



Young European Socialists

Brussels, 1st December 2006

**“Social Europe for everyone”
Briefing on ECOSY political and organizational developments
2005 - 2006**

ECOSY – Young European Socialists held its last Congress in March 2005 in Cascais, Portugal. The Congress elected Giacomo Filibeck (Sinistra Giovanile, Italy) as President, Ania Skrzypek (FMS, Poland) as Secretary General, who were joined in the Presidium by following Vice-Presidents: Francisco Andre (JS Portugal), Simone Burger (JUSOS Germany), Hannah Blythyn (Young Labour, UK), Randel Länts (SDY Estonia), Laila Naraghi (SSU Sweden), Petroula Nteledimou (PASOK Youth, Greece), Victor Ponta (TSD Romania), Laura Robles Castro (JSE Spain). The Congress adopted also the new position paper “For a Social Europe that works” that indicated the direction for the policy development of ECOSY for the past two years.

On the bases of the Congress outcome ECOSY launched in July 2006 together with 2000 activists from all over Europe, who gathered at the ECOSY Summer Camp, the new campaign “**A Social Europe for everyone**”. It was composed of 8 main pillars: **more and better jobs!; gender equality; end poverty now; international solidarity; better health care; education for all; same sex marriage; public services**. The leading slogan, reflecting the vision for the future of Europe that we, socialists and social democrats have, gave also ECOSY a framework to:

- focus the internal political debate
- organize activities
- contribute to the initiative of the PES “For a new Social Europe”
- contribute to the PES Groups work
- join different initiatives and reach out to partners in civil society and NGO’s world

The campaign was therefore designed to be taking place on several level:

- on the general European level
- within the socialist family on the EU level
- on the ECOSY level
- on the member organizations and their activists levels

The promotion materials of the campaign were designed with a thought of being simple, comprehensive for all, appealing. As the tools of campaign promotion we have used:

- web site: www.socialeurope4.everyone.org - which was linked to ECOSY web site and made “Social Europe” a virtual business card for ECOSY

- the line of 8 posters – based on very simple design, each reflecting one sub-slogan of the campaign
- the leaflets with 8 posters pictures and 8 short briefing of the main demands of the campaign
- the wall calendars and pocket calendars that we send out by the New Year 2006
- the t-shirts in all 8 colours of the campaign, which available on sale at activities and via internet have already reached in number of sold 1300.

In terms of internal political debate, we have used the leading concept of “A Social Europe for everyone” in the following spaces:

a) **Presidium Meetings** (10 of them organized in mentioned above period)

b) **Bureau Meetings:**

- “Together for a Social Europe” Luxembourg, April 2005
- A Social Europe – challenges of debate and action – London, November 2005
- A Social Europe in EU and beyond its borders – Istanbul, March 2006
- Towards a Social Europe in another, better world – Vienna, May 2006
- More and better jobs – our Roadmap for a Social Europe – Helsinki, November 2006

c) **ECOSY Network Meetings and Seminars**

1. **ECOSY Feminist Network**

- “European Feminism in Present Tense”, Hague April 2006

2. **ECOSY Students Network**

- “Financing dreams? Education 4 everyone”, Bommersvick, November 2006

3. **ECOSY Queer Network**

- “Combating Homophobia in Europe” Warsaw, June 2006
- Queer Easter in cooperation with IUSY and IFM-SEI; Werftpfuhl April 2005 and 2006

d) **ECOSY Events**

- “Together for a Social Europe” - ECOSY Summer Camp in Figueira da Foz, July 2005
- “Building together a Social Europe for all” – ECOSY Summer School in Werftpfuhl, August 2005
- Alliance for peace – a new Europe from Mediterranean perspective – Sicily March 2006
- “A Social Europe in another, better world” – ECOSY Seminar at the IUSY Festival Alicante July 2006
- “European Economical and Social Model – a model for a Social Europe” – Esbjerg, October 2006
- “More and better jobs – our roadmap to a Social Europe” – ECOSY autumn school, Werftpfuhl November 2006
- “A Social Europe for an enlarging Europe” – ECOSY Seminar at the IUSY Balkan Round Table and Black Sea Cooperation meeting Ohrid November 2006

Additionally to the activities mentioned above ECOSY in cooperation with IUSY (International Union of Socialist Youth) concluded following **study visits**:

- Lebanon in April 2005
- Israel and Palestine in May 2005
- Turkey in June 2005 and in March 2006
- Ukraine (by IUSY European Committee) in October 2005
- Serbia and Montenegro in March 2006
- Moldova in June 2006

All the meetings mentioned above finished with reports and declarations upon the issues they concerned. Nextly, there were also many other political resolutions adopted, that updated ECOSY positions within the framework of a vision "For a Social Europe" and are of a great importance as a contribution to a new position paper. Among them are:

- **More and better jobs**: For a Social labour market – fight unemployment, reduce working time (03.06); on working time reduction (05.06); The Challenge of globalisation is to be tackled by rising capabilities and introducing "flexicurity" (11.06); Working Time Directive (11.06);
- **Youth policies** - "A European Pact in favour of Youth" (04.05): what happened to the European Youth Pact? (03.06); Making youth the priority for Austrian Presidency (05.06); No children behind the bars! (11.06)
- **Education for all** - Reaction to the Communication from the European Commission "Efficiency and Equity in European education and training systems" – Tuition fees are not the solution, they are part of the problem (11/06); Combat tuition fees! (11.06)
- **Public services** – "For a complete change of services directive" (04.05); on services directive (03.06); It is getting worse again (05.06);
- **Gender Equality**: on a roadmap to Gender Equality (03.06); stop trafficking! (05.06) 50 years is enough (11.06); Right to abortion is a fundamental right (11.06);
- **Social Policies** - A Social Europe Initiative – a way to an inclusive society (03.06); Ageing society – clearing the myths (03.06)
- **International solidarity**: "Free and fair elections in Lebanon" (04.05); "Boycott Coca-Cola" (04.05); Fortress Europe – Schengen and asylum policies (07.05); For Democracy and human rights in China" (11.05); Support economic sanctions on Burma (11.05); Resolution on immigration policies from southern perspective (11.05) on Belarus (03.06); EU Policy on the Middle East (03.06); Call for a Better Marine Strategy Directive (11.06)
- **Enlargement** - « on postponing the opening of negotiations for Croatia's accession to EU » (04.05); Resolution on the launch of negotiations for accession between the European Union and Turkey (11.05) on Western Sahara (11.05); on Turkey (03.05); on integration (03.06); on upcoming EU enlargement towards Bulgaria and Romania (05.06);
- **End poverty now** – For real development agenda! (11.05); Economic Partnership Agreements (05.06);
- **EU Institutional Reform** – « on the EU Constitution » (04.05); on the Constitutional Referenda (07.05); ECOSY Declaration upon Day of Europe and the European Commission „A citizens' agenda – delivering results for Europe" (05.06);

- **Reforming growth and stability pact** (04.05) Resolution on the EU Council negotiations for the EU budgetary framework 2007 – 2013 (11.05); on EU Financial Framework 2007 – 2013 (03.06);
- **EU internal market:** Resolution on energy safety and sustainability in an environmentally friendly EU (03.06); Ban Gazprom from the EU market (05.06);
- **On terrorism:** After London Bombings (07.05) ; on the IRA statement on Decommissioning and the formal end of the politics of terrorism (07.05); on end of terrorist violence in Spain (05.06);
- **Fighting right wing extremism:** Tackling racist and homophobic parties (05.06); To condemn the right wing extremism and populism (11.06)
- **Member States** - Riots on French Suburbs (11.05) On recent events in Hungary (11.06); reaction on recent elections in Belgium (11.06)

On the bases of the political guidelines of the campaign « Social Europe for everyone » ECOSY also joined two initiatives:

- GCAP - Make poverty history
- Decent work alliance

In terms of relations with the PES, we are grateful for great support that we have experienced and received on all (political, organizational, administrative and financial) levels and also the way that PES has been approaching ECOSY in terms of enabling us to be actively involved in the life of the party. We have been thrilled to see the developments of the PES itself in these times and supported them by actively engaging in works of following:

- PES Council in June 2005
- PES Presidency and Coordinating Team
- PES Conferences – including the PES Balkans Conference and the Social Europe Conference
- PES Ministers and Spokespersons meeting
- PES Working Groups – Statutory Reform, Eastern Neighbours, Lisbon Network
- PES “New Social Europe Initiative” – where we contributed presenting voice of the European youth in all three forums and final conference
- PES People’s Dialogue – and both its meetings in Dublin and Warsaw in 2006

We would like to take this opportunity also to thank PES and PES Women leadership for their constant attention towards the youth and our organization, which was reflected also by their frequent presence at our own activities.

Having mentioned **PES Women**, we would like to thank them for fruitful political cooperation and for including, especially, ECOSY Feminist Network in their work. We have been thrilled to participate in several PES Women Activities (including PES Women Annual Conference in Copenhagen and the launch of the anti-trafficking campaign), and the proof of the success of this relation is also the fringe meeting organized at this particular Congress.

Past two years, ECOSY has also re-shaped and strengthen the relations with the **PES Groups**. We would like to thank especially **the PES Group in the European Parliament and its Members** for the support, attention, participation and dialogue with ECOSY. We would like to name just few common projects here – the ECOSY

Summer Camp 2005, the ECOSY Seminar at the IUSY Festival 2006 in Alicante. We would like to underline however, that we are especially thrilled in this dimension about the ECOSY – PES Group Winter University, which was established last year and which 2nd edition is going to take place in February 2007 under the theme “Growing stronger together – mid term review” gathering 50 socialist and social democratic activists and large number of MEPs to challenge the roadmap for the future.

Last, but not least, in the past two years ECOSY has been actively cooperating also with sister organizations:

- IUSY – International Union of Socialists Youth
- IFM-SEI – International Falcon Movement-Socialist Education International

Taking an active part in their organizational lives. Together with them we have created in summer 2005 “**Global Progressive Youth Forum**”, which:

- participated in WSF (World Social Forum) and ESF (European Social Forum)
- cooperates with GPF – Global Progressive Forum
- organized together with Action Aid Seminar and Lobby Activity on European Partnership Agreements in Brussels in October 2006

In terms of other partners we have been involved in cooperation with

- European Youth Forum – of which we are full members
- ETUC Youth
- ICFTU
- OBESSU
- SOLIDAR

In terms of communicating all above, ECOSY has been holding

- functioning and updated daily web site www.ecosy.org
- weekly edited Newsflash
- month Newsletter
- extraordinary Newsletters (edited upon the referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands; upon the adoption of the European Social Model Report by the EP; on the International Day Against Homophobia, International Day of Combating Violence Against Women).

Currently, **ECOSY is preparing towards its 8th Congress that will take place from 30th March till 1st April in Warsaw, Poland** thanks to hospitality of SLD and FMS.

The Congress will be a stage on which:

- new position paper with Declaration of Principles will be adopted
- large amount of statutory changes will be debated and put forward to an approval
- new Presidium, Bureau and Control Commission will be elected.

We believe that we are arriving to this Congress as a stronger and vivid organization, enthusiastic about its vision for “A Social Europe for everyone” and motivate to fulfil the mission to change world and Europe for better ones.