

# PES WOMEN ACTIVITY REPORT January 2009 – September 2012

#### INTRODUCTION

PES Women brings together women - MPs, MEPs and activists - from PES member parties to discuss and promote gender equality within and outside the PES. It promotes gender equality on two different levels.

Firstly, PES Women has strengthened the policy and campaigning dimension of its work, in terms of formulating and advocating policy recommendations on various issues. PES Women also actively contributes to PES policy papers and declarations to ensure that the gender dimension is taken into account across the PES policy spectrum.

Secondly, PES Women pushes for equal representation in PES bodies (such as working groups and high level groups) and supports the increase of women in decision-making in PES member parties and governments. The PES Women President is a full member of the PES Presidency and thus has the right to vote on PES decisions.

Since the last PES Congress and the subsequent PES Women elections, PES Women has reinforced its role in both of these respects and has entered a period of reinforced cooperation amongst its members. Its activities and campaigns, outlined in this report, demonstrate this positive evolution.

# **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND BUREAU**

At an extra-ordinary statutory meeting at the last PES Congress (December 2009, Prague), Zita Gurmai MEP was re-elected President of PES Women as well as the three vice- Presidents (Anna Karamanou, Inger Segelström, Olga Zrihen). A new composition was formed among the eight-member bureau which assists in the preparation and follow-up of meetings (see annex for list of the whole Executive which comprises the President, Vice- Presidents and Bureau).

# STATUTORY MEETINGS

PES Women members, who are nominated by PES member parties, meet three times a year to:

- Discuss strategic initiatives and specific policy themes.
- Agree on campaigns and resolutions.
- Share information on relevant European and national policies.

# **European Women's Right Charter (3 February 2010, Brussels)**

PES Women Members focused on 3 issues, the European Women's Rights Charter, the Beijing +15 priority as well as the main priorities for 2010. They agreed that the main campaign for 2010 would be 'My Body My Rights' with 3 angles: universal maternity health, combating violence against women and eradicating AIDS. PES Women also underlined their proposed European Women's Rights Charter on the eve of the European Commission's launch of such Charter. The Charter should be a visionary progressive text based on existing agreements, mechanisms or tools already in place for gender equality with an adequate platform and framework, which is visible, budget based and target driven as well as with a monitoring, follow-up and assessment task responsibilities. PES Women could not accept a Charter that is solely symbolic text.

# My Body, My Rights: Combating Violence Against Women (1 June 2010, Madrid)

In the context of the Spanish Presidency of the EU under the leadership of Prime Minister Zapatero, PES Women organised a statutory meeting in Madrid discussing one of the Presidency Priorities 'Combating Violence Against Women'. PES Women adopted a declaration 'My Body, My Rights: PES Women calls on the European Union to implement the Spanish Presidency Initiatives in combating all forms of violence against women'. The main demands have been the European Protection Order Directive, a European-wide free help line and no budgetary cuts in the Daphne Programme. This meeting was coorganised with PSOE Women's organization and the presence of Gender Equality Minister Bibiana Aído.

# Maternity Leave and EU Gender Equality Strategy (20 October 2010, Brussels)

PES Women took the opportunity to discuss the maternity leave directive as well that the European Gender Equality Strategy, which Commissioner Reding, Commissioner responsible for women's rights, in September 2010.

PES Women welcomed the European Parliament's positive vote on extending the maternity leave from 14 to 20 weeks and the inclusion of two weeks of paternity leave. PES Women's assessment of the European Gender Equality Strategy the lack of women's health policies, including sexual and reproductive rights, of Gender budgeting, of Paternity leave and of coherency between EU internal Gender Equality commitment and external development policy rhetoric

# If Clara Zetkin can do it, so can we! (1 March 2011, Brussels)

On the fringes of the PES Women-FEPS Seminar "Towards a new progressive thinking on gender, emancipation and feminism", PES Women hold its statutory meeting to take stock of the seminar results and establish the 2011 priorities and campaign.

PES Women underlined the importance Clara Zetkin leadership in women's labour and social rights, the corner stone for the left movement in terms of gender equality. The progressive feminism is a movement of women and men fighting for gender equality and equal share of responsibilities between women and men.

PES Women agreed to campaign on the issue of women's pensions in the run up of the Commission's white and green paper on pensions; women's pensions are significantly lower than that of men, due to the other existing gaps, be it the pay gap as the difference in working time and work-life balance. A specific campaign spot will be created as well as a informative meeting on the issue.

# Closing the Pension Pay Gap (24 May 2011, Brussels)

PES Women invited Anabela Gago from the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and Meeri Wasberg, SAP Member of the Swedish Parliament to give presentations on the issue of pensions for women. The aim of the debate was to inform PES Women members about the European proposals on the issue and exchange of best practices in Europe. The main priorities for PES Women was to call for a study on

the situation of women's pensions, including care credits in the European proposal and encourage training for women above 50.

# PES Declaration of Principles (8 November 2011, Brussels)

PES Women used this statutory meeting to prepare the PES Council and Convention of 23-26 November in Brussels. The PES Council aimed at adopting for the first time in history a Declaration of Principles. PES Women contributed towards the drafting of its text and ensured a strong gender dimension, which is part of Re:new, a larger process within the PES. For the PES Convention, PES Women together with the CEE Network and FEPS organised a workshop on Women's Empowerment.

# Combating unemployment among young women (23 March 2012, Copenhagen)

In presence of Danish Minister for Gender Equality Manu Sareen and Spokesperson on Gender Equality Rasmus Langhoff MP, PES Women welcomed the Danish EU Presidency priorities to tackle gender inequality. The Danish priorities include addressing gender segregation in education, creating green jobs for women and adopting the maternity leave directive. These 3 priorities join perfectly the demands of PES Women in the 2012 PES-ECOSY-PES Women campaign 'My Future is your future', a campaign calling for a European Youth Guarantee.

#### MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

# My Body, My Rights: Universal Maternal Health (4 March 2010, New York)

On the fringes of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, PES Women, ECOSY, the Global Progressive Forum and the Global Progressive Youth Forum organised a ministerial meeting to strengthen the position in and of Europe on universal maternal health. Under the slogan and PES Women Campaign 'My Body My Rights', the socio-democratic ministers adopted a declaration calling on all governments to reiterate their commitment to maternal health in order to insure women's empowerment in sexual rights as well as socio-economic development.

# **Europe 2020 (25 March 2010, Valencia)**

On 25 March, PES Women, PES Ministers and State Secretaries for Gender Equality call on Prime Ministers and Heads of States to include a true gender perspective in the Europe 2020 strategy at the eve of the Informal Gender Equality Ministerial meeting. The main demands were to reach at least 70% female employment, to reach and extends the Barcelona targets, to lower the EU gender pay gap by 10% and to break stereotypes and promote women to top positions, based on the Norwegian model.

# **ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

# My Body, My Rights (3-4 December 2010, Warsaw)

To close its 2010 campaign 'My Body, My Rights', PES Women organised its annual conference in Warsaw on sexual and reproductive rights. The conference discussed the still on-going taboos and challenges as well as the existing prevention and education methods regarding sexual and reproductive rights. Together with the Polish Socialist Women from SLD and progressive NGOs, participants looked at the strengths and role of feminist movements in achieving and maintaining equal sexual and reproductive rights for all women across Europe. The Conference adopted a declaration on the issue, signed by political actors and activists.

# Towards a new progressive thinking on gender, emancipation and feminism (28 February – 1 March 2011, Brussels)

For the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Women's Day, PES Women together with FEPS organised a two-day seminar under the title 'If Clara Can do it, so can we', looking at a new progressive thinking on gender emancipation and feminism. Progressive Foundations, NGOs and politicians from all over Europe gathered to examine the achievements over the past 100 years and to present the challenges ahead for today's progressive feminists. The 2 workshops demonstrated on the one hand meaning of today's progressive feminism and on the other hand the new challenges ahead.

#### **CAMPAIGNS**

# My Body, My Rights (2010)

The 2010 PES Women campaign "My Body, My Rights" was launched on the fringes of the UN Common Status on Women meeting celebrating the Beijing platform's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Under this umbrella slogan PES Women dedicate its 2010 campaign to the overarching theme of sexual and reproductive health rights. 'My Body, My Rights' was a one year commitment with three windows of action: calling for universal maternal health, combating violence against women and an annual conference on sexual and reproductive rights. The 3 actions took place in New York, Madrid and Warsaw, each in a specific context. The Universal Maternal Health was especially discussed and highlighted during the UN Common Status on Women meeting. In Madrid, PES Women supported the Spanish Presidency priority on combating violence against women. The campaign ended with a PES Women Annual Conference adapting a declaration in Warsaw.

# Pension is different for Women (2011)

With an aging population and the European Union and its Member States going through pension reforms, PES Women dedicated its 2011 campaign on raising awareness on the pension gap that exists between women and men. In order to illustrate the message and raise awareness a little online video was produced and circulated. (http://vimeo.com/20736475)

PES Women also put pressure on different political actors and decision-makers putting 3 specific demands forward; a gender impact assessment, career care credits and a specific strategy to keep women over 55 on the labour market.

# No to the Ugly Face of Abuse (25 November 2011, Brussels)

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence, PES Women joined the Zijkant (Women's movement of the Sp.a) campaign 'No to the Ugly Fae of Abuse). The event took place at the opening of the PES Convention in Brussels, where member of the Sp.a and PES Women raised awareness on early signs of abuse amongst young women by gathering signatures (stamps) on a tuktuk-stand. PES Women also promoted the special Facebook webpage and application Zij-kant created for the campaign. PES Women's called for a comprehensive European Strategy on Combating Violence against women and a European Year of Combating Violence against Women.

# **PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA**

PES Women produced its own leaflet in 2011 presenting PES Women priorities and campaigns from 2006 onwards. The aim is to use it as promotion material until the 2012 PES Congress. An online version was also published on the website http://www.pes.org/sites/www.pes.org/files/pes women leaflet 2011.pdf

PES Women has also increased its visibility in the social media using existing and new online tools such as the PES Website, Facebook and Twitter. PES Women has been posting on a weekly basis articles on current issues http://www.pes.eu/en/blogs/zitas-blog

# Zita Gurmai's blog



Welcome to my blog! I'm Zita Gurmai, President of PES Women. This is where I share my ideas about European politics and tell you what I do in a day-to-day basis.

PES Women President at SI Congress: no democracy without gender equality 07/09/2012 - 09:49 Zita Gurmai

Zita Gurmai 24 reads

After a successful SIW Congress in Cape Town, where socialist and social democratic women from around the world elected a new President Ouafa Hajji and Secretary General Marije Laffeber, I continued calling for a true commitment to gender equality and women's rights in our socialist family.

#### Read more



PES Women denounce the Pussy Riot verdict in Russia 17/08/2012 - 21:00 Zita Gurmai

112 reads

On Friday 17 August three of the Pussy Riot members, Maria Alekhina, 24, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 23 and Ekaterina Samucevich, 29 were sentenced to two years of jail by the Moscow's Khamovnichesky District Court. I want to denounce this verdict, which is unfair and highly political. This case shows one more time that the separation of powers does not really exist in Russia, where the judiciary is still highly influenced by politics and the Church.

Read more



Together for the Europe we need! 26/07/2012 - 16:11 Zita Gurmai 330 reads

While the parliamentary recess gives us time to re-charge our batteries, I would like to take the time to reflect upon the upcoming PES Congress. On 28 and 29 September 2012, the PES will hold its Congress in Bucharest to elect the new leadership but also to prepare the fundamental programme and our work towards the 2014 European Elections.

PES Women events and reactions have also been reported on the PES Women Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/PES-Women/115443321849793">https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/PES-Women/115443321849793</a> and Twitter account <a href="https://www.twitter.com/PES\_Women">www.twitter.com/PES\_Women</a>.

#### **GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE PES**

PES Women actively contributes to PES policy documents in order to guarantee that the gender dimension of all policies is taken into account. A specific adviser in the PES Secretariat is the reference point for these contributions under the direction of the PES Women President. The adviser together with PES Women President or other PES Women Representative was particularly involved in the party's work on the Progressive Societies, Re:new, the PES Convention, the PES Working Group on the 2014 Candidate, the Working Group on Youth Unemployment as well as the PES thematic networks. Especially the PES Principles and the youth unemployment document included a strong gender dimension. At the Convention in November 2011, PES Women together with FEPS and the CEE Network co-organised a workshop on women's empowerment.

#### INTERNATIONAL WORK

# PES Women Delegation to United States (17-21 October, New York – Washington DC)

For the first time in October 2011, PES Women organised a delegation to the United States. The delegation took place on the fringes of the FEPS meeting in Washington on Gender Equality issues. It was an opportunity to establish a first contact with different actors of the newly established UN Women entity in New York as well as the World Bank, the Friederich Ebert Foundations and Women's Rights NGOs. The main focus of the meetings was on the one hand the gender equality strategy in times of crisis and on the other hand the impact on feminism due to the conservative back clash.

In Washington DC, the PES Women Delegation met with Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, appointed by President Obama at the US State Department. Moreover, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with some elected Democrats as well as with Vital Voices, a Foundation encouraging Women's Empowerment, created by State Secretary Hilary Clinton.

The US visit ended with a 2-day FEPS seminar focussing on the issues of 'Female Migrant Care Workers' and 'The Role of Feminist Movements in times of crisis and growing extremism'. The seminar was organised in partnership with US academics and researchers.

#### **PES International Delegation to Turkey**

PES Women president participated to the PES High Level Advisory Group Delegation on Turkey in January 2011, which travelled to Ankara, Diyarbakir and Istanbul. During the four day visit the delegation met several political, governmental and civil society actors. The main focus of the trip was the necessity for a new momentum in Turkey's reform agenda including labour and trade unions rights, freedom of media and the electoral threshold as well as social policies and women's rights.

#### Global Progressive Forum: Arab Spring

In 2011 and 2012, the Global Progressive Forum (GPF) with its partners the PES, the S&D Group and FEPS, organised a series of meetings in the context of the Arab Spring. PES Women has played an active role in meeting, listening and exchanging with

progressive women from the region. The role of women in the region needs to be strengthened, especially after the revolution and the transition periods and in the democratisation process.

PES Women also attended the World Social Forum in Dakar, February 2011.

#### **Socialist International Women**

PES Women as Observer Member of Socialist International Women, participated to SIW Congress, Councils as well as to some regional meetings where PES Women was a special guest. SIW Councils in Paris, November 2010 on the Global Crisis and the Impact on Women and in San Jose, January 2012 on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and SIW Congress in Cape Town - electing a new leadership of the organisations. PES Women also attended Regional SIW Meetings in Oslo, April 2010 on Gender Pay Gap and in Rabat September 2011 on Women's role in the Arab Spring. PES Women's European actions and priorities on these issues have contributed to the general debate and conclusions.

#### **Attended Events**

#### 2009-2012

#### 2009

- 27/01 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels
- 04/02 PASOK Women Conference 'Handling economic crisis, supporting women', Athens
- 19/02 PES Women Statutory Meeting, Brussels
- 04/03 International Women's Day Event in the European Parliament, Brussels
- 17/03 Meeting Ray Collins, Secretary General UK Labour Party, Brussels
- 17/03 Meeting UNIFEMM Osnat Lubrani, Regional Programme Director, Brussels
- 17/03 Meeting President of Kagider, Brussels
- 19/03 FEPS Seminar 'Philosophy of feminism in the EU' Brussels
- 27/03 Meeting Commissioner Spidla, Brussels
- 27-28/03 FEPS Jean Jaures conférence, Paris
- 01/04 ECOSY Winter University, Brussels
- 02/04 GPF Workshop 'Equal rights for all Women' Brussels
- 03/04 PES Conference 'Let's get our Europe back' Barcelona
- 24/04 PES Campaign launch, Toulouse
- 13/05 ASF Conference 'Women in politics', Berlin
- 18/05 Conference 'Women in politics', Italy
- 19/05 Visit to PS France for European Elections, Marseille
- 26/05 Visit SD Women, Lithuania
- 17/06 PES Women Executive Meeting, Brussels
- 26-27/06 SIW Council, Montenegro
- 29-30/06 SI Council, Montenegro
- 02/07 PS Commission Droits des Femmes, Paris
- 16/07 IUSY Festival, Zanka, Hungary
- 23/09 PES Women Statutory Meeting, Brussels
- 20/10 Meeting Commissioner Wallström, Strasbourg
- 20/10 Meeting Commissioner Spidla, Strasbourg
- 14/11 PES Women Statutory Meeting, Stockholm
- 18/11 Working Group European Women's Rights Charter, Brussels
- 05/12 PES Women Annual Conference, Prague
- 16/12 EPLP Dinner, Strasbourg

# 2010

- 12/01 Meeting with Myria Vassiliadou (Secretary General, EWL), Brussels
- 12/01 Meeting Commissioner Spidla, Brussels
- 21/01 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels
- 03/02 PES Statutory Meeting, Brussels
- 05-07/02 Young European Socialists Network Seminar, Helsinki
- 09/02 Meeting Commissioner Spidla, Strasbourg
- 01-12/03 PES Women, GFP, ECOSY Beijing +15 delegation, UN CSW, New York
- 08/03 International Women's Day Event with ECOSY, European Parliament
- 15/03 Meeting Bibiana Aido, Spanish Minster for Equality, Brussels
- 16/03 FEPS Next Left Seminar Brussels
- 25/03 Meeting Commissioner Damanaki, Brussels
- 27/03 Gender Ministerial Meeting, Valencia
- 08/04 Arborus, Egalite des genres et citoyenneté européenne, Brussels
- 10/04 SIW regional meeting, Oslo
- 13/04 Meeting Commissioner Andor, Brussels

14/04 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels

22-23/05 Meeting PS Women Portugal

27/05 Spanish Presidency Conference: Political participation of Women, Valencia

01/06 PES Statutory Meeting, Madrid

05-06/06 Federal Conference of SPD women branch (ASF), Bonn

08/06 FES Meeting Latin American Women, Brussels

21-22/06 SI Council, New York

03/07 Conference PSC, Barcelona

29/09 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels

10/10 PSD Women Congress, Bucharest

16/10 FEPS Seminar, Paris

17/10 ECOSY Event, Rome

28/10 Meeting Commissioner Andor, Brussels

15-16/11 SIW Council, Paris

22/10 PES Statutory Meeting, Brussels

03-04/12 PES Women Annual Conference, Warsaw

18/12 DS Congress, Belgrade

#### 2011

12/01 Meeting with Vladimir Spidla, Brussels

13/01 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels

26-29/01 PES High Level Advisory Group, Ankara, Diyarbakir and Istanbul

26/01 Meeting with Deputy Leader UK Labour Party Harriet Harman, Brussels

06-11/02 World Social Forum in Dakar, Dakar

01/03 PES Women Statutory Meeting, BXL

01/03 FEPS Seminar, towards a new progressive thinking on gender, emancipation and feminism, EP

20/02 Meeting BSP Women Organisation, Sofia

03/03 100 Years of Women's progress - PASOK women, Athens

04/03 PES Leaders meeting, Athens

15/03 Meeting with Commissioner Andor, Women and Pension, Brussels

05/03 PES Leaders' meeting, Athens

27/03 Meeting with Michèle Bachelet, Executive Director UN Women, Brussels

28-29/03 KAGIDER workshop, Istanbul

12/04 PES Women Executive Meeting, Brussels

14/04 PES Presidency meeting, Brussels

29-30/04 Visit Member Party, Vilnius

24/05 PES Women Statutory Meeting, Brussels

30-02/06 SIW - SI Council, Athens

9-10/09 CEE Network Seminar, Skopje

28/09 PvdA Vrouwen Festival, Rotterdam

06/10 PES Presidency meeting, Brussels

08-10/10 BSP campaign, Sofia

13/10 PES Youth Unemployment Working Group, Brussels

17-21/10 22/10 PES Women delegation New York/Washington DC

04-06/12 SPD Party Conference, Germany

08/11 PES Women Statutory Meeting, Brussels

24/11 PES Presidency, Brussels

24-26/11 PES Convention, Brussels

26/11 PES Youth unemployment Working Group, Brussels

14/12 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels

# 2012

21-22/01 SIW - SI Councils, San José

01/02 PES Youth unemployment Working Group, Brussels

08/02 PES Executive Meeting, Brussels

15/02 Meeting Commissioner Barnier, Strasbourg

05/02 PSOE Congress, Sevilla

05/03 ECOSY Winter University, Brussels

06/03 Meeting Iris Munguia, Solidar award winner, Brussels

06/03 Meeting KAOS GL, Solidar Award Winnber, Brussels

06/03 Silver Rose Awards

07/03 S&D event for International Women's Day, Brussels

08/03 International Women's Day Event 'Women on the bridge', Brussels

23/03 PSE Women, Statutory Meeting, Copenhagen

24/03 FEPS/Foundation Jean-Jaures Seminar, Paris

29-30/03 PES Arab Revolution Conference, Tunis

26-28/04 Visit PD and PSI Women, Italy

09/05 Meeting Farida Allaghi, Lybian Activist, Brussels

21/05 ASF Congress, Berlin

09/05 PES Youth Unemployment Working Group, Brussels

11/05 Launch PES Youth and Unemployment campaign, Brussels

04/06 Meeting Elke Ferner, ASF President, Brussels

06/06 Meeting Ouafa Hajji, SIW President Candidate, Brussels

06/06 S&D Conference 'Youth Unemployment', Brussels

07/06 GPF Arab Spring Debate, Brussels

19/06 PES Women Statutory Meeting, Brussels

19/06 PES Youth Unemployment Working Group, Brussels

24-25/06 SIW Regional Meeting, Istanbul

29/06 PES Presidency, Brussels

12/07 Meeting PS Women Portugal and civil society, Lisbon

13/07 ECOSY summer camp, Croatia

30/08 - 01/09 SIW - SI Congress, Cape Town

04/09 PES Women executive, Brussels

6-7/09 FEPS - CEE Network "Korcula school", Korcula

05/03 ECOSY Winter University, EP

07/03 S&D event for IWD, EP

08/03 Pic-Nic with PS, Belgium, Women on the bridge, BXL

22/03 PSE Women, Statutory Meeting, Copenhaguen

24/02 FEPS/Fondation Jean Jaures, Paris

29-30/03 PES Arab Revolution Conference, Tunis

26-28/04 Visit PD, PSI, Italy

21/05 Federal conference of the Association of Socialdemocratic Women (SPD);

Germany

09/05 PES Youth Unemployment Working Group

# ANNEX 1: List of PES Women Bureau Members as of elections December 2009, Prague

President Zita Gurmai - MSZP (Hungary)
Vice-Presidents Olga Zrihen - PS (Belgium)

Anna Karamanou – PASOK (Greece) Inger Segelström – SAP (Sweden)

**Bureau Members** Britta Thomsen - SD (Denmark)

Marianne Mikko - SDE (Estonia) Laurence Rossignol - PS (France) Karin Junker - SPD (Germany) Edite Estrela - PS (Portugal) Rovana Plumb - PSD (Romania) Marja Bijl – PvdA (the Netherlands)

Sonja Lokar – SD (Slovenia)

Iratxe Garcia Perez – PSOE (Spain) Denitza Slateva – BSP (Bulgaria)

# ANNEX 2: Adopted procedures and timetable, PES Women Elections September 2012

#### When:

Prior to PES Women Annual Conference, 27 September 2012, Bucharest, Romania

#### Who:

- PES Women members interested in running for President (1), Vice-President<sup>1</sup> (4) or member of the Bureau (8-10) should notify the secretariat (pes.women@pes.org).
- Incumbents may stand again.

# Requirements:

- Each candidate should present a personal programme explaining their motivation for running for the position and what their contribution will be.
- For incumbents, apart from the programme, they should also provide a short written personal activity report outlining how their activity in their current position has contributed towards PES Women's achievements since the last elections in December 2009.
- In both cases, candidates should receive full support from their party in written form.

#### Timeframe:

- PES Women adopted procedures for elections at statutory meeting on 23 March 2012.
- Interested candidates will be requested to send their candidacy and the nomination from their party starting from 19 June 2012 and no later than 4 September to the PES Women Secretariat (pes.women@pes.org). This will give the PES Women President the opportunity to inform the Presidency on 10 September 2012.
- The list of candidates and their contributions will be circulated from 10 September 2012 amongst PES Women members in preparation for the elections.

#### **Elections:**

- All candidates will be listed
- Each full member party PRESENT at the statutory meeting on 27 September 2012 will have ONE VOTE.
- The actual vote will take place in 3 parts for the 3 types of positions; President, Vice-Presidents and Bureau members.
- The candidate running for the position of President with the most votes will be elected President of PES Women.
- The candidates running for the positions of Vice-Presidents will be elected according to the 4 highest results. Note that the composition of the Vice-Presidents should represent a geographical balance.
- The candidates running for the positions of Bureau members will be elected according to the 10 highest results.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> -Each Vice-President represents a specific region for which she is responsible on the one side within the PES Women Executive and on the other side in coordinating the sister parties of their region and linking them with PES Women

Vice-Presidents have a coordinating and at the same time a reporting role and responsibility. The Coordinating role implies physical and/or electronic contacts and updates with the national socialist women's organizations. The reporting role implies bringing back to the PES Women -Executive the national/regional issues that should figure on the Executive and/or Statutory agendas.

<sup>-</sup>Having four Vice-Presidents would give each Vice-President the responsibility over a different regional area, balancing geographically the PES Women leadership.