



26 April 2010

PES Action Plan for the Middle East

Note adopted by the PES Presidency on 29 April 2010

Introduction

The **Middle East** is an important region for the international relations of the PES and the EU. As for the situation in Israel-Palestine, the EU supports a two-state solution along the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. It is crucial that negotiations revive between the two parties, since maintaining the status quo is strengthening the hardliners who oppose a two-state solution. In response to the frequent request to have a more important role played by the EU, even more since the nomination of HRVP Cathy Ashton, **the PES Presidency should discuss a future “PES Action Plan for the Middle East”**. This document thus only constitutes a note aimed at presenting briefly the current regional context and proposing an **Action Plan for the PES**. This Action Plan will lay the foundations for a future PES political positioning.

Action plan

1 Political initiatives

- The **PES Foreign Policy Network (PES FPN)** will have a debate on the political situation in the Middle East on June 16, 2010 in Brussels. The PES FPN will make proposals for a PES Action Plan for the Middle East and prepare a note on the EU involvement in the MEPP.
- **The PES Ministerial Networks** (Foreign Affairs, Development, and Defense) will engage discussion on the EU involvement in the region and in the MEPP.
- The PES will be in close **contact with the Labor Party and the Meretz-Yahad (Israel), the Fatah and PNI (Palestine) and the PSP (Lebanon)**. The PES will have regular exchanges of information at party level but also at governmental level. A list of contacts will have to be identified and invited to PES events when feasible.
- The PES will have regular contacts with the **Cabinets of HRVP Cathy Ashton and with Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Commissioner Stefan Fule**. Briefings from PES contacts will be sent to them on regular basis.
- The PES will work closely with the **S&D Group and the SI** in exchanging information and launching initiatives.
- The PES will also look for closer cooperation with **experts, think tanks and civil society** organizations connected to the Middle East (like the new 'J-CALL', the European J-Street).

- The PES will check the feasibility of an **International Trainee programme in the PES**. We will contact social democratic foundations to envisage the possibility to welcome trainees (starting with the Middle East) for 1 to 3 months in the PES HQ. They could familiarize with social democratic policy in International affairs, Jobs and Social policy, Environment, Diversity, Gender policy, Communications

2 Events

- The PES has been contacted by the Berl Katznelson Foundation, connected to the Labor Party to organize a **Conference on Social Democracy** in Tel Aviv in November 2010. They have contacted the Fondation IDEAS, the Fondation Jean Jaures and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. The FEPS should be involved as well. A similar conference should be organized in the Palestinian territories.

- It is a timely opportunity to organise a PES delegation in the region. A **PES High level Delegation** will visit the Lebanon, Israel and Palestine during the autumn 2010 to meet with majors players.

- A **Preparatory visit** could be organized in July 2010 to ensure the success of the visit.

- The **PES Euromed Conference** will be organized in the second half of 2010.