

PES Manifesto European Elections 2008

Initial Submission from the British Labour Party

The Labour Party welcomes the approach taken by the PES in the writing of this manifesto and, whilst considering its own policy making processes, supports the work of the PES in encouraging the contributions from as many people as possible. The Labour Party agrees that the PES manifesto should be a manifesto of concrete pledges, around which all the PES member parties can campaign both together but also in specific and distinct ways relating to each party's electorate. We must be clear in our campaigns about the areas of policy that are best dealt with at the European level and those policies that are only be dealt with at national or local levels.

We believe that the PES manifesto should be relevant to the daily lives of our citizens as it explains what practical and tangible benefits the EU has delivered and will continue to bring. We must show that it is the PES parties who have the answers to the questions that our citizens ask. The manifesto must be written in easily understood and concise language, dealing with relevant issues rather than institutions and processes.

On behalf of the Labour Party, we ask the PES to consider the following for proposals for inclusion in the manifesto:

Answering Globalisation

- The Party of European Socialists are the best placed party to answer the opportunities and challenges of globalisation through: sustainable European economic growth; reform of the EU budget (including substantial change to the CAP in order to create a competitive, sustainable farming industry) and increased funding for research and innovation. We believe that the benefits of globalisation must be felt fairly by all our citizens.
- The PES should be clear that it will continue to campaign for fair and equal treatment in employment; decent pay; fair conditions of work; a safe work environment; jobs and training opportunities; the best possible childcare (including more maternal and paternal leave) and collective participation. The PES must work to reduce inequalities in Europe and following the model of 'flexicurity' (a flexible labour market which still contains elements of security), must aim for high average incomes and high employment. We have to protect people's ability to be employed

rather than protecting specific jobs. We must also act to prevent the exploitation of the most vulnerable sections of the workforce -often migrant workers.

- We believe in life-long learning for all EU citizens. The days of a job for life are long gone and it is economically imperative that our citizens . of all ages- have the opportunity to develop their skills and as much as possible are encouraged and given the means to work and study abroad.

Europe in the World

- The PES must continue to push for the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals and for a fairer deal for the developing world. We have to ensure that EU development aid is better coordinated and more efficiently targeted.
- Peace-keeping should be a key role of the EU. We must use our power and influence, not just to resolve conflict, but to prevent it. In order to do this effectively, member states must improve their capabilities. EU countries have around 1,200 transport helicopters, yet only about 35 are deployed in Afghanistan. EU member states haven't provided any helicopters in Darfur despite the desperate need there. There must be more burden-sharing in peace-keeping.

Security

- We believe that it is in the interest of all our citizens that effective cooperation between our police and security forces (for example the use of the European Arrest warrant) is increased as it is the only way to fight cross-border crime and terrorism.
- More exchange of information and cooperation between member states will better manage legal immigration and help stop illegal immigration. The EU has an important role to support member states in this area.
- Greater European cooperation will help the fight against drugs - a scar on the lives of too many of our citizens and communities. European legislation on gun crime would help keep our children safer.

Trafficking

- The cross-boarder nature of trafficking demands a cohesive and effective European response. PES Parties must continue to campaign for and legislate to end the horrific and abhorrent trafficking of women and girls

The Environment

- The EU should also be an Environmental Union. We also call for concrete, binding intermediate targets for the reduction of CO2 emissions in all industrialised countries and for the limitation of CO2 emission increases in emerging economies in line with a reduction of global CO2 emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to the 1990 level.

- We put forward a timetable for reducing average vehicle emissions to 100g/km by 2020-2025 - towards a zero-emission vehicle standard across Europe. We must ensure that by 2015, we have 12 demonstration projects in Carbon Capture and Storage, and that by 2020, or as soon as technologically and economically possible, all new coal-fired power stations must be fitted with Carbon Capture and Storage.
- We believe that the PES should campaign for greener EU Institutions with the aim of a substantial reduction in their carbon emissions and more attention paid to the carbon foot-print, particularly due to frequency and mode of travel of its MEPs

Consumers

- The PES should continue to win for consumers in Europe. Increased consumer rights and protection are often the most visible benefits of being in the EU for our citizens. This should follow on from our many successes inc. safer food and toys and cheaper mobile phone tariffs.
- The PES should continue to press that the probity of those working in all EU institutions is ensured and that efforts at both the EU level and within member states are increased in order that EU finances are correctly accounted for and audited.

Values

- The PES must be clear that it will continue to fight against extremism in Europe and stand for tolerance and respect. We strongly encourage inter-cultural exchanges and education initiatives to foster a greater understanding between people in Europe.
- The PES must also engage new voters in this political process by campaigning on issues that inspire young people to vote for the first time: climate change, social justice, human rights. We support the exciting new ventures in web campaigning that the PES has launched to allow real dialogue with activists and campaigners across Europe.

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