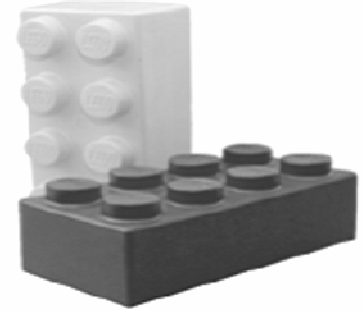


Program modules for a common election manifesto – European elections 2009

- Paper from FA Europa Berlin 26.02.2008 –



I. A democratic Europe

We, the Social Democrats, promote a democratic Europe. We want to design the integration process in a social and democratic way. With the extension of competences brought by the Lisbon Treaty, it's up to the European Parliament as well as to the national parliaments to create a European public sphere.

II. A social Europe

We, the Social Democrats, call for the accentuation of the social dimension of Europe. A European stability pact should protect common standards and values and complement the economic integration. Fighting poverty across Europe is a priority and this should become evident in a common strategy.

III. An economic Europe

We, the Social Democrats, oppose the race for the lowest taxes by applying economic rationality and cooperation. Dumping strategies within the EU should be prevented by developing common taxation criteria and minimum rates. In order to better react to the international financial crisis, we want to achieve a better coordination and interlocking of the macroeconomic policies in the EU. For the future sustainability of the European budget the agriculture subsidies must be notably cut down.

IV. A green Europe

We, the Social Democrats, see no alternative for the EU other than to take on a pioneering role when it comes to fight climate change and to protect the environment on the international stage. The goals already adopted must be accomplished with determination, and European standards for environment protection must be developed further. For this purpose, the economy should first of all be driven towards a more responsible approach. The research of renewable energy sources and environment friendly technologies is an important location factor for Europe.

V. An international Europe

We, the Social Democrats, are aware of Europe's responsibility in the world and want to establish the EU as a global power in the service of peace. As means to achieve this, we want to reinforce the European development aid and the prevention of civilian crises. Furthermore, we want to promote the coordination of the common foreign policy through the European foreign affairs service and to strengthen the European Neighborhood Policy. Within the Common Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), Europe should set up a framework for peace keeping provisions in order to prevent the emergence of conflicts and to facilitate crisis management. In international organizations Europe should speak with one voice.

VI. A Europe of knowledge

We, the Social Democrats, consider education as the most important element for personal development and the creation of a cohesive society. By improving the quality of the education and the access to it, we can achieve a European society of knowledge. The EU member states have the duty to guarantee the recognition of diplomas, to promote lifelong training, to support basic and advanced training, as well as to set up new offers for transnational studies, trainings, and research opportunities.

VII. A Europe of integration

We, the Social Democrats, recognize immigration and integration as important cross-sections of the European economy and social policy. The establishment of a European immigration and asylum policy should not be postponed anymore. Common standards should improve the situation of immigrants with regard to education and integration.

VIII. A Europe without discrimination

We, the Social Democrats, want to achieve a Europe without discrimination, a Europe of equal chances. The discrimination of women at work places should be banned for good. This refers mainly to the differences between the salary levels and the unequal career opportunities for women and men. Throughout the EU, measures should be taken to better reconcile professional and family life.