

Change *for* Europe

- 9 deliverables for 2009

Young European Socialists, Social Democrats, Labourists and Progressives stand for solidarity, equality and justice, freedom and democracy. We are united for a federal, democratic, social and international Europe. We do not allow anybody to be left aside. We strive for more and better jobs for everyone. We promote diversity and ensure social inclusion. We stand for social security. We ensure better governance for Europe. We guarantee fair globalisation. **Together, we make a change.**

Right-wing and conservative political forces make false promises. Action is needed. Unemployment of young people is rising. Many people feel abandoned. There are more and more school drop-outs. Too many ineffective rules and regulations are created. Poverty is increasing. There is less and less social security. Europe forgets to take its international responsibility. We do not turn a blind eye for these problems, but propose realistic solutions. **Together, we care!**

We make concrete commitments. We propose 9 deliverables for 2009. And we are only accountable to You, the People of Europe. Change *for* Europe is a new vision of a new generation. A concrete vision that provides everyone chances for a better future. We invite you to come along. **Together, we can make Europe work.**

- 1. 15 million new jobs by 2014. End poor working conditions for young people.*
- 2. More social security; high quality public health care, education and life-long learning.*
- 3. Eradicate poverty. National minimum incomes and wages.*
- 4. No unnecessary bureaucracy. Build a citizens' Europe. Take decisions together with young people.*
- 5. Better integration and tackling root causes of migration.*
- 6. Equal rights: No more discrimination against women, young, homosexuals, disabled, migrants or minorities, different religions.*
- 7. A sustainable life style. Polluters pay extra "green" taxes. Environmental responsibility is rewarded.*
- 8. No more unilateralism: reform global governance and disarm peacefully.*
- 9. Decent work for all. End the global financial crisis and regulate fair globalisation.*

SOLUTION 1: MORE JOBS. BETTER JOBS. END TO POVERTY.

In Europe (one of the richest places on the planet) one in six lives below the national poverty line, summing up to some 74 million people. 19 million people in the European Union are unemployed. The richest 1% have more than doubled their share of income from 8% in 1980 to 17% now. And recently the phenomenon of the “working poor” started occurring amongst a majority of young people; working but remaining in poverty. **Our future for Europe is different.**

✓ 15 million new jobs by 2014. End poor working conditions for young people.

Economic growth is essential to achieve the goal of full employment, but it is not enough to create more and better jobs and reduce poverty. We need a Europe that invests in its people, invests in skills and opportunities of especially young people. Further implementing and renewing the goals of the Lisbon strategy is essential in this process. Full employment is a central part in our vision to ensure a high quality European social welfare state.

Active labour market policies have to enable young people to enter the labour market easier at the same time protecting them from exploitation in unpaid internships or short time contracts without proper social security. Strong contractual legislation, trade unions and member states providing the right to employment are necessary.

“We want a European Youth Employment Charter that prevents exploitation.”

Easy and low cost hiring and firing has to be stopped. Labour market reforms have to be framed; enhanced flexibility while upholding high levels of social security is an aim. This is only possible when four preconditions are guaranteed: 1) good job contracts; 2) more support for transition between jobs or from unemployment to work; 3) better life-long learning that enables people to learn and develop; 4) modern social security systems which ensures all workers adequate support and facilitate labour market mobility.

“Our goal is a 32 hours working week, without losing purchasing power.”

A 32-hour week represents a decisive incentive to the conciliation of family and professional lives and contributes to an increase in the quality of life of all European workers, particularly young parents.

To fight youth unemployment, sustained integration of young people into the labour market, national social inclusion policies to improve the situation of the most vulnerable young people, prevention of educational failure, stimulating vocational integration of young people and, easing the transition from education to work, must be realised.

The “Polish plumber” syndrome is false. Workers have to work under national legislation limiting possibilities for wage dumping and unfair working conditions. Labour market regulations throughout the European Union must converge, not towards the lowest dominator but towards high standards. Therefore, existing

directives have to be replaced by a new - legally binding – social labour mobility directive.

More social security; high quality public health care, education and life-long learning.

The EU has predominantly been promoting the single market, often allowing alienation of citizens from their social rights. We put an end to this. It is important to promote the competitiveness of European economy, in public and private sector, but this philosophy can no longer be based on privatisation and ongoing liberalisation. A rights based approach has to be implemented in Europe.

"We promote high quality and accessible services for everyone, everywhere."

Fundamental sectors that must be run in the sphere of the government as public services are security, justice, health care, education, water, energy, waste management, public transport, post and telecommunication, public media and information, culture, sports, childcare, social housing, and social security. They are a key component of the European welfare state, provide the base of our comparative advantage and guarantee social inclusion through the principle of non-exclusion for everybody - insuring that public rather than individual interest prevails.

"Recognised voluntary work is informal education, not cheap labour."

Education is more than going to school and obtaining a diploma. Education is a tool to promote equality, citizenship, high quality employment and better (inter)cultural understanding. We intend to use this tool. All forms of education have to be accessible for everyone. A real European education area has to be established. Student mobility, especially for youngsters with disadvantaged backgrounds and young people from new or future member states, needs substantial improvements. It is imperative that a common European higher education system is open and accessible to all, when necessary through financial support to international mobility by students from less privileged backgrounds. Additionally a universal ERASMUS system has to be established - making participation in an exchange program for everyone until the age of 25 possible.

Eradicate poverty. National minimum incomes and wages.

"Work has to pay." This simple principle has to become reality in Europe. The goal to reach it is a European minimum wage on the basis of equal purchasing power all over Europe combined with social minimum standards in Europe. We guarantee for everyone, everywhere a decent life and decent livelihood.

It is necessary that a European minimum income or collective agreements with equal purchasing power are applied based on long-term vision of social convergence with the exception for those countries, where a minimum income is secured by collective agreements and is legally enforceable.

"Child poverty should be eradicated by 2014."

Social cohesion and integration must be a priority; therefore we demand actions combating poverty and strengthening the family. Children must have decent life and children's trafficking has to be eliminated by all means. What is more, we call

for a roadmap to reduce the number of functional illiterates by 50% by 2010 and its complete elimination by 2020.

SOLUTION 2: BETTER GOVERNANCE. INCLUDE EVERYONE.

In reality, the Reform Treaty is a relatively small step in the process of the European Union's institutional development. Yes, it will reinforce democracy in the EU and its capacity to promote the interests of citizens on a day-to-day basis. But the modern institutions and improved working methods have to prove efficient and effective. Furthermore, European legislation has lately strengthened protection against discrimination and improved social inclusion, but clearly some right wing governed Member States are failing to meet their responsibilities. **Our future for Europe is different.**

✓ No unnecessary bureaucracy. Build citizens' Europe. Take decisions together with young people.

The EU cannot be a Union of member states alone. It has to allow and develop strong and active cooperation between citizens. In our vision, Europe has to tackle and solve problems people are facing today. The European Parliament, as the only institution of the Union directly elected by the citizens, needs to have power to co-decide on all Union legislation, full budgetary powers and the right of initiative.

"With us European Union assumes its real role."

We have a long tradition in effectively fighting corruption and misuse of public funding, all elected officials have to comply with strict financial rules and regulations and any mischief must be severely punished. Furthermore, the EU administration has to be thoroughly reformed, the European Central Bank democratised and the number of European Commissioners limited. In fact, every Commissioner has to be elected on the bases of a concrete political portfolio, individually accountable to the European Parliament only.

"For the right of citizens to demand and decide."

Europe has to belong to its citizens. Participation acquires a new meaning; sensitization, mobilization and inclusion in decision-making can change the status quo. Every vote counts for major issues, even when reluctant leaderships tend to forget. Citizens' initiative becomes one of fundamentals of modern democracy in the EU. In order to achieve this goal, greater transparency of decision making processes must be achieved, not only on the EU level, but also within the member states' decision making processes.

"For the right to vote from the age of 16."

Young people have to be engaged in the work of the EU. Openness and public access to official records must be realised. No more paternalistic Europe. All new rules and procedures must be drafted with consultation of young people starting from the local level to the European institutions.

"European enlargement has to continue."

South East Europe, Russia, Caucasus and Turkey are part of Europe. Accessing states as Turkey and Balkans have the responsibility to comply with objective criteria as respect for human rights, rule of law, *acquis communautaire*, economic policy, financial accountability, etc. The Union has to offer sufficient financial means and expertise enabling these countries and their societies to comply with European Union's criteria, but also act when human rights are violated.

Meanwhile, the relations with Russia and Caucasus have to be strengthened also following the objective criteria, as outlined in the European Neighbourhood Policy.

✓ Better integration and tackling root causes of migration.

Creating a “Fortress Europe”, as right wing parties want, will not stop migration from taking place; it just promotes illegal migration and worsens immigrants’ conditions. A rational, solidar, rights based approach to immigration offering safety to those who seek asylum and dealing with economic migrants in a respectful and responsible manner is necessary.

“The unfair Visa regime should be ended.”

A “General pardon” for all “illegal residents” in Europe has to be applied, offering them citizenship including all rights and responsibilities. By 2014 a common immigration policy must be established, including the harmonisation of criteria and immigration legislation as well as the sharing of the financial burden of accommodating and integrating immigrants. This includes full civil, political and social rights for immigrants; the right to family reunion, right to work, access to public services, and right to vote and stand in all elections.

To answer mass migration, we need to tackle its causes: poverty, repression and armed conflicts. More than twenty million people have fled their home soil because of conflicts, humanitarian crises and dictatorships; many more leave their countries because of economic collapse and extreme poverty. European Union needs to keep its promise to make poverty history by 2015.

✓ Equal rights: No more discrimination against women, young, homosexuals, disabled, migrants or minorities, different religions.

An open society is necessary, in which everybody can fully participate, regardless of income, ethnic or social origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, health condition and disability, religious or political orientation and citizenship. It is a society, where everybody’s human and fundamental rights are guaranteed, and where all have the right to decent work, receive social benefits and follow education. Exclusion, discrimination, xenophobia, homophobia and gender inequality have no place in our future for Europe!

“The gender pay gap has no place in Europe.”

Gender equality in Europe is far from achieved. Violence against women, both at home and away, mobbing, trafficking and forced prostitution are reality. All forms of gender inequality will be crushed and women’s civil, political and social rights consolidated. Private enterprises should have a duty of at least 40% women in executive board.

Sufficient maternity and paternity leaves must be available with no distinction in payments. Both women and men must be encouraged to follow untraditional paths – the system must be open to the working woman as well as the caring man. This must be supported by state funds and high quality child care systems which allow women to return to work or studies at the end of the parental leave.

“Same sex marriage in all member states.”

It is a right to be queer. We actively support the struggle for equal rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders and Transsexuals (LGBT). Several Member States have not legalised same sex partnership or marriage, and even less granted same sex couples the right to adopt children and social security systems are discriminative. This needs to be changed.

SOLUTION 3: FOR DEVELOPMENT. FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE.

Today's choices affect our own lives, but even more so the lives of our children and grandchildren. The green house gasses we send into the atmosphere in 2009 will stay there until 2109 and beyond. The world is a heterogeneous place: people have unequal incomes and wealth. Violent conflicts, insufficient resources, lack of coordination and weak policies continue to slow down development progress, particularly in Africa. **Our future for the world is different.**

✓ A more sustainable life style. Polluters pay extra "green" taxes. Environmental responsibility is rewarded.

Our Europe is environmentally sustainable. Europe has the technology and infrastructure to implement renewable energy policies, sustainable water management, safe waste management, and a new - environmentally responsible - agricultural policy. Polluters have to pay additional tax-penalties. More environmental education, especially for young people, has to be the corner stone of the European environmental policies. Nuclear energy, as we know it today is not the viable or suitable solution.

"2014: half of the energy used at home is produced at home."

Energy security means diversity of supplies; the EU should make better use of the potential of renewable energy, and democratize energy supply. Protection from the threats of genetically modified food has to be improved through a new label. Alternative means to conventional road and air transport have to be promoted, also to address increasing congestion problems. People need the opportunity to make responsible decisions for their future.

"New partnerships for a new global energy security strategy."

A more sustainable life style is a human right. By 2012 a new Kyoto protocol is needed to eradicate greenhouse gasses. A Security Council for environmental issues within the UN system should be established. The common agricultural policy should be reduced and trade disturbing measures eradicated.

✓ No more unilateralism. reform global governance and disarm peacefully.

Societies without laws are left to the solemn arbitrary decision making of the strongest. We need global governance. The UN is the most relevant global body and its global governance, coordination and effectiveness have to be improved. International law is crucial to build international democracy and a fair world order. Human Rights must be respected by everyone; no more torture and death penalties.

"No further spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria by 2015."

The wealth of the world is unfairly distributed. International taxation on international financial transactions is needed to finance development and support stability and security. All EU member states should finally meet the objective of 0,7% international aid already agreed upon. International aid coordination must be improved to support democracy and human rights and not corruption or bad governance.

"War is no solution. We fight terror peacefully and effectively."

Real security is based on trust, respect and solidarity. Conflict prevention and management must be done through active diplomacy and wealth distribution. Military force can only be used with authorization of the UN. Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are a reality which must be prevented. Europe needs to invest more effort in advocating international disarmament through all its channels and relations with international partners, starting with disarmament of its own arsenals.

Decent work for all. End the global financial crisis and regulate fair globalisation.

Labour markets have to be modernised in Europe and the rest of the world to anticipate on gradual economic changes and movement of sectors. People in the developing world - also - need more and better jobs to "work" themselves out of poverty and have better future perspectives. We choose to invest 250 Million Euro more in the Social Adjustment fund to counter balance social consequences of globalisation in Europe; and also to promote higher quality jobs and better social protection in the "south". For that reason ILO standards and regulations have to become mandatory to promote fair globalisation both in domestic as international policies.

"Unfair trade regulations have to end."

All bilateral and regional trade agreements must include enforceable commitments to implement core labour standards, decent work, sustainable development and human rights. All WTO, IMF and World Bank regulations have to build further on this principle.

The world is in a financial crisis. Financial speculators buy-in and disintegrate healthy companies to make short-term profits, without considering the social consequences. We need a financial sustainability pact involving both states and social partners in the frame of the EU and UN system, in order to prevent these practices for the future.