

Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14.00 – 15.30hrs.

**"Our Europe, Our Future"**

**Opening ceremony PES Congress : Young Congress delegates addressing government and party leaders on stage**

**Followed by Group photo**

The PES Presidency has approved the following structure for the opening ceremony :

The ceremony will be opened by PES Chair Rudolf Scharping and closed by host party leader Gerhard Schröder (or the other way around), both giving a short address interlinked with the opening ceremony.

The leaders of the PES Member parties, the Prime Ministers and the leader of the Parliamentary Group will be invited on stage , one by one, country per country.

This Group of 25\* will be seated in a diagonal position ( facing both delegates and the rostrum) at five small half round tables.

Every of the five half round tables has five comfortable chairs with four smaller chairs in between.

A total of 19 young PES Congress delegates ( under 35 years of age, one from every Member state, as well as one from Norway, Cyprus, an Eastern European enlargement country and a young MEP ) will form the heart of the ceremony "our Europe, our Future".

A moderator will invite the young delegates one by one on stage while introducing them to the Congress.

The one page, 400 words , 3 minute contributions constitute a display of 19 themes giving a complete presentation of Social Democratic challenges, goals and priorities. All contributions start with the same opening formulae: I would like to live in a Europe where .....It is about our ideals ,wishes and a mix of political challenges and a celebration of a big and united political family ready to further shape Europe.

The team of 19 will be selected in close coordination with the parties concerned and should constitute a « colourfull mix ». Also the choice of the 19 themes (see annex for suggestions) will be done in close coordination with parties and candidates whereby a central coordination should guarantee that all major subjects are covered one way or another.

The delegates speak from a diagonally placed rostrum addressing both the leaders and the Congress.

After they have spoken the youngsters take one of the additional seats among the leaders. In this way we gradually go from 25 to a group of 44.

The 19 one page contributions will have to be ready by April 27<sup>th</sup>. Congress delegates will receive the integral text with on top a photo of the opening ceremony at the end of the Congress.

After his speech our moderator thanks the youngsters who leave the stage and invites the leaders to take their places for the family picture. PES Vice Chairs, Commissioners and the Leaders of the Associate parties are invited to join them on stage (music)

**Request for Member parties and Group:**

**Please select one young delegate (per country) and one theme so that next week Thursday the structure of the opening ceremony can be established**

\* Amato – Asselborn – Baron – Blair – Boselli – Di Rupo – Gusenbauer – Guterres – Hollande – Hume – Jagland – Janssen- Jospin – Kok – Lipponen – Lyssarides – Persson – Quinn – Rasmussen – Simitis – Schröder – Stoltenberg – Veltroni – Zapatero – Zeman .

**Annex:**

**Possible themes to be covered by the 19 young congress delegates involved in the opening ceremony:**

EU Enlargement in the interest of all Europeans

To be addressed twice and after another, once by a delegate from an enlargement country, once by a delegate from the EU

Making the Union and its institutions more democratic

Could be the theme of the young MEP

European Union as an instrument for peace

References to Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Bask country and above all the Balkan – at the end Social Democrats from ex-Yougoslavia and Albania are asked to rise.

For better. safer food and a new agricultural policy

### Sustainable development in Europe and globally

Now that the USA undermines the Kyoto agreement there is all the more reason for the EU to act globally

### Our global responsibility

IGC and enlargement are important but should not decrease our attention and solidarity for the development policy

### Equal access to new technologies

Socialist and Social Democrats promoting the use of new information technologies for all Europeans

### Full employment as the best possible social policy

PES governments have made progress in fighting unemployment – we will have continue for years to give all young Europeans access to work.

### Sports and music are as important for in bringing people together that politics

### Racists and petty nationalist as the losers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Europe's diversity is part of its strength, Europe's racists and petty nationalists will remain formidable opponents of Socialists and Social Democrats.

### Education and travel

We should not wait for enlargement before giving all European youth the chance to travel and study throughout Europe.

### Death penalty

Abolishing the death penalty throughout Europe is not enough, we need a global strategy.

### Making a real party from the PES

How to make our political family a reality for members at national level

### How to bring the EU closer to its citizens and make a success of the 2004 EP elections

### A Europe without poverty: the heart of the PES programme

### Globalization and European Social Democrats

Globalization does not mean that we are empty-handed in shaping economic and technological development

### The European Social model

The successful marriage of economic strength and a strong social policy is typically European as well as Social Democratic and a first category export product.