People First: A New Direction for Europe

PES manifesto
European elections June 2009

Party of European Socialists
People First: A New Direction for Europe

In the 2009 European elections, every citizen's vote will count. At a time of unprecedented challenges, men and women across Europe face a choice between a progressive European Union in which Member States work together to tackle these challenges in the interests of all the people of Europe, or a conservative European Union which leaves the future of our countries and people in the hands of the market.

The Party of European Socialists is committed to creating a fairer, safer society which puts people first. We need more active cooperation in Europe to tackle our common challenges and improve people's lives, based on our six key priorities for reform:

1 - Relaunching the economy and preventing new financial crises
2 - New Social Europe – giving people a fairer deal
3 - Transforming Europe into the leading global force against climate change
4 - Championing gender equality in Europe
5 - Developing an effective European migration policy
6 - Enhancing Europe's role as a partner for peace, security and development

This comprehensive progressive reform agenda will deliver the change which the people of Europe desperately need. It is putting people first: we aim to create jobs.

To achieve progress for people we need a strong progressive majority in the European Parliament. We socialist, social democrat, labour and democratic progressive parties are working to create that majority, in order to promote your interests and champion your causes.

With our common values and vision we will work together for a fairer and safer Europe, a greener Europe - because together we are a force for change.

We can build a fairer society by putting people first. Let's take Europe in a new direction in June 2009.

We propose 71 concrete actions, including:

- A smart green growth strategy to create 10 million new jobs
- New financial market regulation covering all players
- Reductions in climate-change emissions for industries such as transport and construction
- A European Pact on Wages for decent minimum wages in all EU Member States
- Stepping up the fight against the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation.

“People first: A new direction for Europe” is a manifesto for the European Parliamentary elections that will take place in June 2009.

It was adopted on 1 December 2008 by the 33 socialist, social democratic, labour and progressive democratic parties that make up the Party of European Socialists.

It is based on a European-wide consultation involving party members, trade unions, foundations and NGOs.

For a full list of PES member parties see www.pes.org and for more information on the manifesto and the 2009 European campaign, see elections2009.pes.org.