



PES Resolution

Selecting our common candidate in 2014

Adopted by the PES Council on 24 November 2011

The nature of European politics has changed. Europe is more and more dominant in domestic political debates as well as in national policies, and this is increasingly the case since the onset of the financial crisis.

Political choices at European level are also being made clearer. European politics is shifting from a broad consensus in favour of European integration, towards a political battlefield in which progressives and conservatives propose and pursue opposing visions for Europe. In this respect, José Manuel Barroso's actions as President of the European Commission have been very political. The main challenge we face in order to regain power at the EU level is to politicize the European debate even more and make our choices clearer and more visible.

We also acknowledge that the personalisation of politics has reached the EU level. During the last European election campaign, we suffered from our lack of visibility. One of the key problems for our political family was the absence of a unifying leadership personality for the position of President of the European Commission, and to embody our common Manifesto. Our political family appeared divided while the EPP unanimously supported José Manuel Barroso.

We want to enter the 2014 European election campaign as a united, coherent and modern political family. This is why we made **“the commitment of choosing a PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency for the next European elections”**. (PES Congress Resolution, *A new way forward, A stronger PES*, 2009)

Giving a human personality and a human face to our political platform will be a valuable tool to interest people in the debate, and to better illustrate that the left and the right at the European level, just as at the national level, have different programmes and policies, that are embodied by different candidates, and that they, as European citizens, can have their say in shaping tomorrow's policies. It is our responsibility to make the choice clearer and the differences more visible, and to engage with citizens by offering them the power to choose who will preside over the European Commission; in other words, by choosing the personality who will set the European agenda.

In an effort to embody our values, and to strengthen the legitimacy of the European Union, we decided to select our common candidate through “a democratic, transparent and inclusive process” (PES Council Resolution *A democratic and transparent process for designating the PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency*, 2010)

We are engaging in a completely new way of doing politics at the European level. By being innovative and self-confident, by empowering our members, by being frontrunners, we are paving the way for the further democratisation of European politics.

Our aim is to **ensure the quality and the legitimacy** of the common PES candidate to the European Commission Presidency and **to win the 2014 European elections**.



We therefore propose the following procedure to elect the PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency in 2014.

1. General Principles:

The procedure should be **open and transparent**.

All member parties should feel ownership over the process.

The procedure will therefore respect the different traditions in our parties in a flexible way.

The procedure should be **coherent** so as to ensure the credibility of the process.

The process should allow a **competition** of candidates.

2. The criteria to stand as a candidate:

To be a potential candidate, one should:

- Be **nominated by a PES full member party** or organisation.
- Be **supported by 15% of PES full member parties or organisations** (nominating party or organisation included), including his/her party or a party from his/her country if he/she is not a member of a PES full member party.

A party can only nominate or support one potential candidate.

The PES promotes gender equality and the candidacy of women at all high level positions in EU official bodies.

Example : To this date, the PES has 33 full member parties and 5 full member organizations. To reach 15%, a candidate will therefore need 6 Parties or organisations: one nominating her/him, 5 other supporting.

3. The decision-making process:

Anyone meeting the criteria can stand as a candidate.

A Leaders' Conference will take place in the month before the close of nominations.

The Presidency will meet after the close of nominations to check that all criteria are fulfilled and set up an electoral committee composed of representatives from each potential candidate, to scrutinize the fairness of the process.

Once the list of potential candidates is finalised, each full member party and organisation will organise a vote and make its selection by its **own internal decision-making methodology**.

The process is flexible provided it is in the framework of the following principles:

- Direct or indirect consultation of members, and
- Ratification of the result by a democratically-elected body.

In order to consolidate the vote at the European level, the following principles will be applied:

- **Proportionality** of votes within each delegation



- **Weighting of the votes of each full member party and organisation** according to the rule already in place to calculate the number of delegates for the PES Congress, as stated in the Annex 3 of the PES Statutes.

Example:

Party X has 10 votes at the PES Congress

Candidate A obtains 60% of votes in Party X → 6 votes in PES Congress

Candidate B obtains 40% of votes in Party X → 4 votes in PES Congress

The candidate will be ratified by the PES Congress.

The results of the votes of member parties and organisations will be aggregated at the PES Congress. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority, a second round will be held between the two first candidates in the PES Congress by open ballot.

4. The timetable of the selection:

We propose the following timetable, in order to ensure **both the awareness of the candidate and the efficiency of the campaign.**

This timetable is based upon our current knowledge that the next European elections will be held in June 2014. It should be confirmed by the PES Presidency 6 months before the start of the process.

1 October 2013: Opening of nominations: candidacies, letters of nomination and support should be sent to the PES secretariat.

October 2013: Leaders' Conference.

31 October 2013: Close of nominations

1st week of November 2013: PES presidency meeting to check candidacies and set up electoral committee. Candidacies are made public

1 December 2013 – 31 January 2014: Internal selection procedure within each full member Party and organisation

February 2014: The PES will convene an extraordinary Congress to ratify the election of the candidate and to vote upon the Manifesto.

5. The organisation and financing of the selection process:

The Working Group Candidate 2014 proposes to extend its mandate to deal with **the practical, financial and organisational aspects** of the selection procedure. Fairness should be respected for all potential candidates.

It will present a proposal to be adopted by the PES Presidency by the end of 2012.

