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The past decades have seen a rise in social and income inequality. This trend must stop. Wealth does not simply “trickle down” to all. In the context of rising inequalities, the PES fights for social progress and a better life for all Europeans. In the past months the Progressive family has accomplished much: adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights, progress with the work on the new posting of workers directive, the attempt to establish the European definition of inequalities are just some of the important initiatives. They need to be continued and built on. 2019 is when we want to ask citizens to give us a mandate to carry on that work, and create a social Europe. We want to implement all 20 principles of the European pillar of social rights. We want the EU to become the front runner in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. To prevent further widening of the gaps between Member States, regions, cities, genders and individuals, the fight for equality must be the leading principle of EU policies. Everyone in Europe must enjoy a decent income, good working conditions, access to quality healthcare, to life-long learning, and rights to a decent pension. In particular we want 2019 to mark the EU’s social turn!

The current economic model must be challenged.

We want a paradigm shift so that employment and social policies are no longer perceived only as costs, but recognised as a real social investment that contributes to shared prosperity. We need redistributive tax systems to share profits made and develop fairer societies. We stand for progressive income taxation, stronger wealth taxation, progressive real estate taxation, and the taxation of bonuses, dividends and stock options. At the European level, an inventory of income, wealth and tax regimes should be created to reflect the reality and the efficiency of taxation in the Union and allow better redistribution.

Fighting inequality through decent work for all.

To improve the standard of living of Europeans, raise purchasing power and combat wage competition that drives wages down, we believe that it is time for a fast wage increase.

We are convinced that wages should further increase, for a more equal sharing of profits, and we will support collective bargaining efforts towards this objective. For the lowest paid, we want minimum wages above the poverty level in all EU countries, reached either through law or collective bargaining, so that no worker is forced to live in poverty. We want to provide a European Framework for minimum wage regulation, in respect of national specificities. Such minimum wages should apply to all workers. There should be no exception, including for the youngest.

Equal pay and equal working conditions must apply for equal work in the same place, irrespective of the size of the company, the worker’s age, disability, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender, the place of employment or the type of contract. The gender pay gap is completely unacceptable, and this is why we want to reduce it by at least 2 percent per year until it is eliminated by 2030. We want women and men to be equally represented in management positions and strive for a quota to reach that objective. The PES is also committed to reducing the important
The transformation of work, the digital revolution, digital working and rapidly evolving labour markets must not undermine European working and employment standards.

**The digital era has tremendous potential to transform our societies and our quality of life for the better.** But to achieve this, we need to manage the deep societal changes that it brings.

We are committed to fighting in-work poverty, zero-hour contracts, unpaid internships and other forms of precarious work.

Workers’ status must be clear either as an employee or self-employed. This is particularly important for new forms of employment such as platform work, which too often combine the obligations of the former with the risks borne by the latter. We want common rules that do not lower national standards for decent working conditions and health and safety at work, and proper contracts, set in EU law. We are convinced that workers should have the right to disconnect communication devices outside the agreed working hours in order to ensure a good balance between professional and private life and prevent work related illnesses. We must protect worker’s privacy against invasive use of data. We cannot allow the digital revolution to become a lose-lose situation for workers.

In today’s society, most people are likely to change job several times and acquire new skills throughout their careers. While some can benefit from opportunities, the new labour market can also create real and objective difficulties for many workers and jobseekers. Strong and concrete public support must be put in place to help workers to adapt and facilitate their professional careers. This implies a push from the EU to boost social investment strategies in all Member States. The EU must acknowledge life-long learning as a right for every worker and promote in-work education as a standard practice. This means time for training and paid educational leave must be made available for all workers, including those who care for children or dependent relatives. This also means that the rights acquired in one job must not be lost when moving to another employer, contract or country: there needs to be a European framework to make it possible to change or end career without renouncing social security and pension protection.

Strong trade unions and a strong social dialogue are crucial elements for shared prosperity in Europe. They also propose concrete solutions to the challenges workers and employers face. This is why we want to further extend collective agreements to non-standard forms of employment, widen collective bargaining coverage and allow self-employed people to unionise. We will restart the European social dialogue and continue to support the capacity building of social partners, including both employers and trade unions at the national level and insist that EU policies not only respect but also promote agreements of social partners at EU, international and national level.

We will continue to support workers’ right to unionize, to representation, consultation, information and to strike.

We will further work to enhance the dialogue between the European institutions, trade unions and civil society.

Fighting inequality through social protection for all. This means protecting workers from exploitation and competition for the lowest standards. It means **fair mobility**. We want the upcoming European Labour
Authority to be strong enough to stop abuses and to ensure that all workers in Europe are properly covered by social security. We want a fair implementation of the Posting of Workers Directive and clear rules against letterbox companies. Companies must perform a substantial, genuine activity in the country where they are established, and cannot be allowed to escape their social and tax responsibilities. We want to reinforce corporate social and environmental responsibility, and reinforce scrutiny obligations throughout the supply chain. These elements should be preconditions for public procurement contracts.

In an ever-changing world of work, fighting inequalities also means extending social protection to everyone in Europe, irrespective of their contracts or employment situation.

A reliable social safety net must be available to protect everyone in Europe, including the unemployed, self-employed, atypical and crowd workers, against the hazards of their working life. Income security is essential. To protect the most vulnerable, we are convinced of the need for national minimum income schemes that ensure that no one is left in poverty and homeless. We want clear targets to reduce rough sleeping in Europe. We will fight for decent pensions that allow the oldest to live in dignity. In case of sudden and strong increase of unemployment in a Member State, a temporary EU support should be available to national unemployment benefit systems.

Inequalities are felt very harshly when it comes to health. We believe that everyone should have a timely access to quality public healthcare. We believe that a high level of health protection and timely access to affordable and equitable preventive and curative health care of high quality are essential for the wellbeing of every society. This has been undermined by liberalisation of public services and austerity policies across the EU. We reaffirm that public health and healthcare systems are best equipped to deliver accessible services at affordable cost for all. We will further support fair and transparent medicine pricing and access policies, improve access to vaccination for all children, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health rights. We will put a further emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention as the most effective way to ensure physical and mental health throughout life.

Because differences should neither serve as an excuse for inequalities nor as the ground for discrimination, we will continue to promote inclusive societies that are diverse, open, respectful and free of discrimination, where rights and duties are the same for all. We will foster intergenerational solidarity. We will work tirelessly to ensure respect for rights of people with disabilities, ensuring that they are supported and enjoy the same opportunities in education and within the labour market, that the public spaces are designed and reconstructed guaranteeing accessibility for everyone, and that their special needs when it comes to social security and healthcare provision are being met guaranteeing life in dignity.

Fighting inequality through progress that benefits all.

In the society we want to build, work allows a good quality of life without competing with self-development, family time or leisure. This is why we want progressive, properly paid maternity, paternity, parental and carer leave arrangements as well as affordable, high quality and accommodating care services for children, the elderly and other dependants. This is also why we think that gains in productivity enabled by new technologies should be seen as opportunities to increase wages or further reduce working time without loss of revenue. Technology should not create new gaps in our societies, which is why both the technology and the essential services that are digitalised must remain accessible to all.

Similarly, the EU must continue to invest in its population. It must start with the youngest in our society, with equal access to education and a Child Guarantee to fight the most striking form of poverty. In particular, early childhood education and care should better target the lesser off households to better prevent social exclusion. Second, it must help the next generation to find a job with a reinforced, permanent Youth Guarantee to avoid repeating the youth unemployment disaster experienced after
the financial crisis. Third, it must help the unemployed back to employment, setting up active labour market policies that guarantee a quality individual offer to each jobseeker (job offer, training, further education). Fourth, it must help workers who face job losses, whether due to globalisation, digitalisation, environmental effects or territorial economic crises. We will turn the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund into a Just Transition Fund to ensure investment in skills, competences and professional prospects. We will also make sure it can support workers who want to buy out their companies rather than letting it close its doors. With the European Social Fund, the EU proved that it is ready to spend money for the training and the qualifications of its workers, for social inclusion and for the fight against poverty. We will make sure these funds are strengthened and given the possibility to adapt to any challenge and to reach the most vulnerable.

We are convinced that Member States, as well as local and regional authorities, must be given the budgetary flexibility to invest in social measures and infrastructures, as well as the means to deploy reliable social security systems.

Investing in social services is a strategic commitment that creates jobs, brings added value and contributes to the well-being of all. Moreover, we will fight to make sure that public services have the means to provide effective and universal access to social services, healthcare, affordable housing and essential services. We want to stop the pressure on liberalisation and privatisation especially in public services. Besides, we will support social innovation and the social economy, as we believe that they can address poverty and generate sustainable wealth and well-being while promoting a learning and participative society.

For us, neither basic economic freedoms nor competition rules take precedence over fundamental social rights. This must be translated into European law and integrated as a fundamental principle in the EU treaties, with a social progress protocol. The prominence of social rights and the objective of social progress must also be reaffirmed for the further development of the Economic and Monetary Union.

The European Union is the best guarantee of a future of shared prosperity and peace for our continent.

Yet too many inequalities still remain between European citizens, countries, regions, and cities. We will not let the gaps widen between urban and rural areas, we will not let regions lose their people and talents. The European project must continue to bring us closer together on the same path of social progress and shared prosperity. This is the essence of the EU’s cohesion policy, and we reiterate here that it must remain a political and financial priority for the EU, available and easily accessible to all in Europe.

As the Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a social Europe. It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a progressive economy, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a fair world, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.
THE 80 Richest People own the Same Wealth As the Poorest 3.5 Billion
The European Union has one of the world’s most developed economies, and is the most fair and equal region in the world. It is defined by a unique economic model that combines economic dynamism and social protection and that has brought prosperity, integration and cohesion. People can travel, work and study across the continent. They can do business and make transactions more easily than ever before. However, this model that has shaped our continent is under threat and must be further improved. The recent crisis revealed certain flaws which we want to fix in order to be able to protect everyone. In a context of multiple societal transformations involving globalisation, digitalisation, technological progress, climate change and energy transition, it remains our primary mission to ensure the fairness of such transformations, so that technological and economic progress translate into social progress too.

1. We want to move towards a new economic model that focuses on social progress, gender equality, respect for human rights and sustainable growth, and that has citizens’ wellbeing at its heart, in line with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. This means creating quality jobs and prosperity with thriving small and medium sized enterprises, cooperatives, and a revived industrial policy, driven by leading research and innovation. It means achieving full gender equality and making use of women’s full potential particularly on the labour market and in leading positions. It means creating a healthy environment with a real strategy for green growth for a sustainable future for all. And it means creating more equal and fair societies with stronger, broader social protections and forward-looking social investment strategy.

Today, one of most important challenges that Europe has to face is the rise of inequality — the widening of the gap between the rich and poor in our societies and between our countries. Europe’s richest 1% own nearly a third of its wealth, while the bottom 40% own less than 1%. In 2015, almost 120 million people in Europe were facing poverty or social exclusion. That is almost one quarter of the entire EU population.

We do not accept inequalities as inevitable. They are caused or exacerbated by specific policy decisions in our economic governance, labour market institutions, tax systems, and the way the financial sector is allowed to operate.

Inequalities can be overcome, but change and reform are needed at national and European level. This shall be our priority in order to make substantial change towards a more prosperous and inclusive society.

2. We want to change the economic approach in Europe. Austerity policies have put enormous stress on economies, societies and governments. They have increased inequalities, unemployment levels and poverty rates. These policies brought about the closing down of busi-
nesses, the dismissal of employees, the shrinking of their basket of daily goods and reduced public services.

3. For all these reasons, **we want to put an end to austerity-only policies**. Our economic growth model combines responsibility, flexibility and investment. These three dimensions are mutually supportive and key for driving both economic growth and social cohesion. Public finances have to be managed in a responsible way, but responsibility has two sides. One is to **manage public budgets responsibly** to keep them sustainable. The other is to **keep adequate social security provisions in place** and provide for society’s future needs with well-targeted investment in human capital, strategic and social infrastructure. Neither of these elements can be overlooked.

The existing European budgetary and fiscal rules are not geared towards these objectives. **Member States must be allowed to adapt their policies and reforms according to society’s needs in a timely manner**. Managing public spending well does not mean focusing only on spending figures, but must also look at the quality of spending and at how inclusive growth can be supported in a sustainable way. Unfortunately, the conservative response to the financial crisis was to focus on monetary stability exclusively, making social and political stability merely a cosmetic aim.

**For us, growth and prosperity can only be attained when monetary, social and political stability are all guaranteed.**

The EU must be committed to both stability and sustainable growth. The main aim is to bring prosperity and wellbeing to all. Economic governance has to be more balanced. It is unsustainable for budget rules to recognise only cuts, and not spending, as an economic driver. Currently Europe is in an exceptional juncture. Interest rates are purposefully very low. With a combination of progressive reforms, increased investment and the ECB’s monetary policy, we can transform the economy, open up new growth opportunities and further develop existing ones. It is a matter of political will to do
4. We want an economy that gives back to people. For that we must give an extra boost to both public and private investment to create jobs. Agreeing on a European investment plan, which had been initiated by our political family, was a big first step forwards in that direction. Europe must put social investment at the core of its strategy. The economy must prioritise serving the needs of society, promoting cohesion, equality and wellbeing.

5. We want to support public investment to create fairer societies and sustainable economic growth. Today, investment is still below the pre-crisis levels. Europe must aim at closing this investment gap. Specific instruments, such as the ‘golden rule’, whereby productive public investment is not calculated in Member States’ budget deficits, are needed to increase public investment. For instance, investing in a programme to bring unemployed people back to work has a cost, but it also brings enormous benefits for the individuals involved (in 2016, one in five 25-29 year-olds in the EU were not in a job, education or training) as well as for the economy and the state budget. So these positive returns need to be recognised with this golden rule or similar instruments.

Private investment also needs support. Investment goes hand in hand with strengthening integration in the European single market.

An investment strategy must focus on improving social infrastructure, increasing people’s standard of living and promoting fair, sustainable and cohesive growth and ecological transition.

Companies, especially SMEs and microenterprises, need more access to financing. Investor accountability is essential, especially when private investment receives public support.

6. We want an economy that is sustainable. Europe’s new economic model must combine social progress, economic development and environmental stability, based on the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria. The financial sector must contribute to the transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economy with more transparency and better financial products. But this is not enough. We need new public issuances of green financial instruments at EU level to cater this transition.

7. We want an economy that leaves no-one behind. Member States’ social and economic reforms have to be more coordinated to ensure greater internal upward convergence in terms of investment, productivity, jobs creation, wages, taxation and social benefits. This is not about harmonising policies for the sake of harmonising policies; it is about avoiding a Europe working at different speeds with growing inequalities. It is about preventing social and fiscal dumping and profit shifting. It is therefore important to set the right common objectives and ensure joint action. Sustainable growth and social cohesion must drive this effort. The countries of the euro area have specific opportunities and challenges in this regard, but to date the euro area lacks the appropriate instruments to achieve this. Therefore, we call for a deep and ambitious reform of the Eurozone to achieve those goals. A budget for the Eurozone must be used to support upward convergence. It is the right way forward to ensure that there is no drop in investment levels, notably social investment, and to support national unemployment benefit systems. We aim to bring down the cost of public debts, with new solidarity instruments, in a sustainable and fair way to restore financial stability and protect our social models. We must seize this momentum to complete the Economic and Monetary Union and optimise the Eurozone.

8. We want an economy that is fair. We want to take further steps to ensure fair tax systems that promote social justice and the necessary means to sustain our social model. Tax avoidance by companies, multinationals, banks, legal entities and wealthy individuals harms our societies, distorts the single market and prevent member states from collecting the resources necessary to sustain those in need and conduct robust innovation and industrial policy. Tax avoiders are still allowed to shop for the country that allows them to accumulate the most profit. This is not just immoral, it also
provokes a destructive corporate tax rate competition between countries, with a direct negative impact on taxpayers and public finances. Therefore, we want a common consolidated corporate tax base in Europe.

Our tax systems need to be reformed to address new forms of trading, new sources of income, and new services. As citizens, we enjoy the way digitalisation has made our life simpler but we need to keep a critical eye on the price we end up paying for this simplicity. Some digital companies pay zero or close to zero taxes. That means that traditional companies and taxpayers have to chip in to cover the difference, which leads to unequal societies and big income inequalities. We live in ever more connected societies and evolving economies, but the tax systems we use are outdated. Fairer tax systems will ensure a fairer distribution of income.

To address tax evasion and tax avoidance we need to strengthen transparency and efficiency. We must close loopholes in the internal market that lead to forum shopping, social dumping, the creation of letterbox companies, bogus self-employment and the undermining of social and labour standards. Countries must automatically exchange tax-related information and companies and trusts must be open about who runs them. We must also tax profits where they are generated.

Companies and banks must publicly disclose where they operate and pay their fair share accordingly.

To facilitate this, a single EU system to calculate companies’ taxable income needs to be put in place, reducing red tape. We need to strengthen the established list of tax havens and impose sanctions on tax evaders but also on the companies and people that assist them in designing the best schemes. Finally, in recent years many scandals have been denounced thanks to people’s testimonies. Whistleblowers need to be protected as they are fundamental in restoring tax justice. The EU must set high standards to crack down on tax evasion, but tax evasion is international and to tackle it efficiently a global response is also needed. The EU should support the creation of an international organisation, possibly under the UN, aiming at promoting social and fiscal fairness on a global scale.

9. We want an economy that does not gamble with people’s lives. We want to protect our citizens from the shortcomings of the financial sector, and while very important steps have already been taken with the Banking Union more needs to be done. Ensuring prosperity is not just a matter of ensuring progressive economic governance; financial stability is also crucial. Increasing financial sector regulation and oversight is equally important. After all, it was the financial sector that caused the economic crisis. Europe is creating a framework for monitoring and resolving banks that are in trouble, but this is not enough. The EU has put in place mechanisms, such as the European Stability Mechanism, to support economies hit by a significant crisis. This should be extended to provide guarantees that depositors will not have to suffer from a bank failure. It was taxpayers that had to pick up the bill of the financial crisis, and more has to be done to protect them. This means stronger financial regulation, greater guarantees that the banking sector
will foot the bill for failing banks, and stronger safeguards for depositors and their savings no matter where their bank is located. The financial sector needs greater corporate transparency and accountability to fight against fraud and money laundering and promote better consumer protection. It also needs to become more user-friendly; access to information and services must reach everyone. Taxing financial transactions would help curb financial speculation and ensure that stock market trading contributes its fair share to society. Establishing adequate firewalls between commercial and investment banking remains one of our key objectives to better protect citizens.

10. We want an economy that respects democratic choices. Democratic accountability and responsibility are crucial for Europe’s integrity. This is true in financial and economic policy-making as well as elsewhere. Civil dialogue must be strengthened and democracy in the workplace must be supported. European institutions must be given a key role in these areas to ensure that they work to the benefit of all European citizens. The role of the European Parliament must be strengthened to promote more democratic accountability. The Eurogroup can no longer be left as an informal institution without parliamentary oversight. It must be given a permanent President, double hatted as member of the European Commission, fully accountable to the European Parliament.

The European Union is the best guarantee of a prosperous and more equal future for all citizens in our continent. But it is clear that the approach to economic and financial policy needs to be changed to achieve this. The conservative and liberal approach based on austerity drives people, regions, and countries apart. For us, what matters is to move towards cohesive and equal societies.

To achieve our progressive goals, the EU long-term budget for 2021-2027 needs to be ambitious and reflect a clear and positive long-term vision of the Union’s future.

In order to respond to the needs, concerns and expectations of the European citizens, the budget will need to provide the Union with the necessary financial means to face important challenges and attain its political priorities and objectives over the next 7-year period. It is not acceptable to weaken the main EU solidarity policies through drastic cuts. The EU must deliver on its commitment to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and to be a frontrunner in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The mainstreaming of the SDGs into all EU policies and initiatives of the next long-term budget is therefore important. To meet the new European challenges new own resources are necessary to finance the EU budget. They could reduce the share of current national contributions.

11. We want the economy to grow in a way that benefits all. It must be the engine that will bring positive social, industrial and environmental changes. Our economic model offers the flexibility to deal with these challenges. It provides the financial means to make the right investment choices. It is responsible towards current and future generations. As the Party of European Socialists, we are ready to take on this challenge for a real progressive Europe that creates shared prosperity.

In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a progressive economy. It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, which reaffirm our commitment and plan for a social Europe, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a fair world, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.
Progressives in Europe must lead a Just Transition that respects the natural limits of our planet. We need a long-term strategy with sufficient investment for the transition to zero-net emissions by 2050 and to fully work to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. This is crucial if we want to try to ensure a halt to global warming and environmental pollution, to protect biodiversity and improving air quality and to improve the well-being of all citizens. Europe needs to deal with the challenges climate change is bringing to all parts of the population, such as droughts, sever snowstorms, floods, spread of new diseases. That’s why we want an ambitious environmental policy to provide a better quality of life for all and an ecological transition that will create opportunities for new jobs, businesses and business models. For us, socialism and ecology go hand in hand, and we cannot disconnect the wellbeing of citizens from the quality of our environment. Ecological modernisation is a prerequisite for a sustainable and just economy.

The EU must not let the poorest and vulnerable people bear the brunt of environmental deterioration. They often lack the means to adapt to extreme weather conditions – one of the reasons for an increasing number of climate refugees. They find it hardest to deal with flood or storm damages; they often live close to the busiest neighbourhoods with the most polluted air and it is very often their jobs that may be most under threat from the necessary paradigm shift.

For us, the fight against environmental pollution and climate change is also a fight for equality and social justice.

1. We want a new, sustainable economic model, with an economy that protects the climate and the environment. We are fully committed to the target set in the United Nations’ Paris Agreement on climate change to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, aiming at a target of 1.5 degrees Celsius. For the EU to contribute its share to this global effort, we want a new EU long-term strategy, with national targets, aiming to phase out the use of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) by the middle of the century. The EU’s climate and energy targets for 2030 on CO2 emissions, renewable energy use and energy efficiency improvement need to be raised in order to be in line with this long-term goal. Healthy ecosystems, improved protection and restoration of natural forests and marine areas will be crucial to attain our climate goals, and to stop the loss of species. Furthermore, the EU should support all Member States that want to phase-out the use of nuclear power. We want a society that is fully powered by renewable energies and which takes advantage of improved energy efficiency to make this possible. We want the EU to be an international role model, climate action leader and promoter. The EU must fully deliver on its commitments concerning climate finance to developing countries. Climate change mitigation and adaptation must be an integral part of the EU’s broader development cooperation. The EU budget must be climate-proof. It must be aligned to the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. We want a clean energy and resource-efficiency transition that improves people’s everyday lives.

That is why Europe needs a Social Agenda for the Energy Transition, to create jobs in a just transition, fight energy poverty, democratise the energy system and improve public health.

The clean energy transition, as well as the shift towards a green and circular economy, have huge potential for new quality jobs in the green economy with a strong gender equality dimension. More gender equality leads to more sustainable development. The EU should support regions all over Europe to manage the clean energy transition, especially those that face specific challenges, for example, because their communities and economies depend on heavy industries or mining. We call for a Europe-wide action plan about how to organise this change. We want to set the right framework for workers and companies to adapt to a changing environment without structural disruptions. Our vision for industrial policy is about organising just transitions: changes that support workers from polluting industries to take advantage of new, high-quality jobs and business opportunities in a clean economy. For this purpose, a European Just Transition Fund should be set up to finance an education and training system that provides workers with the new skills they need in the green economy, with special emphasis on tackling gender inequalities in this emerging sector, and to find clean solutions for the transport and energy industries.

Today, millions of Europeans suffer from energy poverty; they cannot afford to properly warm their houses in winter.

No one should choose between heating or eating. We will fight energy poverty by improving energy consumers’ rights and information, by ensuring access to clean energy services, and by targeting energy-efficiency measures and renewable heating installations as a priority on energy-poor households. We will ensure that these measures are accessible to low-income and vulnerable households. Europe’s building stock cannot be decarbonised by 2050 without a strong focus on these hardest-to-reach groups must be an integral part of decarbonising Europe’s building stock by 2050.

3. We want to make Europe’s energy system more democratic. We want to empower Europe’s citizens to not only consume, but also to produce clean energy themselves more easily, with the so-called “prosumers” model. That is why we will foster citizens’ engagement in energy production, be it on an individual basis, such as solar panels on people’s own roofs, or collectively, through participation in a local energy community.

The clean energy transition is also about improving public health. Besides the gradual phasing-out of the use of coal for energy production and the modernisation of heating systems, the transition to cleaner mobility will reduce air pollution and improve citizens’ health. We want a clean mobility transition for accessible and sustainable mobility for all. Transport is responsible for about a quarter of the EU’s carbon emissions. It is a major air polluter in cities, causing hundreds of thousands of premature deaths in Europe every year. Therefore, we call for stricter emission standards for petrol and diesel cars, together with...
the new rules and strong EU supervision that we pushed for to prevent emissions cheating in the future. We want Europe’s car industry to move to electric and hydrogen power as fast as possible, or it will be superseded by car producers from other parts of the world. This is why the EU needs a just transition strategy for its automobile industry, to maintain and create jobs in this industry. It must prepare the workforce for new skills needed in the transition from combustion to electric car engines. Such a strategy must also support the establishment of a world-leading European battery industry, especially by targeted and increased research and development funding for new generation battery technologies and artificial intelligence, to make full use of Europe’s research excellence. It must also be based on the sustainable generation of the extra electricity needed, and the smartening of Europe’s electricity grids to support it. The clean mobility transition needs an accelerated deployment of clean fuel infrastructure, such as electric car charging points, with the support of the automotive sector. Our clean mobility concept does not stop at electrifying individual transport. We also support more and better clean public transport as the best decarbonisation strategy, and urban planning for pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly cities. A shift is needed to bring more freight and passenger transport from road to rail and waterways. Aviation is one of the most polluting modes of transportation. We must put a price tag on the pollution generated by kerosene. The revenues raised could be used for a European fund for Clean Transport.

Besides climate change, Europe’s industries are facing further challenges, including demographic change, resource scarcity, digitalisation and artificial intelligence, as well as increased global competition.

The EU needs a territorially balanced industrialisation strategy to make its industries fit for these challenges in the decades to come.

We strongly support an Industrialisation target and indicators beyond 2020, that measures not only manufacturing in the narrow sense, but also related industrial services, research, development and innovation, job creation and the quality of jobs, including the closing of the gender pay gap. It will be crucial to bridge digital divides to maintain the global competitiveness of European industry. All regions need to have access to digital infrastructure, including rural, remote and less-densely populated areas. Companies must be enabled to more easily adopt new technologies, particularly small and medium-sized companies. It must be a priority to keep the workforce up-to-date with new skills requirements in the digitalised industry. We want European funds to support industrial innovation, infrastructure deployment, technology deployment and skilling of the workforce for the green and digital industry of the future. We will stop the race to the bottom on low wages and low standards. We want European products, standing out with quality, sustainability and innovation. Therefore we need European research and development as well as a strong European industry to keep jobs, know-how and production in the European Union.

4. We want big polluters to pay, including outside the EU. To accelerate the switch to renewable energies and make energy efficiency more attractive, we want Europe-wide taxes on CO2, in addition to a well-functioning EU Emissions Trading System. The EU’s industries must undertake great efforts to modernise their production processes in order to save the climate. At the same time, some countries only apply lax climate laws, giving their industries an unfair competitive advantage. A price should be put on CO2 emissions of products entering the EU from countries which are less committed to climate protection, in a way that is compatible with international trade rules. These revenues could party flow into the EU budget and be used to finance the green and just energy transition, and to support the fight against energy poverty.

We want a circular economy in Europe. We want to lead Europe’s battle to stop wasting energy and resources. We want the European Union’s economy to move away from the ‘linear’ model where raw materials are used to make a product and thrown away afterwards.
We want an economy that respects the waste hierarchy: an economy that is primarily based on waste prevention, and where materials are permanently reused, recycled and only recovered for energy or disposed as measures of last resort.

The EU and its Member States should set ambitious targets to use resources more efficiently and waste less. We believe therefore that it is vitally important to step up waste prevention and management strategies, and to be more ambitious in the development and implementation of eco-design and energy labelling measures to increase the overall energy and resource efficiency of products. The potential in terms of increased growth and employment opportunities of the circular economy should be better taken account of in the coordination of the EU’s economic policy making.

5. We want a pact for consumers’ rights and protection, including a legal framework for collective redress. Artificial intelligence offers many opportunities, if it is mastered well. We will foster development and regulation of artificial intelligence that serves the citizens. It should be illegal to design a product or software program in a way that makes it artificially out-of-date or useless within a known time period (planned obsolescence). EU rules are needed to guarantee that products are designed to last longer, become easier to repair or to reuse. We will take measures against greenwashing, false and misleading environmental marketing claims. Consumers should have no doubts about the eco-friendliness of the products and services they buy. Neither should consumers be worried about the impact of recycled materials on their health. That is why we are calling for a Europe-wide framework to guarantee that toxic materials are kept out of the recycling stream.

A European strategy for a non-toxic environment must also ensure that all products are safe, and eliminates people’s exposure to toxic chemicals, including endocrine disruptors.

Microplastic particles should have no place in cosmetics, such as in face scrubs or toothpastes, as they wash into rivers and seas, where they can harm wildlife and ultimately their way in the food chain.

As the PES we want to protect our biodiversity, rivers and ocean habitats as they are directly linked to our own well-being. The plastic pollution, especially of our planet’s oceans, lakes and rivers, has to stop. We have to drastically reduce the use of single-use plastics, and we will support measures for the overall reduction of the use and
inappropriate disposal of plastic. We strongly support the ban on the use of plastic in the production of goods where cleaner and more sustainable alternatives are available, such as for plastic straws or plastic cutlery.

6. We want a European agriculture and food sector that produces healthy, quality and affordable food while preserving nature and biodiversity. Agriculture and sustainable fishing methods have a key role to play in environmental protection and climate action.

The EU’s support for agriculture should support farmers in their transition to more sustainable production methods and climate mitigation, focusing more on organic production, good animal welfare, preservation of biodiversity, sustainable forest management and sensitive landscapes.

Our continent has witnessed a massive decline in bees and other essential pollinators. This trend can be reversed by a more restrictive use in pesticides. We call for a fully transparent authorisation process and for the continued strict application of the precautionary principle: Pesticides such as Glyphosate, and neonicotinoids, should not be used if there are doubts about their effects on human health or on biodiversity, or if they are potentially or verifiably dangerous.

Europeans must be able to expect high-quality safe consumer products, food and water all over the continent.

Europeans have equal rights as consumers wherever they live.

That is why we call for a ban on dual food and product standards. Foodstuffs and products sold under the same name have to have the same quality everywhere in the EU. We will tackle dodgy food claims. Food products must not be labelled healthy when they contain too much salt, fat or sugar. Europeans have the right to the same food safety and water quality standards across the continent. We will scale-up preventive action against food waste. Water and sanitation are public goods that must be accessible for all Europeans, both in rural and urban areas.

The pollution of the air, water, and soils does not stop at national borders. The European Union offers the unique opportunity to set continent-wide rules and standards to protect what we drink, what we eat and what we breathe. The “better regulation” agenda must be used as an opportunity to achieve this with clearer, stronger and more efficient rules, and should never be used as a way to lower regulation standards. We call for a new EU Environment Action Program that shall guide the European Union’s environmental policy for the next years.

Making Europe’s societies and economies more environmentally sound will demand lots of changes to the ways Europeans are used to living, working, producing and consuming. But these efforts are necessary. To benefit all, the transformation must be carefully framed and organised.

We want a real strategy to frame the economic, social and environmental changes needed. This would help local, regional and national governments, as well as companies and individuals, to anticipate and plan the transformation and ensure that it benefits all citizens as well as the environment.

Strong public services and investments are at the heart of the eco-social transition. As the Party of European Socialists, we will organise these changes in a socially fair way that we create a healthy living environment for all Europeans, protect workers, open up new quality jobs and business opportunities, and leave a cleaner and sustainable environment for future generations.

As the Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a just and sustainable environmental transition. It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a social Europe, progressive economy, empowering youth, true gender equality, a fair world, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.
Think about my Future!
The new generation of Europeans is growing up in an ever more globalized world. The youth of today faces a very different challenge to any generation before as the pace of change is faster than ever before and the prospects of a bright future are far less certain. Children and young people live in a society that is still recovering from the 2008 economic recession, that is shaped by the primacy of market forces, by the digital revolution, by deep-transitional change, by tremendous access to information, and by new ways to interact at work in their private lives, most importantly in politics. All these societal challenges open a wealth of possibilities for the progressive family to showcase our political project as worthy for the younger generations to invest in. We want to create a better future, with a better quality of life, a better-protected environment, and more possibilities for the democratic participation of young people. But if these societal and economic developments are not accompanied by strong and public policies, they may call into question the equity of the social contract and pose risks and challenges for the younger generation. A progressive, fair, egalitarian and prosperous society is not only one that is built upon a principle of intergenerational solidarity, and the protection and empowerment of its youth, but also one that recognises young people as a fundamental part of our economies.

To give young Europeans the opportunities they need and are entitled to a better future, we must continue and reinforce progressive action in youth policies. This is why we launched the European Youth Plan, a major initiative to accom-

pany young people from pre-school age until the job market. It starts from early childhood with the fight for the basic rights of every child in Europe to be protected and goes on with measures to guarantee smooth school to work, and work to work transitions, and access to quality jobs, education, training, sport and culture for young people. These measures aim not only at reducing inequalities between our youth, but also to address the generation gap that resulted from the financial crisis. This is about giving a quality life to all young people in Europe today. It is also about laying the foundations for better and fairer societies of tomorrow. Young people need to be respected, valued, encouraged and supported in fulfilling their potential and aspirations. In this process, their voices are key in making our societies more democratic, prosperous, fair and equal.
Europeans within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education. Our political family will continue the fight to increase funding of this successful scheme, which has so far helped over 9 million young people across the EU.

We call for the scheme to be made permanent and to strengthen national implementations. So that more young people can benefit, we want to raise the age limit to 30 years old, and to make this instrument a permanent tool in the fight against youth unemployment while increasing coverage of the most vulnerable groups such as young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and young migrants. At the same time,

we must ensure that the offers received are of the best quality, relevance and sustainability, with adequate remuneration and working conditions.

The party of European Socialists demands that a decent standard of living is guaranteed for all young people. Unemployment, sickness or any other reason should not bring the youth below the poverty line. We call for internships to be decently paid and not represent the majority of the workforce of the company or administration concerned. Moreover, trainees and interns should have the same rights recognised as people employed under a short-term contract and the traineeships and internships should be taken into account in the calculation of pension rights.

Unfortunately, inequality in opportunities starts at a very young age. Because opportunities in later life are to a large extent determined by one’s childhood, we believe

Europe has the duty to support children.

It is unacceptable that more than 25% of children are at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU. This is why we want a European Child Guarantee to ensure that children’s rights to free and high-quality healthcare and education and training, quality childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition are put into practice all over Europe.

2. As social democrats, we believe that education is a fundamental right and must be guaranteed. Ensuring access to quality education for everyone is one of the best ways to make our societies more equal and inclusive. In order to give equal opportunities for each young person to develop their abilities, we need greater investment in education, including informal and non-formal learning, vocational skills, lifelong learning, culture, student mobility, research and knowledge. Building open, sustainable, participatory societies is something that starts with an education that empowers young people to be active citizens. Because education plays the double role of developing our societies and shaping the personal future of our young citizens, we will continue our fight to make education and training accessible to everyone

This includes the promotion of gender equality through education. Therefore public, secular, high-quality education, starting from the earliest age, should be guaranteed for free for every child, adolescent and adult in Europe. Trends to privatise education cannot be a viable option for inclusive education nor be funded by public money. To achieve true social justice, we cannot allow financial means, social situation, ethnic or religious background, disabilities or other forms
of discrimination to determine the type of education a child or young person receives. Additionally, gender cannot be such a factor. We must counteract gender stereotyping from an early age through the educational promotion of gender equality and ensure that young women and men can aspire to and have equal educational and career opportunities.

Inequality in our societies has a direct impact on access to higher-level studies and students’ mobility opportunities. There are many cases of young people who do not have the means to finish their studies, attend universities or travel abroad to study. To solve this problem, our European Youth Plan calls for increasing financing, access and scope of the successful Erasmus+ programme to a larger number of university students, high school students and students in vocational training. Our aim is to open the Erasmus programme for students from all levels of education.

In parallel, we are pushing for the recognition, validation and accreditation at European level of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through non-formal and informal education as well as of school studies abroad. We need to support education and development of young people beyond formal education systems including volunteering.

3. Access to culture, as a fundamental right of all citizens as mentioned in the Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is an essential element in every person’s development, and in the promotion of social cohesion, youth engagement and democratic citizenship. Enhancing young people’s involvement in this field is not a luxury and can be done by supporting extra-curricular activities or by improving access to and involvement in cultural events. To this end, it is necessary to pursue the European Youth Plan proposal to create European Culture Cheques which would give young people a voucher of a certain value to create or participate in cultural activities. Furthermore, young people’s active participation in sports must be encouraged, as this contributes to the development of young people’s social relationships and their physical well-being. It comes together with their right to live in a clean
and healthy environment, alongside enjoying equal access to quality public healthcare. Mental well-being has to be preserved and young people must be supported in case of bullying at school and cyberbullying as well as facing stress at school, in training, on the labour market and in their personal lives.

It is of great importance to improve the participation of children and young people in community life and in its educational, cultural, political and economic aspects.

We must ensure an inclusive process that does not allow for discrimination on the grounds of young people’s sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

This can be done by improving a structured dialogue with young people, ensuring that children and young people are involved when forming policies that concern them so that they can become main stakeholders; funding the creation of youth facilities; or developing civic education and other programmes to promote active citizenship in the formal education system. We must support and widen participation of young people from all countries, regions and social backgrounds in initiatives such as the European Solidarity Corps. To further inspire youth participation and representation in political forums and allow them a direct say in the decision-making process, we support ways to increase the number of young people active in political and public life, with a strong focus on women’s participation. The proposed position of the EU Youth Coordinator must be backed with real powers ensuring that youth policies are mainstreamed in all EU policies.

Youth participation is also fundamental when it comes to voting. Data from the last European elections demonstrates a sharp decrease in the turnout of young people, though this does not mean that the younger generations is not willing to engage. On top of that, the gap between the participation of the oldest generation and the youngest one is widening. We need to address this issue by working to increase the turnout and democratic involvement of young voters. This is why we want more young candidates in electable positions on parties’ electoral lists. We also want to encourage the organisation of civil and political debates in schools and other discussion platforms in order to promote media and digital literacy, allowing young people to develop critical thinking skills and enabling them to protect themselves against fake news.

We want to make youth policies a true priority for Europe. Our political family, together with the full participation of social partners, civil society and youth organisations, will spare no effort to deliver concrete action so that young people become key actors fighting for greater democratic participation and equitable economic and social progress for all.

As the Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for empowering youth. It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a social Europe, progressive economy, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a fair world, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.
Our belief in democracy has always been the driver for our political action. It has been our core motivation in our fight for universal suffrage. It has been our incentive as we strive for modern political systems that can fully represent, include and protect citizens. It has been the foundation on which we have been building Europe. Today, as democracy finds itself under attack, we want to reaffirm our commitment to protect our model of democracy.

We are determined to defend and enhance democracy at national and European levels.

Our core European values are under attack on multiple fronts. We are witnessing the rise of extremist movements in all parts of Europe and on all fringes of the political spectrum, with ideologies that promote intolerance, deny people’s fundamental rights, disrespect minorities and polarise our societies. At the same time, we have witnessed several cases of foreign intrusion in electoral processes, aimed at destabilising Europe and undermining our democracy.

The world we live in is one full of uncertainties. The pace of changes makes people feel that the ongoing global, technological, societal and cultural transformations are beyond their control. They see inequalities growing, politics fragmenting and real power accumulating in the hands of a few. They no longer see themselves as empowered sovereigns, nor do they believe that democratically elected institutions possess the power to control the course of events on their behalf or in their favour. It is people’s fears, disapproval and anger that provokes them to vote for radical, populist, anti-systemic, sexist and increasingly anti-democratic parties. Against this background we want to offer citizens of Europe a viable progressive choice with an agenda that will make democracy on all levels – local, national, European and global – work for them again. We believe that a strong, united, democratic and social European Union will enable European citizens to reclaim sovereignty, to tame under-regulated financial markets, to improve social justice and to defend human rights in the EU on the world stage. United as Europeans, we can shape the world of tomorrow.

As the Party of European Socialists, we place ourselves at the forefront of the battle for a more democratic Europe. We fight for:

1. a European Union that remains a Community based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. We will support national and pan-European actions aimed at preventing Member States from turning to authoritarian rule, including the use of Article 7 and financial measures, and the establishment of an EU mechanism for democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, defending the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union. We will also fight all forms of corruption, nepotism and cronyism.

2. a European Union that defends citizens against those who violate the rule of law and call it democratisation. We declare our active support for civil society fighting for democratic rules in countries
ruled by various “Eurosceptics” who want to demolish European Project. The EU should be able to apply sanctions against those who violate our common values.

3. a European Union with legislation at all levels and in all policy fields that promotes equality and embeds mechanisms to fight discrimination, hate crime and hate speech effectively, and the initiation of a broad coalition of stakeholders to ensure this happens. Further actions should be undertaken to update existing laws, making them instrumental in combatting new inequalities.

4. a European Union that removes barriers that hinder women’s full and equal participation in private, professional and public life. Women’s fundamental rights are non-negotiable, and the PES will fight conservative forces around Europe that instrumentalise women’s rights for the purpose of oppressing and marginalising women. Pushing women back into traditional roles is a cost to our democracy and to society as a whole.

5. a European Union that acts based on the conviction that democracy as a principle is transversal, cutting across all socio-economic, environmental and cultural dimensions. This means ensuring that the implementation of all policies, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the response to the migration situation in Europe, uphold and promote democracy in their core objectives.

6. education in Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights. We recall the right to education conferred in international law and aim to deliver this through non-formal education and a hands-on approach, empowering learners and developing attitudes and behaviours that contribute to the building and defence of a universal culture of human rights and democracy in Europe. Furthermore, we stand united against any attempt to instrumentalise formal education to promote divisive ideologies.

7. a European Union that is committed to the civil rights of minorities. We stand for LGBTI rights, full recognition of migrants, freedom of religion, the rights of ethnic minorities, the full participation of people with disabilities in society and any policies that aim to end any form of discrimination, including discrimination based on a combination of these characteristics. We believe a European fund should be created to support civil society organisations that are protecting minorities and vulnerable groups within a Member State. We are fully committed to encouraging representation of minority groups in our party structures and standing for their rights, as a sign of promoting inclusive democracy. A viable basis for the future of our society can only be created if democracy successfully represents all citizens.

8. the participation of citizens and civil society in decision-making processes and innovative forms of deliberative democracy. We encourage transparent decision-making processes from a multi-dimensional point of view, encompassing EU institutions, NGOs, Trade Unions and civil society organisations. We must ensure stakeholders and NGOs have adequate funding in order to carry out their work. It is only through this that we can address the rise of Euroscepticism, populism and extreme far-right political movements.

9. a European Union that stands for the emancipation and empowerment of all citizens against the current conservative backlash. This involves a need for a binding EU Gender Equality Strategy and calls for an equivalent strategy reaffirming the EU’s commitment to stand for the rights of LGBTI people and to defend social progress.
10. An enhanced dialogue between the European institutions, trade unions and civil society. The tradition of civic consultations by the European Commission and hearings by the European Parliament should be reviewed and accelerated, harnessing the creativity and energy of representatives in the non-governmental sector. More European organisational support should be offered to all such organisations, which mobilise so many for diverse causes.

11. A European Union that engages young citizens. We want to bridge the intergenerational divide that is growing in society. We will work to ensure that the EU fully implements its new Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and that there are means available to support young citizens in their work, engage them in youth, pupil and student organisations, and aid them in their desire to volunteer. This is necessary to ensure equal opportunities for young people of any gender to develop their talents, use their creativity, and freely choose a path to a fulfilling future.

12. Better ethical standards in our politics through improving the quality of politics and political debate. Recent experience in Europe and elsewhere has shown more clearly than ever that hate speech in political campaigning leads to real hate crime. We thus commit to take a firm stance to actively prevent, sanction and eliminate hateful and divisive rhetoric within our parties and offices. We will battle any internal or external discourse of exclusion and hatred, alongside condemning xenophobia, racism and sexism, and anti-gender ideologies, and defending freedom of religion.

13. A pluralistic, credible, transparent and non-partisan public media landscape. We want to ensure people have access to impartial, trustworthy news sources. Moreover, we encourage education in media literacy to empower citizens to make informed and independent democratic decisions.

14. A European Union equipped to boost its role as a democratic community in the era of digitalization. E-democracy should become a tool to make our political systems more transparent, more inclusive, more open and more accessible for all generations. As an enabler of civic dialogue, the internet must be kept secure from any manipulation. Governments should step up their efforts to better protect citizens against discrimination, bullying, abuse, hate-speech and other crimes in the digital space and should offer protection for whistle blowers who alert us to breaches of privacy. Educating children in the use of digital space, protecting their privacy, and the principles and workings of our democratic system is crucial in this regard.

European Culture Cheques for citizens to express themselves. We want to encourage citizens to use Culture Cheques to present their proposals for democracy and their ideas on Europe.

15. A fully-fledged transnational parliamentary democracy. We will take action to make European democracy more participatory, inclusive and sustainable, and bring the institutions closer to citizens. We have already been paving the way by establishing the institution of a PES Common Candidate as a symbol of our belief in the need for the politicisation of Europe. This is an opening, which could in the future be followed by the establishment of transnational lists in the European Parliament elections. We believe that there is more to be done in seeking reforms that will bring more transparency, responsiveness and accountability to the European institutions and decision-making processes. We will ensure the integrity of democratic and electoral processes, fostering legislation for gender-balanced lists (through quotas) for the European Elections, and we will encourage that heads of lists are equally shared between women and men. This will contribute towards a more equal representation of women and men in the European Parliament as well as the equal appointment of women and men to different positions in this institution. Moreover, to ensure equal representation of both sexes in the next European Commission, the PES calls on all Member States to put forward both a woman and a man as their Commissioner candidate.

These are our commitments For a Stronger Democracy in Europe. In order to uphold and exceed them, we need to continue reforming ourselves. Learning from the two extensive reforms that were concluded in 2001 and 2007, the PES will take the time after the European elections to reflect on how to further consolidate and adapt its role as the most forward looking and progressive of the European parties. This process will look into making the PES:
an even more politically effective party, which pursues a progressive European project by bringing together political stakeholders of local, regional, national, European and global levels

an even more accessible party, where the deliberative process matters, and the drafting of any major policy starts from a discussion that is open to voices of all the Progressives willing to contribute

an even more participatory party, where being a member and being a PES activist matters

an even more representative party, where gender equality and intergenerational solidarity are transversally binding principles, and where the PES LGBTI Roadmap is fully implemented

an even more empowering party, where existing efforts that focus on political education and training are accelerated

an even more connected party, which has a space for dialogue, culture and creativity

Respecting Equal Human Rights for LGBTIQ people

Although Europe has come a long way in recognising and protecting LGBTI rights, there is still a long way to go in ensuring LGBTI people are treated equally in society. From childhood, LGBTI people are often victims of hate speech, hate crime, discrimination, humiliation, violence and other forms of oppression. They are prevented from fully enjoying their basic human rights simply because of who they are and whom they love.

Current EU rules do not attach the same importance to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics as they attach to fighting discrimination based on race and gender. As a result, they turn a blind eye to numerous problems LGBTI people face in their daily lives, including being bullied at school, getting fired from the workplace due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and being refused service in public and private spaces.

The state of LGBTI rights differs in various countries. This is a reflection of different historical, cultural and political backgrounds. But these can never justify delaying the full respect of human rights for everyone. We will spare no effort to achieve this.

The PES is the only European political party that has adopted an LGBTI Roadmap. Together with our LGBTI network Rainbow Rose, we call for EU policies that guarantee equal rights and the full protection of LGBTI people, including:

- **Strengthening the fight against hatred and intolerance** through EU-wide hate crime legislation.
- **Promoting sensitive education** and specific programmes on gender and LGBTIQ equality and respect.
- Ensuring strong legal protection for LGBTI asylum seekers in the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and strengthening implementation by properly training asylum authority personnel regarding the rights of LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees.
- **Ensuring that freedom of movement for families is also fully guaranteed** for LGBTI people and their families by fully enforcing the freedom of movement directive.
Promoting awareness-raising and visibility of LGBTI people in the EU and standing in solidarity with LGBTI people enjoying their freedom of speech and expression.

Prohibiting unnecessary invasive medical procedures on intersex children.

Fighting against domestic violence faced by LGBTI people through setting a minimum applicable standard of non-discrimination across the EU, which can be done by ratifying the Istanbul Convention and encouraging Member States to implement it fully in their national laws.

Allowing for quick, accessible and transparent legal gender recognition procedures without medical or psychiatric consent and based on the persons’ self-determination and without age limits.

PES and Rainbow Rose will continue to facilitate an open dialogue with LGBTI civil society and its PES member parties. We will not allow LGBTI people to become a tool in polarising populist discourse. We will continue to strongly condemn hate speech and speech that sets communities against one another.

All PES member parties are committed to supporting LGBTI groups within their structures. For a more diverse Europe, where individuals can freely express their identities without the fear of persecution, the rights of LGBTI people must be protected. As Progressives, we are united in this belief.

As the Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a stronger democracy in Europe. It goes hand-in-hand with seven other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a social Europe, progressive economy, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a fair world, and progressive asylum and migration policies.
2017 and 2018 were the years when women stood up globally and simultaneously and told the world that they have had enough: enough of being paid less than men for the same work; enough of not being free to decide about their own bodies; enough of being harassed and abused at work and beyond; enough of being made to stay at home and fulfil traditional roles.

It is indeed time to put an end to the persistent gap between women and men in terms of respecting human rights, access to opportunities and decision-making power. But women’s rights have also experienced a massive backlash from neo-conservative, fundamentalist religious and right-wing populist forces and, in many cases, the persistent lack of adequate public services obliges women to stay at home as carers. PES Women and the PES are thus determined to stand by all women in the continuing fight to secure women’s rights in the EU and beyond and to fight all types of discrimination and stereotypes against young girls from an early age on.

We want to advance gender equality across all fields and sectors by calling for an EU Gender Equality Strategy, as promised by the European Commission and requested by the Council. The PES and PES Women therefore also call for the EU to implement gender budgeting when preparing the EU budget. Not only does the EU have to respect international obligations such as the UN 2030 agenda (ensuring a parity planet), but the EU has also a responsibility towards 52% of its citizens to ensure that women have an equal share politically, economically and socially. Therefore, we need to cooperate with neighbouring regions, international organisations and initiatives in order to exchange best practices, identify common fields of cooperation and develop synergies to support solidarity between women and to promote gender equality on an international level.

1. Stop Violence Against Women

The last year has shown us that the fight for women’s rights is, at its core, a fight for women’s safety. With the growth in the #metoo movement, thousands of women spoke out about the physical and mental violence they face every day at home, at work, in public places and in our communities, and mobilised against it. The number of women affected who made their stories heard shows how urgently we need political action to ensure that all women can participate equally in all parts of society without fearing harassment and violence.

One in three women in the EU has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15\(^1\). This demonstrates that we must combat all forms of violence that affect women, including domestic violence, sexual violence and rape, human trafficking, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, forced marriage and so-called honour crimes. This includes tackling psychological violence, together with stalking, verbal abuse in public places and the internet as well as fighting pornographic objectification of women and their negative display in sexist advertisements. Moreover, decision-makers and society as

a whole must find comprehensive solutions, not only to end the trivialisation of such acts through education programmes and awareness-raising, but also finally to end the impunity of perpetrators and to shift towards dissuasion and criminalisation through legislation and effective policies.

The PES and PES Women urge all EU Member States to ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention, which was introduced by the Council of Europe in 2011 to make Europe a safer place for all women by recognising multiple forms of gender-based violence, taking measures to prevent it, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators. Ratifying the Istanbul Convention and implementing it in national legislation is the only way forward for Europe to guarantee the protection and safety of all women, girls and vulnerable groups in Europe, including refugee women, migrants and LGBTI people arriving to Europe. The EU and its Member States need to step up their actions to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence, to eliminate the power imbalance between women and men, and to respect, advocate and implement women’s rights across policy fields.

2. My Body, My Rights

Denying women’s free choice over their own body or denying their access to any type of medical care, undermines the promotion and respect of their fundamental freedoms and rights. Banning abortion, or making it nearly impossible for a woman to access safe abortion, has never prevented it from happening. Instead, it makes women’s lives more difficult and dangerous by forcing them either to resort at home to backdoor procedures that put their health and lives at risk, or to travel to another state where legal termination procedures are available. Therefore, we urgently need to allocate more resources to, and prioritise, education, infrastructure and awareness-raising about sexual and reproductive health and rights, linking these to women’s social economic empowerment and independence. There should be a stronger focus on prevention and comprehensive sexuality education for all adolescents, young girls and boys inside and outside of school. This will equip them, including in rural areas, with better knowledge to make decisions about their own bodies, health and lives and to manage healthy sexual and social relationships. At the same time, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights must be a norm, including the access to affordable, safe and legal abortion for all women throughout the EU. We want sexual and reproductive health and rights to be included in the EU Health Programme. Every country should offer access to affordable contraceptives and support services for women. The PES and PES Women will continue fighting for these rights in all countries and we must support pan-European initiatives, such as the AllofUs1 platform, that counteract misinformation.

3. Close the Gender Gaps

Despite the slow but steady progress made towards gender equality over the past decade, 2017 was not a success. In fact, the gap between women and men across health, education, politics and economics widened for the first time since records began in 2006.2 The EU must reverse this trend and become the frontrunner in empowering women and girls and giving them a fair share in decision-making authorities, starting by closing the gender pay gap and its underlying causes. With a European Gender Pay Gap at 16% and a European Pension Gap at 39%, PES Women and the PES will continue calling for clear and binding targets (2 percentage points each year, per Member State, per

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1 https://twitter.com/joinallofus

#ProgressiveEurope
age group), a European Pay Gap Audit, transparency grids, an Equal Pay Label, and dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance. PES and PES Women call the EU and all Member States to eliminate the gender pay gap by 2030.

**Furthermore, the EU must ensure that women and men can have an equal and fairly balanced approach towards sharing paid and unpaid work** (such as care responsibilities). A more ambitious European legal framework, such as that envisaged by the Work-Life Balance Directive, would enable the EU and its Member States to eliminate the underlying causes of the pay gap, including situations where women are forced into part-time work or career breaks. The lack of leave schemes and infrastructures - like affordable and high-quality childcare facilities for all children from birth to schooling age and care services for dependent people, that would allow women and men to combine work and life responsibilities - lead towards continuous gender segregation in lower-paid sectors (which begins at a very young age) and maintaining the glass ceiling. In addition, specific measures to provide active support to women’s employment are needed such as formal and non-formal education and programmes that encourage young people to opt for jobs free from any gender bias, while guaranteeing living wages and decent active ageing. Loopholes in national tax-systems need to be bridged to reduce economic inequalities between women and men. Moreover, Europe urgently needs to increase and guarantee the political participation of women and foster equality role-models for young girls in all sectors through targeted actions. Europe needs to encourage national and European parties and institutions to reach parity democracy, and to develop more gender-sensitive political programs.

To achieve these objectives and to challenge and change gender norms, gender mainstreaming remains crucial, as it concerns the society as a whole. Therefore, an intersectional approach of gender equality is inevitable. Every step in the policy-making process needs to consider gender representation and gender responsive contents, including gender budgeting. This said, we must hold the EU and its Member States accountable and safeguard the financing of women’s movements’ projects such as through the new Daphne Programme. Only through this can we achieve an equal and active representation of 52% of the world’s population, so that women not only gain power but also own it to reach sustainable gender equality.
Equal Societies:

For fair and progressive asylum and migration policies that work for all

Migration represents an opportunity as well as a challenge for the European Union, but opportunities cannot be effectively seized and challenges adequately faced unless the European Union is united in its approach. Root causes that are forcing people to leave their countries must be tackled, effective legal pathways need to be established and irregular migration needs to be addressed. The fight against human smuggling and trafficking should be reinforced and we must step up the efforts and investments in the integration of those refugees and other migrants who have the right to stay. Migration is a global issue that requires a multilateral and multilevel approach. We need to foster a positive vision on migration.

The PES is making a stand to govern migration and turn disorderly migration into orderly migration.

Few topics are as divisive today as migration. But when migration is well managed, we can make it work for all. As Socialists and Democrats we promote progressive policies on asylum and migration, which protect human lives, human rights and help those fleeing from violence and unbearable living conditions alike. We address the root causes pushing people to leave their home countries, such as violation of human rights, inequality, poverty, a lack of future perspectives, conflict and climate change. We support pathways for legal and managed migration, we address irregular migration and we firmly promote effective integration policies. Unilateralism and inflammatory rhetoric are not the answer to manage migration.

The PES stands for a shared response to a shared challenge and opportunity.

Therefore, when managing migration, we have to uphold our core values. The way we deal with this will affect, on the one hand, people’s right to move and lead a decent life, and on the other hand, the stability, security and cohesion of the host communities. It is therefore crucial that migration and integration policies must be grounded first and foremost in humanity and solidarity with refugees, other migrants and host communities alike.

Migration is part of human history and can be an important driver for innovation, but it is also increasingly the result of political, economic, social and gender inequalities on a global scale. Climate change is increasing the scale of inequalities. Uneven development among regions of the world, growing uneven distribution of wealth, conflict, persecutions, massive violations of human rights, climate change, changing demographics and a lack of future perspectives are reasons for people to leave their homes behind to start a life elsewhere. Indeed, the latter reason is also a push factor for important departures of skilled workers and employees from Northern Africa or the Western Balkans.

The number of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced people around the world has topped 65 million according to UNHCR. The vast majority of people do not migrate to the European Union. There are more people moving within Africa.
than towards Europe. Over 80% of refugees globally are hosted close to their home countries, within low-income and low-growth regions. Together we support these countries in order to ensure that refugees can live in secure, humane and decent conditions; Migration involves multiple dimensions – global, national and local – Migration and development must be approached as interconnected variables and their mutual relationship must be addressed from a multidimensional perspective, encompassing economic, political, social, environmental, cultural, ethnic, gender, geographical, and demographic factors.

The number of asylum seekers, other migrants and irregular migrants entering the EU reached high levels during 2015. More than one million refugees and other migrants crossed into the EU in 2015 and crossings remained high in 2016 and 2017. Only a few countries have been continuously dealing with the largest numbers of people arriving and settling. As the front-line Member States, Italy, Greece and Spain, along with, Germany, Austria and Sweden, have taken by far the largest share of the responsibility, with some other countries refusing to contribute sufficiently. Recently, Spain has become the main destination of the migrant routes to the EU. This situation has created division in the EU over how to best deal with the relocation of newcomers. This cannot be accepted in a democratic Europe and the PES family calls for equal responsibilities regarding policies on welcoming refugees across all EU countries and respecting international and EU agreements and law. We stand against the criminalization of humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees. In 2018 the number of people trying to enter the European Union was significantly lower than in 2015. However, we have to recognize that migration is increasing globally and the European Union is part of this development.

Our policies are guided by international human rights law and standards. The PES stands firmly for the right of asylum. People in need deserve our support. Yet the actual system clearly needs to be improved. Thus we propose to go further than the current Commission-led reform process in order to establish an independent agency of common asylum which would guarantee the right of asylum.

**Turn disorderly migration into orderly migration**

Currently there are very few legal possibilities for migrants who are not refugees or asylum seekers to settle in the EU. This means that many migrants arriving in the EU today apply for asylum, viewing it as their only alternative. This includes people without a sufficiently well-based real claim to qualify for the strict criteria of refugee status or individual right to asylum. This results in an overburdened system with excessively long asylum procedures.

Due to a lack of legal migration pathways, people resort to human smugglers and traffickers. Desperate individuals pay thousands of euros each to people who try to benefit from human misery and human tragedy in order to reach the EU. Human smugglers send migrants across the Mediterranean in boats which are not seaworthy and without food or protection, exposing them to life-threatening risks and violence. Irregular migration must be prevented. It is often deadly for the people involved and it is not fair on the communities receiving them either. Therefore the PES is making a stand to turn disorderly migration into orderly migration.
Create effective legal pathways, fighting human trafficking and irregular migration

We have to create more effective pathways for legal and managed migration that facilitate access to protections such as; humanitarian visas, resettlement, possibilities for circular migration, students visas and seasonal employment visas. We also need an immigration policy that reflects demographic and global labour market realities and development challenges and opportunities, and that reunites families and partners. This will shorten asylum procedures and will create safe, orderly and regular migration at our borders and ensure security. Legal pathways will reduce the need for migrants to resort to ruthless human traffickers and smugglers to reach our shores. In that sense we should intensify joint efforts to prevent and combat the trafficking of migrants and to break this business model. Nevertheless, people who are not entitled the stay in the EU, must return to their country of origin in order to ensure the functioning and the legitimacy of the EU’s asylum and migration policies. We believe in a humane and dignified return policy, which respects the principle of non-refoulement, in line with the requirements of fundamental rights. Placing migrants and asylum seekers in detention should be seen as a last resort to be used only in strictly limited circumstances. The EU needs a comprehensive approach to reducing the incentives for irregular migration and to securing a well-functioning asylum and migration system. Such a policy should be designed and implemented in cooperation with the countries of origin. Therefore, cooperation with countries of origin for the return of refused asylum seekers must only take place with states which fully comply in practice with international human rights law.

Reform the Dublin system – solidarity needed

Asylum seekers and other migrants arriving in the European Union all too often face unacceptable conditions in reception centres in the Member States. The conditions are even worse for women, children, elderly and people from the LGBTQI community. The current Common European Asylum System (CEAS) is not functioning effectively. A reform of the CEAS is a first important step towards an effective, harmonized, proportional and progressive European asylum policy, based on solidarity, an equal sharing of responsibilities and respect for fundamental human rights. We therefore call urgently on all Member States to implement the necessary changes in order to achieve our common objectives. According to the Dublin regulation, which determines which EU Member State is responsible for examining an asylum application, the country where a migrant arrives first is the one that must process the application for asylum. This leads to an unacceptable pressure on countries at the borders of the EU. A fundamental overhaul of the Dublin rules is necessary. This revision should establish a system where an asylum claim has a truly European dimension.

We call on all Member States and the EU institutions for a strong commitment to reform the legal framework and to give effective support to those Member States confronted with the highest number of refugees and other migrants and to increase their efforts to implement the relocation and resettlement schemes. These schemes reflect fundamental European values of solidarity and responsibility so each Member State must take its part of the shared challenge or face financial sanctions. Rescuing humans at sea is not only a moral obligation but also an obligation under international law for all ships under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. We call for shared and complementary actions, including granting humanitarian visas, and a legally binding agreement among the Member States for the disembarkation of those who are saved in Search and Rescue operations among Member States. When a boat arrives on the shores of Tarifa, Lampedusa, Malta, or Lesbos, it’s not an arrival to a country, but an arrival in the European Union. The PES makes a stand for shared, proportional and regional EU responsibility. The EU must have a sustainable asylum system based on proportional responsibility for receiving asylum seekers. Being a member of the European Union equals having rights and obligations. Therefore, there must be economic consequences for those countries not taking their proportional responsibility. A sustainable migration system based on a shared responsibility will benefit the whole EU.
Manage our external borders - a shared responsibility

Shared responsibility is also key when it comes to the management of our external borders. We need to manage our common external borders together, according to international law and common human rights standards, in order to ensure freedom of movement within the EU, guarantee security for our citizens and newcomers alike, fight against human trafficking networks and prevent deaths. Therefore, the PES is supporting the enhancement of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. Common management of the Union’s external borders alone, however, will not be sufficient nor sustainable without a comprehensive European migration and foreign policy in order to address the drivers of migratory movements.

Tackle the root causes of migration and invest in future perspectives: partnerships for peace, security, sustainability, jobs and women’s empowerment.

We must provide equitable solutions addressing rising global inequalities, preserving peace and security and fostering social and economic welfare, as well as gender equality for all. The PES stands firm for solidarity both within the European Union and on the global stage. Together with the UN we commit with countries around the world and all parts of society to a comprehensive multilateral agreement on asylum and migration, to ensure an outcome that works for all. Migration partnerships should only be initiated with countries that abide by the UN Refugee Convention.
Tackling the root causes of migration is necessary to manage the issue and to facilitate a fair and regulated migration policy within the EU. The PES believes we can only address the motivations for migration through fair, equal and strong development and global skills partnerships with origin and transit countries. Together we can fight common challenges such as insecurity, poverty, gender inequality, corruption and climate change, and take advantage of common opportunities. An emphasis should be put on enhancing the relationship between the EU and Africa as equal partners, and thereby promoting economic opportunity, security and stability throughout the continent. To fight inequality, migration policies need to be accompanied by fair foreign policies, as well as, fair trade and fair taxation policies. As the PES, we focus on trade, not just aid; on investment, not just assistance; and on establishing policies for ‘climate refugees’ as well as fighting climate change. More countries and regions in the world have to be characterized by democracy, human rights, women’s rights and stability. Only by promoting sustainable peace beyond our borders will we be able to ensure our own security.

Protect the rights of children, women and people from the LGBTI community

Cooperation and shared responsibility between all levels of governance from local to regional, to national, to European and global are vital to ensure the security and protection of asylum seekers and migrants. More than 10,000 migrant and refugee children went missing in Europe during the last couple of years. Women and people from the LGBTIQ community were subjected to violence and rape. We call for the EU to focus particularly on the need to improve the safety and security of the most vulnerable groups among migrants like children, women and LGBTBI people, including victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and of all forms of gender-based violence, such as, FGMs and child, early and forced marriages. We must provide a continuum of protection, health care, access to education and support for all children on the move. This includes respecting their fundamental rights, acting in the child’s best interest and strengthening family reunification, relocation and resettlement procedures. There should be a special focus on the well-being of children who have been stuck in reception centers. Children should never be detained or separated from their families.

All vulnerable groups of migrants like children, women and LGBTBI people need to be protected from all kind of violence, especially sexual harassment and rape, in the reception centers and other public places. Victims of violence, psychological trauma, sexual assault and rape should have access to the Member State’s support system dealing with these issues. Moreover, specialised staff in combatting violence and assisting victims should be at the reception centers. Women’s residency status must be independent of their husband’s as this would allow women to have full access to all integration measures – if necessary with an offer for childcare – such as language courses to ensure their empowerment and access to the labour market.

Stop the race to the bottom – fight for the rights of all workers, against irregular employment, exploitation and social dumping

Well-managed, regular, orderly and fair migration can potentially help strengthen the economy, generate new jobs and help maintain our welfare system. However migration and integration also have a cost. First, it has a cost in many countries of departure that find themselves deprived of a massive amount of youth and/or skilled workers and employees. This provokes significant deficiencies in basic public services. Second, in Europe, the costs of migration are not fairly distributed. They are often concentrated in certain segments of the labour market and low-income neighbourhoods. Newcomers tend to find housing in low-income neighbourhoods and have low-income jobs. Women all too often end up at the bottom of the line and in the informal economy. We have to make sure that the benefits of regular migration are delivered to the people who shoulder the initial costs. The demographic trends, growing pressure on the EU healthcare systems and labour skills shortages present a challenge for our societies. Well-managed labour migration can help in maintaining our European welfare system and the EU competitiveness.
Irregular migrants are often exposed to exploitation and irregular employment. Unscrupulous employers abuse irregular migration to place downward pressure on national wages and working conditions. The PES fight for the rights of all workers, against irregular employment, exploitation and social dumping. Migrants and native workers must not be played off against each other, since in fact they stand at the same side of the battle. We stand for inclusion and a close coalition between native workers and migrants to work together to enhance the economy, improve social security and to ensure non-discrimination through measures ensuring equal pay and equal social coverage for equal work. Inequality is the fundamental problem. The share of profits of our economy must be more equally distributed between the many, not the few. Progress must benefit all, so we can develop fairer societies, with access to decent housing, medical support and education for all citizens, natives and newcomers alike.

Invest in integration, invest in local communities

Successful integration can make our societies more prosperous. Getting an education and finding a job are the pre-requisites to becoming part of society. We support mutual engagement from both the receiving communities and migrants concerning their rights and obligations towards each other. We should avoid ‘silo’ societies and promote lively communities in which people meet and interact with each other, go to school and work together. Local and regional authorities, civil society organisations and trade unions play a key role in successful integration and therefore need to be empowered. Access to EU funds plays an important role in supporting the integration of people and to strengthen the resilience of the host community. We propose a European integration fund which local authorities could apply for directly and that benefits both the host and refugee communities. We insist that the EU makes additional resources available and to implement policies aimed at empowering newcomers to fulfil their potential as equal participants in our communities and foster the resilience of the host communities. We encourage local authorities and communities to join forces for a progressive cooperation on integration.

When managing migration, we have to uphold our values. Europe flourishes when we act together, based on the principles of solidarity, respect, mutual responsibility, gender equality and humanism.

As the Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for progressive European asylum and migration policies. It goes hand-in-hand with seven other resolutions for this PES Congress that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a progressive economy, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a fair world and a stronger democracy in Europe.
We are living in a very complex, multipolar, unpredictable world. Alliances are shifting and the parameters of international relations are strongly challenged by the rise of nationalism and protectionism policies. It is up to the European Union to play the role of a reliable, principles-oriented, credible and peaceful power, unconditionally committed to the rules-based multilateral international order – especially to the UN, which is clear about its values and transparent in its action, cooperative and inclusive. We are indeed a community based on the rule of law and democracy, where fundamental human rights are respected more than anywhere else. Therefore, facing the necessity to influence for a better regulated order and based on its history and fundamental values, the European Union has a key role to play.

As Socialists and Democrats, we know which role we want the European Union to take in the world. Our overall challenge is to make European Union stronger and acting in line with

**our core principles of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, gender equality and solidarity, a European Union with a powerful unified voice,**

and a European Union guided by its principles to meet its international responsibilities and face new challenges.

At a time when multilateralism is being challenged in all global matters that can affect the life of people including European citizens, with unilateral actions in breach of international treaties and rules, we have to stay firm to our belief that a multilateral system and its institutions, the international criminal court, the WTO and above all the United Nations, are at the core of the only sustainable rules-based global order. The European Union’s strength has always been in influencing the world through soft power.

Building peace is in Europe’s DNA. For centuries, Europe was the theatre of bloody wars and destruction. On the contrary, the idea of the European Union is based on tolerance, trust and peaceful coexistence of nations. It is the reason why we believe that

**the European Union has to become a force for peace and reconciliation**

We support the great work done by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, not least in leading the negotiations to preserve the nuclear deal with Iran. We believe that the war in Syria can be ended through meaningful political talks between all parties, with particular attention to the Kurdish community for their fight against Daesh, and through a negotiated solution in the framework of the Geneva talks led by the United Nations.

We are worried about the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, particularly the absence of dialogue between Israel and Palestine and the recent increase in violence. We continue to support a two-
state solution, with a viable Palestinian state and a safe and secure Israel, with Jerusalem as capital of both, in accordance with the UN resolutions. The time has come for an unified European initiative in order to create the conditions for a balanced resuming of negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

We are concerned about the deterioration of democracy, human rights and freedom of expression in Turkey. We consider that the next elections cannot be free and fair while our member’s parties, HDP and CHP, have their leaders or parliamentarians arbitrarily detained in prison. Hereby we resume our call for their immediate release. We also worry about the deterioration of the freedom of speech and we should therefore also keep raising awareness for the imprisoned journalists in Turkey.

As Socialists and Democrats, we are convinced that the Western Balkans are Europe and will be part of the European Union’s future. We welcome the European Commission’s new strategy for enlargement to the Western Balkans, provided that they meet all the strict conditions. Alongside this, we think that enlargement is an opportunity for the European Union and the Western Balkans, an opportunity to improve the stability, security and prosperity of our continent. It is also clear that the process must be merit-based and requires clear political commitment. We are pleased by the European Commission’s positive assessment of the progress made by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, both led by members of our family, and the recommendation to open accession negotiations. We appreciate and support the effort and commitment deployed by the new government in Skopje towards reaching a deal with their Greek counterparts on the name change. We also welcome the fact that Montenegro and Albania are aligning their positions with European Union foreign and security policy.

We also believe that the Eastern Partnership is still well alive although a lot still remains to be done. The focus should now be on implementing existing commitments and delivering tangible results for the citizens in the partner countries. We emphasize the need for reforms in the Eastern Partnership countries in order to strengthen civil society and promote European fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Regardless of the intensity of each co-operation, every partner is of the same value to the EU. At the same time, we reiterate that the Eastern Partnership is not directed against anyone.

We stress the importance of the strategic cooperation with Latin America on common global challenges, particularly on multilateralism, fight against climate change, sustainable development, social justice and tackling inequalities. We are also concerned by the political situation in some countries in the region. We support our sister parties in their fight for our shared progressive values.

We are committed to a global order based on international law, human rights, sustainable development and peace

We are committed to the European Union Global Strategy, including the contribution of the European Union to collective security, working closely with partners, primarily NATO. We need a strong and secure Europe for our citizens at home and to promote peace and security as well beyond our borders. The European way to security and defence is unique, as it mixes civilian and mili-
itary action, aiming to increase security in Europe, Africa and the Middle East through preventing conflict, fostering resistance, peacekeeping tasks, joint disarmament and crisis management. As Socialists and Democrats, we support the development of a robust European defence policy and welcome the multiple and inclusive Permanent Structured Cooperation projects adopted by the Council. We are convinced that we, as Europeans, should make full use of the instruments enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. We strongly support UN Secretary-General’s Disarmament Agenda including three priorities: disarmament to save humanity, disarmament to save lives and disarmament for future generations.

As Socialists and Democrats, we support the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, call for their full implementation in the EU and worldwide and believe that in order to attain them, it is essential to involve all levels of government in the decision-making process, particularly local and regional authorities; and include the civil society organisations. The European Union and its member states are the largest donor of development assistance and humanitarian aid. We must ensure that austerity and reduced budgets do not impact development aid. We insist that member states fulfil their commitment to spend 0.7% of GDP on Official Development Assistance. We back the New European Consensus on Development, which is aiming to eradicate poverty, fight inequality and achieve sustainable development. We fully support the Paris agreement and its implementation.

We think that a real partnership with Africa is a priority, a partnership between equals with respectful dialogue and cooperation based on mutual ownership and the principle of shared responsibility. From security challenges with radicalisation, terrorism and trafficking to climate change and fair trade, we are facing the same issues and must act together to find solutions. While all Sustainable Development Goals are equally important, we make particular reference to Goal 5 on gender equality to ensure that with a global backlash against girl’s and women’s rights, member states, include the EU, will commit to the UN 2030 Agenda and work towards parity and respecting the Beijing platform, and to Goal 10 on the reduction of inequalities within and among countries, which would ease many of the challenges that we are currently confronted with. With the UN, we commit to the Global Compact for Migration and Refugees. We have to protect human rights and save lives, to fight smugglers and to offer a more effective framework for legal and safe avenues to refugees and other migrants”. We strongly support the UN reform project led by the Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The threats launched, in particular by the US administration and its confrontational attitude towards other trade partners, risk blurring the rules. In this respect, it is of upmost importance to reinforce our approach towards multilateralism and respect as well as defend the rules set out by the WTO. As one of the most powerful traders in the world, the European Union has to use its capacity to ensure that social and environmental standards, social justice and human rights, and protection of consumers and workers shape globalisation. We believe that the Sustainable Development Goals and the rules of the International Labour Organisation must be compulsory elements for trade relations across the globe and the guidelines for the EU’s trade relationships in the world. In the center of EU-Trade, there must be a clear commitment to Due Diligence also among the supply chains. We want all stakeholders, including trade unions and NGOs to have an input at certain stages of the negotiations in order to achieve fair and transparent trade agreements. We are in favour of the establishment of a Multilateral Investment Court to decide on investment dispute. However, the state’s right to regulate is not negotiable. Furthermore, it is clear to us that future EU trade agreements must be preceded by territorial impact assessments and must not prevent governments at all levels from providing, supporting or regulating public services, or from expanding the range of services they offer to the public.

Considering the changes in the trade
situation, with an increase in protectionist attitudes and aggressive policy toward the EU, we stress the importance of strengthening EU trade defence instruments, the need for strong antidumping and anti-subsidies legislation, and the possible need to control foreign investments in order to preserve our strategic industries.

We have to defend our European model, and resist protectionism and demonstrate that the model promoted by populist and nationalist forces in Europe would only weaken our Nations and aggravate further the world’s disorder. We aim at fighting inequalities worldwide. We will put social justice, fair growth, sustainable development and democracy at the heart of our external policies, to shape a globalisation that delivers for all people and for the planet.

As Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies. In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a fair, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world. It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a progressive economy, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a social Europe, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.