

## **“ECOSY calls for Young Candidates on the Lists for the European Elections 2004”**

**ECOSY-Young European Socialists call all the socialist and social democratic parties in EU and new member states to put young candidates on the lists for the European Elections in 2004, and PES-Party of European Socialists to promote this idea within its network. We call ECOSY member organisations in all those countries to nominate young candidates for the European lists and to support them during the election campaign.**

European socialists and social democrats must be aware that following the enlargement, there will be 75 million young people in EU between the age of 15 and 25. In most of the EU countries there is a problem of mobilising young people for the elections so that should be one of our key challenges. At the same time we should keep in mind that young people vote for young so we have to put young socialists and social democrats on the lists in order to get the votes of young people.

Even though the European campaigns will vary from country to country, our task is to create a network that would connect our common standpoints and values. There should be some common messages of the socialists and social democrats addressing the most important issues concerning young people, e.g. employment, access to education and security. We have to make it sure that youth opinion is represented in the European elections

ECOSY will promote the idea that at least one young candidate is on the list in each country in order to increase the participation of young people and to get their votes at the European elections 2004. We will not only encourage young people to run at the elections, we will actively support their placement on eligible positions on the national party lists so that young candidates will be elected. ECOSY will encourage its member organisations to nominate the young candidates for the national party lists, and then will establish a network of those candidates within ECOSY in order to implement a common campaign.