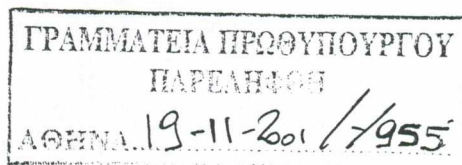


De Europæiske Socialdemokraters Parti • Sozialdemokratische Partei Europas
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΟ ΣΟΣΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΟΜΜΑ • Party of European Socialists
Partido Socialista Europeo • Parti socialiste européen
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De Europeiske Socialdemokraters Parti • Partido Socialista Europeu
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Mr. Costas Simitis,
Prime Minister of Greece,
Megaron Maximou,
Irodou Attikou,
Athens
Greece



- κ. Οίμμεν
- κ. Π. Αγγελίδης
- κ. Π. Ιωαννίδης
21/11/01

Dear Costas,

I am writing as President of PES to record our decisions at the Leader's meeting at Ghent.

PES Leaders' meetings

The Leaders and Prime Ministers present had a valuable exchange of views on the structure of these meetings. In summing up the discussion I proposed the following structure for future meetings.

1. Each meeting should be centred around an in depth discussion on a political issue of topical interest. The greatest value of such meetings would be the exchange between leaders on how each of them is addressing a common challenge. We propose that the focus of the discussion of the meeting before Laeken should be on how we advance our commitment to full employment against current pressures in the international economy.
2. Before that central discussion there will be a review of the agenda for the forthcoming summit. This is of particular help to those leaders who are not in government, or who are partners in government but not participants in the summit.
3. At the end of the discussion a private meeting will be held for participants in the summit in order that they can caucus and prepare common positions where appropriate.
4. A written report on PES activities will be tabled in order to remove the need for discussion of routine party business and to maximise the opportunity for political discussion.

I hope this structure will result in a rewarding and valuable use of leaders' time. The success of the new format will only be realised if we secure a good attendance.

PES declaration on our vision for Europe

The Ghent leaders' meeting approved the outline for a PES declaration before Laeken. This declaration will assert the achievements of Europe and why European co-operation is even more important in the age of globalisation. It will address how we re-engage the people of Europe with the European project by demonstrating that only through European partnership can we guarantee their prosperity or deliver their security. It will offer a distinctive social democratic vision of the future of Europe based on our priorities of full employment, social justice and sustainable development.

A draft text will be sent to you in the next couple of weeks and we intend to secure approval of it at the PES presidency meeting at Tallin on 1st December. This timetable will enable us to organise publicity around it in the run-up to the Laeken Council.

I look forward to our future co-operation and hope to see you all at our next Leaders' meeting at the Town Hall Brussels on Thursday 13 December from 7.30 p.m. until 9.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Cook
President