

**ECOSY Contribution  
to the Consultation  
on the PES Manifesto 2009**

**PES Paper  
ECOSY Presidium Members in  
Charge**

**SAVE OUR PLANET  
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**“Take global responsibility for our planet”**

As socialist and social democrats, we have proudly advocated for sustainable development to be the main guideline for Europe in designing its global policies. This concept, embracing economic, social and environmental components, is essential to ensure that the current and the future generations, in currently developed and developing countries, can live a quality life in healthy living and working conditions. And this is why as ECOSY- Young European Socialists we find it an ultimate challenge to address all the challenges on that field, including issue of climate change, pollution and gas emission, energy security – in order to design a new strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**1. For Global agenda and global movement to face global challenge**

Issues of environment, such as global warming or pollution, concern everyone all across the globe. In order to be able to tackle those challenges we need to act on a global scale and for that the common understanding for international solidarity has to be advocated. In the light of the questions asked within the PES Manifesto “Save our planet” discussion paper we believe that:

- Our message towards the elections 2009 should be rephrased from “Save our planet” to “Take global responsibility for our planet”. The reason for that is that actions of socialists and social democrats are not only based on belief in preserving the status quo, but shall above all deal with improving living and working conditions across the globe, for which positive message referring to “our responsibility” shall be a highlight.
- The content of the “Take global responsibility for our planet” shall deal with: economical, social and environmental policies and as such refer to global project of sustainable development, rather than focus only on ecological issues (gas emissions,

renewable energies etc.) This is the way to regain the “green issues” for our agenda instead of accepting that they have shifted towards more and more popular green parties across Europe. We believe that it is up to all the people to secure our planet and decide upon development policies. What is needed therefore is a global call for action, that can be compared with the mobilization of the “White Band – Make Poverty History” campaign. For that we expect that the process of consultation shall embrace the social movements and partner NGOs on one side, and altogether will focus on identifying a global cause within “Save our planet” that ordinary (young people) can refer to. In our opinion, the cause should bridge the issue of Millennium Development Goals, especially in aspect of fighting poverty, with the issue of climate change (i.e. the fact that deforestation and draughts are harming most the poorest parts of the world). That shall be delivered as a simple message with use of simple expressions – as people hardly ever identify with technical language or percentages in emissions, however with other human beings and their lives they tend to. And that is the way to reach out to young voters that still haven’t given up a dream to change the world for a better one day.

## **2. Europe’s Responsibility for human security**

Europe has a specific role to play in the debate on the future of our planet. Being the most successful example of the regional integration and cooperation, a united Europe is now at the stage when it is high time to take responsibility for global challenges, to improve the wrong doing of the current policies and develop the vision for sound existence in the future. Responding to the questions posed through the Discussion Paper “Save our Planet” we believe that:

- PES Manifesto shall point out what are the essential goals of the development aid and development policies of EU, and through that address the issue of the policies and budgetary spending (alike CAP) that can no longer be sustained. Additionally to that PES Manifesto, being visionary document rather than a set of very technical recommendations, shall also provide an alternative – what people need, in Europe and across the globe, is a feeling that someone feels responsible to ensure their security. This even counts if their countries fail to comply with initial commitments.(which shall be the reasoning for PES for developing a plan on trade and trade agreements, especially EPAs which fulfillment is connected with damaging impact of climate change on agriculture in developing countries).

- PES Manifesto shall emphasize the role of United Europe in light of global challenges (alike taking the lead in a post-2012 Kyoto framework), tasks for the socialists and social democrats, but also point out possible involvement of the EU voters after the elections 2009 in the process. Especially for young people, who are currently said not to have confidence in politicians and politics, it is important to present them the way they can stay 'in touch' and involved in EU sustainable development strategy, sharing the responsibility for its fulfillment. The feeling of ownership of the globe, condition it is in, showing the opportunities that socialist and social democrats offer in their manifesto (R&D as a key to improving living and working conditions and a fundament for new jobs) is the strongest weapon against right wing extreme attempting to conquer the youth.
- We believe that there are strong links between the Lisbon Process and ecological issues. The development of new sustainable and environmental friendly technologies is highly dependent on skilled labour force and creates new jobs. Thus, more and better jobs can be created and have been created already in a new emerging economic sector. PES manifesto shall clearly state the importance of the employment dimension of this recent development and its future potential. This helps to distinguish us from the green parties. So it becomes clearly visible in the Manifesto 2009 for Europe and Europeans that socialists and social democrats are the ones looking after their living and working conditions, struggling for providing opportunities for societies to develop and individuals to unlock their potential.
- To show the link to the Lisbon Agenda the Manifesto 2009 shall have a vision for research and development from two aspects – their utility and the opportunities (new jobs) that they can provide. This is an answer to a question how to combine sustainable economic growth with tackling climate change and other environmental issues on the EU level. As young generation, concerned about the youth unemployment, we believe that new jobs created through innovations can constitute part of the solution we seek for, as also make young people have more confidence and enthusiasm if fact that global policy of Europe provides also direct opportunities to them.

### **3. How and why socialist make a difference in energy and ecological policies?**

In past three decades the issues of environmental protection and energy policies have been mostly associated with the “Green” parties. We believe that socialists and social democrats shall manifest that they approach the issue in a unique way – as for us it has always been a question of utmost importance while discussing improving living and working conditions. This is why the Manifesto should:

- We should relate the issue of ecology more with the issue of growth and jobs. Especially for young people the jobs creation connected with new technologies is of a particular interest while speaking about the future of the labour market, reform of education systems and also the solidarity of generations concerning the number of work places in practice.
- Question of life style shall be brought into a debate, as i.e. issue of energy consumption shall be presented to individuals as a freedom of choice matter with all consequences it bares. Appealing to individuals through the logic of collective behavior that is based on solidarity, which shall be done with a simple language and understandable examples can be mobilizing, inspiring and convincing. Our approach should be positive not negative – we shall not threaten people with global warming, but point out to them that ‘green’ behavior can be ‘trendy’ and help improving i.e. resources preservation.
- Renewable energy questions shall be presented in a visionary manners – as dreams; projects for the future (like wind-plants or solar batteries) – which is a part of the sustainable progressive vision socialists and social democrats have always advocated for.

“Take global responsibility for our planet” as a chapter of manifesto shall finish with a list, a sort of a scale on which socialist and social democrats campaigning by the elections 2014 will be able to base themselves and state in concrete, comprehensive sentences “this is here we delivered, and this is where we need to accelerate...”. The scale is important – as otherwise the package of sustainable development runs a danger of rising expectations that are difficult to be verified by a regular EU voter in his/her every day life.