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 Fondacion 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.