



UNITED AGAINST FEAR

PES Presidency Declaration Adopted on the 5th of February 2015

The Party of European Socialists **strongly condemns** the terrorist attacks in Paris against Charlie Hebdo magazine, the policemen and the people in the kosher shop. We express our full solidarity and heartfelt sorrow to the families of the victims.

We **are outraged** by the human tragedy. We are **determined** to prevent such attacks, which hit democracy at its core and try to undermine the cohesion and plurality of our societies.

We **deeply deplore** any attempt to justify terrorist attacks, or their use to stigmatize any community. These attacks have only strengthened our resolve to stand up for inclusive and free societies and the respect of freedom of expression. The terrorists are fighting our most fundamental values and democracy itself.

We **firmly reject** any form of racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all forms of intolerance, also expressed by hate speech, which constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence inflicted upon communities. We must **tackle hatred speech** and direct incitement to criminal violence and terror inflicted upon persons allegedly belonging to categories subject to stigmatization. Also, we deeply deplore the vile reaction of far-right parties that have tried to benefit from the attacks by responding with their own campaign of hatred.

Our main answer to terrorists and extremists is **unity**. All European countries are facing the threat of terrorism. Therefore, Europe has a common responsibility and must respond united to this threat. Our response has a European dimension, expressed by a **stronger cooperation** and stronger actions involving all the EU tools and institutions that are necessary in the fight against terrorism.

We strongly believe that there cannot be any security without the **respect for democratic principles** and the **rule of law**. Fanaticism will not get to dictate how we use our **freedom of expression**, or push us to create more closed or intolerant society. We want to ensure internal security and protection of all Europeans while **fostering a sense of belonging** based on a confident inclusion of all and not the fearful exclusion of some. We believe that the fight against radicalization and extremism must be taken through preventive measures on both local, regional and at the international level. We believe that our elected representatives at the local and regional level hold a special responsibility to strengthen measures of inclusion and to enable an **inclusive community** that stimulates everyone's participation and capabilities.

Europe has a **common responsibility** and must respond united to this threat, stand foremost in the fight against contemporary totalitarian ideologies, against extremism and violence, fight for the democracy, freedom and the idea of human equality. As democrats we must be able to convey what democracy is about, especially to the young generation. We must support our ability to live with different religions and faiths, and not least strengthen the ability of critical thinking.



A stronger European **cooperation on security, judicial and police cooperation** and on fighting the financing of terrorism is needed. Also, we must enforce our Common Defense and Security Policy and **fight terrorism** where it is deeply rooted in countries in conflict and where the Rule of Law is in dissolution. Armed conflicts enables arms and terrorists to circulate, and weaken states to the verge of creating failed states. The risk of spillover is at its utmost. Europe must contribute to countries at risk to fight terrorism and re-establish the Rule of Law, but also address the causes of terrorist threats in its own soil.

The Party of European Socialists will work at European level, together with our member parties, our organizations, our Ministers, our Commissioners, the S&D Group and FEPS, to fight terrorism and radicalization, to promote education, discuss integration and inclusive policies on the local level and include civil society organizations in this process.

We will bring together all these issues to our **Party Leaders** during their **Meeting** in Madrid on 21st February 2015. In June in Budapest during **the PES Congress** we will approve strong resolutions and declarations and define our common strategies for the future.

The **PES Network on Democracy**, aiming at **enhancing a democratic Europe**, regaining people's trust on EU Institutions and countering extremist and populist forces shall foster the debate. Also, in the framework of the PES Democracy Network, an ad hoc working group on specific issues raised by the need for a more integrated European coordination on the fight on terrorism will be set up by the PES.

We will engage our **PES Ministers of Justice, Home Affairs, Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture** to gather social democrats governments' positions on key topics related to security, rule of law, migration, education and European foreign policy, by following the different agendas and promoting a common position or statement on the topic.

Last but not least, the **PES democracy network** together with our partners in the S&D group, CoR, FEPS and solidar will organise a number of events. To exchange best practices and define common positions. Amongst others conferences and seminars in March, April and June on the aftermath of the Paris terror attacks, the fight against extremism, prevention strategies and the rule of law. To discuss the protection of our core values.

We urge all European political parties to **fight against** contemporary totalitarian ideologies, against extremism, against all those who try to frame our societies and our values in categories or boxes, where the other is a threat for our safety.

We will always promote and defend a Europe where everyone has their place irrespective of race, religion, origin, gender and sexual orientation. A Europe where every person is free to express themselves freely, because the right to life, the right to religion, the right to free speech do not exclude one another, but reinforce one another.

