



PES Activity Report 2009 – 2012

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Introduction by Philip Cordery, PES Secretary General

Dear friends,

I am very proud to present you the 2009-2012 PES Activity report.

Together, with Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, with Sergei Stanishev, with the member parties and organisations, with the PES activists, with our very dedicated members of staff, we can be proud of having achieved an important step in building a true European Party. Thank you all for a very fruitful cooperation.

Since the 2009 Prague Congress, we have grown the PES into a strong voice and a key player on the EU political scene, into a united and coherent political family, proposing relevant answers to people's needs, regaining ground on the political battlefield, and paving the way for a more democratic, participative and accountable Europe.

We have shown, along these three years that we were able to propose a new direction for Europe.

We launched a deep renewal process within our family, both of our policies and of our way of doing politics.

Since 2009, we have done tremendous work consolidating our ideological corpus, by unanimously adopting a Declaration of Principles and launching the drafting of a Fundamental Programme. We have managed to show a united face and push together for a common way-out-of-the-crisis plan, including a Financial Transaction Tax and a European Youth Guarantee. We have strengthened our influence in the European Council, where growth-oriented policies are back on the agenda thanks to coordinated action by our Heads of States and Governments. We were also collectively present during the Arab Spring movements, in order to support capacity-building of social-democratic parties in the region. We provided citizens with a clear policy alternative.

The PES has also worked a lot on our policy-making, by fostering more open, more democratic and more engaging methods. The Convention in 2011 was a wide success in this respect, with a unique open forum bringing together progressive politicians, trade-unions, NGOs, associations, academics and artists, with innovative debates, with the aim of formulating new alternative proposals and defining new progressive policies together.

The PES is a frontrunner in engaging with citizens and democratizing the European Union. We have engaged in a unique and courageous open and democratic process to select the PES common candidate to the European Commission Presidency. We believe that only by politicizing Europe can we bridge the gap that has widened with the citizens. We have also strengthened our grassroots movements thanks to a growing and also more involved number of PES activists, dedicated to bringing Europe and the PES into their party branches, to participating in Europe-wide Day of Action and to engaging in campaigns.

The past three years have not been an easy period for the PES. We had to cope with an underlying crisis of social-democracy, but also with the economic, financial and social crisis, and last but not least, with distrust from the European Union. Yet we have faced those challenges united, with the conviction that only together could we overcome them. The cooperation among our member parties has been reinforced, be it at Prime Minister, Minister, Leader, Secretary General, or spokesperson levels, so as to create the conditions and the policies to regain power together, at National level in order to influence the European Council, and at the European level.

We have undoubtedly strengthened the PES. However we have to stay vigilant, in order to keep the cohesion, the unity and the common methods we have built once we regain the majority in Europe, in order to deliver what citizens are expected from us.

I am proud to have served the PES and to have contributed to politicising the European scene, together with Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and Sergei Stanishev.

I am confident that the new leadership will be able to lead the PES towards a great victory at the 2014 European elections. Yet it will require strong determination from the parties, the leadership and the activists, to consolidate our achievements in further building a European family. We have to keep in mind that only a European answer can lead us forward.

Let's continue the fight for a more united and social Europe and to build together our European Party.

I Building a European Party

I.1 Implementing the Mandate for Change

The 2009 Prague Congress decided to engage the PES in a deep renewal process of both our policies and of our way of doing politics¹, in order to strengthen our relevance, to adapt ourselves to a world that has profoundly changed in the past decades and to pave the way for a successful European election campaign and result in 2014.

In order to change our way of doing politics, the Network on Modernising Politics was set up. The PES policy renewal project is called “*Our Vision for Progressive Societies in the 21st century*”. Our political identity card is the Declaration of principles that was adopted at the 2011 PES Council. The ongoing process to develop the PES fundamental programme, launched at the Progressive Societies’ Convention in November 2011, is a step further towards a party with strong, progressive policies for the future.

Renewal agenda: Party reform

Network on Modernising Politics

In order to tackle the issue of Party reform, a Network on Modernising Politics was set up with a view to modernising and revitalising our parties’ structures.

The network facilitates the preparation of the common PES strategy for the 2014 elections but it also provides a forum for PES member parties to exchange best practices, experiences and new tools on their way of doing politics.

The Presidency defined challenges that the Network should tackle: reinventing the role of our members, ensuring internal democracy, democratising our decision-making processes and selection methods, opening our parties to non members, reaching out to external stakeholders (trade unions and NGOs), building successful political alliances and effectively getting our messages through².

Conference of Secretaries General

The political mandate on Party reform was given to the Secretaries General of PES member parties and organisations, through yearly Conferences, chaired by the PES Secretary General. It is the first time that an in-depth cooperation was developed among the political organisers of our Parties. The Conferences of SGs are well-attended, successful events, with focused discussions, presentations of research and of case studies.

The first Conference of SGs took place in Brussels on 25th June 2010. It focused on reversing the negative electoral trend by modernising our structures, strengthening internal democracy, involving our members, and renewing our messages and rhetoric. SGs were given a presentation by Howard Dean, former Chairman of the National Democratic Committee (by video-conference).

The second Conference of SGs took place in Berlin on 14th October 2011. It was co-hosted with SPD Secretary General Andrea Nahles, who extensively presented the SPD reform process *Die SPD erneuert sich*. Two reports were also presented: “Profiling PES voters” by Andre Krouwel and José Reis Santos, which provided a detailed analysis of the core voters as well as potential electorate of PES member parties; and a FEPS study “Facing down the

¹ PES Congress Resolution, A New Way Forward, A Stronger PES, December 2009

² Network on Modernising Politics framework document, adopted by the PES Presidency on 29th April 2009

far right in Europe” by David Kitching, which proposed a subjective narrative and aims to provide a framework for socialist and social democrats to offset gains made by far right parties.

High-level focused seminars

A series of high-level focused seminars was organised to address specific issues mandated by the Secretaries General.

A seminar on “How to select our Leaders and top candidates” was chaired by Philip Cordery on 23rd September 2010. It allowed member parties to exchange experiences on different methods of electing Party leaders and selecting top candidates for Prime Minister/President positions. Several parties’ representatives presented the pros and cons of their selection methodology, ranging from election by Congress delegates, election by Party members or election by all citizens through open primaries.

In the context of the controversial Hungarian media law, a high level seminar on media strategies was organised on 17th and 18th March 2011 in Budapest, Hungary. At the invitation of MSzP Leader Attila Mesterhazy, recommendations on the question of access to media were formulated. Icelandic Member of Parliament for the Social Democratic Alliance of Iceland Robert Marshall presented the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative (IMMI), as an example of a progressive media law. Several national newspaper correspondents were also present to discuss coverage of EU matters.

In order to address the issue of shaping our political discourse and conveying our core values, the PES and sp.a Belgium co-hosted a conference on rhetoric with Prof. Drew Westen, renowned political strategist, author of *The Political Brain* and academic at Emory University in Atlanta (USA) on 9th June 2011. The discussion focused on how to connect emotions with our core social democratic values and provide effective messaging to better connect with our voters.

In 2012, the Network was mandated to work on studying diversity within our Party structures, and especially the involvement of people with a migrant background within our Parties structures. Emine Bozkurt, MEP is the Rapporteur of this project.

Working Group “Candidate 2014”

At the PES Prague Congress in 2009 a unanimous decision was taken to run common candidate for the position of the European Commission Presidency during the next European election campaign: *“Giving a face to a political platform is imperative in today’s politics, especially in such difficult elections as the European ones. To make this election relevant, citizens must know that their vote can shape the executive and change policies. We therefore make the commitment of choosing a PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency for the next European elections.” (PES Congress Resolution, A new way forward, A stronger PES, Prague, December 2009).*

This translates the will of the PES to politicize the European elections, and thus to make the political offer clear and visible to European voters.

The PES has been a frontrunner in democratizing the European debate, by being a visible alternative, acting as a coherent political family, with both a program and a personality to lead Europe. We aim at winning the European elections in 2014. Our common candidate to the EC Presidency will help up in that regard to embody our policy platform.

A first exchange of views took place during the seminar on “How to select our Leaders and top candidates” was held on 23rd September 2010 and at the PES Presidency on 14th October 2010.

The PES Council, which was held on 3rd and 4th December 2010 in Warsaw, Poland, unanimously welcomed the resolution “A democratic and transparent process for designating the PES candidates for the European Commission Presidency” proposed by the PES Presidency and therefore set up a Working Group “Candidate 2014” to work out the selection process.

The Working Group Candidate 2014 is chaired by PES Treasurer Ruairi Quinn. Its rapporteur is PES Secretary General Philip Cordery.

With the aim to ensure the quality and legitimacy of the candidate the Working Group received a mandate to contemplate and advise on the issues of criteria to stand as a candidate, the scope of the electorate, selection procedure, organisational and financial implications and an overall timetable.

In 2011 the Working Group had 4 meetings, discussing the core issues of the process and presented a final report to the Presidency on 6th October 2011.

The PES Resolution “Selecting our common candidate in 2014” was adopted at the PES Council on the 24th November 2011 in Brussels, with the delegates applauding to the inclusive and open process adopted. Acknowledging the importance of member parties having an ownership over the selection process and respecting their political traditions, the flexibility of the process will ensure the parties to make their selection by their own internal decision-making methodology, provided the respect of key principles set in the resolution (competitiveness, proportionality, consultation of members).

The mandate of the Working Group was extended to deal with the practical, financial and organisational aspects of the selection procedure. It will report back to the Presidency by the end of 2012.

Having a common candidate to the European Commission Presidency will already be a great improvement compared to the 2009 European election campaign, where one of the key problems was the absence of a unifying leadership personality to embody our common platform and implement our programme.

Having a common candidate, chosen in an open and democratic manner, shows that the PES is leading the way towards a more democratic and accountable European Union.

I.II “Our Vision for Progressive Societies in the 21st century”

Three key aspects underpin the PES policy renewal project “*Our Vision for Progressive societies in the 21st century*”, they are: the need to take stock of the 2009 electoral defeat, the will to politicise further European policy debates and the need to develop a renewed vision for social democracy that answers the challenges we face at all levels of governance.

As stated in the document “A new way forward; a stronger PES” adopted at the 2009 Congress in Prague, the PES believes “it is only through a fundamental re-evaluation of our vision of social democracy that we can successfully address the issues raised by our electoral losses. [...] Our aim is to develop a new vision for Progressive Societies in the 21st century, with solidarity at its heart³.”

³Resolution 2: A new way forward a stronger PES, Prague Congress, P.3

Our objective is to become the predominant political force governing the European institutions. We need to articulate clearly the party political differences that exist on European policy issues and make our voice heard as an opposition force to conservative and neo-liberal policies. It is a matter of democracy and a huge issue for political credibility in the globalised world⁴.

Developing our vision for Progressive Societies in the 21st century is one of the pillars for winning the 2014 elections: our new vision for Progressive Societies will inspire a strong, common Manifesto, presenting Europe's citizens with a clear common vision together with concrete policy proposals to implement it⁵.

Achieving this goal requires strengthening the PES and ensuring that member parties have a stronger ownership of the proposals in the manifesto. The PES is a platform to discuss European policies, but also the place where member parties come together to formulate the political vision, strategies and policies for socialists, social democrats and progressives across Europe. "Building on the experience of the 2009 campaign, we aim to develop a more integrated approach for 2014 with all member parties to include in their own Manifesto for the European elections the proposals from the common PES Manifesto"⁶.

And finally, proposals must be relevant to citizens: "we must pursue a new politics of engagement with people, voicing their values and articulating their aspirations by offering real, progressive and distinctive political choices and solutions"⁷.

Defining our renewal process

Developing a vision for progressive societies means developing innovative policies for the 21st century. It also means inclusiveness, new and open ways to enable these innovative ideas to emerge and be developed, and strengthening alliances with our partners.

Two resolutions were adopted by PES Presidency to outline the work plan for "Our Vision for Progressive societies in the 21st century"⁸. This consists of the adoption of the PES Declaration of Principles in 2011 and of the first PES fundamental programme. The renewal process aims to reclaim our values, adapting their meaning to the realities of today's world and drawing the policy implications from our values and principles in the face of contemporary challenges: globalisation, financialisation of the economy, the global economic downturn, but also the environmental crisis and growing inequalities.

Furthermore, by adopting two documents that embody our pledge to work together and our commitment to a progressive EU, we are also strengthening the PES.

Declaration of Principles: our values and principles

Adopted at the 2011 Council, the Declaration of Principles is the PES' identity card, our DNA. It is not just a political declaration; it has ownership throughout our political family. It is the outcome of over a year of reflection and discussion that brought together representatives from member parties, political groups, FEPS and independent academics within the Advisory Committee on progressive societies and in close cooperation with the PES leadership.

Under the chairmanship of Maria Joao Rodrigues, the Advisory Committee used a brainstorming method enabling an open exchange and reflection based on input from

⁴ Resolution 2: A new way forward a stronger PES, Prague Congress P.4 et 5

⁵ Resolution 2: A new way forward a stronger PES, Prague Congress P.8

⁶ Resolution 2: A new way forward a stronger PES, Prague Congress P.9

⁷ Resolution 2: A new way forward a stronger PES, Prague Congress P.4

⁸ See list of documents: Annex 2

member parties, academia and experts. The Advisory Committee members met six times in Brussels over 13 months⁹. Two draft reports were produced on “Our values” and on “Changing societies” covering fundamental issues such as equality and the place of the individual in society, the role of public authorities, redistribution of wealth and solidarity in a globalised world.

Furthermore, the political process that led to the adoption of the Declaration of Principles is enhanced by extensive research undertaken by our political think tank FEPS: *A comparative analysis of core values of PES member parties and the ideological evolution within PES* by Dr. Ania Skrzypek.

And finally, the Declaration of Principles sets the values of our movement in the reality of societies today. Our values are timeless. But they must be understood in light of the shifts that have operated in societies and in the world. In this manner, the Declaration of principles is truly the preamble to a larger project: translating our principles into action in the fundamental programme

The PES Progressive Convention

With the adoption of the Declaration of Principles, the aim of the Convention, that took place on November 25th & 26th 2011 in Brussels, was to launch a deep policy review building up to the Fundamental programme.

Taking stock of recent developments in the world, from the consequences of the financial and economic crisis, to the uprisings in the Arab World, and the development of new political movements which showed that citizens are eager to participate and to be taken into account, we felt the need to open up our consultation with civil society. This is why we aimed to organise a different type of event, outward-looking, participative and based on a bottom-up approach.

The Convention was a unique open space bringing together progressive politicians, trade-unions, NGOs, associations, academics and artists, a wide 2-day brainstorming, with simultaneous and innovative debates, workshops, panels and activities run in a decentralised manner, with the aim to develop new alternative proposals and to define new progressive policies aiming at building fair and sustainable societies in the 21st century.

A half-day in-depth reflection was dedicated to each of the following crucial challenges:

- A new fair growth model – inventing a new growth paradigm built on economic, social and environmental progress, with a new governance concept.
- A just society, equality for all – developing new policies for inclusive societies overcoming inequalities and ensuring decent jobs for all
- New global answers to new global challenges – formulating a new global deal to shape globalisation in a progressive way
- Democracy & Active citizenship – conceiving a dynamic society where everyone is involved

The Convention’s aim was also to get inspiration from the cultural and academic spheres. In this respect, we organised a series of cultural side-events in order to foster the involvement of activists and to have a different perspective on our societies: film screenings, literary cafés, a bookshop, photo exhibitions, a photo competition, a concert.

The PES also gave a prominent role to political bloggers, as we wanted the Convention to be an open and interactive event.

⁹ See table in Annex 1 for dates

The Convention showed our new open way of doing politics and was also a great platform for input for the PES Fundamental programme. To truly develop the new and innovative ideas that we need for the first PES fundamental programme, being open and listening to civil society and our activists, academics and our partners in the Trade unions is a prerequisite.

Both pillars of our renewal process – a new way of doing politics and developing innovative ideas – came together at the Convention for what was a truly vibrant and new event at European level.

Fundamental Programme: vision, policy concepts and guidelines

Following the adoption of the Declaration of Principles and the Progressive Convention, the “Progressive Societies” project continued into 2012 with the elaboration of the PES fundamental programme. We aim to develop a common programmatic basis for all our member parties, by drawing the policy implications that derive from our principles and by outlining our vision for a progressive Europe, taking into account the local, regional national and European levels. This is an innovation in European politics. We have defined a process to foster discussion and exchange. This is the first purpose of such a political exercise and the best way to achieve relevance and ownership of proposals. The four themes of the Fundamental Programme are those of the Progressive Convention: A Fair Economy, Equal Societies, A Just World, Active Citizenship.

Building on the success of the debates and discussions that took place at the PES Progressive Convention, we have developed a more in depth exchange, using the PES thematic networks as platforms for strategic input and launching a consultation with external stakeholders. This second phase of the open consultation aims at strengthening the bottom-up approach and the interactions with NGOs, trade unions, PES activists and member parties and to further develop discussions around the four themes of the Convention.

In June 2012, we gathered for a day and a half of Policy Forums on the four themes to exchange on the state of play of our reflection and discuss the outcome of the debates so far. Each stage of the consultation builds on the outcome of the previous reflection. The Policy forums were the last stage of our consultation with external stakeholders that began at the PES Convention and have led to four reports outlining the results of this in depth exchange.

The Advisory Committee on the Fundamental programme will now begin the task of drafting. Caroline Gennez, former President of the Flemish socialist party, is Chair of the Advisory Committee. This high level working group will monitor the entire drafting process up until the adoption of the fundamental programme in 2013 by providing input and ensuring coherence.

Outcome and next steps: mid-term project report

“*Our Vision for Progressive Societies in the 21st century*” is a project in the making. The PES Declaration of Principles, adopted in November 2011 marked the first step of the much larger process that will see the adoption of the first PES fundamental programme and a sound preparation for the 2014 European elections thanks to renewed alliances, strong ownership and relevant proposals.

Re:new - <http://www.pes.eu/renew>

The Progressive Societies project has been underpinned by an online forum: Re:new. It was launched as the PES debate platform in October 2010. Re:new was first designed to give PES activists and other citizens the opportunity to discuss policy input online. The platform consists in a mix of social media tools and fora, and it was first organised in 6 main themes.

During the first half of 2011 Re:new and in particular its section 'Our values' was used to invite a very wide audience (activists and beyond) to have their say on the PES Declaration of Principles.

The platform was restyled and reorganised for the PES Convention in order to mirror the work of our European and International Policy Units, as well as the structure of the Consultation Process on the Fundamental Programme. Today, Re:new hosts 4 themes: A fair economy, Equal societies, A fair world and Active democracy.

With the goal of strengthening the role of PES activists in the renewal process and to involve a maximum amount of contributors on the platform, the PES decided to launch the project of 'PES activists Rapporteurs' in 2012. Eight activists have been chosen (one rapporteur and one replacement per theme) and put in charge of driving the online side of the consultation process on the Fundamental Programme, by launching and animating debates on the basis of questionnaires produced by the secretariat for this specific process, as well as other policy documents and position papers.

At the end of the process the eight rapporteurs joined the PES and other social partners to report on their activity and give feedback during the Policy Forums held in June 2012.

Up to now, Re:new has hosted 234 topics, 708 posts and counts 15,812 registered users.

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I.III Increasing our impact

Leadership activity

PES President

At the Prague 2009 Congress Poul Nyrup Rasmussen was re-elected President of the PES with an overwhelming majority. The 2009 Congress Resolutions outlined his long term priorities for further building the PES, focusing in particular on the need to develop our links with member parties and the importance of having a common candidate for the position of European Commission President. The Mandate for Change adopted in Prague will remain Poul Nyrup Rasmussen's enduring legacy. As the architect behind a stronger PES, he was at the forefront of the renewal and modernisation project.

To strengthen and develop relationships between the PES and its member parties, as well as with its many partners in trade unions and civil society, the President travelled extensively both within Europe and internationally. On these trips he addressed Party Congresses, conferences and parliamentary committees. He met with Prime Ministers and Ministers, Party Leaders, MPs working on European affairs, trade union and NGO leaders and PES activists, amongst others. This multi level approach ensured that the PES message was communicated as widely as possible.

Everyday political work focused mainly on defining the PES response to the escalating Eurozone crisis, developing an alternative that was both economically credible and socially responsible. The President's knowledge in this area enabled the PES to constantly and persistently be the first to identify the steps needed to tackle the Eurozone crisis, and to

define and articulate a progressive narrative based on fair and sustainable debt management and growth.

Transition to PES Interim President

In November 2011 Poul Nyrup Rasmussen announced that he would retire from the position of PES President at the 2011 PES Council for personal reasons. The PES Presidency met on the 24th of November in Brussels, and agreed on a transitional leadership team as proposed by the outgoing President. The Presidency appointed Sergei Stanishev as PES Interim President, and appointed Ruairi Quinn as PES Presidency and Congress Chair. These positions were mandated by the Presidency to be valid until the 9th PES Congress to be held on the 28th&29th of September 2012.

As PES Interim President Sergei Stanishev coordinated the political line of the PES throughout 2012, and represented the PES across member states. His priorities on being appointed were to continue developing the alternative PES economic line, fostering stronger democracy across Europe, supporting our member parties with national elections, developing our renewal process further, and ensuring a smooth transition to the 9th Congress. He regularly coordinated with Hannes Swoboda, President of the S&D Group and Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament. He made frequent trips to Brussels, where he met with high level EU Leaders including Jose Manuel Barroso President of the European Commission and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council. In addition to Brussels based meetings and conferences (which included seminars on youth unemployment, and constitutional reform in the Arab world among others), he travelled extensively to represent the PES. These trips were to: Strasbourg for the election of Martin Schulz as the President of the European Parliament, Seville for the PSOE Congress, Belgrade for a PES Western Balkans Delegation, Berlin for meetings with the SPD Leadership, Paris for the FEPS Conference: 'A Renaissance for Europe', Tunis for the PES Arab Spring Conference, Bucharest for a FEPS Conference held within the framework of the S&D Group Away week, Athens for a PASOK Conference, Croatia for the ECOSY Summer Camp, Vilnius for the LSDP Congress, Cape Town for the SI Congress.

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PES Secretary General

In order to develop a more integrated and closer cooperation between the PES and its member parties, the PES Secretary General undertook a "Tour of Capitals", a series of visits to member parties. The purpose of these trips were to develop an improved mutual understanding of the PES and its member parties, to meet relevant stakeholders on European issues, to exchange on specific policy areas and to develop stronger partnerships.

During these visits the Secretary General habitually met the Party Leaders, the Secretary General, the International Secretary, MPs involved in the European affairs committee, MEPs, the youth organisation, the foundation, PES activists, MPs or spokespeople on specific issues of common interest.

Since the Prague Congress, the Secretary General visited the following parties: SPD Germany (Jan. 2010), PS France and LSAP Luxemburg (Feb. 2010), SPÖ Austria, PS Belgium and SD Slovenia (Mar. 2010), SAP Sweden (Apr. 2010), SDE Estonia (May 2010), PSD Romania (July 2010), MSzP Hungary, SLD Poland and LSDSP Latvia (Sep. 2010), PD Italy (Oct. 2010), PASOK Greece and Labour UK (Jan. 2011), SMER Slovakia and LSDP Lithuania (May 2011), Labour Ireland (Sep. 2011), BSP Bulgaria (Oct. 2011), PvdA The Netherlands (Apr. 2012).

The PES Secretary General also actively took part in several member party Congresses, in order to strengthen the links between the PES and member parties and to ensure a high visibility of the PES: SDP Finland (May 2010), PS France Summer University (Aug. 2010), Labour UK (Sep. 2010), SDLP Northern Ireland (Nov. 2010), PS France Summer University (Aug. 2011), Labour UK and PS Portugal (Sep. 2011), SPD Germany and PSC Catalonia (Dec. 2011), PSOE Spain (Feb. 2012).

Philip Cordery also welcomed in the PES high-level Party representatives during their visits to Brussels.

In order to foster the important thematic work done by the PES member organisations, the PES Secretary General actively took part in several events: ECOSY (2010 Youth Employment Conference, 2010 Bureau, 2011 Congress, 2012 Winter University), GPF (2010 FTT Conference), FEPS (2009 & 2010 Next Left seminar, 2012 Renaissance Conference), ULSERRE, ESO (2010 Seminar, 2011 Annual Conference), S&D Group in the EP (Bureau & Group meetings, 2010 workshop).

In order to strengthen our international relations, Philip Cordery met high level representatives of international progressive parties.

The PES Secretary General also participated in events organised by progressive organisations, in order to strengthen the links between the PES, progressive NGOs and trade-unions and push forward our common agenda: Steuer gegen Armut, Solidar, EMF, FES, ÖGB, Saar-Lor-Lux Internationale, Finance Watch, Global Progress, IF Metall.

Philip Cordery also reinforced relations with the academic field, especially concerning study of the development of European political parties.

As a consequence of the Lisbon Treaty and of the greater role given to National Parliaments, the PES has developed stronger links with socialists in National Parliaments. The PES Secretary General always met MPs involved in EU affairs during their Party visits, and welcomed many of them during their visits to Brussels.

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He also co-hosted together with André Flahaut, Speaker of the Belgian Chamber, a meeting of Socialists Speakers of Parliament on 3rd April 2011. Subsidiarity checks, transposition of EU directives into national legislation, and exchange on policy initiatives and EU resolutions were discussed as areas where stronger cooperation between the European and the national levels were needed.

PES Leaders and Prime Ministers Conferences

PES Leaders and Prime Ministers Conferences are key moments for PES Leaders and Prime Ministers to meet and decide upon on PES policy and to react to current political developments across Europe. Given the nature of the Eurozone crisis over the past two and a half years these meetings were on occasion convened at short notice when the European Council held extraordinary meetings.

Since the Prague Congress in 2009, there were eight full Leaders' and Prime Ministers' Conferences, two Eurozone Leaders' phone conferences, and five Prime Ministers' meetings.

The principal statements adopted at these meetings were:

- "Economic Coordination and Financial Reform, for a Stronger and Fair Recovery" Declaration on strengthening the euro-zone and preparing the EU2020 Strategy; agreed by PES Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers 10th February 2010

- A “European Mechanism for Financial Stability” A Progressive response to the Euro-zone sovereign debt crisis; adopted by the Prime Ministers’ and Leaders’ Conference on 25th March 2010
- “Let’s get Europe Working Again” PES Prime Ministers’ and Leaders’ Declaration; adopted on 16th June 2010
- “Economic Governance of Fair Growth Declaration” On a balanced approach on EU economic policy coordination; agreed by the PES Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers
- “Europe is in the wrong hands” Our alternative to a Conservative Europe: a strategy for jobs, fair growth and social progress Adopted by the PES Leaders conference in Athens 4 March 2011
- “A Eurozone based on democratically accountable economic policy” Statement agreed by the PES Eurozone Leaders on 16th July 2011
- “From Economic Chaos to Economic Governance” A call to the European Council for an alternative strategy based on investment and modernization; adopted by the PES Leaders conference in Brussels 23 June 2011

European Council Preparation Meetings

At the beginning of 2012 the decision was taken to reorganise our Leaders and Prime Ministers Conferences in order to reinvigorate these meetings. The February 2012 PES Presidency meeting agreed that European Council Preparation Meetings would be held on the day of European Council meetings in Brussels. These meetings are attended by PES Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers, the Presidents of the PES and S&D Group, the President of the European Parliament, and Commissioners from our family where relevant to the agenda of the European Council. The Presidency also decided that the President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias should be invited to these meetings. While not from a PES member party the decision was taken to work with him as a progressive head of state in the European Council. At the same time, it was agreed to maintain the full Leaders’ conferences twice a year, and to install a ‘no replacements’ rule for Party Leaders in order to ensure that these meetings are high level political events. The new format worked well in 2012, two European Council Preparation meetings were held and two Leaders meetings.

PES General and European Affairs Ministers meetings

In order to support the political preparation of European Councils, regular meetings of the PES General Affairs and European Ministers were organised. These meetings, which usually took place ahead of the General Affairs Council preceding the European Council meetings, were chaired by the Spanish Secretary of State for European Affairs Diego López Garrido. During the PES meetings, social democratic and socialist Ministers and Secretaries of States coordinated their interventions for the General Affairs Council and common political initiatives.

The same practice of organising ministerial pre Council meetings was continued and developed across several Council formations and policy areas, those meetings are covered in the relevant policy sections of this report.

PES Statutory Meetings

PES Council

The PES Council met twice since the last Congress.

The PES Council in Warsaw, Poland on the 2nd&3rd December 2010 adopted two resolutions: 'Building a fair Europe by and for the people' and 'A democratic and transparent process for designating the PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency', as well as the annexed composition of the Working Group "Candidate 2014". It also adopted two policy papers: 'A European Employment and Social Progress Pact for fair growth', and 'Making Green Growth become a reality'.

The Council in Brussels, Belgium on the 24th November 2011 adopted a resolution "Selecting our common candidate in 2014", a General Resolution, and the PES Declaration of Principles.

The Presidency and Coordination Team

The Presidency is the political leadership of the PES, providing orientation for PES policies and deciding on political activities. The Coordination team brings together international secretaries and PES staff to discuss the planning and financing of PES activities. The Presidency has met 16 times since the last Congress, and the Coordination met 14 times.

Working with our Member Organisations

Since the last PES Congress we continued and developed our close cooperation with our member organisations the S&D Group in the European Parliament, the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions, PES Women, ECOSY, our foundation FEPS. We have co-organised campaigns, events, publications with all of them and enjoy fruitful cooperation at both leadership and staff cooperation.

Massimo D'Alema became President of FEPS in June 2010 and has been developing the Foundation's work extensively over the past two years. FEPS research papers, publications and conferences have been of great benefit to PES work over the past two years.

In January 2012 Hannes Swoboda was elected President of the S&D Group, taking over following Martin Schulz's election as President of the European Parliament. Cooperation between the PES and the S&D Group has been reinvigorated and strengthened over the past year.

In May 2011 Karl Heinz Lambertz took over the leadership of the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions. The PES and the PES Group in the CoR enjoy a harmonious working relationship, regularly working together on many events.

ULSRRE, Rainbow Rose, ESO continue to be active and vocal in their contributions to the European socialist and social democratic family.

For details on the activities of all member organisations please see their own activity reports (available on the PES Congress website).

Communication Strategy

Media

Between 2010 and 2012 the PES media presence rose, from an already solid base.¹⁰ Informed by the resolutions passed by the Prague Congress, the PES continued to articulate a progressive response to the global financial crisis.

The increase in media prominence was partly due to the strong message developed on the eurozone crisis. A two-pronged strategy criticised the conservative dominated EU response, while also outlining a clear and credible PES economic alternative. The macroeconomic policies of Eurobonds, Financial Transaction Tax and the need for a European Stability Mechanism (and European Financial Stability Facility EFSF) were given clear PES ownership. This strategy culminated in the PES Leaders meeting in Athens 2011, under the banner 'European is in the wrong hands'.

The policy paper 'Our way out of the crisis' received extensive media coverage and commentary. The success was helped by drawing clear distinctions between our message and the European People's Party (EPP) communications.

The PES also benefited from pursuing a strongly worded media campaign against the rise of the far right in Europe. Based on the Presidency resolution 'Confronting the Extreme Right', the media message (and again the contrast with the EPP ambiguity on the issue) was widely picked up by the press. This proved beneficial in media terms during 2011, when the focus was on the pressures on democracy in Hungary.

Monthly statistics on press coverage (March 2010-September 2012) are available from the PES secretariat on request.

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Campaigns

From 2010 to 2012 the PES conducted campaigns on Financial Transaction Tax, independently, and with the coalition Europeans for Financial Reform (EFFR) on Credit Rating Agency (CRA) Regulation, on Women and Pensions, on the way out of the Eurozone crisis, and on a European Youth Guarantee.

The Eurozone crisis afforded the PES the opportunity to articulate a very strong macroeconomic platform. There was very good coordination between the PES and S&D group members and between PES and member parties. The June 2010 event 'Our way out of the crisis' which followed a TV studio format, was an event that successfully reinforced the message for our campaign calling for a progressive macroeconomic solution to the crisis. One lesson that should be drawn from the financial regulation and macroeconomic campaigns is that the PES brand should be continually reinforced even when the issue is going through the legislative stage. The challenge faced was one of continued 'appropriation' of the campaign message by political rivals. This was the case on Eurobonds, FTT, and on the ESM.

Building on the success of the AIFM (hedge fund regulation) campaign of the previous congress period, the PES continued to develop a very strong identity as the European party of financial regulation. By developing campaign strategies in coalition with EFFR members, the PES message was multiplied among a number of target groups, such as member parties, decision makers, allies, grassroots, and through social and traditional media channels.

¹⁰ Please see section 'Infrastructure' for outline of media tools developed over the Congress period

The PES was also part of a very successful mobilisation against the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in 2012.

In May 2012 the PES launched the joint PES-ECOSY-PES Women campaign “Your future is my future – a European Youth Guarantee now!”

The campaign concept came from the PES ECOSY Youth Unemployment Working Group, co-chaired by Nicolas Schmit, Luxembourg Minister for Social Affairs and Kaisa Penny, ECOSY President. The Report they developed featured 20 policy proposals for fighting youth unemployment. The main one was the Austrian inspired ‘Youth Guarantee’. The campaign was developed using this example of best practice by one of our member parties. It has had a significant ‘take-up’ by our member parties. The ‘youth guarantee’ has been formally proposed in Luxembourg, Portugal, Malta and Finland and has been strongly promoted by Members across Europe.

The campaign website www.youth-guarantee.eu was built on ‘Nation Builder’, a platform specifically designed for campaigns that helps boost both online and offline mobilisation. The website provides users the possibility to become volunteers, to join or create events, to recruit friends, to post their campaign stories, to share the website on social networks (Facebook, twitter, etc). Furthermore, an integrated monitoring tool allows the PES to assess the campaign presence and influence on social networks. Concerning campaign supporters, they are encouraged to become multipliers of the campaign via a points system that makes clear who are the most engaged users and rewards them.

The different access levels in the administrator interface are used to reflect the different campaign organisation levels, encouraging local responsible activists to monitor and mobilise supporters in their region.

The experience built around the campaign website “My future is your future – a European Youth Guarantee now!” can also be used to prepare the online strategy for the 2014 European elections.

Self produced campaign videos were extensively used (CRA, FTT, Women and Pensions, Youth Guarantee), and are an integral part of PES campaigning.

Campaign material and videos are available from the PES secretariat on request.

PES Activists

Growth of Numbers

Since the 2009 Prague Congress the strong growth of PES activists has continued and currently far out-numbers and out-performs equivalent structures in the other European political parties. To date there are 25,000 activists and supporters across the continent with over 150 citygroups. Recent monitoring of our growth rate shows a stable average of approximately 100 activists joining per month, a rate which remained consistent even when many of our member parties were in opposition.

Initially, PES activists existed mainly as an online network that transferred their ideas by email through a centralised system. Like any healthy structure which undergoes development, PES activists have evolved into a more diverse structure with greater responsibility towards activists that live in their regions while maintaining cross-border interactions. It is this more localised nature that can truly make European politics the fourth house of EU democracy.

Growth of Activity

By the Prague Congress it was established that activists could participate at PES Councils and Congresses and at PES activist Forums. Over the past three years the number of activists at these events has steadily grown, from 200 in Prague, to 250 in Warsaw (despite the snow) to well over 1,000 at the PES Convention in Brussels (over 2,000 participants in total).

While this is to be welcomed, it opens up a very important role for citygroups to take advantage of, something that existed at the beginning of PES activists. Initially PES activist events were small in scale, gatherings of about 50 people to discuss current affairs but more importantly to socialise and connect with each other. Over the past number of years, the citygroups in Clermont, Brest, Targu Mures, Porto, just to name a few, have hosted medium sized events for activists from across Europe. These events are often addressed by excellent speakers and activists engage in in-depth discussions, however most importantly they provide a space for interaction in between the larger annual events.

There are now so many events happening in citygroups that there are several activities a week happening across the network. In the UK, the Labour Movement for Europe, in association with partner organisations within the Labour party, host various events such as table quizzes, visits to the parliament and most recently a Eurovision fundraiser night. In Romania, the activists host similar events on a weekly basis while in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the activists meet weekly to discuss aspects of the Fundamental Programme as well as planning events and actions. It is this growth in activity that led us to the decision to take €4,000 from the activist budget in 2012 and divide it between 8 citygroups for their projects following a submission of proposals. So far five of them have taken place with a further three to happen later this year.

Self-Organised Actions

A very encouraging step since the last Congress has been development of 'own initiative' campaigning by PES Activists. When democracy was threatened in Hungary the activists mobilised to write hundreds of letters to the EPP MEP's and to the Hungarian consulates in their countries. When the process was being put in place for a common Commission candidate they organised a campaign for PES primaries. When Poul Nyrup Rasmussen stepped down as PES President they organised a strong and heartfelt send-off in thanks for all his work. The most remarkable of all, when our young comrades in Utøya were massacred, they came together to provide a common online space to collate all PES member parties condolence statements and to express the grief which we all felt.

PES activists' initiatives

At its 2009 Congress in Prague, the PES committed in its resolution [A New Way Forward, A Stronger PES](#) to strengthen the political engagement of ordinary members with European politics by calling for a PES activists' initiative. By giving members the opportunity to campaign for their own issues, the PES activists' initiative can raise interest in, and identification with, the work of the PES. The activists' initiative is building bridges between the local and European level, opening up the opportunity for activists to put a political statement on the agenda of the PES Presidency, thus enabling dialogue between activists and the Presidency.

Growth of Campaigns

While activists have been organising their own events and actions with increasing frequency, they are also the strongest multipliers of PES campaigns. In April 2010, as the

Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) campaign was taking off, they organised a day of action with over 50 events taking place simultaneously from Barcelona to Hudiksvall in Sweden. Following this day of action the concept of an FTT slowly but surely gained ground as activists loyally held discussion after discussion, sent letter after letter and signed petition after petition. They helped put pressure on decision makers to get the Podimata Report passed in the European Parliament, to get Commissioner Šemeta to take action and finally to raise awareness before the European Council. In 2009, the FTT was a concept only understood by economists; in 2012 it is Tax which has broad public support. PES activists should be proud of the role they have played in bringing about this change.

The activists are also playing a central role in the Youth Guarantee campaign. In the framework of that campaign we organised an event called 'Train the Trainers' where 30 activists were invited to Brussels for campaign training. Trainers from the US, Australia and Italy went through various techniques for Face to Face, Action and Online campaigns so that they could successfully bring these techniques home and apply them to the campaign in their countries. This has given them the confidence to try out new methods and to effectively work on the campaign. Already there have been events in France, Belgium, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria and Sweden with more to follow soon in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.

This growth in campaign activity and the provision of the techniques they can use is vital at the current time if activists are to be a valuable contribution to the European elections in 2014.

Growth of Interaction

Since the Prague Congress, a number of online tools have been developed to allow the online interaction of activists to continue. Through Re:new and MyPES the activists have been provided with a strong base through which they can initiate contact with each other. Coupled with these new online tools, the new PES database allows a more accurate tracking of activist numbers and a more efficient way to keep in touch. We have been making use of tools such as skype and "cover it live" to allow real-time discussions from Brussels and we have been going to meet the activists themselves. Also, we have involved activists in the Fundamental Programme by introducing an offline aspect to the consultation process which compliments the online aspect by appointing activist rapporteurs.

Throughout 2010 and 2011, when a PES member of staff visited a member party congress, or went on an official visit, if there was a citygroup there then they tried to have a meeting with them, to discuss in person, what is happening at the EU level and to encourage their activity. There is also further interaction with partner organisations both at the European and Local levels. For example, in July 2010 Solidar organised the EU4U conference in Linz which over 50 activists attended. Activists have also attended the FEPS Call to Europe events. On the citygroup level a similar interaction is occurring, particularly amongst sister party branches in larger cities such as London, Paris, Istanbul and Berlin, where PES activists can provide a platform for expatriate socialists and social democrats to meet. PES activists have a valuable role to play in bringing people together like this, and it is through bringing people together and finding common issues and campaigns that PES activists will continue to grow, larger and better, over the coming years.

MyPES - <http://www.pes.eu/en/my-pes>

Launched in Warsaw during the 2010 PES Council, MyPES is a website dedicated to PES activists in order to facilitate their interaction. The MyPES main tools aim to strengthen the role of our activists through:

- An exchange corner which is a forum accessible only to PES activists;
- Providing a platform for signing up to PES activists' initiatives.
- Online city groups. Citygroup coordinators have now a space online where they can upload information on their citygroups, create and organise events, message their own members and share information.

II Our Policy Agenda

II.I Economic and Financial Policy

The PES pioneered the effort to regulate financial markets since 2006. A major step forward in this fight was taken in September 2009 with the launch of a pan-European campaign, through the coalition of [Europeans for Financial Reform \(EFFR\)](#), named “Regulate Global Finance Now!” which advocates comprehensive financial reform in Europe and globally. The campaign’s aim was to ‘transform the financial status quo’ and demanded, among others, the implementation of a [“Financial Transaction Tax”](#) (FTT). A highlight of the PES campaign for an FTT was the achievement of a pan European ‘petition’, where more than 1000 PES Members of Parliament from all across Europe called for an FTT to be implemented. Due to constant political pressure the European Commission in September 2011 brought out a legislative proposal [‘on a common system of financial transaction tax’](#). The PES worked closely with the European Parliament Rapporteur Anni Podimata during the legislative procedure for this proposal and achieved a significant victory in May 2012 when the resolution was adopted by the plenary of the European Parliament.

As the financial and economic crisis escalated the PES was the first to propose a rescue mechanism for the Eurozone. In March 2010 the Leaders convened to adopt [‘A “European Mechanism for Financial Stability”](#). The mechanism “protects Eurozone against speculative attacks on sovereign debt and the single currency. It also creates the conditions for Eurozone Member States to borrow at a fair price, in line with real economic fundamentals”. This led to the adoption of a Joint Declaration by the PES Presidency and the S&D Group in the European Parliament on 10 June 2010, entitled [‘A Progressive way out of the crisis’](#), which provided a comprehensive alternative response towards economic recovery and an analysis of the causes of the crisis. Concrete proposals for economic recovery were adopted on 16 June 2010 by the PES leaders declaration : [“Let’s get Europe Working Again”](#).

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Our approach was based on four policy actions:

- Protecting governments’ access to finance from speculation through the establishment of a European Mechanism for Financial Stability.
- Raising new, fair and sustainable revenue through new fiscal and non-fiscal resources.
- Making the recovery of the economy and the labour market, as well as social progress the core objectives of our public policies.
- Enhancing European economic policy coordination for making fiscal policies more efficient.

Our political mandate was strengthened with the adoption of [‘A European and Social Progress Pact for fair growth’](#) by the PES Council in December 2010. The Council agreed that “The PES’ priority number one is to overcome mass unemployment and social exclusion, while promoting fair, green and smart growth. This is a precondition for economic recovery, and should therefore guide all socialist and social-democratic policies and actions.”

Following the increasingly severe effects of austerity-only measures imposed on Members States by conservative leaders, the PES leaders adopted in March 2011 the text; [‘Europe is in the wrong hands’](#), which sets out a clear alternative to the ‘austerity only’ agenda and states “it is neither the people nor welfare that is responsible for the crisis, but greed, irresponsible conservative government policies in some member states in the recent past and uncontrolled financial markets.”

Continuing the fight against unfair financial market speculation the PES in October 2011 adopted a [plan to tame rating agencies](#) by offering sound regulatory measures and an institutional alternative to private rating. The plan calls for increased transparency of CRAs' activities and demands antitrust measures to be undertaken against the monopolistic market. Furthermore, the PES, through the coalition of Europeans for Financial Reform (EFFR), launched a [campaign](#) calling for the regulation credit rating agencies and for the establishment of a European Independent Credit Rating Agency to fight contradictions of private rating and to return regulatory power back to public institutions.

As socialist and social democratic influence grew, notably through the electoral victory of François Hollande in May 2012, the PES called for the immediate implementation of growth-inducing policies. The PES Leaders Meeting of May 2012 decided that the PES, in collaboration with the S&D Group in the European Parliament, should prepare a strategy to restore economic growth through investment in the real economy. Following this decision, the PES mobilised its internal networks and organised two Economic sherpas meetings. The PES Declaration a 'Pact for Growth and Jobs' was adopted by the Leaders in June 2012 and consisted of two parts:

- An action plan for employment and growth in Europe
- Measures for taming Financial Markets, building economic stability, and financing growth and employment.

Economic and Financial Affairs Network

Our economic and financial policy planning is developed through holding frequent Economic and Financial Networks. The Networks serve as a platform for discussions amongst member party representatives, members of the European Parliament, party members working in EU institutions, trade union members and members of partner organisations. The Networks are chaired by Austrian Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Finance Andreas Schieder. During the past three years the following topics have been discussed, amongst others:

- Establishing a Financial Transaction Tax
- Economic coordination and European Governance
- Eurobonds as a progressive response to the Eurozone crisis
- Building a progressive position on the post-2013 financial perspective negotiations
- Derivative products regulation
- Economic governance: the launch of the European semester
- The European Semester: coordinating economic policies for growth and jobs
- Fiscal policy reform in the EU: financing the EU Budget
- Implementation of a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB)
- Regulating Credit Rating Agencies
- New Treaties: European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG)
- Financial Reform – implementation of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD IV)
- Preparation of the PES Fundamental Programme
- A European Investment Strategy

II.II Employment and Social Policy

PES Policy Priorities in the Social and Employment Area

The main priorities of the PES in the social and employment area were creating more and better jobs, workers' mobility, minimum incomes schemes, the future of the pension systems and the Europe 2020 strategy.

The creation of new jobs and improving the quality of employment was a key priority. In numerous policy papers, leaders and presidency declarations and background papers, the PES proposed concrete measures to overcome the unemployment and precariousness crisis. How jobs for young people can be created is outlined in more detail in the youth unemployment report and the guide on youth guarantees.

Following a number of verdicts of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), namely on the cases Laval, Viking, Luxemburg and Rüffert, the need to prioritise social rights over economic freedoms was emphasised in debates in all PES bodies. Based on thorough debates the PES issued a strong call for the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive in a way that it cannot be “misunderstood” in the future and to avoid that it is used to legitimise a violation of social rights. The debate also underlined the need to adopt a social progress clause on the level of EU primary legislation, ensuring that social rights are given priority over economic freedoms.

In order to fight against increasing poverty in Europe, the PES spoke out in favour of a European framework for minimum income schemes. In the policy paper “European Employment and Social Progress Pact”, the PES Council adopted the position that a European framework directive on minimum income schemes should be adopted, stipulating that such schemes must be established in all Member States and which defines minimum criteria on adequacy and accessibility.

The debate on the future of pensions has received a lot of attention on the European level. A green paper and a subsequent white paper of the European Commission on the sustainability and adequacy of pensions sparked a very lively debate on the European and national level. Based on debates within the PES bodies, the following positions on pensions were agreed in the policy paper “European Employment and Social Progress Pact”: Public pensions must remain the backbone of our pension system. To increase the sustainability of pension systems, the number of employees who pay social security contributions must be increased. As opposed to enforcing an increase in the retirement age, the paper called for the reduction of involuntary early retirement by improving working conditions and for more incentives to work longer as well as the flexibilisation of retirement age.

Furthermore, the PES followed the adoption and the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy closely. The secretariat prepared briefings and assessments on the process and provided employees in the institutions and in member states with concrete proposals. A specific guide was developed and distributed to help member parties to influence the National Reform Programmes,

Social Europe Network

The PES Social Europe Network is the main forum to prepare the work of the PES in the social and employment policy area. It brings together spokespersons from our member parties, national members of parliament, European parliamentarians, party members working in EU institutions, trade union members and representatives from social NGOs, such as SOLIDAR. The network has met two to three times a year and played a leading role in developing policy papers, background documents and input for presidency and leaders declarations. All Social Europe Networks were chaired by Alejandro Cercas, MEP. Amongst others, the following topics were discussed over the past two and half years:

- The social dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy
- The Employment Guidelines (linked to the Europe 2020 Strategy)
- How to ensure high quality social services in Europe
- Transforming unemployment schemes into employment insurance schemes
- Establishing a European Minimum Income Scheme
- Revision of the Posted Workers Directive and the Monti II Legislation

- The future of pensions in Europe
- Labour migration – a single work and residency permit
- The social dimension of economic governance
- Building up a sustainable care system
- The social dimension of the internal market
- Preparation of the PES Fundamental Programme
- Overcoming youth unemployment
- Evaluation of the Commissions Employment Package
- A European Investment and Growth Programme.

The PES secretariat also supported the work of the network in between meetings, amongst others by regularly issuing a social and employment news brief and by providing assessments of European Commission proposals and other EU level processes. The network was not only an essential body for developing PES policies with our member parties and partners, it also allowed us to network with key actors in European social and employment policies and to influence political decisions in these policy areas.

Social Affairs Ministerial Meetings

Before most of the Social and Employment Minister Council meetings, the PES convened a meeting of the social democratic and socialist employment and social affairs ministers. Over the past two and a half years, 12 such meetings were organised. This is the most successful of Ministerial networks. It is the area where the largest number of ministers attend PES pre Council meetings and the frequency of the meetings have ensured that our ministers formed a strong team inside of the Council and are able to shape the agenda, despite being currently a minority. During the ministerial meetings, concrete amendments to Council conclusions were formulated, new political items set on the political agenda and the ministers gave input to upcoming PES policy papers and campaigns.

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The topics discussed were closely linked to the Council agenda, but also to the work of the PES Social Europe Network and the PES secretariat. In order to create a strong network between our ministers and other social democratic and socialist actors, the PES secretariat upheld direct contacts to the minister's cabinets and facilitated their cooperation in between the ministers meetings.

Youth Unemployment Working Group

As a response to demands from the PES Social Affairs and Employment Ministers, the Social Europe Network, Party Leaders as well as the PES Presidency to find ways to fight youth unemployment, the PES set up a high-level working group on youth unemployment.

The working group was chaired by Nicolas Schmit, Minister for Social Affairs of Luxembourg, and Kaisa Penny, President of ECOSY. It was composed of experts on youth unemployment from the member parties, including several members of the European and national parliaments, and trade union and civil society representatives.

During the five meetings which were held since summer 2011, the working group with the support of the PES Secretariat prepared a Youth Unemployment report, containing 20 concrete proposals to overcome youth unemployment, a guide on implementing youth guarantees and extensive policy input for the PES Campaign "Your future is my future- A European Youth Guarantee now!" The working group members in many member parties, worked with the PES to prepare concrete policies to reduce youth unemployment and action plans to introduce a youth guarantee in their country.

“European Employment and Social Progress Pact” Policy Paper

Based on a thorough preparation in the PES Social Europe Network and the Social Ministerial, the PES Council in Warsaw on 3rd December 2010 adopted the Policy Paper “European Employment and Social Progress Pact for fair growth - Limiting and overcoming the employment and social crisis”. The paper summarises our answers to the social and employment dimension of the crisis and sets priorities for our struggle to achieve a more social Europe. It emphasises the need to develop a different growth model, in which not only the economic dimension of growth, but especially the social and the environmental dimension are respected. It lists numerous measures on the European, national, regional and local level to create new sustainable jobs, to improve the skills of European employees and to strengthen innovation, to develop a stronger industrial policy, to increase the quality of jobs and to overcome precariousness, to improve the quality and accessibility of public services, to strengthen national social security systems, to improve gender equality and to improve and deepen integration. Last but not least the paper outlines concrete proposals to finance a social Europe. Since its adoption, the policy paper was used to further develop our policies in the social and employment policy field and as a basis for speeches by PES representatives.

II.III Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Transport Policy

PES Policy priorities in the environmental and climate change area

The main priorities of the PES in the environmental and climate change area were developing a fair growth model for Europe, a progressive energy vision until 2050, carbon-free transport and green taxes.

Redefining growth was one of the main priorities in the work of the PES over the past years. The limited definition and one-sided understanding of growth – exclusively aimed at increasing GDP, while ignoring all other aspects of growth – was one of the major underlying reasons of the economic and financial crisis. Proposals for a fairer growth model were developed, balancing the social, environmental and economic dimension of growth were discussed in debates of the PES Environment and Climate Change Network and in a separate conference in May 2011 on “A fair growth model for Europe”, co-hosted by the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions. In these debates, the enormous economic and employment growth potential of the green growth sector and the direct effect of resource and energy efficiency on the competitiveness of Europe’s economy were underlined. In addition, the need to account for the quality of our environment in a future growth indicator was stressed.

Another priority was how to reach 100% renewable energy in Europe. This target was adopted in the green growth policy paper during the 2010 PES Council. The Environment and Climate Change Network discussed how to introduce the right political measures and to stimulate the necessary investment to reduce the use of energy and to increase the share of renewable energy.

Based on the preparatory work in the Environment and Climate Change Network, the June 2012 Presidency adopted a policy paper “Carbon-free Transport - From Vision to Reality”. It develops a vision to drastically reduce the carbon footprint of our transport system and to reduce it until 2050. It proposes a number of policy measures and to redirect investment, namely: changing production patterns, supporting consumers to reduce transport needs, increasingly replacing individual transport by public transport, reforming urban planning and reducing the emissions in road, maritime and air transport.

The PES Secretariat also developed a background document on green taxes which was of particular use to Members of the S&D Group. The background paper introduces the idea behind green taxes, gives an overview on the status quo of green taxes in Member States and outlines possible scenarios for introducing a European framework for green taxes.

PES Environment and Climate Change Network

The PES Environment and Climate Change Network has proven to be a very successful forum for interaction between our party members and civil society on the European level. Like the PES Social Network, it brings together all the relevant actors in the environmental and climate change policy field. The network has met two to three times a year and played a leading role in developing policy papers, background documents and input for presidency and leaders declarations. All Environment and Climate Change Networks were chaired by Linda McAvan, MEP. Amongst others, the following topics were discussed over the past two and half years:

- Progressive demands to the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen (COP15), Cancun (COP16) and Durban (COP 17)
- Financing climate change
- Making green growth become a reality
- Redefining growth, taking into consideration the environmental dimension
- The environmental dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy
- A vision for carbon-free energy production until 2050
- The future of renewable and nuclear energy
- Decarbonising transport in Europe
- Making sustainable development become reality
- The environment, climate and energy dimension of the PES Fundamental Programme.

The PES secretariat also supported the work of the network in between meetings, amongst others by regularly issuing an environment, climate change and energy news brief and by providing assessments of European Commission proposals and other EU level processes.

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The network was not only an essential body for developing PES policies with our member parties and partners, it also allowed us to network with key actors in European environment, climate and energy policies and to influence political decisions in these policy areas.

Environment Ministerial Meetings

The PES convened two meetings of the social democratic and socialist environment ministers. These meetings allowed our ministers to come together before the Environment Council, to agree on common political priorities, prepare common changes to the draft Council Conclusions and discuss upcoming political priorities. Topics discussed during these meetings were amongst others: the international climate change negotiations, the environmental dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy and the environmental dimension of growth. In between the ministerial meeting, the PES secretariat kept direct contact to the minister's cabinets and facilitated their cooperation.

Conference at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference

The PES organised a conference during the COP 15 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Chaired by the PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, social democratic and socialist Ministers, Members of the European Parliament, national parliaments and leading civil society representatives formulated common political demands. The participants unanimously appealed to the EU to unilaterally reduce the green house

gas emission target until 2020 to 30% and to ensure a fair transition process towards a carbon-free economy.

“Making Green Growth become a reality” Policy Paper

During the PES Council in Warsaw on 3rd December 2010, the policy paper “Making Green Growth become a reality” was adopted. The environmental, economic, energy and transport experts of the member parties as well as civil society and trade union representatives contributed to the elaboration of the paper, namely in several meetings of the PES Environment and Climate Change Network. The policy paper is a blueprint for decarbonising our economy and therefore making it more competitive, creating new jobs and increasing the living quality of citizens. It lists the necessary reforms and investments in the energy, manufacturing and transport sector on the European, national and regional level. In addition, it underlines the need to allow citizens to consume in a more environmentally friendly manner. The policy paper also includes a list of measures needed to finance the greening of our economy. Since its adoption, the green growth paper was used to further develop our policies in the environment, energy, transport and climate policy field and as a basis for speeches of PES representatives.

Fundamental Programme Preparation

During the PES Convention, a number of workshops on the future of social, employment and environment, energy, climate as well as transport policies were organised. The conclusions from these workshops form one of the building blocks for the PES Fundamental Programme. In addition, during the network and the Policy Forums, party members discussed together with experts and civil society representatives on the right policies in both areas. It was emphasised that sustainability, one of the main principles identified in the PES Declaration of Principles, must be given a higher priority, especially when developing new growth and economic policies.

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Policy News briefs

In both areas, the employment and social as well as the environment and climate change policy field, the PES secretariat send policy brief on a regular basis to the respective network members and partners. In the policy brief, the most important developments in the European institutions and Member States were summarised and important events and activities in the PES, member parties and civil society announced. An important feature of the policy brief was the analysis of upcoming debates in the EU institutions.

II.IV Migration and Integration Policy

Migration and integration network

The PES Migration and Integration Network was established at the 2009 PES Congress in Prague and Tanja Fajon MEP (SD, Slovenia) and Nebahat Albayrak MP (PvdA, the Netherlands) were appointed as co-chairs. The Network had its first meeting in March 2010 and has since had three meetings. While the first meeting gave an overview on the state of play of the Single Permit Report, the Seasonal Workers Directive and migration issues related to the developments in Northern Africa, the second meeting concentrated on the issue of Schengen Acquis and the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers. This second meeting was co-organised with the PES Foreign Policy Network to exchange views on the relation between the Arab Spring and Migration Policy. The third meeting dedicated its work

on the Migration and Integration Discussion Paper in the context of the Fundamental Programme as well as on the issue of migrant voters' rights.

II.V Democracy in politics – making a difference

214 million European citizens did not vote in the European Parliament elections in 2009. This phenomenon does not only put into question the democratic legitimacy of Europe but also reflects the fact that citizens were not convinced that democratic politics could make a difference to their lives and shaping their future.

In order to reverse this trend of apathy towards European politics, the PES has committed itself and its member parties to “pursue a new politics of engagement with people in order to regain people’s trust, voicing their values and articulating their aspirations”¹¹.

Together with its member parties, the PES monitored democratic processes and the situation of fundamental rights in Member States. It strongly condemned anti-democratic actions of conservative governments in various Member States, be it the “tyranny of majority”, limitation of the separation of powers, of the freedom of expression or citizens’ right to choose who governs them. While defending European democratic standards at local, regional and national level, the PES called for minimum criteria for democracy on the European level.

The PES and its member parties confronted the extreme-right in Europe. In its declaration of October 2010¹², the PES called for a fight against the causes that lead to the rise of extreme-right parties and against abstention and disenchantment towards politics. It reiterated its commitment to the founding principles and values of the European Union and called upon other European political parties to follow its example and isolate extremist parties by not having any relations with a Party not sharing these principles and values.

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In a period of declining freedom of expression and information in Europe, the PES set out to defend media pluralism as a fundamental basis of democracy. The PES organised a high-level seminar on media transparency and press freedom in Budapest in March 2011, and called for legislation to promote pluralistic and independent media on the European level.

As an essential step in regaining citizens’ trust and confidence in politics, the PES was a frontrunner of the further democratisation of European politics.

The PES decided in 2009 to be the first political party at European level to engage with citizens by offering them the power to choose who will preside over the European Commission, by deciding to select its common candidate for the position of European Commission President through a democratic, open, coherent and transparent process.

The democratisation of European politics also requires a political culture that is fundamentally based on strong moral conduct. In this respect, the PES adopted a set of stringent measures¹³ to ensure the highest standards in public office. The PES called for clear and transparent rules and obligations for elected representatives, regarding public disclosure of undertakings, financial interests and dealings with lobbyists. Furthermore, the text highlights a central basic requirement for Members of the European Parliament which is “not to be entitled to receive private remuneration linked to their mandate”.

¹¹ PES Resolution adopted by the 8th Congress on 7-8 December 2009: A new way forward, a stronger PES

¹² PES Resolution adopted by the Presidency on 14 October 2010: Confronting the extreme-right in Europe: our way

¹³ PES Declaration adopted by the Presidency on 14 April 2011: Ethics in Politics – For strong moral conduct through a strong moral code

The PES adopted its Declaration of Principles¹⁴ at the end of 2011 and its first principle for action is Democracy: it “must prevail in all areas of life to enable citizens to decide. Democracy must be pluralistic, transparent, truly representative of society’s diversity and enable everyone to participate, with an open public sphere, an independent media and free access to internet. Freedom of speech is fundamental to a democratic society.” The PES is now in the process of elaborating its Fundamental Programme which will be based on democracy, as a prerequisite for the full expression of freedom, equality, solidarity and justice.

II.VI Foreign Policy

PES Foreign Policy Network

The PES Presidency meeting on April 30, 2010 decided to set up the Foreign Policy Network, which was initially chaired by Sergei Stanishev, Chair of the BSP and former Prime Minister of Bulgaria. After the election of Sergei Stanishev as interim President of the PES, Espen Barth Eide, PES Presidency member and Minister of Defence from DNA, Norway, became the Chair of the Network. The Foreign Policy Network meets at least twice a year and brings together all party experts in this area.

The activities of the Network are closely coordinated with all other relevant PES initiatives including the foreign affairs, defence and development ministerial meetings as well as the regional and country advisory groups and task forces. The first meeting of the network was held in Brussels on 16th June 2010, followed by two other meetings on 27th October and 2nd December 2010. In 2011 the network has met on 13th April and 9th November and the first meeting of the 2012 was on 16th May.

In the context of increased and stronger action on the part of the EU in the realm of external relations, we believe it is of utmost importance for the PES to reflect such development in its own work and structures. The different activities are thus divided in the regions where the PES international policy unit is active.

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Balkans

On 30-31 March 2010, the PES held its annual Balkan Conference on the topic “Progressive Societies in the Balkans” in Sarajevo hosted by the SDP of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The purpose of the conference was to discuss progressive and social democratic strategies towards EU membership of the Western Balkans region. The PES vision of Enlargement 2014 as well as strategies for fair growth, social justice and sustainable development for the region were discussed.

The PES was represented by PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen as well as PES Secretary General Philip Cordery and the party leaders from the region, Zlatko Lagumdžija (SDP Leader, BiH); Zoran Milanovic (SDP Leader, Croatia), Branko Crvenkovski (SDUM Leader, fyr of Macedonia); Edi Rama (SP Leader, Albania); Ranko Krivokapic (SDP Leader, Montenegro); in addition to Kristian Vigenin (MEP S&D Group, BSP, Bulgaria), and many other party representatives from all over Europe.

The final declaration of the conference endorsed by the participants underlines that a common agenda for the Western Balkans towards EU membership was needed. This vision is “Enlargement 2014”. It is to be understood as a key step towards EU membership for the countries of the region. The roadmap for this vision is the Thessaloniki European Council declaration of 2003, which stipulates the EU’s values and the continuation of

¹⁴ PES Declaration of Principles adopted by the PES Council on 24 November 2011

Enlargement in the framework of the Stability and Association process (SAP). It therefore represents the PES contribution to Commissioner Füle's commitment to support the Western Balkans and provides the region with political direction in its efforts to join the EU.

Several practical steps to facilitate follow up of the conference were agreed on. The idea of a specific PES Western Balkans Enlargement task force headed by Mr. Kristian Vigenin, PES Presidency member, MEP, BSP, Bulgaria, was endorsed.

This working group is entrusted with setting benchmarks and priorities on Enlargement 2014. The member parties of the Western Balkans region are invited to nominate MPs and experts for the task force. It was also pledged to increase party and party foundation cooperation and networking. This Task Force is composed of one high-level representative, from each party of the Western Balkan region.

The first meeting of the PES Task Force on Western Balkans Enlargement took place on September 30th in Brussels at the PES Headquarter; followed by a meeting on December 3rd included PES member parties as well as members of the Task Force. In 2011 the Task Force met twice; on 17 March and 9 November. The first meeting of 2012 was held on 11 April at the PES Headquarters.

Mediterranean

The PES developed frequent contacts with the countries of the Mediterranean region, as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In light of the historic revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and the demonstrations, Bahrain, Morocco, Jordan, Yemen and Iran, and the civil war in Syria the PES took crucial initiatives.

After the overthrow of the Tunisian regime at the end of January 2011, the PES has been committed to supporting the democratic transition process in Tunisia. From 28th February to 1st March 2011, Philip Cordery –with Head of Unit Yondec Polet travelled to Tunisia for meetings with high-ranking Tunisian representatives to discuss the recent political events in Tunisia. The PES Secretary General's visit was hosted by the leader of Tunisian opposition party FDTL, and future Chair of the Constituent Assembly, Mustapha Ben Jafaar, who visited the PES Headquarters in Brussels on February 2011. The two-day mission sought to contribute to joint efforts aimed at a successful democratic transition in Tunisia. Philip Cordery, in addition to meetings with sister party Democratic Forum for Labour and Liberties (FDTL) and its leadership, held talks with Ahmed Brahim, leader of the opposition party Movement Ettajdid and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research; with Maya Jribi PDP secretary general and Ali Larayedh spokesperson of Ennahda. During the mission bilateral meetings were held with Mohamed Shimi, Deputy-Secretary General of Tunisian trade union UGTT; Yadh Ben Achour, Chair of the High Political Reform Commission; Sihem Bensedrine, Head of the National Council for Liberties, Khedij Cherif, Secretary General of the LTDH and Ralf Melzer, representative of the F. Ebert foundation in Tunisia.

On 28-29 April 2011, the PES was the first European party to hold a major Conference in Tunis, which was hosted by the Tunisian party FDTL, on the topic "Arab revolutions: time for democracy and progress". Poul Nyrup Rasmussen underlined that the purpose of the conference was to encourage political dialogue and to foster the development of political pluralism in the region.

The PES was represented by the PES President and the PES Secretary General and the FDTL by its President Mustapha Ben Jafaar. This conference which was a major political event and a great success as it gathered a high number of representatives of the Tunisian opposition as well as more than 130 guests from North Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and fostered agreement amongst the PES and its partners from the region on drafting a

declaration and provided a forum for political dialogue as a constructive contribution to a successful democratisation process.

As an outcome of the conference, the idea of a specific PES Task Force on the Arab revolutions was endorsed.

On 12-14 September 2011 Philip Cordery with Head of Unit Yonnec Polet led a mission to Cairo, Egypt. The mission was designed to assess progress in the transition towards democracy, and to hear about preparations for the upcoming elections, set for late November and early 2012.

The PES visit successfully identified areas in which the PES can support a successful shift to democracy through partnership with the many progressive elements of Egyptian society.

Meetings were held with high level representatives from across the Egyptian political, civil, social, and religious spectrum. Egyptian Social Democratic Party members, Dr. Hanna Abu Al Ghar, Dr. Ehab Al Kharrat and Dr. Assem Kamal, held detailed discussions with them. The party was founded following the revolution earlier in 2011. Bilateral meetings were also held with members of the Popular Socialist Alliance Party (PSAP) Mr. Elham Aidarous, Mr. Abdel-Hakam Soliman and Mr. Yehia Fekry. The PSAP was also established after the 2011 revolution following a merging of four Egyptian left-wing groups. Further bilateral meeting took place with Kamal Abbas of the Center for Trade Unions and Workers Services (CTUWS) and with Kamal Abouaitan, one of the leaders behind the creation of the new Egyptian Trade Union Confederation. These meetings discussed the socio-economic state of play and the roles of Egyptian trade unions. Philip Cordery met with foundations such as the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung offices in Egypt, key academics from the University of Cairo and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the current Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo.

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One year after the PES meeting "[Arab revolutions: time for democracy & progress](#)", a second major conference was organised by the PES, the S&D group in the EP and FEPS, together with [Ettakatol](#) (Democratic Forum for Labour and Liberties) in "A new progressive agenda for a new Arab world" Tunis on 30th March 2012. The conference debated the challenges ahead for the region and proposed concrete steps to consolidate democracy in the countries where revolutions succeeded. High level participants also addressed ongoing revolutions, where autocratic regimes keep repressing peaceful demonstrators, and called for a halt of violence against civil populations. Participants joined an action of solidarity with the Syrian people, holding black ribbons and adopting a [declaration in solidarity](#) with people in struggle.

At the end of the meeting, a strong declaration launching the basis of an Arab Economic and Social development plan was adopted. The Tunis conference allowed representatives to foster the democratic transition process by strengthening the partnership and cooperation between European and Arab progressive forces.

The Task Force on Arab Revolutions was developed as part of the follow-up of the PES Euromed Conference in Tunis in April 2011. The PES has been involved from the beginning of the revolutions, followed the developments very closely and will continue to do so. It marks an intensified cooperation and a new start toward a mutual partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern region. In order to have a good coordination of what we will do in the region, the PES is willing to coordinate with its partners (S&D, FEPS, EFDS), and to develop this Task Force on a regular basis.

The first Task Force meeting 'Follow up of the Arab revolutions' was chaired and introduced by Marie Arena, Member of the Senate and former Belgian Employment Minister. In 2011, the Task Force has met twice, on 15th June 2011 at the PES Headquarter

in Brussels and on 19th October in the framework of other activities with ECOSY and the S&D Group.

Middle East

The Middle East is always an important issue of the PES agenda. From the 25-28 November 2010, a high level PES delegation visited Israel and Palestine. The purpose of the delegation was to have a dialogue with regional partners, stakeholders and civil society on the state of play in the Middle East peace process as well as domestic issues.

The delegation was chaired by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Espen Barth Eide, PES Presidency Member. The participants of the delegation included: Piero Fassino, Member of Parliament and Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, DP, Italy; Bert Koenders, Former Minister of Development, PvdA, Netherlands; Catalin Sorin Ivan, Member of European Parliament, PSD, Romania; Marije Laffeber, PES Presidency member, International Secretary, PvdA, Netherlands; Ann Linde, International Secretary, SAP, Sweden; Morten Damm Krogh, International Secretary, SD, Denmark ; Giacomo Filibeck, Member of the International Department in Charge of Middle East, Africa and Mediterranean, DP, Italy; Sebastian Toro, Senior Economic Adviser in the Swedish Social Democratic Parliamentary Group, SAP, Sweden; Yonnet Polet, Head of the International Unit, PES and Michael Oberreuter, International Unit, PES.

Meetings were held with the EU Representatives to Israel, Mr. Andrew Stadley and Palestine, Mr. Christian Berger, the leaders of Meretz, Secretary General Yaron Shor, former MK Abu Vilan and Naomi Chazan and Colette Avital of the Labour Party Israel in addition to leaders of the Palestinian Authority Naabil Shaath, Saeb Erekat and Ghassan Khatib in addition to seminars and conferences. In Israel, the Conference "Challenges for the Progressive Society of the 21st Century conference" organised by the Berl Katsnelson Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Israel and the Jean Jaures Foundation which discussed the Left in Israel was attended by participants.

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In other meetings, the focus lay on the peace process. In Palestine, the delegation joined the discussions of the Fatah Seminar "Fatah and PES, 30 years after the Venice Declaration", concerned with the Fatah strategy following its Bethlehem Congress of 2009 and the peace process. Other meetings included a discussion with Dr Mustafa Barghouti and Dr Khaled Saifi, Palestinian National Initiative and a visit of Jerusalem organised by the Jerusalem's branch of Fatah.

In Washington D.C., on 24th June 2010, the PES met with Middle East experts in order to analyse the situation in the Middle East and to propose initiatives to support the Peace Process. Hadar Susskind, Advocacy Director of J-Street the progressive voice of Jewish Americans; Amjad Atallah, Co-Director of the Middle East Task Force at the New America Foundation and Uri Zaki US Director B'Tselem, Lara Friedman, Director of Policy & Government Relations at Americans for Peace Now;

On 6th October 2010, a second meeting was held in Washington D.C. gathering US experts and PES/GPF/FEPS members to discuss the state of play of the direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The aim of the meeting was to identify initiatives that could support the MEPP to reach a positive outcome. Participants to this meeting were; Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, PES President; Daniel Levy Co-director, of the ME task Force from New America Foundation; Amjad Attalah, Co-director, of the ME task Force, from New America Foundation; Hadar Susskind, Vice President on Policy & Strategy of J Street; Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen, Programme Officer at United States Institute for Peace and Uri Zaki, US Director of B'Tselem.

On 14th June 2011 the PES organised a meeting with the Israeli NGO B'tselem for the presentation of latest report on Israel's Policy in the Jordan Valley and Northern Dead Sea by the European representative Carin Smaller. The meeting was open to PES friendly organisations, NGOs, foundations and personalities. The presentation was followed by a discussion. B'Tselem is independent and is funded by contributions from foundations in Europe and North America that support human rights activity worldwide, and by private individuals in Israel and abroad.

A third meeting in Washington D.C on 23rd April 2012 with the participation of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Former PES President was organised. It was attended by Leila Hilal, co-director of the New America Foundation's ME Task Force; Steven Kubiner, Chief of Staff at J Street; Suhad Babba, Just Vision; Ghaith Al Omari from the American Task Force on Palestine; Uri Zaki, US Director of B'Tselem and Yonnec Polet, Head of the International Policy Unit of the PES.

The PES High Level Advisory Group on Turkey

The PES sent a delegation to Turkey on 26th-29th January 2011. Meetings were scheduled in Ankara as well as in Diyarbakir and Istanbul. The delegation, chaired by Philip Cordery, held bilateral discussions with representatives of PES Member Parties CHP and BDP, state officials, the EU Delegation, civil society, women's organisations, trade unions, academia and media.

The PES delegation focused on two main themes. Firstly, domestic reforms: women's rights, workers' rights, minority rights and the Kurdish issue, media freedom, the role of the army, the new constitution, the electoral threshold, the implementation of reforms. Secondly, relating to EU accession: the need for reforms to improve standards of living, the danger of anti-EU rhetoric and the role of social-democrats can play in negotiations in a conservative Europe. The PES delegation met the leadership of PES Associate Member Party CHP Party Leader Kemal Kiliçdaroğlu. The High Level Advisory Group also held meetings with a number of state officials including Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin.

In the South-Eastern city of Diyarbakir the delegation was welcomed by the leadership of PES Associate Member Party Peace and Democracy (BDP), including its Co-Presidents Selahattin Demirtas and Gültan Kişanak and the Mayor of Diyarbakir Osman Baydemir, as well as trade union and civil society representatives. The delegation concluded in Istanbul with a seminar hosted by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on "Turkish-European Dialogue on human rights, social dialogue and media", providing an opportunity for PES members to meet with civil society organisations, trade unions, academia and media.

Eastern European Neighbours

The scope of the "PES Working Group on Eastern European Neighbours", whose aim is to report to the PES Presidency on the transformation and democratisation processes and to follow the left-leaning parties in Eastern European countries was extended. From Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, it was extended to the South Caucasus with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

The PES Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours, in cooperation with the S&D Group in the EP and the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, held a fact-finding mission to Tbilisi, Georgia, on 26 March 2010.

The visit provided a major opportunity to assess the current state of affairs of Georgia and its opposition parties, while also contributing to a better grasp of the country's situation

ahead of local elections and direct elections for the office of Mayor of Tbilisi, to be held on 30 May 2010.

The delegation was co-chaired by Peter Schieder, Chair of the PES Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours and former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (SPÖ, Austria), Jan Marinus Wiersma, Vice-President of the European Forum and former Vice-President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament (PvdA, The Netherlands), and Hannes Swoboda, Vice-President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament (SPÖ, Austria). The delegation also included Libor Roucek, Vice-President of the European Parliament (CSSD, Czech Republic), Kristian Vigenin, PES Presidency Member, Chair of EURONEST and S&D Group Coordinator of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament (BSP, Bulgaria), Kaloyan Pargov, Vice-Chair of the BSP Council of European Affairs, Municipal Councillor of Sofia (BSP, Bulgaria), Zoran Thaler, Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia parliamentary Cooperation Committees (SD, Slovenia), Katalin Piri, Political Advisor (S&D Group), Marianna Tsirelson, Information Officer (European Forum/AMS), Marina Ohanjanyan, Project Manager (European Forum/AMS), Martine Alonso Marquis, Assistant to Hannes Swoboda (S&D Group), Orietta Zanella, Assistant to Libor Roucek (S&D Group) and David Capezzuto, Political Advisor of the International Unit (PES). The delegation held bilateral meetings with representatives from Georgia's current government and parliamentary majority, as well as progressive opposition parties. The mission participants also met with actors from civil society, academia and the media. Additionally, the delegation members held talks with EU officials, including Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the EU Delegation in Georgia.

The PES Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours, in cooperation with the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, also held a fact-finding mission to Chisinau, Moldova, on 26-28 May 2010.

The visit provided a major opportunity to assess the current state of affairs in Moldova and its ruling and opposition parties, while also contributing to a better grasp of the country's situation in the context of its constitutional deadlock.

The delegation was co-chaired by Peter Schieder, Chair of the PES AG on Eastern European Neighbours and former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (SPÖ, Austria), and Marianne Mikko, former Member of the European Parliament, former Co-Chair of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Member of the Party Executive (SDE, Estonia). The delegation held bilateral meetings with representatives from Moldova's current government and parliamentary majority as well as opposition parties. The mission participants also met EU officials, including the Head of the EU Delegation in Moldova, and actors from civil society, academia and the media. The delegation also took part to the International Roundtable "Social Moldova – Common Europe", organised by the PES sister party Democratic Party of Moldova in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Alfred Mozer Stichting.

On 3-5 November 2010 a delegation of European social democrats bringing together the PES, the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity and the S&D Group in the European Parliament conducted a fact-finding mission to Astana and Almaty, Kazakhstan, in order to get a clear picture of the political situation in the country by way of bilateral meetings with government representatives, OSCE and EU officials, representatives of political parties, civil society, youth groups, academia and international organisations active on the ground.

The delegation was led by Kristian Vigenin, PES Presidency Member, Coordinator of the S&D Group in the Foreign Affairs Committee and Chair of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly; and Jan Marinus Wiersma Vice-President of the European Forum.

On 6-7 November the three organisations, with the support of the UK Labour Party through Westminster Foundation for Democracy Funds, organised a conference entitled “EU and Central Asia: Roles and Perspectives”, in which the development of democracy and social democracy in Central Asia and in particular in the separate Central Asian states was discussed. The delegation scheduled meetings with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Oil and Gas, the Deputy Mayor of Astana, the Chairman of the Senate, the Deputy Speaker of the Mazhilis, the Ombudsman, the Chairperson of the Central Election Committee, the Deputy Director of the People’s Assembly of Kazakhstan, the ruling party and the opposition.

Amongst the topics discussed are the country’s domestic situation, the OSCE Chairmanship of Kazakhstan, relations with the EU, the role of the country in the region and the role of social democratic political forces in the development of Central Asia. The visit ended with a two-day exchange of views with a variety of stakeholders, including party representatives and civil society, from all five countries of the Central Asian region.

Transatlantic Partnership

Dialogue with the US Democrats and the transatlantic partnership has been a PES priority for the last number of years. Delegations, meetings and exchanges of information were held on a regular basis. The PES in cooperation with FEPS and the GPF sent a delegation to Vancouver, where the ITUC Congress was being held, and to Washington D.C. from June 21-25 2010. With the G20 summit in Toronto beginning on June 26th, the discussions focused on financial regulation, as well as smart green growth and transatlantic cooperation.

The delegation was led by PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and included PES Special Advisor Maria Joao Rodrigues, Yonnec Polet, Head of the International Unit (PES), Matthieu Meaulle, Economic Advisor (FEPS), and Luc Brunet, Foreign Policy Intern (PES).

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The delegation met with Canadian and American progressive politicians and trade unionists.

In Vancouver, the delegation met with John Monks, Secretary General, ETUC; Peter Julian, Member of Parliament, member of the International Trade Committee, New Democratic Party; Ken Georgetti, President, Canadian Labour Congress, Pascal Lamy, WTO DG and Dominique Strauss-Khan, IMF DG. In Washington D.C., meetings were held with Congressman Peter DeFazio - Jared Bernstein, Economic Advisor to Vice-President Joe Biden; Heather Booth, Americans for Financial Reform; Damon Silvers, Associate General Counsel, AFL-CIO. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organized a meeting with Dean Baker, Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Ron Blackwell, Chief Economist of the AFL-CIO, Kemal Dervis, Vice-President and Director of Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution, Jacob Funk Kierkegaard, Research Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Lawrence Mishel, President of the European Policy Institute, and Howard Rosen, Resident Visiting Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics. Prior to the delegation, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and Philip Cordery attended the Socialist International Council Meeting, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. On 21 September 2010, Yonnec Polet, Head of the International Policy Unit of the PES, was invited as speaker to the “Decent Work and the MDG’s: Keeping the Promise” Summit in NYC.

On 13-14 December 2010 the PES President accompanied by the PES Secretary General and Yonnec Polet, Head of the International Policy Unit went to the Global Progress Leaders meeting in NYC, USA. The meeting brought together former progressive leaders, heads of progressive institutions, strategists and thinkers, and a new generation of political leaders from North America, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Australia and Asia.

Participants discussed how progressives can better meet the current economic and political challenges, and how they can collaborate more effectively.

From 21-23 September 2011 Poul Nyrup Rasmussen attended the 2011 Clinton Global Initiative in the framework of this high-level Conference. The PES President had bilateral meeting with Pascal Lamy, WTO DG, Governor Howard Dean and Professor Joseph Stiglitz. On September 23 President Rasmussen also attended the Socialist International Presidium Meeting, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

On 23-24 April 2012 former PES President, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, as part of a GPF delegation, visited the US to discuss the state of the economy and to prepare future GPF initiatives. He had meetings with; Richard Trumka, Chairman of the AFL-CIO, John Podesta, Chair and Counselor of the Center for American Progress, and with US Economists at the Peterson institute on the theme: "A Progressive Perspective on the European Crisis." A meeting was hosted by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office Washington DC on the theme: "Overcoming the Euro Crisis – Concrete Proposals for Financial Reforms and Economic Growth."

Latin America

A PES Member Party Representation chaired by PES Presidency Member, MP and Foreign Policy Spokesperson Urban Ahlin, SAP Sweden, attended the 4th Congress of the Partido dos Trabalhadores of Brazil as well as its International Seminar on 18-20 February 2010 in the country's capital, Brasilia. The group included MP François Loncle and National Delegate for Latin America Jean Jacques Kourliandski, PS France, Niels Annen, Member of the Party Federal Executive Board and former MP, SPD Germany, José Antonio Espejo, Head of the International Department, PSOE Spain, Martin Sandgren, Deputy International Secretary, SAP Sweden, Member of the International Department Francesca D'Ulisse and Brazil Party Representative Andrea Lanzi, PD Italy, Konstantinos Foutzopoulos, Member of the International Department, PASOK Greece, François Isserel, Senior Policy Advisor, FEPS, and David Capezzuto, Political Advisor of the International Unit of the PES.

The PES Representation also held a number of bilateral meetings with the PT leadership and MERCOSUR representatives. Counterparts to the discussions were Celso Amorim, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marco Aurelio Garcia, Special Advisor to the President Lula on Foreign Policy, Tarso Genro, Minister of Justice and State Governor candidate, Aloizio Mercadante, Leader of the PT Group in the Senate and incoming President of the Parliament of MERCOSUR, and Valter Pomar.

On 17-20 August 2010, the 16th meeting of the Foro de São Paulo, celebrating its 20th anniversary was organised, for the first time, in Buenos Aires. The Foro de São Paulo (FSP) is a conference of left-leaning [political parties](#) and organisations from [Latin America](#) and the [Caribbean](#). It was launched by the [Workers' Party](#) (*Partido dos Trabalhadores - PT*) of [Brazil](#) in 1990 in the city of [São Paulo](#). During a visit to Europe in June 2010, Walter Pomar, former PT International Secretary and current Executive Secretary of the Foro de São Paulo met Philip Cordery and several PES member parties and invited the PES to attend the Foro's 20th anniversary meeting in Buenos Aires. The PES was represented by Yonnec Polet, Head of the International Unit. Other participants were Jean-Jacques Kourliandsky National Delegate for Latin America PS-France, Laura Robles Castro; member of the International Affairs Committee PSOE-Spain; and Francesca D'Ulisse, member of the International Department in charge of Latin America and Caribbean countries DP-Italy.

China

From 5-10 July 2010 a Young Political Leaders delegation of the PES headed by the PES Secretary General. The delegation took place in the framework of the CPC-PES dialogue launched in 2006. The delegation included Marije Laffeber, PES Presidency Member, International Secretary and second Vice-Chair PvdA, Netherlands; Lars Midtiby, General Secretary, SD, Denmark, Ivan Catalin Sorin, MEP, PSD, Romania; Signe Brudset, International Secretary, DNA, Norway; Nicolae Vasilescu, MP, Executive Secretary, Head of the Legislative Department in the National Parliament, PSD, Romania; Yonnec Polet Head of the International Unit, PES; David Kitching, Junior Adviser, FEPS and Michael Oberreuter, International Unit, PES, visited China for several high level meetings with senior members of the Communist Party of China (CPC), local officials, trade unionists and social workers.

The delegation visited Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai. The delegation held many meetings; they met with the Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC, Mr. Li Jinjun, with Mr. Wang Hongjian, Deputy Director-General of the Department of European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Mr. Yin Chengji, Spokesman of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, with Mr. He Yong, Member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, Deputy Secretary of the Central Commission for the Discipline Inspection of the CPC, local CPC leaders, representatives of trade unions, the CPC Youth League and several company owners.

For the second time, a PES high-level delegation led by Poul Nyrup Rasmussen visited China on 4-9 July 2011. The delegation visited Beijing, Chongqing and Hong-Kong and had several high-level meetings with senior members of the Communist Party of China (CPC), local officials, trade unionists and social workers.

The aim of the five day visit was to further exchange about the international economic and financial situation and the situation in China regarding the matters of human rights, Decent Work and workers' rights as well as environmental protection. In particular, a PES-CPC seminar was organised to have an in depth discussion on the PES Growth Plan and the CPC Five years' plan.

The additional delegation members were Philip Cordery; Attila Mesterhazy President of MSZP, Hungary; Zlatko Lagumdžija, President of SDP, Former Prime Minister, BiH; Alexandra Dobolyi, PES Presidency member, MSZP, Hungary; Joan Calabuig, Member of the Party Board, Spokesperson of International Cooperation in the Committee of the Congress, Member of Parliament, PSOE, Spain; Carin Åström, Member of the Party Board, Member of Parliament in the Committee for Industry and Trade, SAP, Sweden; Juan José López, Advisor to the PSOE Secretary of International Policy and Cooperation, PSOE, Spain; Kaisa Penny, ECOSY President; Yonnec Polet, Head of the PES International Unit; and Sylvie Rurakamvy, Assistant to the PES International Unit.

In Beijing the PES participants had high-level meetings with; Xin Changxing, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security - with Mrs. Zhang Shiping, Vice Chairperson of All Trade Union China Confederation - with Mr. Liu Yunshan, Member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and Head of the Department of Publicity. They had a PES-CPC Seminar hosted by Mr. Li Jinjun, Vice Minister of IDPC on the 12 Five Year Plan and PES Growth Plan; with the participation of Mr. Lu Zhongyuan, Deputy Director of the State Council Development Research Center. They also met with Xi Jinping, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of CPC Central Committee, Vice-President of China and upcoming Secretary General of the CPC and President of China.

Meeting in Chongqing, the PES Members met with Mr. Bo Xilai Chongqing Committee Secretary. In Hong Kong they have met with Maria Castillo, Head of the EU Delegation - with Ronny Tong Kwa from HKSAR, with Martin Lee the Former Senior member of the

Legislative Councils and Emily Lau, Member of the Legislative Councils - with Lee Cheuk Yan and Elisabeth Tang, from the Hong Kong Trade Union Confederation and with Mr. W. H Cheuk, Commissioner of Labor, Hong Kong Government

Partnerships worldwide

The PES is deeply involved in international cooperation and global affairs. Europe has a major role to play in the international arena and must therefore show its commitments vis-à-vis the rest of the world. The PES is committed to making this world a safer place and a place of shared prosperity, in which human rights and human dignity are at the centre of our thinking and actions. To strengthen European Union policy and its role as a global player, the PES has organised various events and initiatives over the last years. This dynamic approach tackled a wide range of international issues.

The PES continued to organise our Networks of Ministers with International Portfolios together with Spokespersons from PES member parties.

In Brussels Philip Cordery, and the Secretary General of the GPF, Javier Moreno Sanchez, met with Australian Labor Party Representatives John Hogg, President of the Senate, and Catryna Bilyk, Senator, topics of common interest including financial regulation and climate change as well as ways to further strengthen relations between European and Australian progressives were discussed. As follow up to this meeting PES International Unit Political Advisor David Capezzuto visited Canberra on May 13th 2010.

Cooperating closely with progressives in Australia is of fundamental importance for the PES today as it adds a major player to the well established partnership with US and Japanese Democrats as well as the Brazilian Workers Party, laying the foundations of a progressive alliance in the context of the G20 as well as other international fora.

The PES believes that such an alliance is necessary to deal with the global challenges we are faced with today. The visit represented the first step in the context of future joint activities with both the PES and the Global Progressive Forum.

Socialist International

Since 2010, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Philip Cordery, and Yondec Polet regularly attended all Socialist International Meetings. They have participated in the Council and Presidium meeting of 21 June 2010 held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The Council Meeting of Paris on 16 November 2010, the Congress and Presidium meeting of Athens on 30 June 2011 and the latest Presidium meeting of New York on 23 September 2011. The PES Interim President Sergei Stanishev, Philip Cordery and Yondec Polet attended the XXIV Congress of the Socialist International in August 2012.

World Social Forum

From the 7th to the 10th of February 2011, the PES joined the World Social Forum (WSF) in Dakar, Senegal, and met partners from the progressive opposition parties as well as civil society representatives. The mission of the delegation was to contribute to the WSF through the workshops organised and hosted by the Global Progressive Forum, FEPS, Solidar and the ITUC.

The PES Delegation started its visit to Dakar with a bilateral meeting with Mr. Ousmane Tanor Dieng, leader of the Socialist Party of Senegal (PS). Other meetings were held with the Foro de São Paulo; Chico Whitaker, member of the International Council of the WSF as

well as Dominique Dellicour, Head of the EU Delegation to Senegal and Friedrich Kramme-Sterose and Hubert René Schillinger from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Senegal. Philip Cordery participated in a conference organised by the Fondation Jean Jaurès and the FEPS on "The Crisis in West-Africa. The social consequences and the responses", which took place on 9th -10th February in Dakar. The conference was opened by Ousmane Tanor Dieng, First Secretary of the SP Senegal, and Martine Aubry, First Secretary of PS France. Following the conference, European and African Socialists gathered for an evening discussion with the title "African and European socialists; our values at the service of social justice, democracy and peace".

Global Progressive Forum (GPF)

The PES and the S&D group in the European Parliament continued their strong involvement in the Global Progressive Forum (GPF). As a joint initiative, in cooperation with S&D Group in the European Parliament the GPF aims to create a space for cooperation and dialogue on globalisation between progressive politicians, NGOs and trade unions.

The GPF continues to organise biannual Geneva Group meetings with High Representatives of International Institutions, Trade Unions leaders, NGOs and progressive politicians. Over the past three years, the GPF concentrated a major part of its efforts and activities to promoting the reform of the financial system.

On 1st February 2010 the first Geneva Group Meeting of the year took place in Geneva at the ILO Headquarters which was followed by a meeting on 22 June 2010 in the framework of the ITUC Congress of Vancouver; with the participation of Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, Guy Rider, Secretary General of the ITUC. This meeting of the Geneva Group was to discuss the New Global Deal and the G20 summit in Toronto.

On 7th October 2010, the Geneva Group Meeting took place in Washington DC at the AFL-CIO Headquarter. The agenda of the meeting focused on financial market regulation and new sources of financing; Promoting a green economy – social and sustainable and a Way out of the crisis; A progressive approach.

On May 10-13 2010, the GPF in association with the FEPS, the Africa Forum, Solidar and several European foundations consolidated the links with the African progressive partners during the conference "After the Financial Crisis - a progressive agenda for Africa" organised in Cape Town. This conference aimed at addressing the complex issues raised by the financial crisis in the context of seeking a new paradigm for development economics in Africa.

During the World Social Forum (WSF) in Dakar, Senegal, the Global Progressive Forum organised four workshops to exchange views and suggest progressive political approaches in order to define a framework for a fairer and more sustainable global future

The Global Progressive Forum launched an initiative called Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean consisting in bringing together key actors of the Arab Revolutions, European decision makers and thinkers, to discuss the democratisation process in the Arab world.

This project has been developed in partnership with the S&D Group in the EP, the PES, FEPS and Solidar. It was launched in April 2011, with a first conference organised by FEPS and the PES in Tunis. The second step of this project was a series of meetings, which were held in Barcelona, with the Conference: "Democratic transition: fears and hopes" in April 2011, and Brussels with the Conference: "Building the Bridge to Democracy" in October 2011.

III Infrastructure

III.I Communication Tools

Since 2009, the PES online hub has grown into a platform comprising three integrated websites: PES website, Re:new (consultation platform for the *Our Vision for Progressive Societies* in the 21st Century project) and My PES (PES activists' website). In addition, a specific website has been developed for the youth guarantee campaign.

PES website – www.pes.eu

A new PES website was put online on 2009, during the PES election campaign. The website was updated and revamped in October 2011. A new homepage and several new features were implemented and the site structure was made more user-friendly. The homepage has a new design and, in addition to PES news and blogs, includes multimedia and web 2.0 elements, such as an interactive map of PES members, latest photos and videos, press articles quoting the PES, a twitter feed and a Facebook box.

The new site structure makes it easier to find key information users search for, e.g. PES member parties (reachable via the map on the homepage and a direct menu entry). The political initiatives pages have been completely restructured and users can now easily have an overview of the main elements concerning each policy area. Political initiative pages include the latest related news, the latest documents, as well as videos and photos. The number of unique visits has increased by 21% in the last year on www.pes.eu and the total number of visits between April 2011 and April 2012 has risen by 10%.

In June 2012 the PES online platform changed from the domain pes.org to pes.eu to emphasize the European identity and audience of the PES websites and to reflect the growing importance of the .eu domain (that brings together European institutions but also ever more NGOs and citizens' portals). The change to the .eu domain is also a step towards the preparation for the European elections of 2014.

This domain change did not impact on the website, since all former links were redirected to their new pes.eu form. Furthermore, a permanent redirection from pes.org to pes.eu was set to avoid any broken links from third parties linking to the PES websites.

Newsletter

The PES newsletter was revamped during the last Congress period. It has become a regular feature of PES external communication, being sent twice a month to 20,000 people in English and in French.

A new layout was designed and implemented in October 2011. The newsletter is now shorter and more dynamic. In addition to PES news, the newsletter now includes a video, an editorial from PES President, an update from PES activists and two articles about PES member parties. The changes on the newsletter generated positive feedback from activists and helped bringing up to 75% more visits to the website.

Facebook

So far the PES presence on facebook counts more than 10,000 people between fans and members of the group. Today we can find on facebook [a page](#) (9200 fans) and a group, specifically designed for the [PES Convention](#) (1000 members). The PES President also

has his own page on the platform; Poul Nyrup Rasmussen's was active for one year, from the end of 2010 to the end of 2011, and gathered about 1300 fans. [Sergei Stanishev](#)'s account was at the beginning of 2012.

Twitter

The [Party of European Socialists](#) has been present on twitter since the 2009 campaign. Today the Party's account counts about 4200 followers and a well established #tag called #Re_new.

The PES President also has an account on twitter. A new account was created for [Sergei Stanishev](#), after the closure of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen's one.

Twitter was also used during the PES Convention to organise live coverage of the event by using the #tag #Re_new, in combination with four others corresponding to the four thematic half-days of the event, marking a clear success. Over 2000 original tweets, not accounting for additional retweeting, were sent in 2 days (with 2 specific tweets retweeted 1000times) mainly by the participants of the event, reaching a global audience of more 3.000.000 people per day. As part of the live coverage, a number of progressive bloggers were invited from across Europe to tweet live and blog about the convention. More than 70 posts were tracked.

Both Twitter and Facebook are extensively used for PES campaign "My future is your future – a European Youth Guarantee now!

Publications

PES publications make political content available to the public, in paper and electronic form. The paper form consists of reports, brochures, leaflets, and flyers. The electronic form consists of e-documents, mostly pdf format. These are given and distributed to groups of interest such as activists, MEPs, etc. and the general public for the purposes of further distribution, public events, or public display.

Between 2010 and 2012, the PES published the following reports: Let's get Europe working again: A progressive way out of the crisis for all Europeans (2010), The Declaration of Principles (2011) and Combating youth unemployment (2012).

The PES also published information leaflets and flyers about: Let's Get Europe working again: A progressive way out of the crisis for all Europeans (2010), A financial Transaction Tax NOW! (2010), Re:new (2011), PES Women (2011), Your future is my future - A European Youth Guarantee Now (2012).

*(**) Not all publications have been translated in other languages.*

Goodies

PES goodies are produced to promote the image of the PES. Finding a successful goody for the promotion of our values and campaigns is an important part of the campaigning process. PES goodies are distributed at party congresses, conferences and other events and also to PES activists for their own meetings, demonstrations, etc. For example, during our FTT campaign, publications were often distributed with various goodies, such as flags, or pins to increase their appeal to the public. The [e-shop](#) is the online shopping space where people can directly buy PES goodies over the Internet. 'PES activists starter kits' are available to our activists for the overall cost of 20€. It is composed of 1 T-shirt, 1 bag, 1

pen, 1 pin, 2 flags, and 6 balloons. From 2010 - 2012 the following have been produced: T-shirts & stickers.

III.II Development of the legal and administrative structure

Political parties and foundations at European level have functioned since 2007 according to the [revised regulation](#), as adopted by the European Parliament and Council. This legislation provides a framework for transparent funding; the definition of a party and of a foundation at European level and it establishes rules governing donations. While this regulation represents a significant improvement over the previous legislative framework, it is still not sufficiently adapted to the role of European political parties and foundations.

In this light, the PES has made a point of strongly emphasizing the need for parties and foundations at European level to acquire legal personality under EU law and to provide them with a flexible financial regulation that is suited to their needs and functions. The European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on 6 April 2011 where it called on the European Commission to take action in view of proposing “a draft statute for European political parties” and stated that, “as a first step”, “the adoption of the European statute” is needed. Accordingly, the Commission presented its [proposals](#) in September 2012 and the PES will continue its efforts to make sure that the new legal and financial framework further strengthens our structure in preparation of the upcoming European elections.

III.III Changes to PES Statutes

A new set of statutes was adopted at the 8th Congress in Prague, adapting to the new situation of the Group in the European Parliament, modifying the representation of full member organisations within PES statutory bodies, recognising FEPS as the political foundation linked to the PES and acknowledging the existence and the role of PES activists.

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III.IV New Memberships

In terms of memberships, the 2009 Prague Congress granted full membership to SMER Slovakia and FEPS; associate membership to PSS Albania, DPS Montenegro and SDP Montenegro; and observer membership to CTP Turkey. The Prague Congress upgraded DP Serbia, SDP Bosnia and Herzegovina and Samfylkingin (Iceland) from observer members to associate members. The Prague Congress acknowledged the change of name of Partito Socialista Italiano (former Socialisti Democratici Italiani) and of the S&D Group in the EP (former PES Group in the EP).

The 2010 Warsaw Council granted provisional associate membership to PDM Moldova.

The Presidency, on 29th June 2012, provisionally confirmed the full membership of SDE Estonia after its merger with the Russia Party.

PES Delegation to Latvia

The Presidency decided to send a PES delegation to Riga in order to have a clearer picture of the political landscape, to assess the situation of PES member party LSDSP and to evaluate the membership request of the Harmony Party.

The delegation took place on the 9th and 10th of July 2012.

The delegation was composed of Yonnec Polet, Head of the International Unit of the PES, accompanied by Kamilla Golonka, PES Secretary General's Office ; Justas Paleckis, MEP, representing the Lithuanian LSDP party; Jevgeni Ossinovski, MP and International Secretary of the Estonian SDE party.

The delegation met with representatives of the LSDSP, Harmony Party, Freedom and Solidarity Foundation (FSF), Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Renewed Latvia 2018.

They made recommendations to adjust the membership status of the LSDSP. The delegation, available online, also made recommendations about the membership request of the Harmony Party. The Presidency decided, on the 14th of September 2012, to propose to the 2012 Congress that both parties take Observer Status.

Since the Prague Congress in 2009, the PES Staff has grown to 28, including the Secretary General, 3 heads of unit, 14 advisors, and 10 assistants. Interns and volunteers have also contributed immensely to our work over the past years. The enthusiasm and dedication of our staff makes our work possible. We wish to thank all PES Staff, past and present, for their enduring commitment.

All documents are available on www.pes.eu

PES ACTIVITIES 2009 – 2012

High-Level Round Table on Climate Change	16.12.2009	Copenhagen
Sherpa's Meeting (Commissioners)	06.01.2010	Brussels
General Affairs Ministerial	25.01.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to SPD Germany	25-26.01.2010	Berlin
PES Women Executive	27.01.2010	
Coordination Team	28.01.2010	
Social Ministerial	28.01.2010	Barcelona
Social Europe Network	02.02.2010	
PES Women Statutory	03.02.2010	
Presidency	04.02.2010	Brussels
Prime Ministers	10.02.2010	Brussels
General Affairs Ministerial	22.02.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to LSAP Luxembourg	25.02.2010	Luxembourg
Press Event: A concrete way out of the Greek Crisis	02.03.2010	
PES SG visit to SPÖ Austria	4-5.03.2010	Vienna
PES President visit to SPÖ Austria	4-5.03.2010	Vienna
Social Ministerial	08.03.2010	Brussels
Environment Ministerial	15.03.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to PS Belgium	16-17.03.2010	Brussels
Environment and Climate Change Network	17.03.2010	Brussels
Sherpa's Meeting (Commissioners)	18.03.2010	
General Affairs Ministerial	21.03.2010	Brussels
Gender Equality Ministerial	25.03.2010	Valencia
Leaders	25.03.2010	Brussels
Joint Conference and FFM PES-EFDS	26. – 29.03.2010	Tbilisi
PES Balkans Conference	30. – 31. 03.2010	Sarajevo
PES SG visit to SD Slovenia	30.03 – 1.04.2010	Ljubljana
Financial and Economic Network	07.04.2010	Brussels
PES Women Executive	14.04.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to SAP Sweden	15-16.04.2010	Stockholm
PES President trip to SPD Germany	21.04.2010	Berlin
Coordination Team	22.04.2010	Brussels
European Day of Action: Financial	24.04.2010	Brussels

Transaction Tax Now!		
General Affairs Ministerial	25.04.2010	Luxembourg
Presidency	29.04.2010	Brussels
SG Meeting	05.05.2010	
Foreign Affairs Ministerial	09.05.2010	Luxembourg
Social Europe Network	10.05.2010	Brussels
Financial Regulation Press Point	11.05.2010	Brussels
Event "Our way out of the crisis"	12.05.2010	Brussels
Working Group EEN Moldova-Delegation	26. – 28. 05.2010	Chisinau
PES SG visit to SDE Estonia	26.05.2010	Tallinn
PES Women Executive	01.06.2010	Madrid
Environment and Climate Change Network	01.06.2010	Brussels
Coordination Team	03.06.2010	Brussels
Progressive Societies Advisory Committee	04.06.2010	Brussels
Social Ministerial	07.06.2010	Luxembourg
Event "Our Way out of the Crisis"	09.06.2010	
Presidency	10.06.2010	
General Affairs Ministerial	13.06.2010	Luxembourg
Development Ministerial	14.06.2010	Luxembourg
PES President visit to PS France Bureau National	15.06.2010	Paris
Leaders	16.06.2010	Brussels
Foreign Policy Network	16.06.2010	Brussels
PES Action Plan Middle East	16.06.2010	Brussels
PES Conference of Secretaries General	25.06.2010	Brussels
PES Delegation to China	05. – 10.07.2010	Beijing and Shanghai
Social Ministerial	07.07.2010	Brussels
PES President visit to FEPS ResPublica conference	09-10.07.2010	Lisbon
PES SG visit to PSD Romania	12-13.07.2010	Bucharest
EFFR Meeting	07.09.2010	
PES President visit to Festa Democratica, PD Italy	10.09.2010	Genova
General Affairs Ministerial	12.09.2010	Luxembourg
Prime Ministers	16.09.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to SLD Poland	16.09.2010	Warsaw
PES Transatlantic Dialogue	20. – 23.09.2010	New York
PES SG visit to MSzP Hungary	20-21.09.2010	Budapest
PES Network on Modernising Politics – Seminar on how to select	23.09.2010	Brussels

our Leaders and top candidates		
PES Communicators Seminar	24.09.2010	Brussels
PES Women Executive	29.09.2010	
Financial and Economic Network	30.09.2010	Brussels
Task Force on Balkans	30.09.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to LSDSP Latvia	30.09.2010	Riga
Progressive Societies Advisory Committee	01.10.2010	
PES Family Meeting	05.10.2010	
PES President visit to FEPS IDP Global Economic Governance Conference	06-07.10.2010	Washington
Coordination Team	07.10.2010	Brussels
PES President visit to PES France Convention Internationale	09.10.2010	Paris
Social Europe Network	12.10.2010	Brussels
Presidency	14.10.2010	Brussels
PES SG visit to PD Italy	15.10.2010	Rome
PES President visit to PSD extraordinary congress	16.10.2010	Bucharest
Social Ministerial	21.10.2010	Luxembourg
PES Women Statutory Meeting	22.10.2010	Brussels
General Affairs Ministerial	22.10.2010	Luxembourg
Gender Equality Ministerial	25. – 27.10.2010	
Foreign Policy Network	27.10.2010	Brussels
Prime Ministers	28.10.2010	
Advisory Committee on Progressive Societies	30.10.2010	
PES Delegation to Japan	01. – 07.11.2010	Tokyo
Environment and Climate Change Network	10.11.2010	Brussels
PES President visit to SI Council	11-16.11.2010	Paris
PES President visit to S&D group meeting	17-18.11.2010	Budapest
Conference and Ministerial meeting on combating violence	24. – 27.11.2010	
PES Delegation Middle East	25. – 28.11.2010	Israel and Palestine
Coordination Team	25.11.2010	Brussels
Presidency	01.12.2010	Warsaw
Council	02. – 03.12.2010	Warsaw
Foreign Policy Network	02.12.2010	Warsaw
Migration and Integration Network	02.12.2010	Warsaw
Financial and Economic Network	02.12.2010	Warsaw
Social Europe Network	02.12.2010	Warsaw

Task Force on Western Balkans	03.12.2010	Warsaw
PES Women Annual Conference	03. – 04.12.2010	Warsaw
PES Activists Forum	03. – 04.12.2010	Warsaw
Social Ministerial	06.12.2010	Brussels
PES Congress	07-08.12.2010	Prague
General Affairs Ministerial	13.12.2010	Brussels
Environmental Ministerial	20. – 21.12.2010	Cancun
PES SG visit to PASOK Greece	12-13.01.2011	Athens
PES Women Executive	13.01.2011	
PES SG visit to Labour Great-Britain	17-18.01.2011	London
PES HLAG	26. – 29.01.2011	Turkey
General Affairs Ministerial	31.01.2011	Brussels
Social Europe Network	08.02.2011	Brussels
PES President visit to UK Labour Party	14.02.2010	London
Coordination Team	17.02.2011	Brussels
Presidency	24.02.2011	Brussels
Progressive Societies Advisory committee meeting	25.02.2011	Brussels
PES Women Statutory Meeting	28.02 01.03.2011	–
PES Women Executive	02.03.2011	
Leaders	04. – 06.03.2011	Athens
Social Ministerial	07.03.2011	Brussels
SI committee meeting	10-11.03.2010	London
PES Delegation to Russia	14. – 18.03.2011	
Environmental Ministerial	14.03.2011	Brussels
Migration and Integration Network	14.03.2011	Brussels
Network on Modernising Politics – media seminar	17. – 18.03.2011	Budapest, Hungary
Task Force on Western Balkans	17.03.2011	Brussels
Environment and Climate Change Network	22.03.2011	Brussels
EFFR Meeting	30.03.2011	Brussels
Transport Ministerial	31.03.2011	
Meeting of PES Speakers of Parliament	03.04.2011	Brussels
Coordination Team	07.04.2011	Brussels
EFFR Meeting	07.04.2011	Brussels
PES Women Executive	12.04.2011	Brussels
Foreign Policy Network	13.04.2011	Brussels
Presidency	14.04.2011	Brussels

WG Candidate 2014	14.04.2011	Brussels
Progressive Society Advisory Committee and Hearings	15.04.2011	Brussels
Auditions of academics and experts	15.04.2011	Brussels
PES President visit to Euromed conference	17.04.2011	Tunis
PES Arab Revolutions Conference	28. – 29.04.2011	Tunis
PES President visit to PolicyNetwork Progressive Governance conference	12-13.05.2011	Oslo
PES SG visit to SMER Slovakia	16-17.05.2011	Bratislava
PES President visit to ETUC Congress	17.05.2011	Athens
Progressive societies Advisory committee meeting	18.05.2011	Brussels
Auditions of academics and experts	18.05.2011	
Education Ministerial	20.05.2011	
General Affairs Ministerial	23.05.2011	Brussels
PES Women Statutory Meeting	24.05.2011	
PES SG visit to LSDP Lithuania	24.05.2011	Vilnius
A Fair Growth Model for Europe Conference	31.05.2011	Brussels
Coordination Team	09.06.2011	Brussels
Network on Modernising Politics – Conference on Rhetorics with Prof. Drew Westen	09.06.2011	Brussels
Progressive societies advisory committee	10.06.2011	Brussels
Migration and Integration Network	15.06.2011	Brussels
Task Force on Arab Revolutions	15.06.2011	Brussels
WG Candidate 2014	16.06.2011	Brussels
Presidency	16.06.2011	Brussels
Social Ministerial	17.06.2011	Luxembourg
PES President trip to S&D Group meeting	20-21.06.2011	Barcelona
Leaders	23.06.2011	Brussels
PES President trip to SI Council	01.07.2011	Athens
PES President trip to PES High Level Delegation to China	04-09.07.2011	Beijing, Chongqing and Hong-Kong
High Level Delegation to China	04-09.07.2011	Beijing, Chongqing and Hong-Kong
PES President visit to Rencontres Economiques	08-09.07.2011	Aix-en-Provence
Leaders	16.07.2011	Brussels

PES Women Executive	08.09.2011	Brussels
Social Europe Network	20.09.2011	Brussels
Working Group Candidate 2014	22.09.2011	Dublin
PES SG visit to Labour Ireland	22.09.2011	Dublin
PES President visit to SLD Poland	28.09.2011	Warsaw
Coordination Team	29.09.2011	Brussels
Social Ministerial	02.10.2011	Luxembourg
Financial and Economic Network	05.10.2011	Brussels
Working Group Candidate 2014	05.10.2011	Brussels
Presidency	06.10.2011	Brussels
EFFR Meeting	07.10.2011	Brussels
Environment and Climate Change Network	11.10.2011	Brussels
Youth Unemployment Working Group	13.10.2011	Brussels
Conference of Secretaries General	14.10.2011	Berlin
PES President visit to Global Progress Conference (CAP-IDEAS)	17-18.10.2010	Madrid
PES Women Delegation to the United States	17. – 22.10.2011	New York and Washington
Task Force on Arab Revolutions	19.10.2011	Brussels
Workshop PES – ECOSY in framework of the GPF Conference “A l’écoute de la Méditerranée progressiste”	20.10.2011	
PES SG visit to BSP Bulgaria	24.10.2011	Sofia
Prime Ministers	25.10.2011	Brussels
Finances Ministerial	08.11.2011	Brussels
Task Force on Western Balkans	09.11.2011	Brussels
Foreign Policy Network	09.11.2011	Brussels
Presidency	10.11.2011	Brussels
Presidency	24.11.2011	Brussels
Council	24.11.2011	Brussels
Convention	25. – 26.11.2011	Brussels
Convention workshops on ‘fair economy’ (further details: http://www.pes.eu/en/renew/fair-economy)	25.11.2011	Brussels
Convention workshops on ‘equal societies’ (further details: http://www.pes.eu/en/renew/equal-societies)	25.11.2011	Brussels
Convention workshops on ‘a just world’ (further details: http://www.pes.eu/en/renew/fair-economy)	26.11.2011	Brussels

Convention workshops on 'active democracy' (further details: http://www.pes.eu/en/renew/active-democracy)	26.11.2011	Brussels
Leaders	26.11.2011	Brussels
Youth Unemployment Working Group	26.11.2011	Brussels
Social Ministerial	01.12.2011	Brussels
Prime Ministers	30.01.2012	Brussels
Youth Unemployment Working Group	01.02.2012	Brussels
Coordination Team	02.02.2012	Brussels
Social Europe Network	07.02.2012	Brussels
PES Women Executive	08.02.2012	Brussels
Presidency	09.02.2012	Brussels
Social Ministerial	17.02.2012	Brussels
Migration and Integration Network	29.02.2012	Brussels
Prime Ministers	01.03.2012	Brussels
Financial and Economic Network	07.03.2012	Brussels
Arab revolutions Conference	30.03.2012	Tunis
PES SG visit to PvdA The Netherlands	05.04.2012	Amsterdam
Task Force on Western Balkans	11.04.2012	Brussels
Social Ministerial	25.04.2012	Horsens, Denmark
Coordination Team	26.04.2012	Brussels
Environment and Climate Change Network	08.05.2012	Brussels
Youth Unemployment Working Group	09.05.2012	Brussels
Activists Training	10 – 12. 05.2012	Brussels
Statutes Committee	10.05.2012	Brussels
Presidency	10.05.2012	Brussels
Foreign Policy Network	16.05.2012	Brussels
Prime Ministers	23.05.2012	Brussels
Leaders	23.05.2012	Brussels
PES – CPC Seminar	31.05.20012	Brussels
Task Force on Arab Spring	06.06.2012	Brussels
PES Women Executive	06.06.2012	Brussels
Policy Forums	19. – 21.06.2012	Brussels
Youth Unemployment Working Group	19.06.2012	Brussels
Social Ministerial	20.06.2012	Luxembourg
Coordination Team	21.06.2012	Brussels
Leaders	28.06.2012	Brussels

Statutes Committee	29.06.2012	Brussels
Presidency	29.06.2012	Brussels
Young Leaders Delegation to China	16-26.07.2012	Beijing, Guiyang, and Shanghai
Advisory Committee on the Fundamental Programme	03.09.2012	Brussels
Coordination Team	10.09.2012	Brussels
Statutes Committee	14.09.2012	Brussels
Presidency	14.09.2012	Brussels