



Progressive Governance Conference 2003

London, 11th-13th July



The Progressive Governance Conference was the largest ever gathering of international centre-left leaders, policy-makers, politicians and thinkers. 12 world leaders, and over 600 participants from more than 30 countries attended, including Bill Clinton, Pascal Lamy, Javier Solana and many more. 48 hours of discussion and debate concluded with a Public Symposium of world leaders - Lula, Adrian Nastase, Vladimir Špidla, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Peter Medgyessy, Helen Clark, Thabo Mbeki, Göran Persson, and Tony Blair – chaired by Peter

Mandelson.

In October 2002, Policy Network was charged with the intellectual, political and logistical planning of the Conference. The thorough planning process took several stages:

- > Policy reports commissioned from international experts.
- > Launched by a seminar at 10 Downing Street and followed by a series of working groups at the London School of Economics on the key policy areas: the New Welfare State; Public Service Renewal; Corporate Reform; 21st Century Citizenship; Science, Technology and Risk; Migration and Social Integration; and Global Governance.
- > [Preparatory Conference held at Warren House](#). Second drafts of the reports were discussed, and overlapping themes examined.
- > Publications released immediately prior to the conference:
 - [Progressive Politics](#), 'The New Progressive Agenda' including articles from Gerhard Schröder, Jean Chrétien, and Thabo Mbeki;
 - [Progressive Futures](#), an abridged collection of the expert reports compiled for the Conference was also released in the run-up to the conference.

The Conference opened on 11th July 2003, with a plenary session, followed by a dinner at the Guildhall, with keynote speeches from [Bill Clinton](#) and [Tony Blair](#).

The Saturday 12th July session began with Working Group Breakfasts, followed by a [Roundtable](#) between President [Ricardo Lagos of Chile](#); President Bill Clinton; British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw; Prime Minister Jean Chrétien of Canada; and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy.

The afternoon [Working Group Sessions](#) that followed were an opportunity for the whole conference to engage in detailed discussions of the expert policy reports written on each of the seven policy themes.

An array of world leaders and international statesmen spoke at the [Dorchester dinner](#) including:

President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Vladimír Špidla, Prime Minister of Hungary Peter Medgyessy, Prime Minister of Poland Leszek Miller, Prime Minister of Romania Adrian Nastase, Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark, EU Foreign Affairs High Representative Javier Solana. The dinner was hosted by Tony Blair.

Sunday 13th of July's session began with a Political Strategy Breakfast Seminar. The conference closed on a high note, with a [Public Symposium](#) bringing together an array of progressive world leaders.

After the close of the conference, an international leaders' summit was held, and a [communiqué](#) issued setting out a commitment to a progressive agenda.

A full report of the conference is available in Policy Network's journal [Progressive Politics, 'Progressive Governance London, 2003'](#).

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