



## Young European Socialists

### SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - LONDON 14th -16th of January 2005

Act local, think global

The year 2005 is a key year. Many important events are going to take place during it: the G8 meeting and the Scotland summit, the follow up of the summit on the millennium development goals, the WTO meeting in December, or the entry into force of the Kyoto protocol.

This year is going to be the year of sustainable development, and ECOSY cannot stay away and let all the discussions pass by without any reaction.

The concept of sustainable development is cross control, involving environment, economic growth and social cohesion, as a unique tool to transform society, to make a better world.

Concerning the environment protection policies, we need to be coherent, from the local to the global level. The EU can play a major role in supporting these actions.

Environmental information should become as important as economic information to transmit to citizens. For if we are serious about sustainable development, then both factors must be of equal importance in designing the new society we want to build.

The inclusion made in Johannesburg of the economic and social aspects together with the environmental aspects have been a very important step. Now we need to implement it.

It is a fundamental need for us today, if we wish to stop the world from being destroyed, we must stop the climate change we are in.

For this we need co-ordination and the fulfilment of our international commitments.

We want to show our support to renewable energies, and we are convinced of the need of a European policy that provides cheap clean energies, and we are convinced that all social actors need to play a role in the implementation of any kind of sustainable development policy. NGO's, trade unions and social society as well as industry are our main partners in such processes.

We need to have clear tasks, and to define a clear policy, with concrete priorities in order to make a job of convincing people, winning their support easier.

We commit as ECOSY to influence the PES and promote our position to make sustainability a basics reference for our European political action.

We want to underline the importance of the implementation of the Lisbon strategy, besides the fact that we do not consider economic development to be our enemy in any way. On the contrary we are sure that it is a crucial element to be considered when we come to talk about sustainability, as it is one of its three parts.

ECOSY as an international political organization should be able to coordinate actions that need to be taken from a global perspective. The coherence of our taxation system, not only on the national, but also at the European level, is for us one of the main tools to build an effective sustainable policy.

Of course, we can not avoid having a position on international cooperation issues. Fair trade, aid and debt cancellation are our three main political concerns. We call at the EU level as the only realistic way to start an efficient international co-operation policy.

All the participants of the seminar commit themselves to transmitting these conclusions to their MO's and their national parties.

London, 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2005