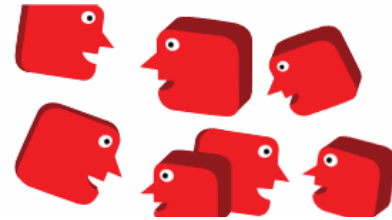




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manifesto2009 barometer: EU in the world

Participants in the [EU in the world](#) debate seem to agree that the EU should play a greater role in international politics and some offered specific proposals on how this could be done.

Development - a lot more than economic growth

Development has been a central issue of the debates. [Pattheact](#) noted the need to deal with the emergence of new donors, such as China in Africa. This new aid and loans come without conditions of good governance, and therefore can have a negative impact in developing countries, perpetuating the corrupt systems. [Eurodad](#) proposed that the EU adheres to a set of responsible financing standards, to avoid the resurgence of the spiral of unpayable debt in developing countries. Our previous blogger of the week [Victor Negrescu](#) also insists on the need for more coherent development cooperation strategies to improve the efficiency of development aid and ensure its focus on the needs of local populations. On a related topic, [Kim](#) noted that the PES should take part in the discussions on globalisation, including through the World Social Forum, to ensure the protection of social rights throughout the world. It was also agreed that the UN Security Council should [be reformed](#) to give emerging and developing states the possibility to influence decisions that concern them.

A fairer distribution of goods

A fairer [distribution of the world's goods](#) was another concern. While water is a universal good, many people don't have direct access to it and 14.000 to 20.000 people die every day because of contaminated water. Therefore [participants](#) agreed that the PES manifesto should include proposals to make water a resource accessible to everyone: refrain the privatization of water networks; support water transfers, improve irrigation systems, etc.

Basic human rights – for all

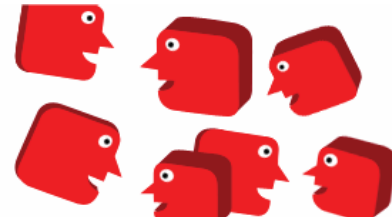
Participants also highlighted the need to ensure human rights are a basic principle of EU development and foreign policies, including the rights of women, migrants, asylum seekers, and [LGBT rights](#). Hopefully many European states already do so (including LGBT rights: Spain, the Netherlands, UK...) but we have to ensure that the EU as a whole follows this good practice.

EU as a peace force

The importance of the role of the EU in international peace and security was also discussed. The PES should, according to [Thanos](#), include in its manifesto positions on major conflicts and condemn violations of international law. And, as



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[Julian](#) rightly puts it, “The PES should lead the EU into taking a much more active and constructive, peaceful role in the world”.

Outside Europe

Developing partnerships all over the world was also a recurring theme. The [American elections](#) are closely followed by the participants, who consider that [developing dialogue](#) between young US democrats and socialist youth in Europe is crucial. Relations with [Russia](#) were also discussed, especially the need to work with this emerging economy while at the same time engaging in a firm dialogue on democracy and human rights.

An alternative to the conservative world-view

A final, but not less important issue highlighted by our previous guest blogger [Eric Sundström](#) was the need to develop a progressive, socialist discourse on foreign policy that could appeal to a socialist public, based on our ideals and values. It is indeed important, as [Julian](#) underlines it, to shift attention to security and terrorism and focus on human rights, social justice, climate change, and other socialist values.

What do you think – does this sum up the debate on EU in the world? Did we miss any topics or conclusions? Let us know in a comment. The Yourspace team looks forward to continuing the debate!