

Monday May 7th, 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 whereIt 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 garentee 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 27th. 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 politicsRacists and petty nationalist as the losers of the 21st 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 electionsA Europe without poverty: the heart of the PES programmeGlobalization 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.

Coordination meeting/Congress round tables.doc

Preparation Congress round tables and panels

The following round tables are planned:

Monday May 7th

16.30 - 19.00

Three parallel round table debates on:

European Society and Social Democratic Values

Modern Social Economy – Modern Social Democracy

Global Responsibilities for Europe

Tuesday May 8th

09.15 – 11.00

Plenary round table debate on

The Future of the Enlarged European Union

11.30 – 12.30

A plenary round table debate on

Strengthening the Party of European Socialists

Before "half time" the round tables should have finished the introductions and reactions within the panel and have started the discussion with the other congress delegates.

On Monday we have three parallel round tables of 150 minutes

We propose for the dynamics of the discussions to have one panel block of 40 minutes (three 10 minute introductions and two five minute reactions) followed by 45 minute debate with delegates and one block of 30 minutes (two ten minute introductions and two five minute reactions) followed by 35 minute debate with delegates.

This means five 10 minute introductions and four 5 minute reactions per round table, makes three times nine panel members

On Tuesday one plenary round table of 105 minutes

Debate with delegates should start after 50 minutes

We propose three 10 minute introductions followed by four five minute reactions, makes seven panel members

And one plenary round table of 60 minutes

Debate with delegates should start after 30 minutes

We propose six five minute contributions, makes six panel members

A total of 40 panel memberships in principle reserved for:

Member party leaders and Prime Ministers :	22
Leader of the Parliamentary Group and two additional MEP's	3
Three members of the European Commission	3
Five leaders of "Enlargement parties"	5
One ECOSY and one PES Women representative	2
Experts and guests	5

There will be no panel without a female panel member

There will be no panel without a representative from one of the enlargement parties

Composition of the round table panels

In order to facilitate a decision on the composition of the panels we repeat our invitation to the PES Member parties, the Parliamentary Group, Ecosy and the PES women to indicate one first priority when it comes to panel membership.

We have received a number of priorities, but need more to make an informed proposal.

At next week's Thursday's meeting a proposal will be distributed.

We work on the basis of Prime Ministers and Party Leaders taking the floor in the panel discussions, also since they will not have this opportunity in the opening ceremony.

Antony Beumer
Secretary General