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Subject: Vision for a new way of life in the EU: proposals on
sustainable development

[IMAGE]

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VISION FOR A NEW WAY OF LIFE IN THE EU

A paper that sets out plans to transform European society within a generation is published today on the web site of the Party of European Socialists - <http://www.pes.org>

The document will be submitted to Party leaders at the Social Democrat Summit in Barcelona on 14 March.

Swedish Premier Göran Persson chaired a working party of senior European politicians, including Dutch environment minister Jan Pronk, British environment minister Michael Meacher and European environment commissioner Margot Wallström, to prepare the proposals.

The paper calls for sweeping reforms to end the destructive impact of modern lifestyles on the world whilst safeguarding the growth of prosperity. Seeking to 'transform our present society into one characterised both by solidarity between generations and solidarity between countries,' it sets out proposals for a new system of taxes, subsidies, investment, standards and regulation that will affect almost all areas of human activity. Transport, energy, wildlife, housing, the countryside, fishing, farming - and even Internet shopping - are areas highlighted for action.

PES President Robin Cook has already announced that the final document will form the basis of 'a distinctive PES contribution' to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg later this year.

Five key aims underpinning the Persson document's proposals are:

- + Stable economic development with good growth, full employment, low inflation and strong public finances that bear a decreasing burden of debt;
- + Employment levels of 70 per cent, with 60 per cent for women, by 2010;
- + High level of public health;
- + Determination to prevent social exclusion; and
- + Achievement of ecologically sustainable development within one generation with

implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Programme.

The paper focuses strongly on fighting global poverty and calls for 'a new Global Deal, restoring trust between north and south', to be defined before the Johannesburg Summit.

The paper declares: 'Our over-riding objective is to create a society based on economic, social and ecological sustainability within one generation. Europe is to be the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based society in the world, providing scope for sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs, a higher degree of social cohesion and with ecological sustainability as the objective within one generation.'

A link to the Sustainable Development paper, published as an Adobe PDF file, can be found at the bottom left of the Party's homepage.

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