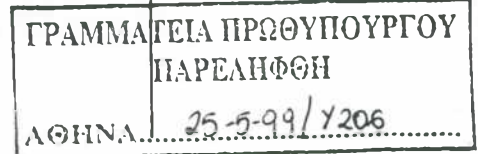


INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE

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To party leaders



Dear friend,

The work of Felipe González's Global Progress Commission is advancing. You have already received a large part of the Commission's report, and will of course be sent the full report as soon as it reaches us. Also, as you know, a specific meeting on possible reforms of the International's structures and its functioning was held in Bommersvik, Sweden, on 19, 20 and 21 February. A report on this meeting should also be done and will be sent to you as soon as we receive it.

We must now study these reports and discuss them in our parties before the Buenos Aires Council so that we can have a useful debate there with a view to reaching a definite conclusion at our Congress in Paris.

This meeting of the Council in Latin America will underline the importance we have always attached to that continent, at a time when important presidential elections will be taking place in several Southern Cone countries, in Argentina itself, in Chile and in Uruguay.

As you know, our Congress will be held at the CNIT, in the new 'La Défense' area in Paris, on 8, 9 and 10 November 1999. This Congress will therefore be very important, since it will of course have to adopt all the decisions we may wish to take regarding reform of the SI, new members and changes in the structure and composition of our governing bodies.

To stimulate this discussion, our principal committees will have to meet before the Buenos Aires Council to draw up their resolutions. Some have already met, in particular the Committee for Central and Eastern Europe, which met in Bucharest, then in Rome. In Rome, we were able to have a detailed discussion on the situation in Kosovo, which obviously remains foremost in our current concerns. The other committees will meet in the coming weeks and months, notably the Asia Committee in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 11 and 12 June. The Asian continent will, in the 21st century, be the principal arena of competition between the forces of reform and democratisation and authoritarian regimes. The elections due to take place in Malaysia and Indonesia in the coming months will be an important stage, and it is our duty to have an even greater presence than ever before, in order to follow that process.

Lastly, our Africa Committee met in Mali in March, and the level and quality of contributions were testimony to the determination and development of our network on that continent to continue its struggle for democratisation and social justice.

We therefore proceed during this year with a very full agenda. But I am sure that with everybody's participation we will be able to ensure that the International will, after its Paris Congress, be better prepared than ever to face the challenges of the 21st century. In this way, we will continue on the path taken by Willy Brandt, and followed since, of real internationalisation, of improved efficiency and ever-expanding influence.

I look forward to seeing you in Buenos Aires, and remain,

Yours fraternally,

Pierre Mauroy
President