



**PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS  
LISBON, 7-8 DECEMBER 2018**

**FAIR**

**FREE**

**SUSTAINABLE**

**The Progressive  
Europe We Want**

RESOLUTIONS



EQUAL SOCIETIES:

## Social Europe

The past decades have seen a rise in social and income inequality. This trend must stop. Wealth does not simply “trickle down” to all. In the context of rising inequalities, the PES fights **for social progress and a better life for all Europeans**. In the past months the Progressive family has accomplished much: **adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights**, progress with the work on the new **posting of workers directive**, the attempt to establish the **European definition of inequalities** are just some of the important initiatives. They need to be continued and built on. 2019 is when we want to ask citizens to give us a mandate to carry on that work, and **create a social Europe**. We want to implement all 20 principles of the European pillar of social rights. We want the EU to become the front runner in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. To prevent further widening of the gaps between Member States, regions, cities, genders and individuals, the **fight for equality** must be the leading principle of EU policies. **Everyone in Europe must enjoy a decent income, good working conditions, access to quality healthcare, to life-long learning, and rights to a decent pension**. In particular we want 2019 to mark the EU’s social turn!

The current economic model must be challenged.

**We want a paradigm shift so that employment and social policies are no longer perceived only as costs, but recognised as a real social investment**

that contributes to shared prosperity. We need **redistributive tax systems** to share profits made and develop fairer societies. We stand for progressive income taxation, stronger wealth taxation, progressive real estate taxation, and the taxation of

bonuses, dividends and stock options. At the European level, an inventory of income, wealth and tax regimes should be created to reflect the reality and the efficiency of taxation in the Union and allow better redistribution.

**Fighting inequality through decent work for all.**

**To improve the standard of living of Europeans, raise purchasing power and combat wage competition that drives wages down, we believe that it is time for a fast wage increase.**

We are convinced that wages should further increase, for a **more equal sharing of profits**, and we will support collective bargaining efforts towards this objective. For the lowest paid, we want **minimum wages above the poverty level** in all EU countries, reached either through law or collective bargaining, so that no worker is forced to live in poverty. We want to provide a European Framework for minimum wage regulation, in respect of national specificities. Such minimum wages should apply to all workers. There should be **no exception, including for the youngest**.

**Equal pay and equal working conditions** must apply for equal work in the same place, irrespective of the size of the company, the worker’s age, disability, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender, the place of employment or the type of contract. **The gender pay gap is completely unacceptable**, and this is why we want to reduce it by at least 2 percent per year until it is eliminated by 2030. We want **women and men to be equally represented in management positions** and strive for a quota to reach that objective. The PES is also committed to reducing the important

pay gap that exists between EU member States.

The transformation of work, the digital revolution, digital working and rapidly evolving labour markets must not undermine European working and employment standards.

**The digital era has tremendous potential to transform our societies and our quality of life for the better.** But to achieve this, **we need to manage the deep societal changes that it brings.**

### **We are committed to fighting in-work poverty, zero-hour contracts, unpaid internships and other forms of precarious work.**

Workers' status must be clear either as an employee or self-employed. This is particularly important for new forms of employment such as platform work, which too often combine the obligations of the former with the risks borne by the latter. We want common rules that do not lower national standards for **decent working conditions and health and safety at work, and proper contracts, set in EU law.** We are convinced that **workers should have the right to disconnect** communication devices outside the agreed working hours in order to ensure a good balance between professional and private life and prevent work related illnesses. We must **protect worker's privacy against invasive use of data.** We cannot allow the digital revolution to become a lose-lose situation for workers.

In today's society, most people are likely to change job several times and acquire new skills throughout their careers. While some can benefit from opportunities, the new labour market can also create real and objective difficulties for many workers and jobseekers. Strong and concrete public support must be put in place to help workers to adapt and facilitate their profes-

sional careers. This implies a push from the EU to boost social investment strategies in all Member States. The EU must acknowledge life-long learning as a right for every worker and promote in-work education as a standard practice. This means time for training and paid educational leave must be made available for all workers, including those who care for children or dependent relatives. This also means that the rights acquired in one job must not be lost when moving to another employer, contract or country: there needs to be a European framework to make it possible to change or end career without renouncing social security and pension protection.

**Strong trade unions and a strong social dialogue are crucial elements for shared prosperity in Europe.** They also propose concrete solutions to the challenges workers and employers face. This is why we want to **further extend collective agreements to non-standard forms of employment**, widen collective bargaining coverage and allow self-employed people to unionise. We will **restart the European social dialogue** and continue to support the capacity building of social partners, including both employers and trade unions at the national level and insist that EU policies not only respect but also promote agreements of social partners at EU, international and national level.

### **We will continue to support workers' right to unionize, to representation, consultation, information and to strike.**

We will further work to enhance the dialogue between the European institutions, trade unions and civil society.

**Fighting inequality through social protection for all.** This means protecting workers from exploitation and competition for the lowest standards. It means **fair mobility.** We want the upcoming **European Labour**

**Authority to be strong enough to stop abuses** and to ensure that all workers in Europe are properly covered by social security. We want **a fair implementation of the Posting of Workers Directive** and clear rules against letterbox companies. Companies must perform a substantial, genuine activity in the country where they are established, and cannot be allowed to escape their social and tax responsibilities. We want to **reinforce corporate social and environmental responsibility**, and reinforce scrutiny obligations throughout the supply chain. These elements should be preconditions for public procurement contracts.

## **In an ever-changing world of work, fighting inequalities also means extending social protection to everyone in Europe, irrespective of their contracts or employment situation.**

A reliable social safety net must be available to protect everyone in Europe, including the unemployed, self-employed, atypical and crowd workers, against the hazards of their working life. Income security is essential. To protect the most vulnerable, **we are convinced of the need for national minimum income schemes that ensure that no one is left in poverty and homeless.** We want clear targets to reduce rough sleeping in Europe. **We will fight for decent pensions that allow the oldest to live in dignity.** In case of sudden and strong increase of unemployment in a Member State, a temporary **EU support should be available to national unemployment benefit systems.**

Inequalities are felt very harshly when it comes to health. We believe that **everyone should have a timely access to quality public healthcare.** We believe that a high level of health protection and timely access to affordable and equitable preventive and curative health care of high quality are essential for the wellbeing of every society. This has been undermined by liberalisation of public services and austerity policies across the EU. **We reaffirm that public health and healthcare systems are best equipped to deliver accessible services at affordable cost for all.** We will further support **fair and transparent medicine pricing and access policies, improve access to vaccination for all children, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health**

**rights.** We will put a further emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention as the most effective way to ensure physical and mental health throughout life.

Because differences should neither serve as an excuse for inequalities nor as the ground for discrimination, **we will continue to promote inclusive societies that are diverse, open, respectful and free of discrimination, where rights and duties are the same for all.** We will foster **intergenerational solidarity.** We will work tirelessly to **ensure respect for rights of people with disabilities,** ensuring that they are supported and enjoy the same opportunities in education and within the labour market, that the public spaces are designed and reconstructed guaranteeing accessibility for everyone, and that their special needs when it comes to social security and health-care provision are being met guaranteeing life in dignity.

**Fighting inequality through progress that benefits all.**

## **In the society we want to build, work allows a good quality of life without competing with self-development, family time or leisure. This is why we want progressive, properly paid maternity, paternity, parental and carer leave arrangements**

as well as affordable, high quality and accommodating care services for children, the elderly and other dependants. This is also why we think that **gains in productivity enabled by new technologies should be seen as opportunities to increase wages** or further reduce working time without loss of revenue. Technology should not create new gaps in our societies, which is why both the technology and the essential services that are digitalised must remain accessible to all.

Similarly, the EU must continue to invest in its population. It must start with the youngest in our society, with equal access to education and **a Child Guarantee to fight the most striking form of poverty.** In particular, early childhood education and care should better target the lesser off households to better prevent social exclusion. Second, it must help the next generation to find a job with a reinforced, **permanent Youth Guarantee** to avoid repeating the youth unemployment disaster experienced after

the financial crisis. Third, it **must help the unemployed back to employment, setting up active labour market policies** that guarantee a quality individual offer to each jobseeker (job offer, training, further education). Fourth, it must **help workers who face job losses**, whether due to globalisation, digitalisation, environmental effects or territorial economic crises. We will turn the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund into **a Just Transition Fund to ensure investment in skills, competences and professional prospects**. We will also make sure it can support workers who want to buy out their companies rather than letting it close its doors. With the European Social Fund, the EU proved that it is ready to spend money for the training and the qualifications of its workers, for social inclusion and for the fight against poverty. We will make sure these funds are strengthened and given the possibility to adapt to any challenge and to reach the most vulnerable.

**We are convinced that Member States, as well as local and regional authorities, must be given the budgetary flexibility to invest in social measures and infrastructures, as well as the means to deploy reliable social security systems.**

**Investing in social services is a strategic commitment that creates jobs, brings added value and contributes to the well-being of all.** Moreover, we will fight to make sure that public services have the means to provide effective and universal access to social services, healthcare, affordable housing and essential services. We want to **stop the pressure on liberalisation and privatisation especially in public services**. Besides, we will support social innovation and the social economy, as we believe that they can address poverty and generate sus-

tainable wealth and well-being while promoting a learning and participative society.

For us, **neither basic economic freedoms nor competition rules take precedence over fundamental social rights**. This must be translated into European law and integrated as a fundamental principle in the EU treaties, with a social progress protocol. The prominence of social rights and the objective of social progress must also be reaffirmed for the further development of the Economic and Monetary Union.

**The European Union is the best guarantee of a future of shared prosperity and peace for our continent.**

**Yet too many inequalities still remain between European citizens, countries, regions, and cities. We will not let the gaps widen between urban and rural areas, we will not let regions lose their people and talents.**

The European project must continue to bring us closer together on the same path of social progress and shared prosperity. This is the essence of the **EU's cohesion policy, and we reiterate here that it must remain a political and financial priority for the EU, available and easily accessible to all in Europe.**

**As the Party of European Socialists, we are fighting for equal societies.** In this resolution we have focused particularly on our priorities for a social Europe. It goes hand-in-hand with the other resolutions for this PES Congress, that reaffirm our commitment and plan for a progressive economy, empowering youth, a healthy environment and modern industries, true gender equality, a fair world, progressive asylum and migration policies, and a stronger democracy in Europe.

THE 80

Richest

People own the

Same Wealth 

As the Poorest

3.5 Billion



Austria SPÖ



Belgium PS



Belgium SPA



Bulgaria BSP



Croatia SDP



Cyprus EDEK



Czech Republic  
CSSD



Denmark SD



Estonia SDE



Finland SDP



France PS



Germany SPD



Greece PASOK



Hungary MSZP



Ireland Labour



Italy PD  
Partito Democratico



Italy PSI  
Partito Socialista



Latvia Saskaņa  
Socialdemokrātiskā partija



Lithuania LSDP



Luxembourg  
LSAP



Malta Labour



Netherlands  
PvdA



N.Ireland SDLP  
Social Democratic and Labour Party



Norway LP



Poland UNIA  
PRACY



Poland SLD



Portugal PS  
Partido Socialista



Romania PSD



Slovakia SMER



Slovenia SD



Spain PSOE



Sweden SAP



UK Labour

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