



Young European Socialists

ECOSY Manifesto for the 2004 European Elections
"Europe of our future"

Brussels February 2004

For a political and social European Union

- ***For a Federal, democratic and transparent European Union***
- ***For a social European Union...***
 - of economic growth
 - of full employment
 - that eradicates poverty
 - that fights against discriminations and for equality
 - Promoting culture
- ***For a European Union giving itself the means of its policies...***
 - with a European budget up to the needs of the EU
 - with quality public services for all
- ***For a European Union showing solidarity...***
 - for an enlarged European Union
 - through its regional and cohesion policies
 - through its migration, integration and asylum policies
- ***For a sustainable European Union...***
 - with a more efficient and effective environmental policy
 - promoting sustainable development
 - with a reformed Common Agricultural Policy
 - of research and development cooperation
- ***For a European Union active on the international scene...***
 - speaking with one voice
 - with active development and co-operation policies
 - promoting peace and security in the world

The European Union close to its youth

- 1) For a comprehensive and integrated youth policy
- 2) For the access of all to Education
- 3) For the mutual recognition of educational qualifications
- 4) For free mobility within the EU
- 5) For effective life long learning possibilities
- 6) For a special focus on youth unemployment

Europe of our future

The European Union is the result of our common will.

With the European Young Socialists, the Socialist Members of the European Parliament will be at the service of the European citizens:

For a political and social European Union

The European Union has become a more appropriate level than the states to deal with many of the demands the people of Europe have today: unemployment, social inequality, environmental damage, organised crime... The Young European Socialists see the European Union as a great opportunity to conquer again an efficient system of welfare, of education, of economic development, of inclusion, active on the international scene to promote another globalisation, a globalisation of democracy, freedom, wealth and peace. In order to have the legitimacy and the ability to tackle these issues the EU needs to be more democratically accountable to its citizens.

- ***For a Federal, democratic and transparent European Union***

- With the additional powers of the European Parliament, its socialist members will legislate in democracy and transparency. They will take all their place and take up their role.
 - The Party of European Socialists will present its candidate to the Presidency of the European Commission before the elections, based on a common party program.
 - The socialist candidates clearly announce the political group that they will join once in the European Parliament.
 - They will contribute to the control by the European Parliament of the European Commission, of subsidiarity so that the decisions are taken at the best possible level for the European citizens and will take their decisions bearing in mind the interest of the whole of the European citizens.
 - They will apply the principle of openness by granting public access to the Socialist Group official records.
 - They will hold regular hearings of the European Trade Unions and NGOs as a normal way of functioning of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament.

The welfare state is one of the greatest social success stories of the last century; it has been defined on a national level but we believe that national borders are no barriers to social solidarity. This is why the European dimension has to play a crucial role in the coming years.

In order to develop the European Social Model and to transform the European Union of the markets into a Union between European citizens based on solidarity and social justice, we need a different approach to economic integration. One which puts redistribution of wealth, social cohesion, employment and sustainable development at the top of the European political agenda.

- ***For a social European Union...***

- **For a social European Union of economic growth**
 - What we need is a European economic policy, which can transform society to the benefit of the people.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will promote the broad economic guidelines and the co-ordination of policies so that they are growth orientated, so that investments in Trans-European Networks are relaunched, so that they take into account the issues of employment as much as the issue of economics as a whole.
- **For a social European Union of full employment**
 - Unemployment is still the main European problem. The Lisbon ambition of ensuring growth and full employment in Europe while preserving and developing social rights is still yet to become a reality. The implementation of the Revised European Employment strategy must turn the slogan of "more and better" jobs into a reality for everyone.

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will push for the objective of full employment announced by the Heads of State and Government as a commitment of the European Union in the future Constitution to be concretely pursued at the European level and by Member States.
 - The European Union and Member States will have to self-impose binding measures and set themselves targets to decrease the unemployment rate. We cannot accept unemployment rates of already almost 8% in the Western countries of the European Union and even less of at least 18 % in the Central and Eastern countries of the EU.
 - Various instruments of national employment policies should be combined, in a comprehensive strategy: public investment programmes in areas of specific needs. Furthermore, job creation should be promoted in new publicly financed activities such as local and neighbourhood services, targeted and quantified labour and employment schemes for special groups, collective forms of work time reduction, which results must be compiled, analysed, and made public by the different concerned EU institutions.
 - Moreover, the representation of workers must be made obligatory in all companies in the European Union.
 - New services and socially useful activities, such as helping the elderly, the disabled, pupils in difficulty, under-privileged youth, environmental, social-cultural or humanitarian jobs, should be fully considered as jobs and financed accordingly.
 - The European regional policies will be used to eradicate the important unemployment disparities between the different EU member States, combined with the European public investment, specially in regions with highest rates of unemployment, that can make possible, in the near future, the real convergence in labour sphere (salaries, working hours, working conditions).
 - Life long-learning possibilities must also be available to all workers.
 - Access to information technology and know-how must be made a reality for all.
 - In accordance with the equal treatment of the citizens of the EU, the free movement of workers should become reality to the benefit of the whole society.
- **For a social European Union that eradicates poverty**
 - The 2000 Lisbon Council agreed to adopt an Open Method of Co-ordination in order to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion by 2010.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will recall their responsibilities to the Member States and adopt proactive measures to reach the objective of eradication of poverty and social exclusion.
 - Specific instruments targeting mainly young people, women and the elderly will be promoted.
 - Special attention should be paid to the accession countries, where poverty is the reality and also a threat for a bigger proportion of societies.
 - **For a social European Union that fights against discriminations and for equality**
 - Discrimination in education, labour market, politics or any social field or activity because of religion, nationality, gender, ethnical background, disability, sexual orientation or whatever reason should not be tolerated in any European country.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will strengthen the anti-discrimination legislation and combine it with other measures like education, and general information about homophobia, racism and xenophobia.
 - Equality between men and women will be a special concern of the Socialist members of the European Parliament who will ask for and adopt a directive on positive actions, notably in the field of political responsibilities.
 - **For a European Union promoting culture**
 - The Young European Socialists want to see the European Union giving more funds to programs promoting culture in Europe.

- For a European Union giving itself the means of its policies...

- **For a European Union giving itself the means of its policies with a European budget up to the needs of the EU**
 - We strongly believe that in order to transform the European Union from merely a single market into a real area of solidarity, we need a solid and expanded European Budget, to allow

redistribution and Keynesian (i.e. targeting consumption, increasing public investments) policies on a European level.

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will push for the abolishment of the current ceiling of the European budget at 1,27% of the European GDP and to increase, in relative and absolute terms, the national contributions to the European budget, according to the different economical and financial situations and possibilities of each member states, in order to achieve the financial solidarity.
 - In the meantime they will be active so that this current ceiling is really used.
 - The European Socialist and Social Democrats do not forget the objective of a European monetary policy, to regain political control over monetary politics with a democratically accountable European Central Bank whose primary aims would be growth and employment. For the European Union still not has the means to implement a comprehensive economic policy in the interest of its inhabitants.
- **For a European Union giving itself the means of its policies with quality public services for all**
 - The European Young Socialists recall the importance of public services in general and in particular of a public service that guarantees every one everywhere equal quality and access people's essential needs.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will preserve the provision of public services to the citizens, to all, everywhere, for free or at an affordable cost, in the sectors of education, health care, water and energy supply, public transport, post and telecommunication, a public service media and information, culture.
 - Furthermore, we call for a European Charter of Public Services in order to ensure that the EU respects the principles of these services, which have an important role in the territorial set up.

- For a European Union showing solidarity...

- **For an enlarged European Union**
 - The Young European Socialists support the continuation of the enlargement of the EU towards Bulgaria, Romania and possibly to other States like the Balkan countries, under the same conditions as it is taking place today.
- **For a European Union showing solidarity through its regional and cohesion policies**
 - As it was stated in the Rome Treaty and the following, the European Union's objectives are the promotion of a harmonious development of the Union as a whole. Our priority is a better and equal redistribution of wealth inside the European Union.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will act to develop and reform the European structural funds in order to really decrease the disparities within the European Union. This means to focus on the reduction of the economic, but also unemployment, gaps between the countries and between the regions in individual member States, notably through a major increase of the budget allocated to the regional policies.
 - Firstly, the under-consumption of the credits, notably allocated to the fight against long term or youth unemployment should stop. Secondly, the structural funds should focus more on the creation of sustainable employment, especially in old industrialised areas requiring reconversion. This means on the one hand the development of new job-generating technologies and on the other hand some public sector support to create jobs in ecological and social projects.
 - Further, the Socialist members of the European Parliament will act to develop effectively the European cohesion policy.
 - Trans-European Networks will be considered as an additional tool of the regional and cohesion policies.
- **For a European Union showing solidarity through its migration, integration and asylum policies**
 - Immigrants offer many benefits to a society that they join and to get the most from them we must offer them many benefits in return. They are a source of cultural and social richness for the

continent. Moreover it is very important to have a common policy as there is now free movement inside the Union.

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will push for the adoption of a common migration policy establishing between the Member States a common responsibility, principles and action but also the sharing of the political, financial and social cost of preventing illegal migration, of opening European borders and of accepting new members in our societies.
- A new European immigration policy must guarantee the rights of foreign migrants, whether they are legal or not: respect of their private and family life, right to health care, right to education for children, right to benefit from effective appealing procedures to an independent and impartial jurisdiction. In one word it should guarantee special rights, known under the term of positive discrimination, which are the right that would make the actually equal position of immigrants possible.
- Europe must have a better co-ordination in fighting organised crime that has found in the sector of illegal immigration a great resource.
- It is our view that anyone who lives in a country and is subject to the law of a land with all obligations and duties (regarding taxes, fiscal system, employment system...), should be entitled to full voting rights to help shape that land.
- The Socialist members of the European Parliament also regard a common asylum policy as an important issue. The European Union must introduce binding guidelines for minimum standards for asylum procedures and reception of asylum seekers.

As Young European Socialists we are concerned about the world where people will live in tomorrow and see it as one of our main challenges. We have to take care of the damage that has already been caused and - if possible - repair it, and we cherish what is left. We are therefore committed to building Europe on a sustainable basis.

- *For a sustainable European Union...*

- **For a sustainable European Union with a more efficient and effective environmental policy**
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will constantly keep in mind the necessity of mainstreaming the environmental policy.
 - The European Union should consider the implications for the environment of every decision taken by its institutions (environmental clause) and should take an active part in co-financing and promoting environmental investments.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will act in favour of the setting up of an environmental fund, in view of supporting environmentally correct initiatives within the EU, including development and use of alternative energy sources and assistance in the restructuring of the agriculture in ecological direction.
 - Corresponding to the knowledge that in some substantial issues the market is an insufficient regulation-system we also need a common environmental interdictory policy like for example to ban certain chemical compounds.
- **For a European Union promoting sustainable development**
 - The welfare of people cannot be considered separately from environment and environmental policies in the rest of the world and its future cannot be sacrificed to the short-term profits of some companies.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will give mandate to the European Union to use its authority as an international political and trade player to promote a better environment in the whole world.
 - The European Union must come up with environmental initiatives, and introduce them on a world-wide basis.
 - The European Union should act in favour of real international environmental governance starting with a merger of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and with this body being given greater weight vis-à-vis the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other international bodies than is presently the case.
- **For a sustainable European Union with a reformed Common Agricultural Policy**
 - The Common Agricultural Policy must become a tool for the installation and maintenance of the rural zones. It is about helping agricultural workers to create employment, quality controlled production, and environmental production.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will act in favour of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy so that it becomes more efficient and more ecological.

- The Common Agricultural Policy has to guarantee a minimum revenue for farmers, promote a European agriculture aimed at quality more than quantity, and ensure that agriculture will play a positive role in the land management of the European Union, through the promotion of a more environment and animal friendly agriculture and through the co-ordination of agriculture and tourism to avoid the desertification of rural and peripheral areas, while ensuring their economic development.
 - Moreover, every reform of the Common Agricultural Policy must promote international solidarity particularly towards developing countries, notably by ceasing to subsidise agriculture exports and abolishing the customs on goods coming from developing countries.
- **For a European Union of research and development co-operation**
- The Young European Socialists call for further research and development co-operation at the European level.
 - Europe must invest more in the research field, by which it could also prevent brain drain.
 - A stronger co-operation between the European higher education area and the European research area must be stimulated.

- For a European Union active on the international scene...

- **For a European Union active on the international scene speaking with one voice**
- Only a true Common Foreign and Security Policy shared and expressed by all the Member States of the European Union will enable the European Union to be politically influential on the international scene and stop being an economic giant and a political dwarf.
 - The Socialist members of the European Parliament will act to build among themselves a common European analysis on foreign policies.
 - They will promote the constructive abstention of Member States that disagree with the majority rather than the blocking of policies or decredibilisation of the European voice.
 - The European Union has to be an actor promoting another globalisation, a globalisation of democracy, freedom, wealth and peace.
- **For a European Union with active development and co-operation policies on the international scene**
- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will promote a European policy that guarantees that Member States respect their international duties and not only comply with the objective of the United Nations to allocate 0.7% of GNP to development aid, but to raise this figure to 1% of GNP.
 - We will also lobby for the European Union international economic policy to be defined publicly and together with the European Parliament, to take into account the objectives of a sustained development of developing countries and to conduct its policy in a transparent way. The social model that we Europeans are proud of cannot be based on selfishness on the international level.
 - Europe should become the sole decision level for its Member States co-operation policies. Bilateral, state aids have now often proved to be inefficient because they are used mainly to support the states' power strategy.
 - The European Union should use its policies to promote democracy. The idea is not to try and export a Western model considered as an ideal, but to define the basic principles that are the prerequisites for a sustainable, fair and stable development and which include the right to self determination, participation of every citizen, freedom of expression for everybody, and access to the media.
- **For a European Union active on the international scene promoting peace and security in the world**
- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will be active in favour of a European Union that promotes security in the world by playing a more active role in crisis prevention and management and by taking a greater part in disarmament negotiations within the framework of the UN.
 - Europe's future is not to take a counter part to any other power in the world. We support a Europe running a policy that supports multilateralism instead of unilateralism, international regulation instead of the power of the strong against the weak.

The European Union close to its youth

1) For a comprehensive and integrated youth policy

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will pay special attention to the mainstreaming of issues relating to young people in employment, social integration, social protection, equal and free access to education and other policy areas.
- New European programmes and actions must develop participatory youth work and services, which represent a key to active citizenship and promotion of democratic participation in the European Union.
- The European Union, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, should develop a coherent European youth tourism policy based on intercultural learning and not profit, facilitating travel, access to cultural activities in order to increase possibilities of meeting people from other nationalities.
- The European Youth Forum is the main interlocutor of the European institutions, notably of the European Parliament, concerning youth policies. It should be provided with more funds to assure its correct functioning.

2) For the access of all to Education

- Education is a human right, which means that it should be free, public and everybody should have the same opportunity to enter education regardless of any disability, political belief, nationality, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, gender, sexual orientation or social standing they may have or come from.
- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will promote the intensification of the co-operation between European governments on the level of higher education when implementing the „European higher education area“. The richness and diversity of different educational systems must be considered as value and not obstacle.
- They will promote a common European educational strategy.
- They will promote the equipment of all schools with information and communication technology and guarantee knowledge of and access to IT for everybody.
- They will promote the European orientation of the primary and secondary education, specially concerning history, civilisation and institutions.

3) For the mutual recognition of educational qualifications

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will be active in favour of transparent, coherent and reliable recognition procedures.
- They must show the political will to negotiate and implement clear and workable systems of equivalencies between European degrees.
- The already existing European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is a tool to improve student mobility in Europe and an instrument for recognising parts of studies done abroad. ECTS should not be limited to a specific network of higher education institutions but should include all universities.

4) For free mobility within the EU

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will be active so that mobility programmes in the fields of education, vocational training and work are improved and developed in order to give all young people the same opportunities to take part in it.
- The exchange programmes of the EU are an important foundation not only to properly encourage mobility but also for building up the consciousness of European citizenship. Therefore they should be expanded and given much more funds to keep up with the demand. The whole amount granted to youth and education programs should aim at reaching at least 1% of the total European Community budget. Special attention should be given to all the young people in the new and future member states to integrate them in the union.
- The right to study abroad should not be hindered by the financial situation of students; therefore it is of utmost importance that all the systems of financing are improved. This is why we demand an increase in the number and the amount of scholarships to allow a real equality in the participation to European exchange programmes. More efforts should be undertaken by the European Union and national governments to support especially poorer students and students with special educational needs.
- Moreover, the teaching of foreign languages and intercultural learning should be strengthened at all level of education. The goal is that each young person is leaving school with the knowledge of at least two foreign languages.
- Therefore also the mobility of teachers should be encouraged.

5) For effective life long learning possibilities

- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will put a priority in asking for and adopting a European legislation guaranteeing effective life long learning possibilities in the European Union.
- All young people should have the right to further education or vocational training after leaving school.
Each employee should be given the possibility to continuous training and employers, both in the private and in public sectors, should be obliged to finance such courses as they will profit from them and re-integrate the trainee after her/his period of training. It should be possible for everybody to take a part of this continuous training abroad.
- Guarantees must be given that apprentices get serious and useful training and have the same rights and conditions as other workers.
- The European programme Youth must aim at developing trans-national training programmes. This must be encouraged and the programmes improved.

6) For a special focus on youth unemployment

- Youth unemployment rate is continuously more than double the average unemployment rate. Such an ongoing situation is highly inadmissible.
- The Socialist members of the European Parliament will push for specific policies to be adopted in the European Employment Strategy and implemented by the Member States in order to fight against youth unemployment.
- Young people's access to lasting quality jobs must be promoted through:
 - Special measures specifically targeting young people to take care of the transition period between education or training and entering the labour market;
 - The implementation of targeted and quantified employment programmes for young people;
 - The implementation of specific pro-active youth policies all over Europe, favouring youth employment - along the lines of the "youth jobs": jobs only for young people;
 - The fight against all forms of insecure employment;
 - The fight against all kinds of discriminations.
- But the specific attention on youngsters may not have negative consequences for the elderly whose specific employment must also be targeted.