

PES Newsletter - May 2010 (II)

- PES newsletter

PES announce 9 June 'TV-style' debate on recovery from economic crisis

On 9 June, in Brussels, the PES will host an interactive event to discuss the best way out of the economic crisis. The audience will be made up of 300 local activists, concerned citizens and European experts. Press and Media will be invited to report on the lively discussions. If you live in or close to Brussels and want to come along please send your name to pes.conference9June@pes.org . It will take place at the [Albert Hall Bruxelles](#) from 18h-20h00, with a food and drink reception afterwards (please register quickly to avoid disappointment). [Read more](#)

EPP/Liberal plans to reduce Europe 2020 strategy to 'punishments for citizens'

On 20 May the European Parliament saw a deadlock on the proposed [European 2020 strategy](#). The Conservative and Liberal proposals revealed a retreat to a fundamental neo-liberal and monetarist approach, far away from their positions established in the Parliament resolution in March. The only focus now is on accelerated fiscal consolidation and spending cuts, leading to punishments for citizens with reductions in social standards, without mentioning recovery for jobs and growth. [Read more](#)

Hedge Fund regulation set for European Parliament/ Council of Ministers showdown

Last week, a milestone was reached on financial regulation in the EU when a majority in the European Parliament backed strong changes to the regulation of hedge funds and other Alternative Investments: the [AIFM Directive](#) (Alternative Investment Fund Managers). As Finance Ministers met on the 18th of May to discuss the issue, Mr. Rasmussen, who long before the crisis advocated for greater financial regulation, said that Ministers "should recognize and support the agreed path to tame the damages caused by the worst excesses of Hedge Funds and Private Equity". [Read more](#)

German and Austrian Socialists announce Citizen's initiative on a Financial Transaction Tax

PES campaign for a [Financial Transaction Tax](#) has got support from German and Austrian Socialists. SPD and SPÖ leaders Sigmar Gabriel and Werner Faymann announced a Citizens' Initiative - the new mechanism for direct democracy provided for in the Lisbon Treaty- to ask Europeans if they want a FTT. The idea is gaining strong momentum as worldwide decision-makers and media discuss it.

More ambitious climate policy must not be at expense of most vulnerable European citizens

The PES commented on the European Commission proposals on reducing emissions by 30%. The PES has put the emphasis on the need to include all elements of society in a fair transition to a greener economy. "Moving on with the fight against climate change should not hit the most disadvantaged people in Europe", said Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, President of the Party of European Socialists (PES). [Read more](#)

PES Condemns attacks on Slovak Gay Pride while Baltic Pride should not require police protection

The Party of European Socialists added their voice to the condemnations against the action of skinhead gangs who attacked a gay pride march in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. The march, on Saturday 22 May, had to be cancelled due to the threat of violence. 17 foreign embassies in the capital have issued [a joint declaration of support of the marchers](#).

On the [International Day against Homophobia](#) the PES renewed its commitment to respect for fundamental rights for all, including the liberty and right of sexual orientation and gender identity. The first Baltic Gay Pride took place in Lithuania but, despite the permission given from the Mayor of Vilnius and further backing from the High Court, the 450 courageous marchers had to be heavily escorted to demonstrate in peace. Thankfully, MEPs Michael Cashman and Zita Gurmai, among many others, are fighting on a day-to-day basis to make it clear that homophobia has no place in Europe.

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Abdullah Demirbaş released by Turkish authorities

Abdullah Demirbaş, Mayor of the Sur municipality of the city of Diyarbakir, in Turkish Kurdistan, was released from prison due to illness. On 30 December 2009, Mr. Demirbaş was arrested, along with other members of the recently-banned DTP (Democratic Society Party), a political party committed to the peaceful resolution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey.

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PES and SDP Croatia deepen ties

PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and Croatian SPD Leader Zoran Milanović met on May 12th to discuss progressive strategies for Croatian Membership of the EU, a membership which the PES supports. The relationship between EU and Croatian socialists is now deeper and will play an important role in the future of EU-Balkan political relations.

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NEWS FROM MEMBER PARTIES

Romania's conservative austerity measures are immoral, socially irresponsible and counterproductive

The PES President has joined with Romanian leader Victor Ponta to condemn the public budget cuts and measures to attack the most vulnerable in Romanian society. Romania is on the edge of a critical social crisis. In a country where pensioners get an average of €160 a month and infant mortality has the highest rate of the entire European Union, the Government is acting extremely irresponsibly. Pressed by the panic-paranoia of financial markets and a conservative EU majority, the Government has decided to cut 15% of pensions, a quarter of child benefits, and close down nearly 40% of the hospitals. The final result can only be the end of the welfare state.

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PES welcomes election of new Turkish CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu

The PES welcomes yesterday's election of Mr. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu as Chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP) congress. A well known progressive politician, Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu is set to challenge the conservative majority of the country in next year's national elections.

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PASOK delegation in Brussels for Euro-zone strategy talks

Paulina Lampa led a delegation from Greek Social Democratic Party, PASOK, to Brussels for strategy sessions on the Euro-zone crisis. Ms. Lampa, who is the PASOK International Secretary, outlined the current situation in Greece, the reaction to the stability mechanism and the European monetary guarantee plans.

PES representatives, Philip Cordery, PES Secretary General reiterated their commitment to supporting PASOK through the crisis period and on into national recovery. PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen published a widely circulated article 'Europe wake up!' in the Greek press. The article was co-signed by French PS leader Martine Aubry, Belgian leader Elio Di Rupo and Polish SLD leader Grzegorz Napieralski. The article focused on the need for more European solidarity in relation to Greece and other exposed member states within the European Union.

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