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PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE NETWORK

Progressive Governance Conference 2004

Budapest, 13-14th October



Policy Network has organised the latest Progressive Governance Conference on the 13th and 14th of October in Budapest, hosted by the new Hungarian Prime Minister, Ferenc Gyurcsány.

The Conference brought together over 150 leading strategists, policy makers, intellectuals and politicians from the progressive centre-left in Europe, America and the wider world, as well as leading figures from the Hungarian centre-left.

Progressive Governance 2004 has built on the successes of previous meetings in [New York](#), [Florence](#), [Berlin](#), [Stockholm](#) and [London](#). Since the Progressive Governance Conference in 2003, *Policy Network*, the secretariat of this movement, has organised five [working group meetings](#) that have identified and begun to address the major challenges that the centre-left face at the turn of the twenty-first century.

A special conference edition of *Policy Network's* journal [Progressive Politics](#) (Vol. 3.3) has also been launched, including original contributions from **Tony Blair**, **Ferenc Gyurcsány**, **Ricardo Lagos**, **Göran Persson** and **Stanislav Gross**.

The conference opened with a plenary session: *Protect, Empower, Prepare: Progressive Governance in the 21st century*, with speeches from [Peter Mandelson](#) (Honorary Chair of *Policy Network* and EU Commissioner designate) and **Peter Medgyessy** (Former Hungarian Prime Minister).

It was followed by a dinner with interventions from **Joaquín Almunia** (EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs), *Economic growth and prosperity. An Agenda already agreed. So what?*, **Danuta Hübner** (European Commissioner for External Trade), *Solidarity and Social cohesion: Our Progressive marker*, **Giuliano Amato** (Senior Vice-President of the Party of European Socialists), *The EU political perspectives: What are the best strategies for the referendums?*, **László Kovacs** (EU Commissioner designate), *A newly unified and peaceful European continent. Next step?*, and **Antonio Guterres** (President of the Socialist International), *Globalisation and Progressive challenges: Could we be innovative?*.

On Thursday, the debate continued in two panel discussions: the first, chaired by **Juan Fernando López Aguilar** (Spanish Minister of Justice), addressed *Progressive State Strategies for the 21st century*, and the challenges of combining opportunity, mobility and solidarity. Main contributors to this session were **Anthony Giddens**, **Wolfgang Merkel** and **Tibor Dessewffy**.

The second, *How Can We Re-Invigorate Economic Dynamism?* focused on the issue of growth and prosperity and was chaired by **Francesco Rutelli** (Leader of the Italian Margherita Party), with contributions from **Jean Pisani-Ferry**, **Maria João Rodrigues** and **László Andor**.

The conference closed with a roundtable of international leaders – **Tony Blair, Helen Clark, Ferenc Gyurcsány, Ricardo Lagos, Pascal Lamy, Thabo Mbeki, Adrian Nastase, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen** – chaired by **Peter Mandelson**.

(The full agenda as well as a selection of press articles and photos can be downloaded if you click on the documents at the bottom of this page).

After the Progressive Governance Conference 2004, an international leaders' summit was held, and a [joint communiqué](#) issued setting out a commitment to a progressive agenda.

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Progressive Governance Conference

Budapest, 13th and 14th October 2004

Agenda

Wednesday 13th October 2004

12h00 to 18h00 Arrival and Registration

18h00 to 19h00 Opening Plenary

"Protect, Empower, Prepare: Progressive Governance in the 21st century"

Welcome: *Peter Mandelson*, Chair of Policy Network

Keynote: *Peter Medgyessy*, Former Hungarian Prime Minister

19h00 to 20h30 Reception

Welcome: *Tibor Szanyi*, Board Member of Policy Network

Michiel van Hulst, Vice-Chair of Policy Network

20h30 to 22h30 Dinner

Host: *Ferenc Gyurcsány*, Prime Minister of Hungary

Speakers: *Joaquin Almunia*, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs

Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for External Trade

László Kovacs, European Commissioner designate

Giuliano Amato, Senior Vice-President of the Party of European Socialists

Antonio Guterres, President of the Socialist International

Thursday 14th October 2004

9h00 to 10h30 *Parallel Panels*

Progressive State Strategies for the 21st century: Promoting opportunity, mobility and solidarity

Chair: *Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar*, Minister of Justice, Spain

Speaker: *Anthony Giddens*, Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics, United Kingdom
Wolfgang Merkel, Professor of Political Science, Humboldt University, Germany
Pál Tamás, Director of the Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary

Commentator: *Tibor Dessewffy*, Professor of Sociology, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

Growth and Prosperity: Re-invigorating economic dynamism

Chair: *Francesco Rutelli*, Leader of the Margherita Party, Italy

Speaker: *Jean Pisani-Ferry*, Professor of Economics, France
Maria João Rodrigues, President of the European Commission's Social Sciences Advisory Group
László Andor, Professor of Economics, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Commentator: *Ernesto Ottone*, Economic Adviser to the President of Chile

10h30 to 10h45 *Coffee*

10h45 to 12h45 *Parallel Panels contd.*

12h45 to 14h15 *Lunch*

14h30 to 16h00 *Roundtable of International Leaders*

16h00 to 16h30 *Closing Address*