



29th September 2012

Summary of decisions of the 9th PES Congress¹

1. Congress organization

- **Confirmation of voting rights:** Out of 345 potential mandates, as presented in Annex 1 of the rules of procedure, 336 were considered valid: the voting rights of PS Italy, LSDSP Latvia, UP Poland were suspended in application of article 37.4 of PES Statutes.
- The Congress unanimously adopted the [Congress agenda](#).
- The Congress unanimously adopted the [Rules of procedures](#).
- Ruairi Quinn (LP Ireland) had been elected **Congress chair** by the PES Presidency on 24th November 2011.

Ann Linde (SAP Sweden), Gilles Mahieu (PS Belgium), Andreas Schieder (SPÖ Austria) and Karolina Leakovic (SDP Croatia) were unanimously elected members of the **Congress bureau**.

Jo Billingham (Labour Party UK), Kirsten Meijer (PvdA Netherlands), Tero Shemeikka (SDP Finland) and Konrad Golota (SLD Poland) were unanimously elected **tellers**.

¹ All documents can be found online by clicking the underlined text

2. Elections

- **Election of the PES President:** Sergei Stanishev (BSP Bulgaria) was the only candidate. He was elected by the Congress with 91,3% in favour, 2,4% against and 6,3% abstention.
- **Election of the PES Presidency:** The Congress unanimously confirmed the [PES Presidency members](#), as presented by the Member Parties and organisations.
- **Election of PES Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer**
The Congress was informed of the election by the PES Presidency of:
 - Jean-Christophe Cambadélis (PS France) as 1st Vice-President, Elena Valenciano (PSOE Spain), Jan Royall (Labour Party UK) and Katarína Nevedalová (SMER, Slovakia) as Vice-Presidents
 - Ruairi Quinn (Labour Party Ireland) as Treasurer
 - Achim Post (SPD Germany) as Secretary General
 - Yonnec Polet (PS Belgium) as 1st Deputy Secretary General and Marije Laffeber (PvdA, The Netherlands) as Deputy Secretary General.

3. Reports

- The Congress adopted the [PES activity report](#) with 99,7% in favour and 0,03% against.
- The Congress unanimously took note of the [S&D group activity report](#).

4. Resolutions

The Congress unanimously adopted the resolution "[Together for the Europe we need](#)".

5. Membership

- The Congress unanimously granted **SDP Croatia** a full member status.
- The Congress unanimously granted **Harmony Party Latvia** an observer status.
- The Congress granted Fatah Palestine an observer status, with 99,7% in favour and 0,3% against.
- The Congress unanimously granted FDTL-Ettakatol Tunisia an observer status.

- The Congress unanimously granted DP Moldova an observer status.
- The Congress unanimously confirmed the full membership of SDE Estonia
- The Congress unanimously decided to downgrade LSDSP Latvia to an observer status.

6. Statutes

- After voting on the proposed amendments (Annex 1), the Congress adopted the revised [PES statutes](#), with 99,1% in favor, 0,6% against and 0,3% abstention.

PES Statutes revision
adopted by PES Congress on 29th September 2012

Amendment 1:
Lisbon Treaty

Article 2 – Legal basis

Replace Article 2.1 by:

2.1. Article 10.4 of the Treaty on the European Union recognises that, “political parties at European level contribute to forming a European awareness and to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union.”

Amendment 2:
Standing Orders

Article 2 – Legal basis

Replace Article 2.4 by:

2.4. Standing orders are adopted by the Presidency by qualified majority. They shall be sent to all the members and shall be binding for all members.

Amendment 3:
Declaration of Principles

Article 3 – Objectives and aims

Create a new article 3.2

3.2. The values and principles guiding the PES actions are defined in the PES Declaration of Principles (Annex 1).

Create a new Annex 1

Annex 1 – PES Declaration of Principles
[text of the Declaration of Principles]

Amendment 4: Objectives and aims

Article 3 – Object and aims

Replace Article 3.3 by:

3.3. More specifically, to implement our Declaration of Principles, the aims of the PES are:

- > to strengthen the socialist, social democratic, labour and democratic progressive movement and its values in the Union and throughout Europe;*
- > to contribute to forming a European awareness and to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union.*
- > to lead the European election campaign for our movement with a common strategy and visibility, a common manifesto and a common candidate to the European Commission Presidency, elected through an open, transparent and democratic competitive process;*
- > to support each other to win national, regional and local elections. To provide a platform for member parties and organisations to share best practice on campaigning, party organisation and exchange policy ideas.*
- > to define common policies for the European Union and to influence the decisions of the European institutions;*
- > to promote equality, diversity and equal representation in society and in our internal bodies and meetings, especially for women and young people, and to encourage their active participation.*
- > to engage members of PES member parties and organisations in activities of the PES, especially by developing PES activists;*
- > to develop close working relationships between with its member parties and organisations, and PES members holding positions in EU institutions (Council, Commission, Parliament, Committee of the Regions),*
- > to co-operate closely with socialist, social democratic and democratic progressive parties from countries that share the common goal of European integration notably with those from neighbouring countries of the European Union;*
- > to promote exchanges and contacts with European trade unions, professional organisations, associations, co-operatives, other representatives of civil society and other socialist and social democratic organisations;*
- > to develop sustainable cooperation with international progressive movements and organisations, in the spirit of international solidarity.*

**Amendment 5:
PES members**

Replace Article 7 by:

A register of members is published in the Standing Orders of the PES.

**Amendment 6:
Membership criteria**

Article 8 – Admission of Members

Replace Article 8.1, 8.3 and 8.9 by:

8.1. Socialist International parties in European Union member states or in states having signed an accession treaty with the European Union, and having had national or European parliamentary representation in one of the past two parliamentary terms, may become full member parties of the PES.

Non Socialist International member parties respecting these criteria may also become full member parties, following the rules stated in Article 8.9

8.3. Socialist International parties in countries that are candidates for accession to the European Union, or are EFTA member states, or in countries with an association agreement with the Union, and having had national parliamentary representation in one of the past two parliamentary terms, may become associate parties of the PES.

Non Socialist International member parties respecting these criteria may also become associate member parties, following the rules stated in Article 8.9

8.9 All applications for membership of parties and organisations shall be examined on a case by case basis by the Presidency and decided upon by the Congress. In the period between two Congresses, the Presidency may grant provisional memberships to an applicant member, pending the acceptance of the Congress. All applications for membership are voted upon on the basis of a qualified majority, except those from non Socialist International members, which are voted upon on the basis of a superqualified majority (cf. article 17.5). Applications for individual observer membership shall be decided upon by the Presidency by simple majority.

**Amendment 7:
Relations with the S&D Group**

Create a new Article 12:

Article 12 – Our Group in the European Parliament

Our Group, currently known as The Group of the Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, is the parliamentary expression of the PES in the European Parliament.

**Amendment 8:
Relations with the PES Group in the CoR**

Create a new Article 13:

Article 13 – PES Group in the Committee of the Regions

The Group of the Party of European Socialists in the Committee of the Regions brings together locally and regionally elected socialists, social democrats, Labour and progressives in the EU political assembly of local and regional representatives.

**Amendment 9:
Voting rights, decision-making process and majority rules**

Article 17 – Decision-making

Replace Articles 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5 by the following and add a new article 17.6:

17.3. Whenever possible, policy decisions shall be taken on the basis of consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, they shall be taken on the basis of a qualified majority.

17.4 Decisions concerning the admission of Socialist International members are taken by qualified majority. Decisions concerning the admission of non Socialist International members, suspension and exclusion of members, and decisions to change the Statutes are taken by superqualified majority.

17.5. A qualified majority requires 50% of weighted votes cast +1. A superqualified majority requires 75% of the weighted votes cast + 1. Votes shall only take place if at least two-thirds of the full member parties of the PES are present. Votes are cast per member party and organisation.

17.6 The number of weighted votes per full member party shall be calculated with the following formula:

((% of MPs in National lower Chamber + number of MEPS) x number of votes of the country in the European Council) rounded upwards.

A table with the above calculation shall be adopted by the Presidency at its first meeting each calendar year.

**Amendment 10:
Election at Congresses**

Article 18 – Powers of the Congress

Change Article 18.2 as follows:

18.2 The PES Congress shall:

*> elect the President through an open, transparent and democratic competitive process
[...]*

Article 18 – Powers of the Congress

Create a new article 18.4:

18.4 Elections at Congresses should take place by secret ballot.

**Amendment 11:
Delegates at PES Congresses/Councils**

Article 19 – Composition of the Congress

Replace Article 19.1 by:

19.1 The PES Congress shall consist of the following delegates with voting rights:

- Representatives from full member parties, with the following calculation: 1/45th of weighted votes as defined in article 17.6, rounded upwards.*
- A representative from each national delegation of the Group in the EP*
- Two representatives from each full member organisation*
- The members of the PES Presidency*

Article 23 Composition of the Council

Replace Article 23.1 by:

23.1 The PES Council shall consist of the following delegates with voting rights:

- > Representatives from full member parties, representing half the Congress delegates, as defined in Article 19.1.*
- > Representatives of the Group in the EP, equal to 50% of the number of national delegations, rounded upwards*
- > One representative from each full member organisation*
- > The members of the PES Presidency*

Delete Annex 3 – Calculation of delegates of full member parties for the PES Congress

**Amendment 12:
Gender-balanced delegations to PES statutory meetings**

Article 19 – Composition of the Congress

Replace Article 19.4 by:

19.4. All delegations must be gender-balanced (i.e. there should not be more than a difference of 1 delegate between the two genders). If a delegation does not respect this rule, its vote to the Congress will be reduced proportionally.

Article 23 – Composition of the Council

Replace article 23.3 by:

23.3. All delegations must be gender-balanced (i.e. there should not be more than a difference of 1 delegate between the two genders). If a delegation does not respect this rule, its vote to the Council will be reduced proportionally.

**Amendment 13:
Election Congress**

Create a new Chapter:

CHAPTER V – THE ELECTION CONGRESS

Article 22 – Powers of the Election Congress

22.1 The Election Congress shall:

*Elect the PES common Candidate to the European Commission Presidency,
through an open, transparent and democratic competitive process
Adopt the PES Manifesto for the European elections*

*22.2 Full and associate members may present proposals to, and speak of these before
the Election Congress.*

Article 23 – Composition of the election Congress

The composition of the Election Congress follows the rules laid down in Articles 19

Article 24 – Meeting of the Election Congress

24.1 The Election Congress shall be convened ahead of the European elections.

24.2 In principles, the Election Congress shall be held successively in the different Member States of the European Union.

24.3 The Election Congress shall be convoked by the Presidency, with at least a 6 month notice. The invitations shall be sent by mail, fax, e-mail or any other written form.

24.4 The Presidency shall decide on a timetable for the presentation, discussion and adoption of the Manifesto.

Article 25 – Decisions of the Election Congress

The decisions and the Manifesto adopted by the Election Congress shall be communicated to members of the PES and shall be published on the PES website.

Delete Article 22.3

**Amendment 14:
Elections of Vice-President(s), Secretary General and Treasurer**

Article 26 – Powers of the Presidency

Replace Article 26.3 and create a new Article 26.4:

26.3. The Presidency shall, after an open and transparent nomination and consultation process, following the proposal of the President:

- > elect the Vice-presidents (maximum 4), and define the tasks and responsibilities of the Vice-President(s). President and Vice-President(s) should be gender-balanced.*
- > elect the Secretary General and the Treasurer*

26.4 The Presidency can also appoint other office holders for specific mandates and, if need be, deputy Secretaries General of the PES

Article 27 – Composition of the Presidency

Replace article 27.1 by:

27.1 Members of the PES Presidency with voting rights are:

- > the President of the PES*
- > the Vice-President(s) of the PES*

- > the Secretary General of the PES
- > the President of its Group in the European Parliament
- > one representative from each full member organisation (as confirmed by the Congress)

Amendment 15: Resignation of the President

Article 30 – The President

Create a new article 30.3

30.3. In case of vacancy of the position of President, an Interim President is appointed by the PES Presidency, with the mandate to fulfil the President's tasks until the following Congress.

Amendment 16: Leaders' Conference

Article 33 – Meetings of the Leaders' Conference

Replace Article 33.1 by:

33.1. The Party Leaders' Conference should be convened at least twice a year.

Amendment 17: Secretary General

Article 34 – The Secretary General

Replace Article 34.1 by (Article 34.2 unchanged):

34.1. The Secretary General, with the assistance of the secretariat, is in charge of the management of the party.

In particular, he/she shall be responsible for:

- > the implementation of the decisions taken by the statutory bodies;
- > the management and supervision of the daily activities of the Secretariat;
- > contacts with member parties and organisations and partners;
- > support to the President, Vice-President(s) and Treasurer
- > preparation and organisation of meetings
- > finances and the keeping of accounts
- > relations with the press and public;

Amendment 18
Membership fees

Article 37 – Financing of the PES

Replace Article 37.3 by:

37.3 Membership fees shall be determined annually by the PES Presidency, based on the weight of each party within the PES as defined in Article 17.6.

Member organisations are exempt from subscription.