

4 December 1998

## **PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS**

### **DRAFT MANIFESTO FOR THE 1999 EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS (REVISED VERSION - 7 December 1998)**

#### A EUROPE OF JOBS AND GROWTH

Europe must be more than a free trade area. It must ensure that all citizens have a fair share of the fruits of our common prosperity.

##### **1 Putting Jobs First**

Employment must be at the top of the European agenda. Social democrats will continue to lead the way with new ideas to create jobs, to help into jobs those without work and to provide training for those without the right skills. Europe cannot accept the economic waste, nor the social divisions caused by structural unemployment. There are many positive ways to promote employment, including training, tax reform, the modernisation of welfare systems, the promotion of new enterprises and support for the non-market sector. This may include agreed reductions in working time negotiated between the social partners. **We commit ourselves to promote the opportunity for employment for those who are without work, especially the young and long-term unemployed.**

##### **2 Working for Growth**

The Single Market ensures the free movement of goods, services, capital and people. This means that the countries of Europe are more interdependent than ever before and must work together to promote sustainable growth. Each Member State has a better chance of achieving that growth if the economies of their neighbours are also growing in step. We must promote a European growth strategy which embraces stable growth in demand and investment and the development of Trans-European Networks in transport and communications. **We commit ourselves to closer economic co-ordination aimed at ensuring sustainable growth and high levels of employment.**

##### **3 Promoting a Social Europe**

The knowledge revolution makes the skills and capacity for innovation of the workforce our most important economic resource. It will only be possible to promote economic reform and sustain competitiveness if social rights are effectively protected and the participation of the workforce is ensured. We welcome the inclusion of the Social Chapter in the Treaty. **We commit ourselves to modernising and strengthening the European social model and promoting dialogue between the social partners.**

#### **4 Making the Euro a Success**

[The Euro should make a significant contribution to promoting growth.] It is in the interests of all Member States, whether members of the single currency or not, that the Euro is a success. A sound Euro will protect Europe against the destabilising pressures of currency speculation, reduce costs for business, and contribute to a new and more stable financial world system. It will also increase the purchasing power of the consumer by increasing price stability. If we are to take full advantage of the Euro there must be close cooperation between the independent European Central Bank and other economic policy making bodies. **We commit ourselves to ensuring that the single currency achieves a smooth introduction and provides growth and stability.**

#### **5 Completing the Single Market**

The European Union is now the largest single market in the world. A successful and fully functioning single market, open to the world, is part of the foundation of the future prosperity of the Union and the route to sustained growth and employment. Particular effort needs to be made to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to take advantage of the wider market. The full participation of peripheral regions should also be ensured. Taxation should not distort economic decisions with regard to labour, capital and services and must allow for rebalancing in favour of employment and the environment. The introduction of the Euro will also require measures to avoid harmful tax competition. **We commit ourselves to completing the single market, ensuring that Europe's businesses have free and equal access across Europe's markets and increasing consumer protection.**

#### **6 Promoting Skills and Technology**

Our biggest investment must be in our greatest asset, our people and their skills. Europe can compete successfully by investing in education, modern skills and technology, not by lower wages and poorer working conditions. **We commit ourselves to promoting a Europe of knowledge based on life-long learning to train the workforce in the most modern skills and European research programmes that open up access to the technologies of the future.**

### A EUROPE THAT PUTS CITIZENS FIRST

**Europe must enable its people to secure a better future and give priority to the issues that matter to them most.**

#### **7 Promoting Citizens' Rights**

Europe has extended the rights of its citizens, complementing the rights of national citizenship. A stronger civil society must be the foundation of a more democratic Europe. In order to develop a stronger European identity we propose that the fundamental civic, economic and social rights which have been won by citizens throughout the European Union, including access to public services, should be set out in a European Charter of rights. In carrying forward this work the European Union should initiate a wide-ranging consultation with citizens groups and other non-governmental organisations. **We commit ourselves to strengthening citizen's rights and building a Europe which is a common area of freedom, justice and equal rights.**

## 8 Creating Equality Between Men and Women

The principle of equality of opportunity between men and women is fundamental to democracy and must be applied in all aspects of society. To exclude anyone from fair access to employment or democratic participation is to diminish of society. Responsibility for family, society and work must be shared. Participation in political structures must be open equally to both genders. **We commit ourselves to ensuring equal opportunities for men and women across Europe.**

## 9 Combating Racism and Xenophobia

Discrimination in any form has no place in the modern society we want to build in Europe. A healthy society and democracy can only be based on mutual respect for the equal rights of all its members. Member States must take the lead in tackling racism by cooperating more closely together. In developing a society based on tolerance Member States must have particular regard for the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. **We support the Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society. We commit ourselves to tackle prejudice and to defeat racism and xenophobia and to work for successful integration.**

## 10 Ensuring a Healthy Environment

Creating a flourishing environment must be a priority for the European Union. Pollution and acid rain do not respect national boundaries. We can only deliver a sound environment if we work together to raise common standards. Europe must also give a lead in protecting the global environment. We must implement the undertakings we have given to cut greenhouse gasses, press for action to halt resource depletion and to preserve biodiversity and pursue the principle that the polluter must pay. **We commit ourselves to making sustainable development a basic principle of both the internal and external policies of the European Union.**

## 11 Developing Strength Through Diversity

We believe that Europe's diversity of culture is an asset. The people of Europe share a common project and have common interests which are best served by working together and strengthening their cultural identity. We treasure our different heritages and will seek to promote our thriving cultural industries. Culture has an essential role to play in promoting social cohesion, belief in ones own identity and respect for the customs of others. The partnership between our peoples is stronger when they are confident of their cultural and historic identity. **We commit ourselves to preserving the distinct cultures of the peoples of Europe, to promoting understanding between them and to ensuring that all cultures can express themselves freely.**

## 12 Strengthening Security and Fighting Crime

The experience and the fear of crime have reduced the security of citizens. Cross-border crime, such as money laundering and trafficking in drugs and human beings, presents an increasing challenge. The countries of the European Union have a responsibility to work together in the fight against organised crime and to ensure the success of the new police intelligence agency, Europol. Cooperation should also be extended to include future Member States and other close neighbours. **We commit ourselves to improve the effectiveness and democratic accountability of Europol and to step up law enforcement cooperation in Europe [respecting civil liberties].**

### **13 Bringing the European Union Closer to the People**

We want a decentralised Europe that encourages regional initiative and local democracy. We must preserve the identity and independence of Member States in those matters that can be better resolved at the national, regional or local level. We must also build a closer union that can deal effectively with those issues that make us interdependent and require a European response. This principle of subsidiarity ensures integration wherever necessary and decentralisation wherever possible. Information and decision-making should also be open and accessible for the citizen. **We commit ourselves to bring decisions in Europe as close to the people as possible.**

### **A STRONG EUROPE**

**Europe must be able to secure its common interests and promote its values of democracy, solidarity and freedom on the global stage.**

### **14 Meeting the Challenge of Globalisation**

Globalisation has radically changed the worlds of business and government with major implications for work and society. In a larger and closer union the countries of Europe will be stronger and better able to meet these challenges. We must harness change and the dynamism of the new global economy while reinforcing the distinctive social models of the countries of Europe. **We commit ourselves to work together to find common solutions to our global problems and to promote them through international organisations.**

### **15 Uniting Europe**

We have an exciting opportunity to build a Europe that is united. We must not allow our continent to be divided between poverty and prosperity. A well prepared enlargement process is in the interests of all members of the European Union. It will enhance the democracy and stability of our continent, strengthen Europe's voice in the world and allow us to realise the potential of an enlarged Single Market. All applicants should be subject to the same criteria. **We commit ourselves to taking the lead in the enlargement process in order to enable serious and in-depth negotiations and the accession of new members as soon as possible.**

### **16 Acting Together in the World**

Each member state will be better able to secure its interests in the world if Europe can act as one. We can secure a better deal in international trade negotiations and other talks and better enforce the security of our continent if we speak with one voice and act together. We can make a bigger impact on world events and better promote international standards on development, the environment and human rights if we pursue an effective common foreign and security policy. The European Union has a particular responsibility to build close and cooperative relations with its nearest neighbours through initiatives like the Euro-Med process. **We commit ourselves to building close and strong cooperation in foreign policy and to developing Europe's defence identity.**



## 17 Promoting Solidarity with other Nations

Europe has a special and historic responsibility to cooperate with developing countries. Conflict and the degradation of the environment often have their roots in the consequences of poverty. Europe must focus its development aid on helping poorest people and the poorest countries. Europe must ensure fairer access to its markets for trade from poorer countries. And Europe must promote democracy and good governance which are essential to stability and development. **We commit ourselves to pursuing policies on aid and trade which will reduce world poverty and contribute to the UN goal of halving the number of people living in abject poverty by 2015.**

## A EUROPE THAT WORKS BETTER

**Europe must be able to adapt to meet new challenges. It must adopt the policies and carry out the institutional reforms needed to create an enlarged and inclusive Union that is more democratic and efficient.**

## 18 Reforming Europe's Policies

We seek a modern Europe which serves its people effectively. But if we want that modern Europe we must continue to modernise its policies to ensure that they meet the needs of the citizen. Europe needs a reformed Common Agricultural Policy which reconciles the need for international competitiveness, the desire of consumers for produce of good quality and value, the protection of the environment and the promotion of a balanced rural economy. Europe also needs reformed structural funds which are effectively targeted towards job creation, promote solidarity and address the reality of inequality in the new enlarged Europe. **We commit ourselves to continue to reform Europe's policies to make them relevant to the new century.**

## 19 Reforming Europe's Budget

The European Union must have secure and sufficient funding which enables it to meet the demands we place upon it and takes account of new priorities, such as enlargement, the Euro and the need to promote growth and employment. The European Union must find imaginative new ways of financing investment such as public-private partnership and the use of the European Investment Bank's lending facilities. Waste, inefficiency and fraud must be eliminated. **We commit ourselves to develop new sources of investment, maintain budget discipline and improve the efficiency of Europe's financial management in order to respond to new priorities.**

## 20 Reforming Europe's Institutions

The European Union needs democratic and efficient institutions if it is to deliver effective policies which accommodate the larger Union of the next century. The people of Europe need accountable institutions if they are to identify with the European project. The European Commission needs to be better organised, more collegiate and more accountable. The European Council should set the strategic agenda for Europe and the Council of Ministers requires greater coordination. Decision-making processes need to be more efficient and transparent. The European Parliament must make full use of its increased powers of scrutiny and concentrate its work on the issues where its decisions really make a difference. It must also build a closer partnership with national parliaments. **We commit ourselves to reform the institutions of Europe before enlargement to ensure that they are in touch, up to date and responsive to change.**

- \* As far as the Danish Social Democratic Party is concerned the Declaration should be read in the light of the so-called Edinburgh Agreement concluded at the European Council of December 1992.
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### OPTIONS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> POINT

**Youth** – Text submitted by ECOSY. “The problems that young people face as well as their visions and aspirations are essential components of the challenges and prospects of today’s societies and future generation in Europe. Young people in all countries are a major human resource for development and key agent for social change, economic development and technical innovation. Thus there is a special need for new impetus to be given to the design and implementation of European youth policies and programmes as an added value to the national policies enabling young people to be fully integrated in our societies. But this integration should not be a passive one, it must be completed by enhancing the political participation in the decision-making process. Young people need more opportunities to become actors of the present and leaders of the future. We commit ourselves to continue working for the increasing of opportunities for young men and young women in Europe.”

**Consumers** – Text submitted by SAP. “We are all consumers with an interest in satisfying daily and life needs with goods and services of quality at an affordable price. The Single Market should enhance this common interest by doing away with inefficient monopolies and protected high pricing. Well informed consumers with a real choice are responsible citizens, being prepared to put power behind demands ecological, healthy and socially just production. Society, cooperatives and consumer groups can defend those interests and enhance general economic efficiency by providing for consumer protection, influence and information. We commit ourselves to promote competitive pricing and opportunity for informed choices by all consumers.”

On the eve of the 21st century, the peoples of Europe have the opportunity to choose their representatives to the European Parliament. This manifesto of the Party of European Socialists sets out our 21 commitments for the European Union of the 21st century. These commitments reflect our shared values as socialists and social democrats.

Social democracy offers an ambitious vision of society. We want to build for each of our peoples a society based on our common values - democracy, freedom and human rights; solidarity and social justice; equal opportunity and common civic rights. We believe that each individual has both more opportunity and more security if we all invest in modern services of high standards in education, health, transport and welfare. We understand that our environment is an asset we hold in common with each other and with future generations, and that we promote our quality of life when we protect the quality of our environment.

For socialists and social democrats, a modern sustainable economy can only be developed in close cooperation with social partners. We know that only an economy which is competitive in today's world can deliver prosperity and high levels of employment. We are convinced that economies are stronger when societies are just. That is why we say "yes" to a market economy, but "no" to a market society.

We believe that by working together we can build a better Europe. We want a European Union that respects the different culture and identity of each of our countries and also promotes a closer union between our peoples. Our vision of Europe is a common area of freedom, stability and prosperity. Together, we can create a European Union that will play its full part on the world stage.

The European Union must belong to the people and should not be a project only for politicians. Decisions within the European Union must be transparent and must be taken as close to the people as possible. The priorities of the European Union should reflect the concerns of the European peoples on jobs, crime and the environment.

Throughout the lifetime of the new European Parliament, the European Union will face major challenges. The single currency will become a reality for Europeans with the introduction of Euro notes and coins. By the end of the Parliament, the borders of the European Union will have expanded as enlargement breaks down the remaining divisions between East and West. And Europe will have to respond effectively to the continuing challenges of globalisation.

The new European Parliament will have a big role in responding to these challenges and in shaping the European Union of the next century. It is vital that it uses its influence to develop a people's Europe. The party of European Socialists must remain the largest political group in the European Parliament.

Parties of the Left and the Centre Left are in power in most of the Member States. The citizens of Europe need a coherent strategy based on partnership between the new European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the Member States.

The 21 commitments in this manifesto set out the basis for such a coherent strategy. We ask for the support of the citizens of Europe for a programme to give them a secure future in a modern Europe.