



Selecting the PES Common Candidate in 2019¹

(Decision adopted by the PES Presidency on 20th June 2018)

At this challenging crossroads for Europe, we must relaunch European social democracy and progressive and democratic values. We have to show that the PES parties represent a clear alternative to the current European state of play. We have to prove to our citizens that the PES, within the European Institutions and through the national member parties, is able to promote and implement our call for a democratic paradigm shift in European policies, from blind austerity to investment, growth policies and solidarity. We want to do that putting the citizens in the centre of our political action, protecting the vulnerable people and defending our fundamental values as a political family.

We want to enter the 2019 European election campaign as a united, coherent and modern political family. This is why we firstly made in 2009 **“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*)

As expressed in the 2015 PES Congress in Budapest² and in the 2017 PES Council in Lisbon, our main challenge for the European political cycle ahead of us is to win the next European elections and to have our common candidate elected as the next European Commission President in 2019.

Therefore, the social democratic, progressive and democratic family is ready to elaborate a common PES electoral strategy for the next European elections. The PES needs to engage with much more citizens by addressing the European political issues at stake during those elections. We, as a European party, need again a common PES Manifesto and a PES Common Candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission, but this time we need to take a step further, if we still want to become innovative and ambitious.

Our political family will aim to build up a coalition of progressive and pro-European forces in the newly elected European Parliament that would vote for the PES Common Candidate to be next European Commission President.

Our aim is to **ensure the quality and the legitimacy** of the common PES candidate to the European Commission Presidency, who will be selected through the following consensus procedure, supervised by the Working Group Candidate 2019.

¹ The Working Group Candidate 2019 was appointed by the PES Council in Lisbon in December 2017. The Council appointed PES Treasurer Ruairi Quinn as its Chair

² Resolution “*PES Roadmap toward 2019*”, adopted by the PES Congress in Budapest in 2015



We therefore propose the following

Procedure to elect the PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency in 2019.

1 – General Principles:

The process should be open, transparent, coherent, and actively support gender balanced participation and lead to a democratic competition.

All member parties and organisations should feel ownership over the process and the procedure will therefore respect the different traditions in our parties in a flexible way.

In case of several candidates, the PES will coordinate with PES member parties the first **PES European Election Day**.

In case of several candidates and in order to promote an open debate also at the national level, a selection procedure of **direct consultation among PES party members** that can include internal primaries and the possibility to hold open primaries could be implemented by PES member parties and organisations.

2 - The criteria to stand as a candidate:

To be a potential candidate, one should:

- **Be nominated by a PES full member party or organisation.**
- **Be supported by 25% of PES full member parties or organisations**, round down (nominating party or organisation included), including his/her party or organisation

A member party or organisation can only nominate or support one potential candidate.

The PES promotes gender equality and the candidacy of women at all high level positions in EU official bodies. Gender equality will be one of the main criteria for our support to the new Commission.

Example: To this date, the PES has 33³ full member parties and 5 full member organizations⁴. To reach **25% round down**, a candidate will therefore need 9 Parties or organisations: one nominating her/him, 8 other supporting.

3 - The decision-making process:

Anyone meeting the criteria defined in section 2 may stand as a candidate.

The Chairman of the Working Group Common Candidate, the PES Leadership and representatives of each candidate will meet after the close of nominations to check that all criteria are fulfilled. The PES Presidency, with the assistance of the Working Group Common Candidate, will set up an electoral committee composed of representatives from each potential candidate, to scrutinize the fairness of the process.

³ The PES Presidency decided on 24 November 2017 to grant Concord SDP with a provisional full membership. Also, The PES Presidency, following article 11.2 of the PES Statutes, decided on 20 June 2018 to exclude MSZDP. Both decision will be voted by the next PES Congress.

⁴ According to PES Statutes: S&D Group in the EP, PES Group in the CoR, FEPS, PES Women and YES



Once the list of potential candidates is finalised, the PES together with the member parties and organisations will organise the first **PES European Election Day**.

Each full member party and organisation will organise a vote and make its selection by its **own internal decision-making methodology**. This procedure shall be communicated before the opening for candidacy applications

In the specific case of the member parties that decide to hold public election procedures, the principle of proportionality will be applied in accordance with the results to establish the composition of the delegation of the full member parties and organisations concerned. The following principles in the ratification of the result will be applied:

- **Proportionality** of votes within each full member party and organisation delegation
- **Weighting of the votes of each full member party and organisation** according to the rule already in place to calculate the number of delegates for the PES Congress, as stated in the Annex 3 of the PES Statutes.

Example:

Party X has 10 votes at the PES Congress

Candidate A obtains 60% of votes in Party X → 6 votes in PES Congress

Candidate B obtains 40% of votes in Party X → 4 votes in PES Congress

The candidate will be ratified by the PES Election Congress.

The results of the votes of member parties and organisations will be aggregated at the PES Congress. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority, a second round will be held between the two first candidates in the PES Congress by secret ballot.

4 - The timetable of the selection:

We propose the following timetable, in order to ensure **both the awareness of the candidate/s and the efficiency of the campaign**.

Tuesday 19 June, Working Group meeting

Wednesday 20 June, PES Presidency **approval of the procedure to elect the PES Common Candidate 2019**

14th September 2018 Deadline to inform to the PES Secretariat of member parties and organisations' decision-making procedures.

1st October 2018 Opening for candidacy applications: candidacies, letters of nomination and support should be sent to the PES secretariat

18th October 2018 Deadline for candidacy applications

19th October 2018 Meeting of the Chairman of the Working Group Common Candidate, the PES Leadership and representatives of each candidate to check that all criteria are fulfilled

26th October 2018 PES Presidency meeting to confirm candidacy/ies, with the assistance of the Working Group Common Candidate 2019. Announcement of the Designated Candidate (if one) or Official nomination of candidates and first debate with their participation (if several)

If several Candidates:

From the **26th October until 29th November 2018**, Common Candidate election process campaign

1st December 2018 PES European Election Day.



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Party of European Socialists

10-12 Rue Guimard

B-1040 Brussels

Belgium

7th December until 8th December 2018 PES Congress, that will designate the 2019 Common Candidate
February 2019, PES Election Congress with the adoption of the Manifesto
March 2019, First PES rally and Opening of the 2019 PES EU Election Campaign in member states

5 - The fair management of the selection process:

The PES Secretariat will provide the different candidates with **practical and organisational aspects**, including: individual website, contacts of all the PES full member parties and organisations and equal visibility in any meeting during the campaign time.

Due to legal data protection, the PES Secretariat will send an equal number of newsletter from the different candidates to its mailing lists, including PES Activists and other networks. Fairness should be respected for all potential candidates.

