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Draft!

Europe in the world

We, the socialist and social democrats of Europe, promulgate our resolution to create a stronger European Union with its own voice on the international scene, by pledging our loyalty to our values: peace, equality, social justice, solidarity, liberty, humanism, respect for differences and diversity; by holding as the highest principle the rights, dignity and security of the individual; guided by our desire to express the will of the people of Europe.

The world is in a new phase of its development. The process of globalization allows no individual state to cope with today's challenges. We think that the European Union as a united subject must be the main actor for the dissemination of our values around the world. Now, more than ever, it is necessary that the EU acquire the requisite contractual basis for speaking with one voice in international politics.

The Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy are two very important elements for the integration of the Union. The CFSP's and ESDP's intergovernmental character needs to be gradually overcome and they should become part of the community's competence thus giving the European institutions a greater deal of unity and stability and the European citizens more security. In order to get this goal achieved, we propose that more powers in these field be given to the European Parliament; the decisions in the Council of the EU be taken by majority, rather than unanimity or qualified majority on rare occasions as so far; we want the Union's right to sign international treaties to be extended.

The strengthening of ESDP's role must not lead to confrontation with NATO. These two key elements for the security of Europe are not mutually incompatible; quite on the contrary, they are complementary to one another. NATO and ESDP should be used in close cooperation in order to achieve more security in Europe as well as outside the continent.

We consider the UN to be the major factor of collective security and that is why we are categorically against the UN devaluation and the imposition of unilateralism. The EU must contribute to the UN reformation, which will allow the creation of a more secure, more democratic and more equitable world. The UN Security Council composition should aim at reflecting fairly the balance of world powers. We would like to see a united EU, that is a permanent member of the Security Council with a united voice.

The European Union should even more categorically stand for multilateralism, thus emphasizing the EU's role as the main global "soft power". The main policy of conflict prevention is eradication of causes of war. The single European approach towards conflicts through preventive diplomacy, pacification, peacekeeping and peace enforcement should become part of EU's agenda for the prevention of armed conflicts and assistance for the establishment of lasting peace. This approach leads to continuous increase of EU's prestige and more and more countries and problematic territories express their willingness to use European mediation when resolving contested issues.

The eradication of poverty is the main challenge standing in front of the international community. We believe that Europe has the responsibility and the opportunity to contribute a great deal for the elimination of poverty and putting an end to inequality. In order to achieve our goals, we must stand for a globalization with clear rules for everyone. This is the only way that the UN Millennium Goals can be reached. We want a strategy, which includes a new single system for global governance under the aegis of UN Human Development Council, reduction of inequality, protection of the right of decent work, decent life conditions for the citizens of the poorest states.

We are of the opinion that we need to consolidate the stabilizing role of the EU through its unique instruments – Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. This is the best way to expand the European area of liberty, security and prosperity outside the borders of the Union. The European Neighbourhood Policy is already giving very good results and provides stabilization to until recently unstable politically regions. Through the European Neighbourhood policy, the EU must prevent the building of a new “iron curtain” between EU and its neighbours.

We stand for accelerated integration of the Western Balkans in the EU. This will allow the region for a short period of time to overcome the negative past and it is the only way for achieving peace and security. The firm engagement of the Western Balkans to the stabilization and association process will strengthen the political and economic ties of the countries in the region with the member-states and will establish conditions for sustained economic development.

We categorically declare, that the European Union is not and must not be a “club of the elite”, open for ones and closed for others. Turkey can join, when it is ready to fulfill the membership criteria.

Europe should continue to develop its relations with Russia within the framework of Strategic Partnership. We consider Russia a strategic partner and a natural extension of European political, economic and cultural area.

The global development in the recent decades led to the formation of a series of regional organizations. These organizations can become our long-term partners in the different parts of the world. The European Union should keep more active relations with the organizations in Africa, North and South America and the Pacific for the establishment of a transcontinental network of economic prosperity and security.

The EU is a unique actor in international politics and bears the unique responsibility to shape positively the world. We, the European socialist and social democrats, stand for a more significant role of the European Union in the world; we declare our commitment to create an EU, that will contribute for a lasting peace, that will rely on policies of prevention and soft power; that will struggle for

a globalization with clear rules. A European Union, that will be a visible player on the international scene with growing economic and political influence.