21 PROGRESSIVE PROPOSALS FOR COP21
Dear Friends,

As European Socialist and Democrat Leaders, we urgently call for an ambitious, universal, dynamic and legally-binding agreement at December’s United Nations Climate Change Summit in Paris (COP21) that keeps global warming below 2°C to secure a sustainable livelihood for us all. The human-induced climate crisis poses one of the biggest threats to our societies, health and ecological systems world-wide. We owe it to ourselves, but mostly to our children and grandchildren to stop and reverse climate change. The time to act is now!

Over the centuries, progress, industrialisation and increased consumption patterns have generated dangerous changes to our planet and our climate. There can now be no doubt – global warming and climate change represent an urgent and possibly irreparable threat to human societies, health and ecosystems. Climate change affects vulnerable groups of people more than others. It affects the poorest countries the most, despite the fact that they often contribute the least to global warming. Our commitment to fight climate change goes hand in hand with our battle against social injustices.

Climate change affects all and therefore requires mutual efforts to fight against it. As European Socialists and Democrats, we believe that many of the countries which bear the highest responsibility, also have greater capacities and capabilities to reduce the impact and sources of global warming. They must make a larger contribution, and commensurate efforts to reduce their emissions and to support developing countries in their endeavour to adapt to a changing climate and to develop on a low-carbon path.

Climate policy is also social policy, development policy and economic policy. And as European Socialists and Democrats, we are best placed to lead the way and halt climate change in its tracks, before it halts the social progress that we so urgently need.

Our political family calls for an ambitious, universal, dynamic and legally-binding agreement at COP21, to ensure a sustainable livelihood for everyone.

To demonstrate our commitment, the leaders of all PES member parties have adopted our 21 progressive proposals for COP21. Now, let’s work together to implement it and make the Paris Conference a success.

Sergei Stanishev, PES President
The Importance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference

This December France is hosting the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21).

This will be a crucial conference, as expectations are high that it will achieve a new, binding, international agreement on man-made climate change, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

France, and its President Francois Hollande, will therefore play a leading international role to ensure convergence of views and to facilitate the search for consensus by the United Nations, as well as within the European Union, which has a major role in climate negotiations. Prior to the Summit in Paris, the PES Presidency approved the Progressive Leaders’ Declaration for COP 21, and later on all European Socialists and Democrat Leaders signed the declaration along with 21 progressive proposals for COP21.

European Socialists and Democrats are going to the United Nations Climate Change Conference with common proposals and a common goal – to achieve an ambitious, legally-binding agreement which will help prevent climate change.
The 2015 Paris Agreement — binding, universal and dynamic

1. A universal and binding international agreement, entering into force once agreed upon by countries representing a large majority of global emissions and in 2020 at the latest.

2. A dynamic climate agreement that includes mechanisms for review every five years combined with a robust mechanism for the continuous strengthening of national and collective commitments.

3. Adaptation and loss and damage to be a key part of the new agreement.

4. All countries to commit to a collective target of greenhouse gas emission reductions globally in the upper range of 40-70% by 2050 compared to 2010 as recommended by the IPCC. All countries should re-endorse the aim to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius and to start phasing out fossil fuel subsidies without delay.

5. The Paris agreement to enshrine a transformative moment for the global society to alter its attitudes.

The European Union — international climate leader by example

6. The EU to act as a role model and leader at COP21, speaking with one voice.

7. All EU and national policies and regulatory frameworks to be aligned with climate change objectives. We strive to also align international policies, regulatory frameworks and institutions with these objectives.

8. The EU to increase its domestic greenhouse gas reduction targets after COP21 from the current level of at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990, together with its targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

9. The creation of a progressive European Energy Union that promotes the rapid and fair transition to a decarbonised economy based on renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency and the reduction of energy consumption and an end to fossil fuel subsidies. We want the EU to move towards an environmentally sustainable and job creating circular economy.

10. An ambitious reform of the European Emissions Trading System and a European system of carbon taxation to set an appropriate price on carbon. It must be accompanied by non-market-based tools (standards, rules and public regulation, adapted industrial policies, public investments and incentives).

11. EU Member States to swiftly ratify the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

12. The EU to prove through its policies that climate protection, sustainable economic growth, jobs creation and social development go together hand in hand at all levels, local, regional, national and global.

Climate finance — promoting global investment for resilient low-carbon economies

13. The EU and its Member States to agree on and implement a roadmap for scaling up predictable, new and additional international climate finance. It should include the EU’s fair share of USD 100 billion annually by 2020 in the framework of the Green Climate Fund, but also the period before 2020, by mobilising both public and private resources.

14. Development banks to develop climate investment roadmaps which exclude financial support to fossil fuels. An international financial transaction tax (FTT) mechanism can also finance climate action and sustainable development.

15. All countries to put in place carbon pricing mechanisms in a fair way.

16. Financial regulations to promote transparency and a goal of at least 10% of financial actors’ investment flows to be redirected to eco-friendly economy projects.

North–South cooperation — global solidarity to protect people from climate risks

17. An EU development cooperation that recognises the risk posed by climate change to development and poverty eradication and supports developing countries in averting these dangers. We will foster the implementation of the entirety of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s goals. The legal status of climate refugees and their rights to protection should be discussed within the Geneva Convention.


19. EU development cooperation that includes gender-equitable, participatory and rights-based approaches.

Stakeholder participation — engaging climate action partners beyond governments

20. An investment agenda that supports cities and regions in their efforts to make communities more sustainable and climate resilient and provides support to initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors.

21. All stakeholders to play their full role in tackling climate change, in reducing the risks of climate related disasters, and in the scrutiny process of climate mitigation and adaptation commitments.
We European Socialists and Democrats are ready to play our part to reach a global agreement for a fair and shared effort to protect the planet from dangerous global warming. We need climate action now.