PROGRESSIVE STEPS FOR A GLOBAL NEW DEAL

Activity Report December 2010 - December 2011

and projects for 2012
Table of contents

FOREWORD................................................................................................................................. 3

1. World Social Forum in Dakar........................................................................................................ 4
   1.1. Workshops........................................................................................................................ 4
       Workshop 1: Water: the urgent need for global solidarity to protect a public good ........ 5
       Workshop 2: Migration: key for global development?................................................. 6
       Workshop 3: Global social protection: an agenda for all ............................................ 6
       Workshop 4: Fair trade, decent work, financial transaction tax: a new Progressive agenda. 7
   1.2. The Parliamentary forum.................................................................................................... 8
   1.3. Field Trips, March and demonstrations ........................................................................ 9
   Field Trips.............................................................................................................................. 10

   2.1. First phase of the 2011 campaign: influencing in the European parliament............... 10
   2.2. Second phase of the 2011 campaign: influencing the European Commission ......... 11
   2.3. Third phase of the 2011 campaign: reaching out to national Governments ............ 11
   2.4. 2012 FTT Campaign: the path ahead........................................................................... 12
   2.5. Beyond the FTT: CRAs, Tax Havens and food speculation at the PES convention 12

3. Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean ........................................................................... 13
   3.1. Conference in Barcelona: Democratic transition: fears and hopes ....................... 13
   3.2. Conference in Brussels: "Building the Bridge to Democracy"................................. 15
   3.3. Webstreaming and webpage....................................................................................... 16
   3.4. Workshop and film-debate at the PES Convention.................................................... 17

4. Developing our progressive network and paving the way for the GPF World Conference 17
   4.1. GPF Secretary General meets with ActionAid leaders from Belgium and Brasil .... 17
   4.2. Meetings with the Foro de Sao Paulo and the World Social Forum Council in the
       presence of the representative from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). ...................... 17
   4.3. GPF at the ETUC Congress......................................................................................... 18
   4.4. GPF Delegation at 4th Congress of Brazil’s Partido dos Trabalhadores.................. 18
   4.5. Meeting with Dr. Rosinha, federal deputy of PT Brazil at the PES Convention ...... 19
   4.6. The GPF virtual club ................................................................................................. 19
   4.7. The Next Left Economic Circle ............................................................................... 19

5. Looking into the future .......................................................................................................... 20
   5.1. Water Management: supporting the new ECI to be launched by Trade Unions.... 21
   5.2. GPF WORLD CONFERENCE 2012......................................................................... 21
       Farewell to Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, GPF founder and co-president ......................... 22

ABOUT THE GPF ......................................................................................................................... 24
The Two Co-Presidents............................................................................................................. 24
The Secretary General............................................................................................................. 24
FOREWORD

2011: Dealing with the current crisis, another world is possible.

For the GPF, one of the significant events of 2011 was the extraordinary democratic outburst of civil societies in the Arab world as well as in Europe. This breath of democracy led to the creation of "Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean", a programme through which 3 successive conferences were held in Tunis, Barcelona and Brussels, and which allowed the Arab civil society to meet and build a network with our Progressive political family.

In Europe, the civil society also spoke out against financial institutions that now focus on political power by diverting any government decision, be it of economic, social and environmental order to national as to European level. Crippled by credit rating agencies, governments and political institutions now fear to regulate speculation, impose tax on financial transactions, ban tax havens and invest in the future. In Europe, as on the other side of the Mediterranean, there is a general outcry and people rally to regain power and restore democratic control on political decisions. By working hand in hand with trade unions, academics and NGOs within the coalition of Europeans for financial reform, the Global Progressive Forum has proven, through the campaign for a financial transaction tax, that when Progressive powers unite they can influence political powers. It is a wonderful hope for future actions.

But the main issue of 2011 would be the ever worsening global crisis. Starting with the financial crisis, it rapidly became an economic, social and political crisis, and has now culminated into the public debt, putting states and citizens in a precarious situation. But this crisis is first and foremost a crisis of finance capitalism, developed through deregulation and neo-liberalism. Only one word provided by neo-liberal ideology is the sole answer to this global crisis: austerity; a simple and useless answer. So it would be neo-liberalism that led us to this crisis and maintains us in it through austerity and the permanent threat of financial markets, depriving the Europeans of any control on their future and of any future generations.

In light of this, for Progressives worldwide, "Another world is possible": this slogan was the message at the World Social Forum in Dakar where the GPF organised activities in which S&D Members, the PES, African Progressives and traditional partners, the FEPS, Solidar and the ITUC took part.

This is the message of alternative progressives that the GPF will continue to carry, through a growing network. This year, the GPF has strengthened its links with its African Progressive friends in Dakar, but also through a delegation to the 4th PT congress in Brazil, and thus sealing the proposal to organise the next global conference of the GPF. In Brussels, the GPF network is expanding and gaining in strength. Through the Next Left Economic Circle, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the GPF, promote Leftist economic thoughts, and link political actors who will carry the message to European institutions and universities. Through the much larger network of the GPF's virtual club, it is the Progressive personalities around the world, politicians and intellectuals, civil society actors and deciders who feed with introspection the Progressive circles.

2012 will be a difficult year, where austerity, which the Conservatives are trying to permanently seal into Europe's destiny, will plunge in crisis and poverty. In 2012, the GPF will keep on promoting democracy against all forms of political and financial authoritarianism and will engage in a study on public goods, most particularly on water. For the GPF, 2012 will also be the year of its World Conference in Brazil, which will seal years of cooperation with its Latin-American Progressive partners.

Javier Moreno Sanchez
Secretary General of the Global Progressive Forum
1. World Social Forum in Dakar

Since the World Social Forum (WSF) was launched in 2001, Socialist MEPs have attended every event. However, it is only since the first official delegation of the S&D Group in 2004 that the number of Group members present has increased. The Global Progressive Forum (GPF) has been involved in the World Social Forum since the first edition and, in 2006, the GPF was elected as a member of the International Council (the decision-making arm of the World Social Forum). This year, the World Social Forum took place in Dakar, which enabled us not only to meet our international partners, but also to strengthen our relations with our Senegalese and African counterparts. By organising the S&D delegation and also jointly organising workshops with its traditional partners (PES, FEPS, Solidar) as part of the activities of the WSF, which was held this year in Dakar (6-11 February), the GPF has gone a step further in its commitment to the WSF and its cooperation with its civil society partners.

In 2010, the GPF and the Africa Forum, Solidar, Fundación Ideas and Olof Palme Foundation participated in the round table conference organized by the FEPS "After the Financial Crisis - A Progressive Agenda for Africa", in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, on May 10-13, 2010. It paved the way for extending the GPF progressive network in Africa.

1.1. Workshops

The delegation of MEPs from the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, consisting of Kader Arif, Head of Delegation, Jo Leinen, Zita Gurmai, Corina Cretu and Kristian Vigenin, together with GPF Secretary General Javier Moreno Sánchez, and GPF Political Advisors Cécilia Gondard and Alexandra Salmon-Bobek, was, therefore, part of a larger delegation which included, amongst others, Massimo D’Alema, President of FEPS, Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of FEPS, Philip Cordery, PEARif Kader, MEP FranceS Secretary General, Josef Weidenholzer, President of SOLIDAR, and Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR. Members were also able to take part in the Foundation and Trade union meetings that were held throughout the Forum. Other MEPs, such as Pervenche Berès, Henri Weber and Harlem Désir, were also in attendance as part of other delegations.

In short, the WSF is made up of civil society representatives and political decision-makers and is first and foremost a place to meet and exchange ideas. The staging of the Forum of Parliamentarians, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Senegal, enabled open and constructive discussions to take place with numerous African members of parliament.
Workshop 1: Water: the urgent need for global solidarity to protect a public good

All our workshops were very well attended by trade unionists, development NGOs, members of the public, cooperative representatives, networks of associations involved in social issues, etc. We were therefore able to present the work and political priorities of the GPF as well as to disseminate GPF introductory leaflets and material for the www.europeansforfinancialreform.org campaign very widely.

Martine Aubry, First Secretary of the French Socialist Party, presided over the opening of the workshop on water management, which was moderated by Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS). The speakers then took the floor: Mamadou Faye, former Senegalese Minister of Water, Jo Leinen, German MEP, Martin Lofete, Vice-President of CSC-Congo and Uttam SINHA, research fellow at IDSA, India. Martine Aubry stressed the urgency of addressing the issue of water at a regional level in order to guarantee peace and security in the world. She also highlighted the failure of water policies centred on privatising the resource, which leads to a decline in investment in the sector despite the fact that investment is essential in order to guarantee access to drinking water. ‘We need hundreds of billions of Euros of investment a year in the coming decade,’ she said, ‘but this is an area in which promises are never kept.’

Jo Leinen MEP explained that access to clean drinking water is a basic human right. He too criticised the privatisation of water-management systems, which has increased the price of water and made it inaccessible to poor people in developing countries. ‘Climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21st century and, throughout the world, poor people are the most vulnerable to its harmful effects. The World Social Forum, with all its partners, offers a debating platform for greater justice in the face of climate change, and equal opportunities for all.’ Uttam Sinha, a researcher at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, spoke of the geopolitics of water and water as a political tool in a power game, particularly when large water-resource basins straddle several countries. Water management, therefore, involves cooperation and planning at an international level.

Mamadou Faye, former Senegalese Minister of Water, pointed out that there is, apparently, enough water for everyone in West Africa, but it is a question of bringing it to the people. He strongly criticised the lack of political will to finance this infrastructure. Finally, Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of FEPS, emphasised the importance of water as a public good for all mankind.
Workshop 2: Migration: key for global development?

Workshop 2, chaired by Javier Moreno Sánchez, GPF Secretary General, brought together Massimo D’Alema, President of FEPS and former Italian Prime Minister, Corina Cretu, International Secretary PSD Romania, MEP and Vice-President of the Development Committee, Kristian Vigenin, MEP, Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán, former Spanish Minister for Labour and Social Affairs and current Vice-President of the Ideas Foundation, Barry Gilder, former Director-General of Home Affairs, South Africa, Ramesh Badal, General Secretary of GFONT, Nepal, and finally Christa Randzio-Plath, Vice-President of VENRO.

Kristian Vigenin emphasised that ‘Migration is positive if it is well managed. We cannot solve the problem by building walls and creating barriers for migrants. Rather, the EU should help to create jobs and offer a future to the young people in the countries of origin of migration.’

Massimo D’Alema underlined the importance of doing the utmost to respect human rights and human dignity when dealing with immigration. ‘It is vital to welcome immigrants as human beings and not as a political danger,’ said the former Italian leader. He explained that there is no sense in allowing African migrants to end up in Libya, a country that shows scant regard for human rights. He also emphasised the need to block illegal immigration, but stressed that Europe should not forget that it has a need for immigrants, given that the European workforce is expected to decrease by 90 million by 2050. In his view, ‘Europe is going to need 30 million immigrants over the next 30 years if it wishes to maintain a balance between its economically active and passive populations’.

Barry Gilder also expressed regret that most European governments consider the issue of immigration solely from the point of view of internal security. Corina Cretu also pointed out that, if properly managed, migration can become a tool for development, since migration and development are two interlinked phenomena: development-oriented action can tackle the root causes of migratory flows, and migrants can, in turn, contribute positively to economic growth, social development and technological progress in both the country of origin and the country of destination.

Finally, Javier Moreno Sánchez brought the debate to a conclusion by pointing out that any approach to immigration should be rooted in the simple principle of equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of whether or not they are immigrants.

Workshop 3: Global social protection: an agenda for all

The third workshop sparked a very frank discussion, in front of a fascinated and responsive audience, between Marc Becker, Adviser, CSC, Kurosh Danesh, Immigration Coordinator at CGIL, Zita Gurmai, President of PES Women, Mohamed Haidour, Secretary on Migration at CCOO, Spain, Drame Ndiankou, Representative from CGIL, Italy, Suman Sahai, Founder of the Gene Campaign, India, Daniel Van Daele, National Secretary of FGTB, and Robert Mwewalamba, Secretary General of MCTU in Malawi. The session was moderated by Conny Reuter, Secretary General of...
SOLIDAR. All the speakers agreed on the need for universal access to work and social security, and also on the importance of viewing social protection as a relatively cheap (2% of world GDP according to the ILO) but very effective method of combating poverty and promoting growth in developing countries, as the history of the OECD countries has demonstrated. From an economic perspective, social protection is also an automatic stabiliser that is vital for economic recovery. Lastly, an appeal was made for support for the UN’s Social Protection Floor initiative.

During this workshop, we once again noted a strong convergence of views between the civil-society actors, the political speakers, and the politicians present, particularly Zita Gurmai, but also Christa Randzio-Plath, and a strong trade union presence at the discussions.

**Workshop 4: Fair trade, decent work, financial transaction tax: a new Progressive agenda**

Discussions focused firstly on fair trade in contrast to free trade as practised over the last few decades. Major powers such as China, which have built their growth on exports rather than internal demand, have caused dumping on a worldwide scale. At the same time, Anglo-American economic policy has developed and become a subject of debate in the public domain. Some believed that liberalisation would lead to development and that self-regulation of the markets would foster fair trade, but this has been proved wrong on both theoretical and empirical grounds. The debate was moderated by Philip Cordery, Secretary General of the PES. Speakers included Kader Arif, Member of the European Parliament, PS, France, Anne Demelenne, Secretary General, FGTB, Belgium, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, General Secretary, ITUC Africa, Walter Pomar, Executive Secretary, Foro de Sao Paulo, Brazil and Henri Weber, Member of the European Parliament, PS, France.

**Fair trade consists firstly** of the introduction of social and environmental rights to trade, rights that we would like to see become mandatory standards in trade agreements. Secondly, we must move from bilateralism to multilateralism in order to restore the balance of power. Thirdly, genuine trade agreements would signify that the European Union is not concerned solely with its own interests.

The issue of financing development by means of a financial transaction tax, as well as development-aid measures, was also discussed. Finally, it was stressed that a financial transaction tax could address the issue of available resources for development policies, given that a deduction of just 0.05% could potentially raise more than EUR 500 Billion per year worldwide.

**The issue of wealth distribution**, of profit and labour, was also addressed, as well as the problem of financial speculation on raw
materials and the need to reorient the global economy towards a long-term and sustainable approach.

**For this workshop, as for all the others, the tent was full.** The participants moved around from tent to tent, pausing at the entrance to listen to the debates and settling down after a few minutes to take part in the discussions and take notes. As a result, information about the financial transaction tax and the GPF activities were widely distributed.

### 1.2. The Parliamentary forum

**Forum of Parliamentarians**

The **Forum of Parliamentarians** was held in Dakar, as part of the Word Social Forum, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Senegal. S&D and GUE MEPs were able to hold talks with African members of parliament. Discussions focused on the development of democracy in Africa and throughout the world. The meeting enabled participants to exchange ideas on the main issues of globalisation.

**Zita Gurmai (S&D, Hungary)** delivered a speech to Senegalese members of parliament in which she underlined the conditions required for genuine democracy, the importance of economic development in nurturing democracy and the role of women as an essential tool in the process of democratisation. Zita Gurmai said: ‘In 2011, when more than 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa will face general elections, the question of democracy in Africa is more relevant than ever. In this regard, the election of Alpha Condé as President of Guinea, the first democratic election in this country since its independence, is a powerful message to all democracies under construction.’

**Henri Weber (S&D, France)** stressed that democracy is threatened by the economic crisis: ‘People fighting for their survival cannot be active citizens’. Democracy is also threatened by globalisation: ‘Today, economic power is held at a global level, but democracies are essentially national, even in Europe. We must restore the balance of power by propelling political actors to the same level of organisation and power as that achieved by the global economic players. The 21st century will be a century of nation-continents. The process of sub regional organisation is, therefore, essential in Africa.’
1.3. Field Trips, March and demonstrations

Field trips, the opening march, the demonstration alongside Senegalese students and meetings with the Senegalese opposition and other African sister parties gave participants a deeper understanding of the prevailing atmosphere in Senegal and greater insight into what is at stake in the presidential election in 2012. Given that the World Social Forum brings progressives from around the world together every year in a different country, it also gives participants the opportunity to improve their understanding of the social and political situation in that particular country and also to reach out to its citizens. In fact, the World Social Forum in Senegal took place amidst a climate of social tension, which was apparent from the outset in the reaction of the crowds at the opening of the Forum. Our meetings with the Senegalese people and the Senegalese Left, and the difficulties experienced in organising the Forum due to a lack of political will on the part of Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade and his government, also enabled us to grasp the extent of the damage he and his government have caused and the Senegalese people’s mounting anger.

Despite these difficulties, the 11th Forum went ahead as planned, with more than 1 200 self-organised activities on offer and 132 countries in attendance. A total of 70 000 people took part in the World Social Forum. The Forum also drew numerous political figures from every continent, including Brazilian President Evo Morales, former Brazilian President Lula da Silva, the First Secretary of the French Socialist Party, Martine Aubry, Alpha Condé, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, and also Susan George, Franco-American political and social scientist, activist and writer, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Director General of UNESCO, and Aminata Dramane Traoré, former Minister of Culture and Tourism in Mali.

Gorée Island: From triangular trade to modern slavery

On Gorée Island, once a transit point for slaves leaving West Africa, a number of trade unions (CGIL, FGTB, CGT, CUT/Brazil, etc.) together with SOLIDAR, unveiled, during a ceremony in the symbolic House of Slaves, a commemorative plaque inscribed with Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Those behind the project delivered emotional speeches and placed the Declaration in the current context of the right to work and immigration policies. Representatives of the GPF and the PES were also in attendance.

Demonstration for a financial transaction tax

MEPs Zita Gurmai and Jo Leinen joined a group of ‘Robin Hood Tax’ campaign activists to call for a financial transaction tax to be put in place to finance development, job creation and climate change. The demonstration took place at the World Social Forum venue at Cheickh Anta Diop University, in front of the main library, which is a stopping-off point for the international press attending the Forum. Representatives from various international organisations and Senegalese students took part, as well as Olga Zrihen, a Belgian senator. The
demonstrators were dressed as Robin Hood and called on World Leaders to support the financial transaction tax at the G20.

Field Trips

Anne Lange, a Wallonia-Brussels delegate based in Dakar, invited a small delegation consisting of Olga Zrihen, a Belgian senator, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Philip Cordery and Yonnec Polet, to undertake a number of field trips. This included a visit on the Blocs Scientifiques et Technologiques (BST) and to the The Institute of Food Technology, and a meeting with young rappers from Guédiawaye district.

The delegation went to meet the rappers (including Almamy Talla, known as Fou Malade, from a group called Bat hailons Blin-D) from the deprived suburbs of Dakar. These young people are self-organised and carry out genuine social work in their neighbourhoods. They could also have taken the easy option to leave and sign up with big record labels. But they preferred to plough their expertise into social development by setting up a centre for reintegration, chiefly through hip hop, for the young people in the neighbourhood. They hold solid left-wing views and use their voices and their influence over the youngsters to channel their violence and anger through music. They have become key players in the transformation of Senegal.

2. Europeans for Financial Reform: campaigning for the Financial Transaction Tax

In 2009, the Europeans for Financial Reform (EFFR) coalition was launched and progressive partners joined forces under the motto "Regulate global finance, now!" The next year, the coalition decided to focus on a campaign on the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) and organized International conferences in Brussels, Madrid, Vienna and Barcelona, international action days and campaigning material. We coordinated with a wider group of NGOs and joined forces for media Stunts.

2.1. First Phase of the 2011 campaign: influencing the European parliament

At the beginning of 2011, we knew the FTT would not be agreed upon at international or G20 level in the next years, so this should be put on the European agenda as a first step. Socialists MEPs and the PES started campaigning, through a photo campaign and press statements. The EU FTT was first mentioned in December 2010 in the Beres Report. In April, the EU FTT became a key issue in the report on innovative sources of financing by S&D Rapporteur Mrs. Podimata. In a week time, hundreds of thousands of petitions were sent to all MEPs in the European parliament, to the support S&D position, through an EFFR web tool. The EP finally voted in favor of an EU-wide FTT.
2.2. **Second phase of the 2011 campaign: influencing the European Commission**

But one day after the vote, the Taxation Commissioner, Semeta, called it "irresponsible and premature", before launching a very technical consultation on financial sector taxation. The Europeans for Financial Reform worked together and signed a common response to the EC consultation. In parallel, citizens from all around Europe were mobilized again, through media stunt organized by NGOs, and through the web again, thanks to the EFFR webtool (400 000 petitions).

On June 8, the European Parliament reiterated its position and socialists called for a tax on financial transactions to give the EU a new source of revenue, a position defended by Göran Färm MEP in the context of discussions on the future EU financial framework.

The result was clear: the European Commission changed its position: in July, Barroso announced a proposal for the autumn. With this proposal, the FTT would be in the hands of the European Member States, and that's where the fight at national level started.

2.3. **Third phase of the 2011 campaign: reaching out to national Governments**

In May-June, over 1 000 Members of national Parliaments, from the socialist and social democratic family, signed for a financial transaction tax of 0.05% against speculation.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of petitions sent by the citizens to their Governments called on them to introduce an EU FTT, ahead of the June 24 European Council, where Heads of State and Government of the EU met to discuss next steps on a Financial Transaction Tax. This was done through the EFFR web tool, which was translated in 8 different languages by the EFFR coalition.

In April, the German SPD and the French PS decided to lunch a joint resolution in the Bundestag in Berlin and in the Assemblée Nationale in Paris. The proposal was discussed in both assemblies on the same morning. Javier Moreno Sanchez met in the French Assemblée Nationale with MP Pierre-Alain Muet, the initiator of the French resolution.

On June 22 (European Day of Action), the Mayors of Brussels and Nantes called for a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). Thielemans and Jean-Marc Ayrault were at a high-level meeting with the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) General Secretary Carola Fischbach-Pyttel.

The European Commission published a proposal for an EU FTT on 28 September, and its strengthening and adoption will be the main challenge for 2012.
2.4. **2012 FTT Campaign: the path ahead**

The movements "Occupy Wall Streets" are telling us: we want financial regulation, we want financial taxation, we want the financial sector to pay for its mistakes, not the citizens. This is an open door to a wider mobilisation and an extended web campaign.

- We need to go on mobilizing more and more European citizens into our European web campaigns. If each single European citizen, who is in favour of taxing speculation, sent a letter to his/her Governments, the FTT would be implemented next year.

- We need to go on influencing at European level: EFFR is now working on the technicalities of the directive to be able to propose amendments - and there is room for improvement.

- We need stronger national campaigns, to mobilize governments. And this is lots of work ahead of us: preparing and translating communication material and arguments, going in the Streets to explain people.

2.5. **Beyond the FTT: CRAs, Tax Havens and food speculation at the PES convention**

In the framework of the PES Convention (November 25-26 2012), the Global Progressive Forum organized workshops on food speculation and tax havens and the PES organized an EFFR workshop on the FTT and CRAs.

The workshop "From taxing financial transactions to taming credit rating agencies: Campaigning for financial reform" was organized by the Europeans for Financial Reform. The speakers included Stephany Griffith Jones (Columbia University), Pierre-Alain Muet (MP PS, France), Carsten Sieling (MP SPD, Germany), Ahmed Laaouej (Senator PS, Belgium) and Andreas Botsch (ETUC). The panel was moderated by Amir Ghoreishi (AK Europa). The complexity of the financial system hinders a truly democratic debate. This workshop presented the European-wide progressive campaign for taxing financial transactions and new ideas to tame credit rating agencies as means to empower citizens and hold the financial sector to account.

The workshop on Tax Havens was organized by the Global Progressive Forum, with the participation of the Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD) and Eurodad. The speakers included Karine Lahieux (PS Belgium), Marta Ruiz (Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Eurodad), Grégoire Niaudet (International Advocacy Department, Caritas France - Secours Catholique/France) and John Evans (Secretary General, Trade Union Advisory Committee, OECD) and was moderated by Antonio Gambini (Research Officer, Finance and Development, CNCD/Belgium). The GPF provided interpretation in English and French. The
workshop described the state of play of the struggle against tax havens, after the meeting of the G20 in Cannes. The role of EU Member States as clients of tax havens was raised, and campaigns of mobilisation of local and regional authorities against tax havens were presented.

The **workshop on Food Speculation** was organized by the Global Progressive Forum, with the participation of Friends of the Earth Europe and ActionAid. Olivier De Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food) presented the state of the food crisis, including the issue of high and volatile food prices. Issues such as non-food production and speculation as drivers of food price hikes were raised. The environmental and the social implications of the current food production model were discussed and recommendations to the G20 and the EU were made. Laura Sullivan (European Policy and Campaigns Manager, ActionAid) focused on the issue of land grabbing: What is - and what are the HR & environmental consequences? Marc Tarabella (MEP, PES Belgium) spoke about what should be done at the EU level in relation to financial markets regulation (MiFID), the EU trade agenda and the Common Agriculture Policy. The debate was moderated by Daniel Pentzlin (Economic Justice Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe).

### 3. Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean

This project of the Global Progressive Forum consists in bringing together key actors of the Arab Revolutions, European decision makers and thinkers, to discuss the democratisation process in the Arab world. The objective is to make it possible for European leaders to listen to the Progressive Mediterranean people, to their experience and to their expectations, in order to build a new, progressive partnership. The second objective of this project was to allow democratic actors of the Arab civil society to meet together and to network together. This has been successful: a project of network was presented at the second conference and during the recent events at Place Tahrir, information flows went through social media.

This project has been developed in partnership with the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D Group), the Party of European Socialists, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and Solidar. This project was launched in April 2011, with a first conference organised by FEPS and the PES in Tunis. The second step of this project consisted in a series of meetings, which were held in Barcelona and Brussels by the S&D Group.

#### 3.1. **Conference in Barcelona: "Democratic transition: fears and hopes"**

In the framework of the project “Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean”, a lunch debate, a seminar and a dinner were organized by the S&D Group in collaboration with the Global Progressive Forum, the FEPS and Solidar in Barcelona in June. MEPs who intervened in the debates included Zita Gurmai, Hannes Swoboda, Maria Badia I Cutchet, Raimon Obiols I Germa, Carmen Romero, Ana
Gomes, Miguel Angel Martinez, Ines Ayala Sender, Rosario Crocetta, Richard Howitt, Proinsias De Rossa, as well as Javier Moreno Sanchez, Secretary General of the Global Progressive Forum.

These discussions gathered Members of the European Parliament and people from the South-Mediterranean region, from the civil society, from the Spanish (PSOE) and Catalan (PSC) parties and from the Party of European Socialists (PES), the Global Progressive Forum (GPF), the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), SOLIDAR and the Foundation Rafael Campalans. Guest from the Arab world included Karim BALOUL, FFS Youth political organisation, Abdulnabi ALEKRY, President of Bahrain Transparency Society (BTS), Bahia ZRIKEM Lawyer, Hassan BOUSETTA, Municipal Council of Liege, Bassem KAMEL, active Member of Egyptian Social Democratic Party, Samar Ibraheem Hussien ELHUSSIENY and Mohsen Mohammed KAMAL RAMADAN, from the Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies, Mohammed HUSSAINY (Moh'D Ahmed Moh'd KHALIL) Director of Identity Center, Raed DEBIY International Secretary Fatah Youth movement, Karim CHETIOUI, from Brussels Young Socialists, Aida DOGGUI, from Mouvement Byrsa, Chema BEN CHAABENE Lawyer and writer, and Bassem BOUGUERRA, Tunisian Blogger.

The lunch debate was dedicated to the current situation in the Mediterranean region.

After a welcome address by Martin Schulz, President of the Progressive Alliance for Socialists and Democrats (S&D Group) in the European Parliament, Members of the Mediterranean Task Force were invited to intervene. During the lunch, MEPs had an opportunity to discuss the current situation in the Mediterranean region with the invitees, who were key actors of the Arab Revolutions and came from Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Palestine.

Issues such as the role of women and young people in future leadership, the long term consolidation of the new initiatives that emerged from the Revolutions, the international nature of this new freedom movement, were raised. The key question of what Europe is doing and can do was also discussed, thus raising the issues of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, focused on security only, and the human rights conditionality in international trade agreements as a key tool for democracy. The problem of Visa and immigration reveals the problem of confidence of the EU towards the Arab countries, and of the Arab civil Society towards the EU.

The discussions continued in the panel discussion "Democratic transition: fears and hopes". The EU should support the progressive movements in the Arab world in this key transitional period to help preventing counter or Islamic revolutions. The new EU partnership should be based on equality between the EU and its Mediterranean partners -not paternalism-,
and should not be limited to State relations but also building bridges with civil society. On a more practical point of view, immediate action could focus on capacity building and training expertise for Civil Societies Organisations (CSOs) and political, technical and financial support to democratic initiatives emanating from the civil society. As regards the future prospects for cooperation, S&D would like to organize a major conference in the autumn with young leaders of both sides of the Mediterranean. Guest would also need to see networks develop, debates on EU constitutional rights, democratic organization of political parties, freedom of press and institution building. Concerning fears and hopes, Emergency situations in Bahrain, Yemen, Libya and Palestine were discussed and there are hopes for change in Tunisia and Egypt, and maybe in Jordan, Algeria and Morocco. Hopes for improvements in human rights, more equal societies, fight against corruption, transparent and free elections, and participative democracy were expressed.

The discussions were closed by an informal dinner organized by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS).

3.2. Conference in Brussels: "Building the Bridge to Democracy"

In addition to the guests present in Barcelona, this conference allowed the GPF to widen its network to Trade Unions from Tunisia, Lebanon and Algeria, but also to develop contacts in Syria, Palestine and Yemen. Unfortunately, it was not feasible to provide visas to one fourth of the guests, including all those from Iraq, Yemen and Syria. Belgian and French authorities have shown a strong reluctance to provide visas or even allow participants to introduce visa requests, which makes it difficult to promote peaceful transition to democracy in these countries. Participants stressed during the conference that the visa policy of the EU is unacceptable.

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, co-chair of the GPF opened the conference. He emphasised the importance of the "Arab spring" both for the region and for Europe. He drew attention to the Tunisian elections held in the weekend, the first elections since the uprisings, and called on everyone to go out and vote. He also explained the importance of democracy which means having a job, a vote and a role in society and which implies the proper functioning of political parties. He also stated that the President of the S-D Group Martin Schulz and himself supported the UN bid of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The first Round Table was chaired by Véronique de Keyser, Vice President of the S&D Group, and allowed a first evaluation of the political, economic and social situation in the different countries in the 'Arab World', especially regarding human rights, election procedures and hopes that come from democratisation processes, but also obstacles on the way to transition. Issues such as democratic participation, Palestine and political Islam were raised, as well as the role of the EU in the
democratic transitions. The second day started with a presentation of the (social democratic) Regional Integration Network (CNCR) by Mohammed Hussainy, Director of Identity Center, Jordan. This network would allow exchanges of ideas and expertise, monitoring reform and trials, observing elections and sending right people where their help is needed. The network would be a partner to the S&D Group and GPF. The speaker finished by saying "We don’t want your compassion, pity or finances but we want a partnership of equals."

The second roundtable discussed "new partnership for new democracies - concrete steps". This second roundtable was chaired by Hannes Swoboda and allowed S&D members that are involved in trade, development and human rights issues, to discuss the role of the EU institutions in the democratisation process, from financial aid to election watch, from capacity building to creating new grounds for cooperation and trade relations, including the issue of the ongoing negotiations between EU and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Hannes Swoboda MEP, Said El Khadraoui MEP, Proinsias da Rossa MEP, Veronique de Keyser MEP and Maria Badia i Cutchet MEP took the floor. Issues such as the EU visa policy, the Middle East Peace Process, and the impossibility of a dialogue with Syrian authorities were raised.

The third roundtable was devoted to the role of women in democracy and chaired by Maria Badia i Cutchet, Vice President of the S&D Group, and allowed the S&D Members to have feedback on the situation of women in that region, to discuss their role in the democratic transition process, and to exchange best practices. The issue of women status in a religious State or a State with a State religion in Mediterranean and Europe countries was tackled. Pervenche Beres MEP and Edit Herczog MEP took part in the debates. The roundtables were followed by workshops at the EESC, the FEPS and the PES, organised by these organisations.

3.3. Webstreaming and webpage

In 2010, in the website www.globalprogressiveforum.org a special section was created dedicated to the "Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean" initiative. This has become the place for promoting all Mediterranean initiatives of our progressive family. These two conferences linked to the Arab revolutions have been organized by the GPF and the S&D Group and have been advertised online. The webpage is being regularly updated.

The effects of this work have been visible in this second conference, where more than 700 connections to the web streaming were registered, in addition to the live blogging of the conference. This network has been used in November by young revolutionary actors, who have spread information which were relayed by the GPF team to the social networks.
3.4. **Workshop and film-debate at the PES Convention**

As a follow up of these debates, and to close the first year of the project "Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean", a workshop and a cultural event were organized in the framework of the PES Convention.

The workshop on Arab Revolutions took place on November 26. Invitees included Hanin Khoury, Palestine, Vice Président de YUSI, Nabil Shaath, Former Minister of Palestine, Francisca Sauquillo, Vice-President of Solidar, Anna Gomes MEP, Portugal and Dalia Gabr, blogger, Egypt. Ann Linde, International Secretary of SAP Sweden, kindly accepted to moderate.

The workshop was followed by a Cinema-Debate "Un été à Sidi Bouzekri". It was followed by a debate with the film director, Anis Lessaoued, and Chema Ben Chaabene, Tunisian lawyer, on culture and democracy. The debate was moderated by Hélène Conway, Member of the French Senate.

4. **Developing our progressive network and paving the way for the GPF World Conference**

4.1. **GPF Secretary General meets with ActionAid leaders from Belgium and Brasil**

The GPF Secretary General, Javier Moreno Sanchez, and the GPF team met on 15th March 2011 with Jorge Romano, former Executive Director of ActionAid Brasil and new Director of Governance and new International Strategy for ActionAid, and with Joanna Maycok, International Director for Europe, accompanied by her assistant Sara Jespersen. Since its creation, the Global Progressive Forum has had numerous opportunities to cooperate with ActionAid. ActionAid is an international anti-poverty agency whose aim is to fight poverty worldwide. Jorge Romano is a Brazilian anthropologist and is a specialist in governance issues, social movements, local development, and public policies to fight poverty. He has been national and international consultant for multilateral and international NGOs, social movements, Brazilian NGOs, and governmental agencies on these issues.

4.2. **Meetings with the Foro de Sao Paulo and the World Social Forum Council in the presence of the representative from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)**

On the morning of 8 February, Philip Cordery, PES General Secretary, Javier Moreno Sánchez, GPF Secretary General and
Yonnec Polet, Head of Unit at PES, had the opportunity to meet Valter Pomar, Secretary General of the Foro de Sao Paulo. The delegation also met members of the World Social Forum International Council and with Friedrich Kramme-Stermose, the FES Representative in Senegal. They emphasised how, since 2002, the Brazilian Progressives have had new responsibilities both within Left-wing movements in Latin America, with a real commitment to growth and development, and also through the creation of a new framework of cooperation with the European Progressives. More concrete proposals were also discussed, such as further exchanges with the Foro de Sao Paolo, and a meeting with the GPF in 2012.

4.3. GPF at the ETUC Congress

The S&D Group sent a delegation to the ETUC Congress, chaired by Alejandro Cercas MEP, and organised by Giovanna Pareschi. After one year of campaigning with ETUC in the framework of the Europeans for Financial Reform coalition, the GPF had to present at the ETUC Congress. In addition to the stand, GPF Administrator Cécilia Gondard accompanied the S&D delegation in a range of side meetings with ETUC members and EFFR partners. The FTT was adopted in the programme of ETUC and Bernadette Ségol, a strong supporter of the EFFR campaigns, was elected Secretary General. Contacts were made with trade unionists from the Arab World, which contributed to widening the GPF network in the framework of the initiative "Listening to the progressive Mediterranean".

4.4. GPF Delegation at 4th Congress of Brazil’s Partido dos Trabalhadores

A GPF Delegation led by Secretary General Javier Moreno Sanchez took part to the works of the 4th Congress of Brazil’s Partido dos Trabalhadores on 1-4 September 2011 in the country’s capital Brasilia to strengthen partnerships with progressives in Latin America and to further advance the dossier of the GPF World Conference 2012.

During the three-day party gathering, Javier Moreno Sanchez met party and government representatives including Alexandre Padilha, Minister of Health, Rui Falcao, PT President, Marco Aurelio Garcia, Special Advisor on Foreign Policy to the President of Brazil, Iole Iliada, PT International Secretary, Valter Pomar, Executive Secretary of the Foro de Sao Paulo and Paulo Leonardo, Officer of the Lula Foundation.

The visit and the high-level meetings provided an important opportunity to advance on the organization of the next GPF World Conference, scheduled to take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2012 in cooperation with the Partido dos Trabalhadores, the Perseu Abramo Foundation and the Foro de Sao Paulo.

The Secretary General was also European speaker at the Congress’ International Seminar on the global crisis, where he underlined how crucial it is for politics to win the arm wrestle over finance as well as the need for progressives across the planet to work together on this common objective in order to be successful. Progressive governments in Latin America are implementing many of the strategies progressives in Europe call for. In this
sense, it is important to exchange best practices and policies in response to the common challenges of today.

4.5. Meeting with Dr. Rosinha, federal deputy of PT Brazil at the PES Convention

On the occasion of the 2011 PES Convention Javier Moreno Sanchez met Dr. Rosinha, federal deputy of PT Brazil and member of the Progressive Group of the Mercosur Parliament. They discussed relations between the EU and Latin America in the context of EUROLAT and the negotiations with MERCOSUR. It is crucial for progressive partners on both sides to foster further exchanges and promote new spaces of interaction in order to overcome obstacles and to develop this important relationship further. The GPF World Conference, scheduled for 2012 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in cooperation with PT, will provide such a framework.

4.6. The GPF virtual club

The GPF has created a virtual club to which leading personalities in different fields are invited to become members, and to contribute by sending reflections on the global challenges which we are currently facing. From time to time these reflections are published on the GPF website to constitute a 'virtual collection' providing material for the debates at the next GPF World Conference in 2012. The following articles have already been published online:

- Martin Schulz, President of the Socialists and Democrats in the European parliament, has written "Why Europe needs a new China strategy: making the G3 work"
- Kemal Derviş, Vice-President for Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution and a former Minister of Economic Affairs of Turkey has written "A better distribution of income may be needed for global recovery"
- Peter Julian is a Member of Parliament (Burnaby-New Westminster) and an International Trade Critic, and a Member of the New Democratic Party of Canada has written "Are Free Trade Agreements a potential threat to public policies?"
- Josep Borrell, President of the EUI and former President of the GPF, has written "Prospects for a global climate change regime after Cancún".

The GPF Virtual club will accelerate its activities in 2012.

4.7. The Next Left Economic Circle

The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Global Progressive Forum (GPF) launched the Next Left Economic Circle in September 2011. The Next Left Economic Circle roundtables are intended to gather progressive economists from European institutions, civil society organisations and private businesses insisting on the need to assess the theoretical bases underlying economic policy proposals.
These roundtables have a double objective: to create and develop a network of progressive economists in Brussels and to show to which extent economic theory can enrich economic debates. Actually, people who were ardent advocates of the free-market ideology a few years ago now highlight the need of public intervention in these troubled times. It seems we are listening to messages which date back to the 1930s which sustained that a theory which supported public intervention was finally to be understood as a “Crisis theory” and not a “General” one. Everything is happening as if the crisis was a particular moment of time, following external shocks i.e. of political nature, given the faith in the self-regulatory character of the economy which could not be questioned. Nonetheless, every economic policy proposals is based on a vision of the economy deciphered through a theoretical corpus which should be made explicit.

The roundtables consist of regular public meetings, organized by the Global Progressive Forum (GPF) and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and are co-chaired by Liem Hoang-Ngoc (MEP, S&D Group at the European Parliament) and Stephany Griffith-Jones (Professor, Columbia University).

The first Lunch Debate of the Next Left Economic Circle was organized on September 21st in the European Parliament, and was entitled "From coordinated to differentiated Economic policies: For a stronger Europe". The guest was Professor Eckhard Hein, Professor in the Berlin School of Economics and Law. Eckhard Hein has been Professor of Economics, in particular European Economic Policies, at the Berlin School of Economics and Law since 2009. MEPs MEP Riikka Manner and Brita Thomson attended the debate.

The second Lunch Debate of the Next Left Economic Circle was organized on December 8th in Brussels. The guest was Laurent Cordonnier, Economist at Lille University, France. The discussion was chaired by MEP Liem Hoang Ngoc. MEPs Mojca Kleva, Alejandro Cercas and Antolin Sanchez Preseda attended the debate.

5. Looking into the future

The PES Convention, which took place on November 25-26th 2011, is a starting point for the PES process of renewing democracy, and has given the GPF a unique opportunity to also start new campaigns and new partnerships. The workshop of the Europeans for Financial Reform did an assessment of the state of play of the legislative proposals on the Financial Transaction Tax and launched the new campaign on Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs). The GPF, on the other hand, organized workshops with progressive partners and organisations on current initiatives, such as the "Listening to the Progressive Mediterranean" and Tax Haven Campaigns, but also paved the ground for new initiatives on water and food speculation.
5.1. Water Management: supporting the new ECI to be launched by Trade Unions

The GPF is set to following-up the Kyoto Protocol after 2010 and providing stronger commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with better implementation policies to meet targets to combat climate change whilst enhancing economic growth and decent work - "green jobs" - in developed and emerging countries. In the near future, the GPF is planning to set its focus-point to combating the more and more acute water crisis. Water management will be one of the key terms in fighting for this essential resource, i.e. water.

Water Management in the next years will thus become one of the core political issues. The GPF wants to take the lead in tackling the problem and will organise a conference that will bring together political leaders, experts and academics.

The first steps consisted in organizing a workshop on "Water: Tomorrow's most strategic resource?" at the PES Convention. The panel was moderated by Anna Colombo (Secretary General, S&D Group). Ricardo Petrella (Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) stressed that today, water is the issue "number one" all over the world. Some three of the eight billion people on earth will, if present trends continue, lack access to sufficient drinkable water. Federica Mogherini (MP, PD Italy) explained that a nationwide popular referendum was held in Italy on 12 June and 13 June 2011, on four questions, two of them concerning privatization of water services. Based on results (rejecting private water 95.4%, rejecting profit on water 95.8%) and big demonstrations in February, it is obviously that Italian people woke up and started to react to politics. People realized that it is possible to reach Parliament through referendum. Based on this, the initiative of EPSU, presented by Pablo Sanchez (Policy Officer, EPSU) seems realistic: EPSU is about to launch a European Citizens Initiative against the privatization of water in April 2011. Marije Laffeber (International Secretary, Pvda Netherlands) spoke about best practices in the Netherlands, where a smart legislation made it possible to have clean and cheap water for all citizens.

5.2. GPF WORLD CONFERENCE 2012

The World Conferences have given visibility to the GPF on the international scene. They constitute the most important and influential public event in the life of the organisation. In order to prove the real global nature of the Global Progressive Forum and to enhance its credibility with our partners worldwide, thus avoiding unnecessary criticism against its European component, we believe of fundamental importance to consider holding the next World Conference outside Europe in a different continent.

We will pursue our strategy of producing small quantities of communication material and gadgets in order to maximise efficiency and to be able to update content on a regular
A substantial part of the material for the coming year will be used for the World Conference and the World Social Forum.

The 4th Global Progressive Forum World Conference will take place in Brazil in December 2012 and will pursue a large audience and a vast spectrum of progressive actors while also being result oriented. The format will be adjusted compared to the 2009 edition. A total of 6 roundtables will be distributed over two days. Debates will be innovative and inclusive.

**Farewell to Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, GPF founder and co-chair**

"It is thanks to Poul, to his vision, commitment and determination, that the Global Progressive Forum has become a reference for progressives in Europe and worldwide. A new space has been created bringing together political leaders, international organisations, trade unions, civil society, youth and academia. Much has been achieved since 2003, notably through joint campaigns on Decent Work and the Financial Transaction Tax, the creation of the Europeans for Financial Reform initiative, the coordination of the Geneva Group, and the organisation of three successful world conferences. The GPF will continue along the path marked by its Founder and former Co-Chair and continue to reiterate his call for a new globalisation of progressive change with the same spirit and strength which characterised his fight."

Sergei Stanishev, new President of the PES

I want to thank Poul Nyrup Rasmussen for his work. One of his biggest and most important initiatives was setting up the Global Progressive Forum. His very important contribution was that he, being a European, looked beyond Europe's borders and tried to liaise with progressive forces globally. This approach is very important for our movement and I hope we can keep this spirit.

Hannes Swoboda, new President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament

"I have known Poul Nyrup Rasmussen for many years and he has always impressed me with his dedication to our common values and core principles. Apart from being a great human being and social democrat, he has never ceased to amaze me with his innovative ideas and projects that he managed to realise efficiently. A great example of this is the Global Progressive Forum that he founded 11 years ago. I share Poul's belief in solidarity, in solidarity that goes beyond Europe's borders and party structures. The events of the recent past have proven this to be necessary and the GPF has a crucial importance, now more than ever. It has been a true honour that he has included me in the work of the GPF in 2004 and I hope that we can count on him to guide us in the future, as well."

Zita Gurmai, MEP and President of PES Women

It has been a pleasure to work with you for building a progressive vision for Europe

Massimo d'Alema, President of FEPS

Poul Rasmussen has played an important role in shaping Social-democracy. He gave Denmark a socialist face. He gave Europe a vision for a progressive answer to the financial and economic crisis. He gave the world the perspective of a progressive Europe, based on social democratic values.

Josef Weidenholzer, President of Solidar
It was great to cooperate with you, for the sake of a strong, progressive and pro-European Party, able to make our dreams of solidarity and dignity come true. Your outstanding contribution for an alternative way out of the current crisis will be, I am sure, a crucial ingredient of our future success, at national, European and International level. The GPF has fed and will feed our action for the reform of all international institutions to boost equality and fairness. Thank you for everything I learnt with you Poul.

Anna Colombo, Secretary General of the S&D Group

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Poul during all these years. He will be remembered as the one who developed the PES into a truly European party with a programme and a vision. His legacy is also the Global Progressive Forum, which he founded in 2001, a project which remains very close to his heart, bringing together, from all continents, the three families in which he has been so active throughout his career: the political world, the trade-union movement and civil society. Thank you Poul!

Philip Cordery, PES Secretary General

SOLIDAR wants to thank Poul for all the support he gave in the last decade to our cooperation. He belongs to those politicians who understand well what is and shall be the added value of progressive civil society organisations in alliance building and defining a progressive agenda. We feel strongly our belonging to the social-democratic family which is based on our common values. Poul and my predecessor, Giampi Alhadeff, promoted the idea of the creation of the Global Progressive Forum which is more needed than ever as a bridge builder. Thanks Poul, le combat continue!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General SOLIDAR

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen has been the father of many brilliant progressive ideas such as flexi-security, and many superb political initiatives, such as the Global Progressive Forum (GPF). It has always been a pleasure and an honour to work with Poul to grow the GPF baby, together with President Martin Schulz. We will now bring it to the next level at our next World Conference in November 2012 in Brazil. We hope he will join us for this important event, to close a round of great work achieved together, for a global new deal, and start a new round of global action and reflection.

Javier Moreno Sanchez, Secretary General of the Global Progressive Forum

Dear Poul, Thank you for your wonderful insight and support in helping us establishing FEPS and the successful cooperation with the GPF

Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of FEPS
ABOUT THE GPF

The Two Co-Presidents

**Poul Nyrup Rasmussen** is the founder of the GPF as well as its current Chair. Having played a leading role in Danish politics for over a decade, as Prime Minister and leader of the Danish Social Democrat Party, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen was elected President of the Party of European Socialists (PES) in April 2004. He has been a leading figure in the development of new policy ideas and initiatives for European social democrats, as chair of the PES High Level Group on Globalisation and Chair of the PES Lisbon Network.

**Martin Schulz** grew up in Würselen, Germany, and first got involved in local politics there in 1974. He became a councilor for the German Social Democratic Party in 1984 and Mayor of Würselen three years later - the youngest mayor in the region's history. In 1994 he was elected to the European Parliament, first serving on the sub-committee on Human Rights and then on the Committee on Civil Liberties and Home Affairs. In 2004 he was elected Group leader of the European Socialists in the Parliament. After the elections in 2009 he was re-elected leader of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament with an over-whelming majority.

The Secretary General

**Javier Moreno Sánchez**, the Secretary General, is a former Member of the European Parliament and the Secretary General of the Spanish Socialist delegation in the European Parliament, and currently Secretary General of the European Federation of the PSOE (PSOE Europa). Prior to his election as a member to the European Parliament in 2004, Javier Moreno had a wide experience within the European Institutions which commenced in 1991. Elected for the Spanish list of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament in 2004, he served on the Committees for International Trade and the Committee for Civil Liberties where he concentrated his work on the fight against illegal immigration.

The Team

**Yonnec Polet**, a Coordinator, is a Belgian national with a BA in International Studies and Political Science from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. In 2004, he joined the PES and became part of the GPF Team. He is also very much involved in NGO work in Belgium. He was President of the CNAPD.
(Coordination National d’Action pour la Paix et la Démocratie), the largest peace and citizens’ rights platform in French-speaking Belgium. He has been President of Reso-j, the platform of youth organizations of the Parti Socialiste, since 2008. He is also member of the PS National Bureau.

Cécilia Gondard, an Administrator, is a French national. She holds a BA in European Studies from La Sorbonne and a Masters in European Business from the ESCP-EAP – European school of Management. After having worked for two years in marketing in Paris, Cecilia came to Brussels where she worked for the Party of European socialists as an assistant on financial regulation in the EU Policy Department. Cecilia joined the GPF team in the European parliament as an administrator in November 2009.

David Capezzuto, also an Administrator, is an Italian and Australian national with a BA in International Studies and Political Science and a Master’s in Diplomacy and Statecraft from the University of Birmingham, UK, and a DEA in Political Science from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. After working in Australia for two years in the media sector, David moved to Brussels and joined the Party of European Socialists as Assistant in the International Department. David worked for a Member of the European Parliament with the position of Head of Office until 2008 before becoming part of the GPF Team as Political Advisor.

Alexandra Salmon-Bobek, an Assistant and Photographer, is an Austrian national with a BA in Translation from ISTI Belgium. She joined the S&D Group in the European Parliament in 1995 following the Civil Liberties committee, then working for the Group’s Press office and in the Cabinet of the President, Martin Schulz. She moved to the GPF Team in May 2010.

Sylvie Rurakamvye, an Assistant, is a Belgian-Burundese national with a BA in Marketing Management from ISFCE and a complementary MA in International Finance from J.M. Corporate University. Inspired by several work experiences in Communications, she joined the PES three years ago in the Secretary General’s office and moved to the GPF team in January 2008.

A thank you to all the Trainees who have contributed to the work of the GPF.

MAIN PARTNERS