

## **The contribution of Catalan socialism to the Party of European Socialists' Manifesto for 2009 European elections**

The Party of European Socialists (PES) aims to run in the 2009 European elections in June, which will determine the future of the European Union and its Member States for the next five years, with a common manifesto for all Socialist, Social Democratic and Labour Parties of the European Union that is drafted using a participative and open process. Convinced of the suitability of the proposal and that it marks an opportunity, we, the Catalan socialists, want to be a part of the process and to make our contribution, a contribution that we make from a Catalonia that is fully integrated into the European Union and that has its eyes on the world.

Beyond the ambition that has driven the European Union throughout its 50 years of history toward the consolidation of a political Europe that is more democratic, bigger, more social, less competitive and more cohesive, now the demands of an ever more global world thrust us toward the deepening of our union, and there is little time for doubts or indecisiveness. The Treaty approved last December in Lisbon may aid in activating the institutional and political mechanisms necessary to make progress in the achievement of this important goal of the European Socialist family.

It is important, however, to not get trapped in complacency and, for the optimal development of the governing model to which we aspire, it is necessary to apply the most extensive and rigorous subsidiarity principle that is possible, which is understood as a co-responsibility of all levels of government through the European Parliament, but soon also through the participation of state level and regional parliaments.

Europe is not an isolated, delimited area of action. Nor is it a uniform territory that requires homogenous policies and actions. It is diverse and, in addition, it has been possible (we have made it possible) to make this diversity our flag. And now the time has come to continue supplying the means and the mechanisms to manage and capitalise upon this diversity. As socialists, we have been at the forefront of this demand and we continue to believe in the federal model.

The challenges before us, in addition to simply been seen as stemming from sectoral or thematic areas, can be looked at transversally and from the territorial area that they affect most and from which it is necessary to propose and offer answers. In this respect, the world context as it is today poses challenges to the process of European integration itself, to the consolidation of the institutional structure of the Union and to the impulse of Community politics.

Europe is seen as a space in which liberty and fundamental rights are respected and promoted and, furthermore, it has proven to be able to extend this respect to its foreign relations. Instead of the model of imposition used by some countries, Europe has adopted a model of seduction, searching for common benefits. These benefits end up also facilitating access to a large market. The European market is an incentive that can stimulate democratisation processes and improvements in the governing systems of other countries.

The transforming power of Europe takes shape under a wide range of options that include the possibility of adhesion, but it also includes other aims and takes on other forms. This is true for the European Neighbourhood Policy. It is also true for the Barcelona Process. In both cases – with different characteristics, objectives and scopes - democracy and respect for human rights are actively and practically

promoted together with the improvement of the economic and social conditions of these countries.

The consolidation of the European project and the cohesion of its internal size must lead unfailingly to a reinforcement of its external size. A good demonstration would be the rethinking, from a global view and from a fully European and Community-based strategy, of development cooperation policies and of trade policies.

Finally, we, European Socialists, strive for an institutional recognition of foreign policies and common security accompanied by a more decisive commitment to multilateralism, which must imply a substantial change in the conception of foreign actions undertaken by the Union and by Member States.

## **1. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The Reform Treaty, signed in Lisbon by the 27 Member States, will come into effect on 1 January 2009. It is a positive step that will allow the European Union to be more and better prepared to face the challenges of a global and interdependent world. But, we must not forget about the challenges that still lay before us, especially with respect to the debate about the nature and identity of the Union, in order to be able to deal with these challenges effectively. On the one hand, subsequent additions to the Union, which have been an undeniable success, have revealed that there are different opinions about how to continue ahead in the process of building Europe, about how quickly the process should unravel and even about the aims of the integration process. On the other hand, the Union is the materialisation of a Europe without borders; it is a construction characterised by internal diversity and by non-restrictive outward expansion, especially when considering its role in the world as a multiplier of democracy and prosperity, which continues to be its principal appeal for other neighbouring countries. Therefore, we propose the following:

- Stimulate a rigorous **debate** on the possibility and suitability of opting for a flexible integration model based on reinforced cooperation openly and in a structured way.
- Maintain the **Copenhagen requirements as the only condition for membership** of the new Member States, thereby avoiding the definition of the limits of Europe.
- **Continue promoting federalism**, the foundation that, in a European framework based on delegated sovereignties and interdependences, makes it possible to associate identity-related and symbolic values with citizen rights and obligations.

## **2. DEMOCRACY, CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

As European Socialists, we know that Europe will continue moving ahead if it does so with its citizens. The European Union is not just a conglomerate of good laws and a well-prepared bureaucratic architecture; Europe's future, its success, must include the building of a political Europe and a social Europe that promotes our values and principles, which are what unite us. The resurgence of certain neo-fascist, radical nationalist and populist movements threaten the desirable path to democratisation. For this reason, a priority for socialists must be to value and to

rethink these concepts, thereby preventing us from falling into complacency. In addition, these values and principles must begin to be projected explicitly and directly in citizens and in their welfare and, above all, they, we, must be able to perceive it clearly. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Improve the visibility of recognised people and leaders within the common European project**, such as the President, foreign ministers and commissioners.
- During the European elections, promote **a single party leader for the Party of European Socialists**, common to all 27 Member States, as well as gender parity on all of the candidate lists, while we Europeanise the election campaign.
- **Promote and support social-based proposals through the popular legislative initiative** provided for in the Treaty of Lisbon.
- Work towards **greater involvement of national and regional Parliaments with legislative powers, as well as local entities**, stipulated in the Treaty of Lisbon.
- **Encourage other groups to take advantage of exchange programmes such as Erasmus** as a way to spread the knowledge and awareness of other realities to other people.
- **Promote a European public opinion** with a special focus on gaining the support of existing local and national media networks.

### 3. IDENTITIES, DIVERSITY AND CULTURES

In a Europe of interdependences, resulting from the transferring of sovereignty, the key is shared citizenship, making that which is discussed in the Treaties a reality: "Every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall complement and not replace national citizenship". In addition, the societies of the 21st century will be even more plural and even more complex. Therefore, one of the biggest challenges of European societies is to ensure a feeling of common belonging of all of its citizens, no matter where they were born and no matter what their native language is. This means putting forth a special effort to avoid the creation of ghettos, but also to avoid temptations to make citizens uniform. European socialists want to be at the forefront of this commitment to a European civic citizenship, because a political action in favour of diversity can reinforce the cohesion and unity of plural communities. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Revise linguistic usage regulations** of the European Union according to criteria based on **respect and recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe** as well as on finding good ways that help us to work efficiently.
- Have our left-wing cultural discourse include **the idea of belonging**, because keeping a memory is a way to sustain unity and results in a shared and improved project for the future.
- Respect identity and symbolic values based on the inflexible requirement **to strictly fulfil citizens' rights and obligations**.

- Give **more support to trans-border cultural awareness and creation activities** and open spaces for cultures from around the world.

#### 4. THE NEW SOCIAL EUROPE

In order to advance toward a true European economic government that equates the rights and well-being of citizens as a whole, the Economic and Monetary Union must guarantee minimum Community labour, social and environmental standards that are also reflected in its international transactions as values of solidarity and social justice and that aid in designing global governing regulations and institutions. European socialists have always been committed to an increased economic and social governing of the Union that takes into account the true needs of the territories as a whole and that considers the persons that make up these territories. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Act decisively against fiscal competition inside the Union and against social and environmental *dumping*** that causes the transferring of production by devoting **more resources to encourage coordinated growth and cohesion strategies**.
- **Adopt a social and environmentally sustainable growth strategy** based on common macroeconomic policies that do not only deal with controlling inflation and financial convergence but that also encourage **investments coordinated** between Member States in the principal objectives of the Lisbon Strategy.
- Make progress in the **creation of a quality labour market** by guaranteeing decent salaries and that workers will not lose purchasing power, by eliminating any discrimination using specific laws and by promoting **reconciliation between workers' personal and professional life**.
- Take **measures against precarious work in order to prevent social exclusion** by using, if necessary, structural and cohesion-based resources as instruments to promote economic and social cohesion.
- Create a **Community legislative framework that ensures the universality of certain public services**, quality and efficient services, in the face of the growing liberalisation of this sector.

#### 5. THE EUROPE OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETITIVENESS

In order to face the challenges posed by the globalisation in economic, demographic, educational, social and environmental areas, as European socialists, we must take crucial decisions aimed at reinforcing sustainable growth based on knowledge, education and innovation that is capable of translating into competitiveness, progress, cohesion and well-being for all. Our goal is for knowledge and innovation not only to be used for sustainable economic growth and to improve the labour market, but also to be used for the social, educational and scientific progress of our population, while at the same time used to promote the creation of governing formulas that guarantee modern and quality public services that reinforce the well-being and quality of life of the population. Therefore, we propose the following:

- Demand the necessary **fulfilment of the Lisbon Strategy objectives** to ensure the prosperity and social development of the European Union by **establishing a strict evaluation mechanism**.
- Concentrate efforts **on improving the quality of compulsory education and of initial and ongoing training** by making a pact with citizens and by acknowledging the important role played by teachers.
- Accelerate the reorganisation of the educational system by providing States with more guidelines in order to **create a true European Space for Higher Education** that is based on quality education used to educate free citizens with a critical sense.
- **Increase the investment in research, development and innovation (R&D&I)** so that the results of European innovation become new products, patents and jobs.
- **Improve the mobility of workers through a European normative framework** that ensures the equality of salaries and working conditions and guarantees access to social protection systems and the portability of rights.

## 6. TERRITORIAL COHESION WITHIN AN EXPANDED EUROPE

Economic, social and territorial cohesion continue to be the best tools to handle the challenges and the considerable disparities that are currently a part of the 27-Member Union. In addition, territorial organisation on a European scale, especially with respect to political structures, makes it necessary to recognise regional spheres in order to ensure increased efficiency in the management of structural resources and of other cohesion tools in the territory. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Provide more resources for the tools of financial solidarity and economic integration** that are part of the European cohesion policies.
- Promote cohesion policies based on **territorial cooperation** while listening to the voices of local and regional organisations in each territory.
- **Develop trans-European networks** that work as vectors of a cohesive European territoriality.

## 7. MOBILITY AND MIGRATIONS

Considering that the phenomenon of immigration affects all Member States of the Union, we, as European socialists, believe that it is necessary to develop a global, integral and balanced system for effectively managing this issue. This system should be based on co-responsibility and on the Global Approach to Migration dated December 2005. Immigration is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity in terms of cultural wealth, economic growth and demographic stability. Our job market needs immigrant workers with rights and obligations in order to maintain economic growth in Europe. In addition, our society benefits from the demographic increase that these new citizens bring. Thus, the challenge facing migration policies entails

not only jointly managing migrant flows but also ensuring that immigrants fully integrate into our societies. As European socialists, we defend integration and social cohesion as the principal elements of our political action. However, we have to continue fighting against irregular situations, which only generate poverty and social exclusion, and against human trafficking for social and work-related exploitation by creating policies that focus on reinforcing surveillance systems at borders and on immigrant return and readmission systems. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Consolidate a true common European immigration policy** that is based on the principles of solidarity, shared responsibility, mutual trust and transparency, thereby encouraging operative and intimate cooperation among the countries and institutions of the Union and with the Member States where irregular immigration originates or travels through.
- **Provide the agency FRONTEX with the resources and logistical and human means necessary** to be able to coordinate ongoing and operative surveillance patrols throughout the year in high risk areas and, especially, at sea borders.
- Continue to start operation of **the common European system of asylum**, planned for 2010, by **intensifying the integrated management of borders outside** the Union stipulated in the Reform Treaty.

## **8. A SPACE OF SECURITY AND LIBERTY**

The creation of the Europe of citizens and, therefore, the creation of a space of liberty, security and justice, aims to facilitate true freedom of circulation for the people in the territory of the Union, to effectively fight against the most serious forms of crime and discrimination by using total respect for fundamental rights and to make progress toward the building of an authentic European space of justice. Even terrorism, which is an insult to all that represents the Union - since it acts as a threat to the peace, stability and prosperity that European integration has achieved after decades of war – and the right to security can under no circumstances be used as an excuse to reduce or restrict fundamental rights and freedoms. In addition, we also believe that the Union must develop policies to prevent the causes of terrorism, such as extreme poverty, and aid in the separation of politics and religion, thereby preventing fundamentalism. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Strengthen the protection of fundamental rights and improve the exercising of rights inherent to European citizens**, especially free circulation throughout the Union and the right to vote in European Parliament elections and local elections.
- **Make progress in the fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism** through cooperation, preventions and the harmonisation of laws in order to have identical effective sanctions throughout the Union.
- **Integrate judicial and police cooperation into the Community framework**, adopting minimum guarantees in the penal process and ensuring the protection of personal data.
- **Strengthen the role of the European Parliament in controlling these policies** and of the policies applied by different Member States in this realm.

- Progress in the **creation of a general, integrated and coherent response to terrorist threats** through effective foreign cooperation with non-EU countries, through the initiation of measures aimed at the prevention and financing of terrorism and through the reinforcement of the exchanging of information between Member States and their security forces.
- Focus the European Union's development cooperation strategy on promoting **trade and better access to the Community and international market of developing countries** by investing in infrastructures, increasing its productive potential and aiding in the creation of a public administration and institutions that are more efficient.
- Promote **measures aimed at reinforcing the productive network of developing countries through training and education** and aim to prevent brain draining by establishing new financial aid mechanisms for their universities in order to foster a supply of human capital that has an effect on the progress of the countries themselves.
- Considering that the European Union is the world's leading provider of development aid and humanitarian aid, promote a **conflict prevention policy based on this development cooperation**, especially focusing it on the fight against poverty and on schooling.

## 9. EUROPE IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

With regard to the international scene, the European Union has three important challenges ahead of it in the coming years: to contribute to the creation of an efficient authentic multilateral system, to define its interests as a Union and to take foreign actions taking into account these interests, thereby redefining for the rest of the world the set of inalienable values upon which its political system is based. As European socialists, we believe that it is essential to provide the Union with a true Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). In addition, the Treaty of Lisbon provides new tools that we must know how to develop in order to create a united and more influential voice in the world. We must make use of this advantageous situation and of our capacity to influence in order to improve the quality of life of the people in other countries, including the promotion of human rights, and to pay special attention to Euro-Mediterranean countries. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Develop the common foreign service** provided for in the Treaty of Lisbon and **improve the diplomatic and consular protection of citizens outside the European Union** by establishing a **Houses of Europe network** shared by the different Member States in non-EU countries that aims to **strengthen the representation of the European Union abroad and to give the CFSP greater visibility**.
- Reinforce the respect and the control of the effectiveness of the **application of the human rights clause in the association agreements** with non-EU countries.
- **Expand the scope of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights** to include the fight against any type of gender violence, child labour and the use of child soldiers.

- **Promote and lead multilateralism** as a better way to govern and to solve problems in a long-lasting way while **maintaining the balance between non-proliferation, the transferring of technology and disarmament**.
- Encourage the **reform of international institutions** in order to expand decision circles and provide entry to emerging countries.
- **Rethink and redefine the foreign projection of our common values and interests, which go beyond the** sum of the interests of each member country, taking into consideration how these values are perceived in some geographical areas due to cultural divergences and to different sensitivities.
- Give a **new impulse to the Neighbourhood Policy with countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean** with an aim to strengthen and promote the network of political, social, cultural, business and human relationships with the region, **supporting all of those initiatives that complement and reinforce a new political dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership established by the Barcelona Process** and that aim to set up a common area of peace, prosperity, progress, exchange and dialogue.
- Continue to promote and give support to **regional integration process** in other parts of the world and, especially, **in South and Central America**, and **build upon cooperation agreements** signed with the region.

## 10. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLIMATIC CHANGE

Forecasts indicate that Europe will depend considerably on imports to satisfy its energy needs. This is a situation that can without a doubt lead to economic instability and geopolitical tension. This energy reality is also closely linked to issues such as global warming and the climatic change. Regardless of the difficulties, we, European socialists, believe that the creation of a common and sustainable energy policy, which would have to be developed at the same time as a Community policy on climatic change, is an urgent necessity. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Fulfilment of the objectives set by the Commission on energy issues and the fight against climatic change that were adopted by the European Council of March 2007.**
- Design a **common foreign energy policy**, including specific timescales and objectives, through cooperation agreements and the diversification of energy sources and traffic routes.
- **Make progress in the energy efficiency** of buildings, transport and industry by improving compliance with valid legislation and through common tax incentives.
- Promote the **compulsory use of renewable energy sources** through national strategies that take into account the climatic, economic and geographic differences of each country.

- Attain investment levels of the United States and Japan in the Research and Development of Energy Technologies by facilitating the **creation of an authentic European space for researching energy**.
- **Foster an integrated and competitive European energy market** to improve the handling of supply stoppages, to create solidarity mechanisms between States and to facilitate investments in infrastructures.