for innovation are needed to help traditional industries, such as steel, chemicals, energy, automobiles and shipbuilding, to gain a competitive edge. We want close co-operation between stakeholders to develop and maintain investment and production in Europe.

A fair trade policy that includes decent social standards. Future trade agreements should be tailored to an industrial strategy based on fair competition and sustainable development. Trade deals should set high social, corporate and environmental standards, including protection against social dumping and respect for the fundamental rights of workers, as set out by the International Labour Organisation.



PHOTO © European Union 2012

S&D ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SINCE 2009

“**KNOWLEDGE IS AGELESS AND EUROPE MUST INVEST IN LIFE-LONG LEARNING**”

- The S&D Group wrote and promoted an ambitious and integrated **industrial policy** report which was adopted by the European Parliament in 2011. It made the case that European manufacturing is essential for good jobs and a secure economy, and also addressed climate change, demographic changes, global competition and scarcity of resources.
- We were very active on **energy policy**, working hard to achieve a binding target of **20% of renewable energy by 2020**. We fought for strong measures in the **Energy Efficiency Directive**, winning a tough battle to force energy suppliers to make cumulative energy efficiency savings of 1.5% a year until 2020.
- The S&D Group organised an **alternative energy summit**, setting out the arguments for a common EU energy policy and calling for more ambition to meet the '20-20-20' objectives on emissions, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- We added ambitious targets and policies to a Parliament report on how to build an **innovation union** to stimulate creativity in products, services and processes.

PHOTO ON TOP: S&D MEPs voting in plenary session, European Parliament, Strasbourg

- When the EU adopted the **telecoms package**, our Group secured clear rules and a fair balance between the needs of the telecoms sector and consumers.
- On **Horizon 2020**, the long-term programme which sets the framework for EU research spending, the S&D Group fought for **a strong 7-year programme** to safeguard research and development.
- Throughout the Parliament's work since 2009, our Group has played a key role in ensuring a good balance between environmental, social and industrial aspects of EU legislation. In the regulation **Reducing CO₂ Emissions from Vans** for example, we encouraged the development of green technologies to create jobs and give EU producers a competitive advantage.
- The S&D Group kept the development of sustainable industry in focus during negotiations on other issues too, such as the **Directive on the Use of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment**, or the **Directive on Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**.

We are still leading in this direction through our active role in the new legislation on the **control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances**, the so-called 'Seveso III' Directive.

“**DEVELOPING THE RECYCLING SECTOR AND INVESTING IN RESOURCE-EFFICIENCY GENERATES JOBS, REDUCES DEPENDENCY AND ENHANCES COMPETITIVENESS**”

Tedd fel kérdéseidet

Használd a következő hashtag-et:
#RelaunchEU



RELAUNCHING
EUROPE

EIN
EUROPÄISCHER
NEUSTART
Unsere Vision für die Zukunft

POWERED BY

Forum der Regionen, Allianz für
Sozialdemokratien
Europäische Bewegung



OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2014 AND BEYOND

“THE KEY TO
EUROPE’S
FUTURE IS
A SMART
INDUSTRIAL
POLICY”

A new vision for European industry. The European Commission which takes office in 2014 will have the chance to put right Europe’s industrial policy. The global recession triggered by the 2008 financial collapse has shown the dangers of blind faith in market forces and an unbalanced economy, privileging financial engineering over real engineering. **Re-industrialisation** must be a **cross-sectoral** priority for the European Union, rethinking a wide range of policies beyond the traditional, narrow conception of industrial policy.

The new Commission will have a chance to set out a new, more industry-friendly economic policy, putting in place policies to:

- **Support** sustainable jobs, growth and investment at a national level and through EU funding.
- **Create** a genuine single market with a level playing field on taxation and regulation.
- **Reshape** the financial sector, with adequate regulation and a return to its true role of financing the real economy - including small and medium-sized firms.

PHOTO ON TOP: Relaunching Europe event in Szeged (Hungary), 3 October 2013

- **Build** partnerships in the workplace, through a more developed European social dialogue.
- **Train** a highly educated, skilled and motivated workforce.
- **Manage** industrial change and restructuring.
- **Modernise** Europe's infrastructure - especially energy, telecommunications and transport - and improving cross-border connections and interoperability.
- **Encourage** more resource-efficient production.
- **Raise** Europe's game on research and innovation.

A framework for European industry. We will insist that the Commission sets out a clear vision for European industry up to 2020. This must be a broad strategy for **long-term competitiveness and sustainability**, with benchmarks and targets for measuring and monitoring progress. Special attention is needed for key European industries which face major challenges but still have clear business and employment potential. In **IT and telecommunications**,

which are crucial to the efficiency and competitiveness of every other economic sector, we want the Commission to work on creating a European digital single market to create efficiencies and encourage innovation. There are over 4 million ICT workers in the EU (growing by 3% a year, even in the current crisis) and huge potential for growth in the telecoms market which could boost the European economy.

The new Commission needs to bring new energy to putting the **entrepreneurship action programme** into practice – especially targeting specific groups such as young people, female entrepreneurs, new companies and those at a disadvantage.

The current tough economic climate has brought into focus the need to **manage industrial change** more constructively. The S&Ds would fight for a law based on the 2013 report on **industrial restructuring** we put to the European Parliament, which called for better planning and consultation on closures and relocations, with more resources for training and re-investment.

Ensuring finance for industry. Businesses need access to funds for investment, so the Commission must lead Europe in reorienting

“**INDUSTRY
PLAYS A
CENTRAL
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and regulating its financial sector to encourage productive investment, instead of risky and socially useless speculation.

The Commission should accompany that overhaul of the financial sector with a major effort to use funds to support innovative activities by smaller businesses and co-operatives. We want an **EU-wide inventory of best practices** and different financial funds and incentives. The 2008 Small Business Act also needs to be rapidly put into action to create a better climate for small businesses to start up and grow. The European Commission should ensure that co-operatives have access to funding available at EU-level, including the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund. It should use **project bonds** to offer increased funding for innovation, infrastructure and re-industrialisation, and **European Investment Bank credits** to fund green and sustainable growth projects.

Transformation and sustainability. We want the new Commission to make plans to phase out all EU and national financial support for fossil fuels and environmentally unsustainable

policies, to allow greener producers and more sustainable products and services to compete.

The EU's 2004 **Environmental Technologies Action Plan** was a ground-breaking initiative to bring together research, environmental and economic strategies to promote technologies for sustainable development. We need follow-up from the Commission to build on its successes and product-specific legislation such as the **Eco-Design Directive** should be further developed. The Commission must also ensure that the **CARS 2020** action plan is properly implemented and advanced manufacturing technologies are promoted, to make the industry cleaner and more sustainable.

We need a comprehensive **raw materials strategy**, not limited to the 'critical raw materials' the current Commission is focusing on and we need an EU action plan to double **resource productivity** by 2020 – including a directive on resource productivity and efficiency if necessary.

The Commission should also set out how Europe will meet the ambitious and binding target of sourcing at least 45% of its energy

from **renewables** by 2030. To achieve that, it will also need to set enforceable energy efficiency targets. This would reduce expensive imports of fossil fuels, boosting our energy security and creating high-quality jobs in the EU. The Commission's earliest priorities should also include new proposals for improving European co-operation and co-ordination on energy – including Jacques Delors' idea of a **European energy community**. It should pioneer joint EU purchasing, to get better deals for our energy imports and promote a low-carbon, sustainable energy system, based on renewable energy, energy efficiency and smart infrastructure.

Effective industrial policy-making. Past European efforts to work together on industrial issues

have often relied on the 'open method of co-ordination' between member states, in which everything depends on action by national and local authorities. More than twenty years of experience have shown the limits of this system. To put re-industrialisation at the heart of our priorities, we need to use the '**community method**' –clear, EU-wide decision-making, with equal roles for national governments and the European Parliament.

“**INDUSTRY PROVIDES ONE IN THREE JOBS IN THE EU, CREATING DIRECT EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME 57 MILLION PEOPLE**”



**EUROPE NEEDS
A SOCIAL PACT
FOR EQUALITY
AND FAIRNESS**

3. CITIZENS' EUROPE FAIRNESS AND DEMOCRACY

Civil liberties are at the very heart of the European project and since the 2009 elections there have been great opportunities to bring Europe and its institutions closer to its people by strengthening citizens' rights. The Lisbon Treaty has given the European Parliament greater powers and the S&D Group has used these new powers to fight tirelessly for the rights of citizens.

Regrettably, **many opportunities have been squandered by the right-wing majority in the EU institutions** who seem to think that civil liberties and fundamental rights are luxuries for times of prosperity. We take the opposite view: Europe's bloody history tells us that when times are hard, we need to defend the basic European values of tolerance, respect for human rights and minority rights, non-discrimination, justice, solidarity and equality more than ever.

“WE STAND FOR A EUROPE OF TOLERANCE, SOLIDARITY AND INCLUSION, UNITED IN ITS DIVERSITY AND WE ARE PROUD TO DEFEND THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS”



PHOTO © M. Comtes 2009

S&D ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SINCE 2009

“EUROPE IN THE WORLD – ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE BE STRONG”

■ We have fought hard to defend **freedom of movement**, leading negotiations to transform the **Schengen** system into a transparent and truly European system, despite attempts by several right-wing governments to undermine it. Controls on the temporary reintroduction of checks at internal borders have been made stricter to oblige member states to consult in advance. This will ensure that migration by non-EU nationals is not an excuse to reinstate internal controls. We have also supported **visa liberalisation** while insisting on full democratic

control and scrutiny at European level. Despite resistance from the right, we ensured a deal for limited visa exemptions for the Western Balkans to help bring them closer to the EU and strengthen their democracies and institutions.

■ In 2010, we set up a working group on **extremism, populism, nationalism and xenophobia**, to monitor and analyse the rise of the far right and to find ways to combat it. It has helped raise awareness and propose actions, including the Group's **Budapest Declaration** denouncing

PHOTO ON TOP: ETUC (European Trade Union Federation) demonstration 'No to austerity' attended by the S&D Group and PES (Party of European Socialists), 29 September 2009

extremism and leading the Parliament's fight against racism, xenophobia and hate crime.

- In the face of economic austerity and increased populist anti-immigrant sentiment, we have worked to provide a channel of legal migration and promote a positive message on immigration. The Socialists and Democrats led negotiations on new laws on **employment and legal migration** – including the Directive on Seasonal Workers, the Directive on Intra-Corporate Transferees and the Directive on Students and Researchers. These laws give new rights to workers, safeguard labour standards within the EU, prevent the exploitation of low-paid migrant workers and provide for adequate sanctions against employers who exploit seasonal workers.
- We played a pivotal role in safeguarding high standards in laws on **asylum**, against rising opposition from the right and within the Council of Ministers. We were particularly concerned at the plight of asylum seekers following the Arab Spring and the brutal civil war in Syria. In lengthy and difficult negotiations, we ensured that the asylum package adopted in June 2013

will provide big improvements to the daily realities of asylum seekers, offering a fairer, quicker, more consistent and better-quality system across Europe.

- We have been very active in raising the profile of **fundamental rights**. Led by the S&Ds, a powerful report was recently adopted by the Parliament, calling for a coherent EU human rights policy, a more effective EU response to breaches of rights, democracy and the rule of law (Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union), and a **permanent scoreboard on justice, the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights**. We have also consistently put pressure on the Hungarian government over recent anti-democratic legal reforms and violations of rights and freedoms, while the right-wing European People's Party Group continue to defend the indefensible. An independent study commissioned by the S&D Group helped document the threat to democracy and pluralism in the EU and to identify ways of strengthening them.
- **Women's rights and gender equality** are at the centre of our policies. The Socialists and

Democrats were the driving force behind the **Women's Rights Charter** established by the Commission in 2010. We pushed for the adoption of the European Protection Order and ensured that the directives on **victims' rights** and on **trafficking** dealt with the situation of women.

- Our Group has strong principles on **personal data**: your data, in any form, always belongs to you. We led the European Parliament to reject the first draft of the EU-US agreement on the **SWIFT money transfer system** and we then led the first post-Lisbon negotiations with the Council and the US, achieving major improvements such as **direct EU oversight** on data extraction and rights for EU citizens to be informed about their data. The S&Ds also worked to improve the **Passenger Name Record agreement with the US**, to ensure adequate safeguards on how personal data is processed, what purposes it can be used for and for how long it can be stored.
- **Intellectual property and copyright** were a big battleground and we worked for a balanced view, respecting the **rights of creators** as well as the online **rights of consumers**.

“WE NEED A SOCIAL PACT TO FIGHT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DETERIORATION IN EUROPE”

The S&D Group led on the rejection of **ACTA** (the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) because this balance was unequal and the agreement could have restricted access to generic medicines. We also influenced the creation of a worldwide copyright provision to allow access to books and printed materials to **visually impaired people**; supported the **European patent** to reduce costs and better protect inventors; and played a pivotal role in setting up an **observatory on intellectual property infringements** to protect Europe from the dangers of counterfeit goods.

- We led the European Parliament’s fight for stronger **democratic scrutiny**, supporting ambitious

targets to make the EU institutions more **transparent and accountable** and setting high standards in a new **code of conduct for MEPs**. We also backed the **European Citizens’ Initiative** to give European citizens a new way of participating in the democratic life of the EU – groups who can collect a million signatures can demand new policy initiatives from the European Commission.

- We have fought hard to **defend citizens’ rights** and recent successes include our work on: EU accession to the **European Convention on Human Rights**; improvements in the directive on **Rights of Access to a Lawyer** to guarantee suspects minimum rights across the EU; the **European Arrest Warrant**; new laws to make **cross-border travel** easier for citizens; and measures on recognition of judgments in civil matters, such as **successions and divorce**.
- To **protect EU citizens abroad**, we voted to give them access to assistance from the diplomatic and consular services of any EU country, if their own country does not have such services there. We helped to give EU offices in third countries a clear role in

co-ordinating the work of national embassies on burden-sharing, emergency planning, provision of information and some consular tasks. We also secured agreement on the minimum conditions EU member states must respect when an EU citizen is arrested in a third country.

- **Crime and protecting victims of crime** are major concerns for us and we led negotiations on **people trafficking**, achieving tougher criminal sanctions, a stronger obligation to protect victims, special protection for children, greater rights to legal assistance, support for NGOs and an obligation to freeze and confiscate assets gained through trafficking. We also successfully pushed for a special parliamentary committee to be set up on **organised crime, money laundering and corruption**. We have supported the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor’s Office to safeguard the EU’s financial interests. We also supported a ban on standing as an MEP for those convicted of corruption and voted to **abolish bank secrecy** in the EU.



OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2014 AND BEYOND

A Europe of rights and freedoms. Now and in the next Parliament, the Socialists and Democrats will continue to stand up for the values of democracy, pluralism, equality and the rights of citizens. We will insist that the next European Commission must pursue a progressive agenda backing citizens' rights – or lose our support.

Our top priority is to protect the most basic rights and we will keep up the pressure until the **European Charter of Fundamental Rights** is fully applied across Europe. The EU and its member states must

“**THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION NEEDS TO BE CONTINUED. POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES AT ALL LEVELS NEEDS TO BE ENCOURAGED**”

PHOTO ON TOP: S&D Group visit to a Roma village, Fântânele, Romania, June 2012

“THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP ARE AS IMPORTANT AS DEFENDING SOCIAL RIGHTS AND STANDARDS FOR ALL”

also comply with their international obligations on fundamental rights: we want the Commission to set up a **scoreboard** to monitor the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights.

New proposals to ensure **qualifications and rights** are accepted across Europe would give EU citizenship even greater value. Some areas of civil law can also be harmonised, for example to allow **legal documents and protection orders** to be recognised throughout the EU.

Another key issue for us is **protecting citizens' data** and privacy. We will fight to ensure EU data protection legislation establishes clear minimum standards on data use and retention, and gives legal certainty for individuals, companies and governments. We will also insist that all international agreements – in particular the proposed **EU-US trade agreement** – should include a data protection clause guaranteeing the security of personal data, just as the EU currently insists on human rights clauses. On **intellectual property**, we want future proposals to balance public demand for open access to culture with the need to guarantee the rights of artists and creators.

Democracy and open government. Making European decision-making open and transparent is vital to ensure the EU is governed democratically and the public can hold their representatives accountable. We are pressing for two key laws on this issue: the draft **regulation on access to documents** – which remains blocked in Council – and a wider EU law on **freedom of information**, with minimum standards and guidelines for EU institutions and national authorities.

An independent and active media is essential for democracy and following the recent threats to this freedom in several member states, the S&D Group will call for laws that guarantee minimum standards on **media freedom and pluralism**.

The **European Citizens' Initiative** has yet to have the impact we had hoped for – allowing people to get their voices heard and onto the political agenda – and the next Commission must remove the obstacles that prevent initiatives being adopted and becoming laws. We also want to see more funding for the **Europe for Citizens** programme, supporting projects to get people involved in the development of the EU.

Tolerance and equality. Building on Europe's fundamental values of solidarity and human dignity, we are committed to **fighting discrimination and hate-crime** whether based on ethnicity, religion, belief, age, gender, disability or sexual orientation. We want to develop European identity and citizenship in the face of the growing nationalism and xenophobia from the Right and address the underlying social problems which breed despair and radicalisation.

A comprehensive EU strategy is essential and progress on getting the **Anti-Discrimination Directive** – endorsed by the European Parliament before the last elections but blocked in Council for years – should be one of the first priorities for the Commission.

To make the existing EU laws effective, they must be fully implemented to cover all forms of discrimination and mechanisms must be set up to gather data and monitor the problem. The 2008 **Council framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia** through criminal penalties must be made more effective, and extended to cover gender-related crimes.

Discrimination issues must be considered in other areas of legislation too, for example ensuring that the right of free movement applies to everyone and does not exclude same-sex couples.

Gender equality is vital for a strong and modern Europe. We are working on many issues such as EU action to get more **women on the boards of companies** and to **close the gender pay gap**, supporting the Council of Europe convention on **violence against women** and fighting for the **directive on maternity leave**, which Council has blocked. In the new Parliament, we will continue to fight to include sexual and reproductive rights – vital for women's freedom and economic independence – in the

health for growth programme for 2014-2020. This has been a clear dividing point between the conservative European Peoples' Party and the Socialists and Democrats Group.

The **Roma** people are the EU's largest minority and the group which faces most discrimination. To ensure they are included in society, action must be taken on:

- **Education**, including opportunities such as scholarships, the Erasmus programme and traineeships at the European institutions.
- **Employment**, encouraging all sectors to employ Roma people.

“**WE WANT TO PUT EUROPEAN PEOPLE AT HEART OF OUR ACTIVITIES AND ENCOURAGE DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS. THEY ARE THE KEY PLAYERS OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY**”

■ **Anti-discrimination** and applying national Roma inclusion strategies effectively.

■ **Empowerment**, encouraging better co-operation between authorities and Roma communities. The EU should fund programmes for Roma participation in politics.

A positive approach to migration, asylum and free movement. The new Commission must take a positive approach to legal migration and integration but also show greater commitment to tackling the problems that force people to leave their homes and migrate or seek asylum. Our priorities will include: making sure the **Seasonal Workers and Inter-Corporate Transfers Directives** are adopted and properly applied; making it easier to get **visas** for work and professional mobility; defending the **Schengen**

agreement that allows border-free travel across most of Europe; and working to get the proposal on **smart borders** rejected or withdrawn.

We will ensure the Commission adopts a sustainable approach to **asylum based on human rights and fundamental freedoms**. This should include proposals to strengthen procedural safeguards, **protect the vulnerable** and ensure that EU countries live up to their obligations. The recently agreed asylum package must be rapidly put into action and overseen by the Commission.

Integration and a more inclusive idea of citizenship must be at the core of Europe's immigration policies. We want to see more opportunities for migrants and their children **to get citizenship** and participate fully in society, and long-term residents should have

the **right to vote** in local elections where they live. We want to **build integrated communities** where people can have multiple identities: regional, national and European. They should be protected by labour and social rights, and given access to education and health care.

Cross-border justice and security. The EU has a key role to play in the fight against organised crime and corruption, which do not respect national borders. We will call for a **European Public Prosecutor**, action on **freezing and confiscating the proceeds of organised crime** and an extension of **legal aid** to ensure strengthening criminal law does not hurt the most vulnerable. We want to see anyone convicted of corruption **banned from office** for five years and a **blacklist of fraudulent companies** banned from public sector contracts.

“**CURRENTLY 23% OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS ARE AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION. WE MUST CHANGE EUROPE AND GIVE PEOPLE HOPE IN A FAIR FUTURE**”



S&D Group meeting, European Parliament, Strasbourg

ABOUT THE S&D GROUP

The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 194 members from all 28 EU member states.

We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.



S&D Group youth conference, European Parliament, Brussels, 6-7 June 2012



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