



**PES Presidency declaration on the follow-up to the Greek elections  
Adopted on by the PES Presidency on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Greek citizens have expressed themselves democratically on 25 January 2015. SYRIZA has won these elections. This result has shown a rejection of drastic austerity policies and the Troika.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned about its choice to form a coalition government with the Independent Greeks, a party that is known for upholding anti-Semitic and nationalistic views.

There is little doubt that the crisis that Greece has been undergoing has weighed heavily on the result of these elections. The road of austerity-only is not the path to a sustainable and prosperous future for all. As Socialists and Democrats, we have been calling for this deep change since years. We must reinforce and speed up this change. The economic and social crisis that we are facing is both a European and a national issue. Only if we work together, in a spirit of dialogue, solidarity and mutual respect, towards common solutions can we overcome the challenges ahead.

As Socialists and Democrats, we have been advocating against the austerity-only approach since the beginning of this crisis. We have warned about the Troika's legacy in terms of democratic legitimacy. We are fighting for an approach that combines budgetary responsibility with growth and jobs. For an approach based on progressive investments, support to the real economy, and the promotion of social dialogue and social rights. For a Europe that is democratic and transparent. We are absolutely committed to the coherence and cohesion of the Eurozone. PASOK and all our parties have always chosen the path of responsibility and honesty, against all forms of populism.

In the face of strong conservative majorities, we are steering the debate in the right direction, despite the massive resistance. We are bringing on the table the need for a real European Investment strategy. We have fought to put growth, employment, and social rights back at the heart of the European agenda. We are fighting against an unemployment rate that is unacceptable, and have made the Youth Guarantee a European reality. And we are fighting to promote the right reforms: the reforms that can modernise our states by promoting social rights, growth and employment, rather than choking our economies or undermining those rights.

Yet the change has not yet become visible in the life of many Europeans, and particularly those who were hit the hardest by the crisis. We owe it to them to continue our fight against the conservative and neoliberal policies that has led to a protracted crisis. The result of the Greek elections have created a new context. As Socialists and Democrats we will step up our fight for a different Europe, and work with the new Greek government and all governments, in order to achieve a successful outcome to the Greek debt crisis, in the interest of Greek people and of all Europeans.