



Brussels, 26 January 2010

## **PES activists initiative**

**Adopted by the PES Presidency 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### **Political objectives**

In the paragraph on PES activists the resolution “A New Way Forward, A Stronger PES”, adopted by the 8th PES Congress sets the frame for a “PES activists initiative”:

*“All members of the PES member parties are automatically members of the PES. Yet, we invited them to be more closely involved in the life of the PES by becoming PES activists. [...] We will provide more tools for them to get involved. This is why we have decided to recognize their role in the PES statutes and **create a PES activists initiative** in order to build a true European activism, and be heard by PES bodies.”*

The “PES activists initiative” enables the grassroots of PES parties to approach PES bodies. Political work on a local level will become more relevant if the ultimate possibility to enter into a dialogue with PES bodies exists. The “PES activists initiative” strengthens the European political engagement of our grassroots locally and across borders. At the same time the decision-making authority and the representative structure of PES bodies is preserved.

### **Proposal for the implementation**

The PES activists initiative is based on the concept of the EU citizens initiative. If a certain number of PES activists sign a political proposal or a comment on PES policies and a minimum threshold is exceeded, the initiative is tabled at the PES presidency.

Five hundred (2,5% of all) PES activists who are members of at least 15 different PES parties or organisations may invite the PES presidency to respond to a policy issue raised in their PES activists initiative. The minimum thresholds can be reviewed and changed at any time by the PES presidency.

The PES will provide a space on the PES website where PES activists can post their initiative and invite other activists to sign it over a period of six months. The PES secretariat reviews each proposal before it is published. The activists will be informed in the PES activists newsletter about all initiatives that have been tabled. Only PES activists that are logged in with their username and password can sign it. If a PES member party points out that an activist has not been their member at the moment of signing, their signature will be deleted ex post.

The PES secretariat will put the PES activists initiative on the agenda of the PES Presidency following the successful completion of the initiative. The final decision remains in the hands of the Presidency.

