



Structure and Composition of PES working bodies

Adopted by the PES Presidency on 18th February 2013

In order to improve efficiency, and achieve greater clarity in our functioning, the PES should revise some of our existing structures, and modify the scope of others. In principle there should be three types of working bodies:

- **Policy Networks** - for policy development;
- **Ad Hoc Working groups/Task forces** – for organizational matters, internal issues, temporary or specific tasks/relations within PES (between member parties) or with international partners;
- **Ministerial coordination** - to improve the coordination of PES Ministers and develop common positions at Council meetings.

1. PES Policy and Political Strategy Networks

The weight and the status of the policy development and political strategy bodies should be increased. They should be open for nominated representatives. Independent experts and academics can be invited on a permanent or ad hoc basis. Policy Networks should reflect the priorities of PES.

List

1. Financial and Economic Network (FEN)

The FEN brings together representatives from our parties and member organisations to coordinate and develop our common approach on economic (EMU revision, Investments policy, Industrial policy...), and financial (financial market regulation, FTT, shadow banking ...) policy, and our progressive response to the protracted crisis. Trade unions and civil society can be invited on an ad hoc basis.

2. Social Network (SN)

The SN contributes to the preparation of the PES in the social and employment policy area, bringing together representatives from our parties and member organisations. It plays a leading role in developing policy papers, background documents and other input for our political work. Trade unions, member of partner organisations and civil society can be invited on an ad hoc basis.

3. Environment, Climate change and Energy Network (ECCEN)

The ECCEN helps us develop - with the representatives from our parties and member organisations - our common progressive policies in the relevant fields including sustainable and green growth, environment, climate change, and energy. Trade unions, member of partner



organisations and civil society can be invited on an ad hoc basis.

4. Democracy and Society Network (DSN)

The DSN aims at promoting common PES policies and positions on the issues of democracy, fundamental and citizens' rights, institutional changes and democratic accountability, rule of law, justice, migration, integration and extremism at European and Member states level. The network brings together representatives from our parties and member organisations. Partner organisations and civil society can be invited on an ad hoc basis.

5. Foreign Policy Network (FPN)

The Network brings together primarily the foreign policy spokespersons of PES member parties. It provides: 1) the political direction for future PES foreign policy in terms of objectives and priorities to foster coherence; 2) a political body to discuss different stances and find common positions; and 3) a tool to shape EU's foreign policy. It was launched in 2010 and it has become a framework of reference for PES Member Parties in the realm of foreign affairs.

6. Secretaries General Network on Modernising Politics (SGN-MP)

The Network on Modernising Politics brings together the Secretaries General of PES member parties and organising to discuss Party reform, internal democracy and political strategy. It provides a forum for PES member parties to exchange best practices, experiences and new tools on their way of doing politics.

7. Media Network (MN)

The MN brings together staff responsible for press and media in member parties, press officers of our groups in the EP, the CoR and partners. It will focus on developing common media strategies, exchange and intensifying cooperation with member parties and organizations to be present in national and European media. Focus on media strategy for and during 2014 European elections campaign.

The potential of phone conferences for the Networks must be assessed as it could help improve political exchanges between PES and Member parties in the future.

2. PES Ad hoc Working Groups/Task Forces

The Working Groups/Task forces could exist either temporarily until they complete their task or as a permanent body. Working groups/Task forces are working bodies, which have a flexible character. They could have a limited and specific number of members or be open. They are two types – internal and international.

2.1 Internal issues

Fundamental programme (Caroline Gennez, Sp.a Belgium)

The Advisory Committee on the fundamental programme has the mandate to monitor the progressive societies' project and prepare the fundamental programme. Set up as a forum for an open discussion, it works on the basis of discussion papers first and then on the draft document before it is circulated to the party bodies.

- **Working Group Candidate 2014** (Ruairi Quinn, LP Ireland)

The WG Candidate 2014 has the mandate to advise the Presidency on the selection process of the PES common candidate to the European Commission Presidency (selection criteria, election process, financial and organizational implications).

- **Working Group Statutes** (Ruairi Quinn, LP Ireland)



The Statutes Committee advised the Presidency on reforming the PES Statutes. It will continue its work by proposing Standing Orders for the PES to be more efficient, transparent and inclusive.

- **Working Group Youth Unemployment Campaign** (Kaisa Penny, ECOSY; Nicolas Schmidt, LSAP Luxembourg)
- **Elections Task Force 2013** (Achim Post, PES Secretary General)
The Task Force Elections 2013 will provide coordinated assistance and support to PES member parties facing national elections in 2013

2.2 External issues

- **Western Balkans** – with the participation of partner parties from the region and a focus on enlargement.
- **Eastern partners** – with the participation of parties from the Eastern neighbourhood and a focus on democratisation, political association and economic integration as well as, party building and cooperation.
- **Mediterranean** – with the participation of parties from the Southern Mediterranean with a focus on democratisation, political context and economic and social development of the southern dimension of the Neighbourhood policy as well as party building and cooperation. Turkey, and its EU candidacy, will be followed carefully.
- **Global partners** – covering BRICS countries; within the network individual representatives can be appointed for the different countries/parties.
- **Transatlantic** – covering the United States and the Democratic Party as well as Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Ministerial Coordination

The recent victories in different countries will give a new dynamism to the PES Ministerial Coordination prior to European Council meetings. This should be a priority over the coming months and they should be complementary to the Policy Networks. These meetings should welcome High Level representatives of PES opposition parties.

Special effort should be made, depending of the number of PES Ministers, for **Foreign affairs and General Affairs, Social Affairs (EPSCO), ECOFIN, Education, Environment, Trade, Defense and Development.**



