



Rules of procedure adopted by the PES Congress

Introduction

These rules are based on the PES Statutes currently in force, adopted at the 8th PES Congress in Prague on 7-8 December 2009. They do not rule out any amendments tabled by the Presidency to the Congress which are adopted by the Congress itself.

Composition of the Congress

Article 1

The number of Congress delegates, nominated in accordance with article 19 of the PES Statutes, are listed in Annex 1 (delegates with voting rights) and in Annex 2 (other delegates) of the Rules of Procedure.

The list of other parties, organisations and individuals invited to the Congress, adopted by the Presidency in accordance with article 19.6 of the PES Statutes, is available with the Congress bureau.

Registered PES Activists are invited to the Congress, in their own capacity, as guests. In this quality, they may attend plenary sessions without the right to speak or to vote.

Article 2

In accordance with article 37.4, member of the PES are not entitled to vote or take part in the Congress if they have not paid their annual membership fees.

In accordance with article 19.4 of PES Statutes, PES members' delegation should be gender-balanced, i.e. neither gender should make up less than 40% of a delegation.

Powers of the Congress

Article 3

In accordance with article 18.1 of the PES Statutes, the Congress is the supreme organ of the PES.

Article 4

In accordance with article 18.4 of the PES Statutes, full and associate members may put forward and defend proposals at the Congress.

The Presidency or the Congress bureau may also invite guests to address the Congress.

Article 5

In accordance with article 18.2 of the PES Statutes, the Congress shall:

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

In accordance with article 18.3 of the PES Statutes, the Congress shall by a qualified majority (as ruled by PES Statutes in Article 17.5) and on a proposal from the Presidency:

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

Article 6

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

Conduct of the Congress

Article 7

In accordance with article 20 of the PES Statutes, the Presidency sets the date and venue for the Congress. It proposes the internal rules of procedure and the agenda which are adopted once the Congress is opened.

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

Article 8

The Presidency, on 24th November 2011, elected Ruairi Quinn (LP Ireland) as the Chair of the PES Congress.

Following a Presidency proposal, the Congress elects 4 Congress Bureau members from different PES member parties by simple majority, to assist the Congress Chair.

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

Following a Presidency proposal, the Congress elects 4 tellers, from different member parties, by simple majority. The Congress tellers are responsible for counting the votes.

Decisions and votes by the Congress

Article 9

In accordance with article 17.5 of the PES Statutes, the quorum for votes requires two thirds of full member parties to be present.

Any request for a quorum must be made by 25 percent of full member parties. In the event that a quorum is requested and not met, the Congress Bureau shall declare that the vote cannot take place.

Article 10

In accordance with article 17.3 of the PES Statutes, political decisions shall, in principle, be taken on the basis of consensus.

If a consensus cannot be reached, decisions regarding policy areas subject to majority voting in the Council of the European Union shall be taken on the basis of qualified majority. Qualified majority is based on more than 75 percent of the votes cast.

The allocation of votes for a qualified majority per party and per organisation is equal to that party and organisation's number of delegates to the PES Congress (see Annex 1).

Proxy voting is not permitted.

Article 11

In accordance with article 17.6 of the PES Statutes, a full member party may declare that it is not bound by a political decision taken by qualified majority, provided it expresses the intent before the vote is taken.

Article 12

Rules concerning voting procedures:

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

Article 13

Amendments shall have priority over the text to which they relate and shall be put to the vote before the text.

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

Article 14

In accordance with article 17.5 of the PES Statutes, votes are cast per member party and organisation.

Member parties and organisations are free to cast their votes individually or collectively. The Congress bureau shall call for a show of hands. If the result is unclear the Chair shall make a roll call per party.

The vote for the PES President shall be cast by secret ballot.

Voting will start at 10.15 and close at 11.30 on 29th September.

Individual ballot papers will be distributed to the Heads of voting delegations, or their representatives, who will organise the vote inside their delegations and cast the vote on behalf of their full delegation.

Article 15

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

Procedural Motions

Article 16

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

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

Congress decisions

Article 17

In accordance with article 21 of the PES Statutes, the decisions and the documents adopted by the Congress shall be communicated to members of the PES and shall be published on the PES Website.

Annex 1 - Delegates with voting rights to the 9th PES Congress 2012
(as adopted by the PES Presidency on 9th February 2012, on the basis of art. 19.1 and Annex 3 of the PES Statutes)

Delegates with voting rights						
Country	Party/ Organisation	Number re size of country	Number re electoral weight	Theoretical number for Congress	Presidency	Total
Austria	SPÖ	5	3	8	1	9
Belgium	PS	3	2	5	1	6
	SPa	3	1	4	1	5
Bulgaria	BSP	5	2	7	1	8
Croatia	SDP	4	3	7	1	8
Cyprus	EDEK	2	1	3	1	4
Czech Republic	CSDD	6	4	10	1	11
Denmark	SD	4	2	6	1	7
Estonia	SDE	2	1	3	1	4
Finland	SDP	4	1	5	1	6
France	PS	15	7	22	1	23
Germany	SPD	15	12	27	1	28
Greece	PASOK	6	4	10	1	11
Hungary	MSzP	5	2	7	1	8
	MSzDP	1	0	1	1	2
Ireland	Labour	4	2	6	1	7
FROZEN VOTES Italy	DS	13	6	19	1	20
	PSI	2	0	2	1	3
Latvia	LSDSP	2	0	2	1	3
Lithuania	LSDP	4	2	6	1	7
Luxembourg	LSAP	2	1	3	1	4
Malta	MLP	2	2	4	1	5
Netherlands	PvdA	7	2	9	1	10
Norway	DNA	4	2	6	1	7
Poland	SLD	13	3	16	1	17
	UP	1	1	2	1	3
Portugal	PS	6	4	10	1	11
Romania	PSD	7	6	13	1	14
Slovakia	SMER	4	3	7	1	8
Slovenia	SD	2	1	3	1	4
Spain	PSOE	14	12	26	1	27
Sweden	SAP	5	3	8	1	9
United Kingdom	Labour	14	7	21	1	22

Northern Ireland	SDLP	1	0	1	1	2
S&D Group EP				27	1	28
PES Group in the CoR				2	1	3
ECOSY				2	1	3
PES Women				2	1	3
FEPS				2	1	3
PES President					1	1
PES SG					1	1
Total		183	99	317	40	345

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

Annex 2 - Delegates without voting rights to the 9th PES Congress 2012

(as adopted by the PES Presidency on 9th February 2012, on the basis of art. 19.2 and 19.5 of the Statutes)

Delegates without voting rights			
Status	Country	Party/organisation	Congress delegates
Full member org		S & D Group in the EP	150
Full member org		PES Group in the CoR	108
Full member org		PES Women	10
Full member org		ECOSY	45
Full member org		FEPS	5
Associate party	Albania	PS	5
Associate party	Bosnia & Herzegovina	SDP	5
Associate party	Bulgaria	pBS	5
Associate party	Iceland	SDA	5
Associate party	FYR Macedonia	SDPM	5
Associate party	Montenegro	DPS	5
Associate party	Montenegro	SDP	5
Associate party	Serbia	DS	5
Associate party	Switzerland	PS	5
Associate party	Turkey	CHP	5
Associate party	Turkey	BDP	5
Associate org		SI	5
Associate org		Socialist Group in OSCE	5
Associate org		Socialist Group in CoE	5
Observer party	Andorra	PSD	2
Observer party	Cyprus	CTP	2
Observer party	Israel	Labour Party	2
Observer party	Israel	Yachad	2
Observer party	Moldovia	PDM	2
Observer party	San Marino	PSD	2
Observer org		EFDS	2
Observer org		ESO	2
Observer org		IFM-SEI	2
Observer org		ISDUE	2
Observer org		IUSY	2
Observer org		SAMAK	2
Observer org		Rainbow Rose	2
Observer org		SI Women	2
Observer org		USLRRE	2
Total			418
Ex-officio delegates without voting rights			
President EP			1
PES Commissioners			6
President of EU Council			0
President or VP CoR			1
President Parliamentary Assembly CoE			0