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The EU on the international scene; Promoting sustainable peace

Introduction

The turn of the 21st Century offers great challenges to bring the advantages of an ever more interdependent world to the benefits of all citizens. It is clear that no one country can shape its own destiny alone, whereas working as part of a strong and progressive European Union offers the possibility of greater security and equality within the Union and beyond. Working together through the EU is the only means for European countries to regain capacity and political influence.

Confronted with continuing challenges to **peace, democracy and human rights** across the world, and the lack of enforcement of even basic political, civil, social, economic and human rights as established under successive UN conventions, the European Union and its member states has a responsibility to act. The PES proposes, therefore, new thinking on the EU's role in the international scene.

The EU is uniquely positioned to take a key role in shaping the development of a **sustainable peace** in the world by tackling the roots of conflict through **pre-emptive policies**. The EU has developed a special experience of close cooperation between states: guaranteeing peace and prosperity in a continent torn by centuries of war. The EU's approach is based on preventing conflict by increasing cooperation and trade between states and regional entities. The cooperation is so profound that violent conflict is inconceivable. Furthermore, the European social model, a unique combination of economic dynamism and social security, is a source of inspiration for workers throughout the world.

As the success of intra-EU co-operation has demonstrated, such international co-operation on regulation can be for the benefit of all. The EU model provides a better way of managing globalisation than a free market without rules. Beyond Europe, regional alliances and international organizations need to be strengthened to enhance a regulatory framework for globalisation.

We have the opportunity for real and significant improvement of life chances among the poorest people in the world. However, to avoid growing gaps of wealth and income, **globalisation requires more effective multilateralism, fair and efficient rules** for



corporate taxation, finance, raw materials and commodity markets as well as internationally binding social and ecological standards for functioning competition. Competition between national and regional economies should be consistent with fair working conditions, strong social benefits and high environmental standards.

Foreign policy has increasingly moved from bi-lateral relations to a new model and new level, with regional groupings collaborating on the world stage. Similar integration efforts are taking place from Africa to Latin America. It is a model of international cooperation in its own right, inspiring integration efforts from Africa to Latin America. We want the European Union to interact more closely with neighbouring regions to promote peace and better prospects for people's future. However, if Europe wants to become a force for global peace, the European Union must act more effectively and decisively in the field of foreign policy. We support efforts to bring about greater coordination between the foreign policies of EU member states, and to use our common European and Foreign security policy as a powerful influence on the world. In order to maximise Europe's contribution, it is essential to pursue an integrated and genuinely coherent approach - an approach that brings together EU policies on development, trade, investment, debt, agriculture, migration, conflict prevention, human rights and the environment. In other words, the European Union must combine its economic and political weight. The EU can be a real player on the international scene, a position that could be strengthened by the creation of the European External Action Service as proposed by the reformed Treaty. The EU can play a real leadership on several issues: promoting peace, combating poverty, enhancing decent global rules, and protecting the environment.

For the European Social democrats, the **EU** should be ambitious and carry this **vision of a sustainable peace for the world**.

1. Peace; the EU addressing the root causes of conflict

For more than forty years the Cold War divided much of the world into two camps. Its ending led to a more complex and fragile world order, with new threats which are both more diverse and less predictable. In this regard, Europe has a major role to play on the international scene in order to **preserve peace and strengthen international security**. A real security policy must be elaborated at a world level and on a multilateral basis. The UN, through necessary reforms, is the only possible framework to work towards global security.

We must engage in a continuous fight against underdevelopment, poverty and the lack of schooling. Economic, social, political and cultural problems result in frustration and can lead to violence. The **best prevention policy** consists in reducing these imbalances. Solidarity between the richest and the poorest countries and regions is a fundamental prerequisite to deal with security issues. Development and cooperation policy, along with fair economic relations, are the obvious pillars of conflict prevention. While we fight the symptoms of global threats, the EU must also commit to **fight the root causes of conflict** and conflict prevention tools must have an absolute priority alongside preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace keeping and peace-building. EU security and defence policies must take into account **human security** in all its senses

Today, there are not only classical threats or "hard" threats to stability but also new factors that must be reflected in new policies. **Climate change** will play a major role in the future, threatening the international security on account of its destabilizing impact. Human-induced climate change, that is already occurring, will result in direct impacts to ecosystems, human infrastructure, and our economies, safety, and well-being. Many impacts will be of a negative nature and will require a response. Particularly, the poorest regions of the world will be victim if such process continues and that should be taken into account in the EU Climate Change **Adaptation Policy**.



However, classical threats unfortunately remain. There is an immediate need for concrete efforts to revitalize **non-proliferation** to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and fissile material. We reiterate our aim of a world without nuclear weapons, campaigning for the international monitoring of uranium enrichment. The EU must aim to **prevent a new arms race** or further weapon proliferation: effective disarmament targeting WMD as well as conventional weapons is a must for international stability. The EU must support the worldwide ratification of the **Mine-Ban Treaty**, also referred to as the Ottawa Convention, and contribute to the work of the Oslo process aiming to **banning cluster bombs**. The EU and its Member states should promote a global **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)** to help curb uncontrolled transfer of arms between countries, ensuring that all governments control arms with the same basic standards. This would include opposing unnecessary levels of military spending to divert resources in favour of more pressing development priorities.

A holistic approach that takes into account the structural foundations of the phenomenon of **terrorism** is needed. The PES condemns terrorism in all its forms, its targeting of civilians and its impact on people's security, fear and political responses. The origins of terrorism are multi-faceted but terrorism itself is a crime. Poverty and unemployment are not direct sources of terrorism, but the frustrations they generate may create a deeper alienation which can provide fertile space for recruitment to terrorist organizations. **We reject any justification of terrorism**. In the fight against terrorism tough measures may be necessary, but they must always respect fundamental rights, be limited in time and scope, and be determined to be necessary, proportionate and appropriate within a democratic society. Not respecting international law, illegal imprisonment and treatment, are among the measures that are never acceptable. In the international fight against terrorism the fundamental principles of national and international law should continue to be the foundation. We must also ensure that the protection of the sensitive personal data of citizens and that the purposes for their use are strictly defined and limited. We shall work for the solution of outstanding problems in accordance with international law and European values.

The Union possesses a wide range of foreign policy instruments which are particularly suited to respond to today's challenges and should use the full potential of **European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)**. With the ESDP, the European Union is now capable of carrying out a wide variety of peace missions both of a civil and of a military nature. The EU has launched **13 ESDP operations**. Apart from four of Macedonia, DRC and Western Balkans, the EU has or conducts operations in Georgia, Aceh/Indonesia, Palestinian Territories and Darfur. These missions range from humanitarian and rescue operations to peacekeeping tasks and military interventions to restore peace. By making more progress at the operational level and extending its actions in new regions of the world, the EU has revealed its potential to become a **worldwide actor on the international scene**. A necessary further development will require interoperability, a more sustainable and reliable supply chain based on mutual support and assistance, avoiding duplication and suboptimal use of scarce resources at European level or between Member States. The amount of resources allocated for defence purposes depends on national political objectives and priorities. In the long run, the ESDP should be further developed, including by increasing the synergies and integration between European forces.

There must be a better coordination and use of synergies between EU and NATO to promote common interests and address common challenges in the global arena. The **ESDP should develop in parallel to NATO** and competition should be avoided. A strong ESDP contributes also to NATO's interests. Above all, neither the United States nor the European Union can preserve their own interests by working alone. Working together is not simply an option, it is a necessity and cooperation must be founded on three principles:



transparency, coherence and equality. A strengthening of progressive, transatlantic cooperation is paramount.

In the same vein, when the EU acts, it must do so in close cooperation with the UN in order to underpin and enhance, not compete, with the UN's own efforts. The use of force should be decided within the framework of the UN Charter. It is not the law of the strongest but the strength of the law to generate international security. Furthermore, as neither the EU nor NATO is likely to be solely responsible for any particular crisis area, strong and practical measures for enhancing integration not only within the EU, but also with the UN and its agencies, the international financial institutions and regional organizations, are needed. We support an active role for the EU and its member states for the termination of ongoing conflicts, to end the illegal occupation of Cyprus with a comprehensive settlement, according to UN Resolutions.

The European Defence Policy constitutes an important dimension of European integration and contributes to the construction of a citizen's Europe. The ESDP should convey a strong image of Europe to the European citizens. They will identify more easily with a Europe capable of dealing efficiently with the responsibilities it has in building a world of peace, stability and security.

2. Solidarity: A globalisation for the benefit of all

Globalization is here to stay. There is a plethora of potentially **positive aspects of globalization**. Globalization calls for more effective multilateralism, if it is to be pursued for the common good. Today globalization has led to the opening up of the national boundaries to international trade and global competition. Developments linked with globalization have opened up boundless possibilities for human development, enormous new opportunities and enhanced the quality of life for many people in the third world countries. However, a more fair world trade is needed. Developing countries do not simply want charity; they want a fair chance in the market. **The interests of people must come before those of capital if a conflict occurs.** Trade liberalisation can benefit developing countries, provided they have the economic capacity and infrastructure they need to trade competitively. Developing countries must be further integrated into the world trading system and must be able to better enjoy the benefits of international trade, bearing in mind the different levels of development of WTO's member states. Without the ability or the right conditions to enjoy the benefits deriving from free trade, liberalisation may entail heavy transitional burdens on developing countries. Trade in goods and services across borders, as other markets, must eventually be regulated by unambiguous rules that ensure sustainability and protection of weak parties and countries. Growth without concern for human rights and development, more social equality and a better environment does not enrich us. On the contrary, it is only a social and environmentally sustainable development that can ensure sustainable growth. In this way alone, can we create security and quality of life regardless of the place of birth. The EU has a responsibility to significantly strengthen Europe's overall contribution to poverty eradication, fair trade and economic relations and provide human security to citizens of the world. There is a need for comprehensive development strategies that both generate "pro-poor growth" and contribute directly to improving the living and working conditions of poor people.

International trade is boosted by **rapidly growing economies** such as China and India. The emergence of these great nations has global consequences that require deeper cooperation and closer relations from the EU with these countries. Described as the manufactories of the world, they have far reaching effects in terms of social impact, economic competition, environmental costs and energy needs affecting our policies.



A positive completion of the Doha Development Round (DDR), launched in 2001, is a must for the poorest countries. A better regulation on world trade and democratic reform, including more transparency in the World Trade Organisation, is necessary. Support must be given to developing countries to enhance their trade capacity as well as strengthen their ability to exercise their rights, on equal terms, within the WTO. The **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)** are at the heart of the economic and trade cooperation pillar of the Cotonou Agreement. If negotiations cannot be completed before the end of 2007, arrangements need to be made to avoid uncertainty to our ACP partners and to ensure that no ACP country sees its position deteriorate in relation to the Cotonou preferential system. More time should be granted for negotiations if necessary. The EU should offer extensive market access (including services and investments – but with room for exceptions) and the agreements should be reciprocal but asymmetric. Each ACP regional group should make its own decisions on the timing, pace, sequencing, and product coverage of market opening, in line with individual national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. Investment, competition and government procurement should be removed from the negotiations, unless specifically requested by an ACP regional negotiating group. We support the involvement of Trade Unions, NGOs and consumer representatives in the negotiations process. A follow-up mechanism, the **Trade Sustainable Impact Assessments (TSIAs)**, involving the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the relevant international organisations, is a positive tool to monitor the success of trade agreements.

Trade and economic globalisation must be accompanied by a **globalisation of workers rights**. Securing decent work for women and men everywhere must be a goal of the Union's internal and external policies. **Decent work** means access to employment, fair and equal treatment in employment, decent work remuneration, fair conditions of work, safe work environment, unemployment protection, social protection and jobs and training opportunities and collective participation. The development of Trade Unions, independent of state or employer control or subsidy, in developing countries is an essential element of social progress for local workers. The EU must emphasize the respect of the ILO Core Labour standards and Decent Work in all its bilateral and regional trade agreements. The cooperation between the **ILO and the WTO** should be strengthened. In addition, WTO member states should follow the EU example and include labour and social questions in their trade policy reviews (TPRs). Such an approach will strengthen workers rights internationally. **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** and the OECD guidelines on multinational enterprises provide an opportunity to get common agreement on a clear set of ethical standards governing the behaviour of TNCs, as many do already within the Global Compact. The EU could develop a principle of “**smiley**” to reward companies respecting the principles of CSR and create a register of European companies specific to their implementation of CSR – a name and blame website for instance.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will halve the proportion of people in poverty within a decade. However, hundreds of millions of the poorest and most vulnerable people will remain in chronic poverty. For this reason, the PES urges the EU to set up a **'Poverty Elimination Strategy post 2015'**. Recalling the present deficit in MDGs assistance, the PES demands real progress in new mechanisms to finance development and to achieve the MDGs. We call upon all governments to meet their commitments and explore the role of innovative sources of financing in achieving the 0.7% GNI commitment. As a shortage remains, new ways of financing development must be found. These alternative sources should be in addition to the existing means, in order to favour a real spill over effect for development. **Fighting money laundering and tax evasion** is also a way to increase the financial capability of poorest states and to give new means to combat underdevelopment. Tax evasion confiscates important amounts of money that could serve pro-development policy and build up effective states. We support action at a global level such as that exemplified by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



The debt question of poorest countries is also a great concern; African country debt alone stands at over EURO 250 billion. Europe should use its influence to extend the initiative for the **Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)** and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative to provide full cancellation of the great bulk of multilateral public external debt of the poorest countries. The EU must strengthen the case for **faster debt relief** for those countries committed to poverty reduction targets. Regarding harnessing financial markets, the PES Resolution on Financial Markets, adopted by the PES Council in Sofia, 22-23 November 2007, presents the PES positions.

Forty million people worldwide are living with **HIV/AIDS**. AIDS is not just a problem facing Africa; by 2010 most people with HIV and AIDS will live in Asia and the fastest growth in infections will be in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Europe must help, namely by supporting efforts on **AIDS vaccine research**. The EU must support the access of developing countries to generic medicines in order to treat HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria patients. Health must prevail over economic interests! Despite repeated statements of commitment to address the feminization of the pandemic, too little has been delivered. Major opportunities to stem the global epidemic and to defeat the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on the lives of millions of women and girls around the world are being missed. It is time to deliver!

3. Democracy; more rights and duties for individuals and states

Basic individual and democratic rights are essential for peace and prosperity. The indivisibility and universal validity of all human rights are non-negotiable. In this field no cultural relativism is acceptable. We believe that Human rights are universal and should be respected by all. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and international law are among the guidelines for the EU international policy. We are particularly committed to strengthening the **rights of women**. Equality for women - in all areas of economic, political and social life - is both a fundamental human right and the key to transforming the development prospects of their societies. Rights of women must be reflected in legislation in order to protect them against violence, to uphold their right to own and inherit property, ensure equal pay and to safeguard their right to access sexual and reproductive health services. Such legislation must be enforced effectively. A massive educational offensive and an empowerment of women is necessary. Movements of population have always existed, both for humanitarian and economic reasons. The EU should preserve a **humane approach to migration** that respects international obligations towards refugees and asylum seekers, and which favours integration mechanisms. The objective of the EU is to ensure that migration is a factor for development for both the countries of origins, the countries of transit and the countries of destination. Consequently, development will allow the reduction of illegal immigration.

Democratic governance, sound and effective coordination between national and local tiers of government, strong civil societies, fundamental democratic freedoms and a productive social dialogue are fundamental for people, societies and nations who want to take advantage of globalisation. Economic globalization threatens to undermine the primacy of democratic politics in essential areas. We want to defend the **primacy of democratic politics** since this is the only means to **enforce global democracy**. The EU should pay attention to both political and economic aspects in supporting the emergence or the reinforcement of regional organisations and in associating them to its policies. Cooperation must especially be developed with **regional organisations** that includes a political dimension, such as the African Union or the Mercosur. This phenomenon reflects the need to reach a new scale in terms of political cooperation, economic and trade relations to address adequately the challenges of today's world.



In promoting peace and international cooperation, **the European Union is seeking multilateral solutions to global problems**. It is therefore highly dedicated to an effective multilateralism with a strong United Nations at its core. Closer cooperation with other international organisations (including the UN and its agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank, IMF, WTO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the African Union, Mercosur, ASEAN and other global and regional organisations) is vital for the European Union to manage human security challenges and honour its global responsibility. We reaffirm the UN's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the EU's commitment to strengthening the UN. The international community needs to find new instruments to address adequately the challenge of globalisation at the social, economic and financial level, as well as in the area of conflict prevention and resolution. The UN Security Council should be enlarged and strengthened in order to better reflect today's world reality by an appropriate reform. The next reform should increase the number of members and employ more effective and transparent working methods. We emphasise the desirability for the EU to speak with a single voice in all international institutions. The UN General Assembly, while guaranteeing the highest representation for States, should be reinforced, working closely with national Parliamentarians and civil society.

The EU can play a particularly important role in furthering the peacebuilding work of the UN, i.e. as an active partner in the Peacebuilding Commission. The proposal to create a **"Human Development Council"** aims at achieving the MDGs by establishing structural links between the WTO and the UN, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the secretariat of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The **Washington consensus** often paid too little attention to the social, environmental and political costs of economic reform and their problematic impacts. Corrupt governments which abuse World Bank, and as well as state and private lending, need to be exposed. The use of non-democratic market economies which deny their citizens core universal rights must be discussed and policies adopted to promote democracy. Europe must make full use of its weight, within the World Bank and the IMF, to support a more balanced approach for a new consensus on international economic and trade relations.

The Mediterranean Sea has progressively transformed into a political and economic space of fundamental importance. The Barcelona process has to be strengthened politically and institutionally with the objective of shaping a euromediterranean association. The **Barcelona declaration** of 1995 and the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership** have defined the framework for the EU, and in particular Mediterranean EU Members, providing an important instrument to foster regional cooperation, confidence building measures, dialogue, mutual understanding, reconciliation and Middle East Peace Process progress, that would culminate with a Peace conference with all actors involved participating. The development of political, social, economic and cultural integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area is fundamental in order to build peace, security and prosperity. The conflicts and contradictions in the region can be easier faced and solved if the EU develops its role as real partner.

The EU has forged a range of tools to promote human rights and democracy. The EU must not accept double standards. Respect of human rights must be pursued by the EU in its bilateral and multilateral relations. The EU already enforces the respect of the **Human Rights Clause in its Association Agreements**, in particular article 2. The EU has a leading role to play in promoting the abolition of death penalty and opposing torture. Furthermore, there is a need for more efficient international institutions and rules that safeguard people against violations of their rights. It is an EU objective to increase the number of state parties of the **International Criminal Court** further, so that the court can operate within the widest possible jurisdiction. We also need a better geographical spread



of states parties; in particular we need more representation from Arab and Asian states and we will continue to lobby for ratification of the ICC Statute. When the judicial systems of particular states do not work or when states refuse to punish war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, the courts must take over.

The modern world is characterised by an acceleration of exchanges between people and cultures. This creates both a new richness of intercultural exchanges and fears from those same cultures to be absorbed in a sort of “new world culture”. We must underline that **cultural diversity** is part of the world patrimony. In the recent past we have seen concerning trends towards favouring mono-ethnic states or ethnic cleansing. For some, the call for “purity” may be a response to the complexities of cultural change in a globalized world. However, beyond the conflict potential such ideologies entails, they endanger the richness of cultural diversity and cultural exchanges. These must be strongly condemned. The respect of minorities, the fight against racism, xenophobia, homophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance must be all priorities for the international community. We have to strengthen dialogue and multilateral cooperation within the framework provided by the UN initiative “Alliance of Civilisations”. The UN initiative “Alliance between civilisations” is of utmost importance to overcome misunderstanding and to prevent conflict.

4. Respecting the Environment; saving the planet

We refer to the PES Resolution on Climate Change, adopted by the PES Council in Sofia, 22-23 November 2007, for further development of the EU leadership in tackling climate change. Climate change constitutes a serious threat to development and to achieving the MDGs, bearing in mind that developing countries suffer the most and that populations are highly vulnerable to weather-related disasters. EU cooperation with developing countries must enable countries to take into account climate considerations in national decision-making processes, have properly functioning energy markets and can develop renewable energy sources. The potential of **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**, under the Kyoto Protocol, between industrialised countries and developing countries, must be further reflected in EU development policy in ways that are seen as environmentally and socially legitimate. Furthermore, the EU trade agreement and EU Aid with third countries must include a provision which demand the implementation of environmentally-friendly practices.

Security of energy supply must become an integral part of the EU's common foreign and security policy, on the same level as development and trade policies. The EU must use its collective weight in dialogues with key energy suppliers, aiming at solid long-term partnerships and energy cooperation agreements between producers and consumers of energy. This requires a common strategy for relations with these countries and regions, in place of the disparate national approaches of Member States. The forthcoming agreement between the EU and Russia should include a provision for mutual access to infrastructure, competition rules limiting the power of quasi-monopolistic companies which have not been unbundled having access to their respective energy markets and the issue of technical failures in the third countries affecting cross-border supplies to the EU Member State. **Agreements with Europe's energy suppliers** must help to create stable but open regulatory frameworks in supply countries, fostering the massive investments needed in exploitation and transport infrastructures to secure long-term supplies. The EU must help foster a new global energy dialogue, aiming at making global energy markets stable, secure and transparent.

To answer the weakness and fragmentation of international law concerning the environment, the PES advocates for the creation of a **World Environmental Organisation (WEO)**, within the framework of the United Nations..



Our role as Party of European Socialists

European socialists, social-democrats and progressive democrats are willing to take on their share in the joint effort directed at reforming the international institutions and strengthening international co-operation in pursuit of the common objectives of global peace, development and justice. Therefore, we are willing to work with progressive forces across the world. As EU member states are not capable of winning the challenges of globalisation alone and are looking to join forces through the European Union, so European socialists and social democrats must do at the international level. Primarily with **Socialist International** member parties, European socialists, social-democrats and progressive democrats will engage in dialogue and cooperation, aiming at influencing EU policy and international institutions policy. In synergy with the SI, the **PES parliamentary group in the European Parliament** and in the **Committee of the Regions**, ECOSY and IUSY, we are engaged with the **Global Progressive Forum (GPF)** to initiate a dialogue, promote new ideas and take actions to make a difference. Our duty is to build a strong alliance with progressives, trade unions, social movements and NGOs which will promote an agenda for social justice and social progress.

We aim to build up and develop dialogue, cooperation and understanding, on the European and international scenario, with democratic and progressive forces, in order to achieve a greater progressive camp able to influence the decision making on European and global policies.

The EU Foreign policy should be participatory and receive contribution from a broad range of **Europe's civil society partners** - working with development NGOs, but also local government, women's and youth groups, trade unions, business associations and academia. This means strengthening the voices of local people and the opportunity for them to bring about changes in their social and economic conditions with the PES' support.

This strategy is our path to achieve our ideal of a **Sustainable peace** for the world guided by the principle of solidarity through democratic international institutions and promoting human development.

