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Subject: EU's Social Democrats build links to Muslim communities

From Tony Robinson, Spokesman, Party of European Socialists.
Brussels: 26 October 2001: Tel: -

EU's SOCIAL DEMOCRATS BUILD LINKS TO MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

European social democrats will next week launch a three-step process to strengthen dialogue with Muslim countries and communities.

First, the Party of European Socialists and its European parliamentary group will hold a Round Table discussion on Tuesday 30 October involving senior European politicians and representatives of Muslim communities in Europe.

Later, a special task force will present an assessment of progressive forces in Muslim countries so that a Euro-Muslim network can be established.

Early next year, the social democrats will organise a Euro-Muslim Winter University hosted by the Spanish Socialist Party, with the aim of developing long-term links.

The first step in the process will be the Round Table discussion from 14h00 to 16h30 on 30 October in Room 1E2 of the European Parliament in Brussels.

PES President Robin Cook will introduce a discussion on 'The global situation and the need for dialogue'. Four speakers from Muslim communities will open a discussion on 'The position of Muslim communities throughout Europe'. The session will conclude with a debate on PES dialogue with Muslim countries and the creation of the Euro-Muslim network.

At the Socialist Summit in Ghent last week, PES leaders stressed their full support for the global coalition against terrorism and set out an anti-terror action plan to tackle poverty, resolve conflicts and reform the global financial system.

Announcing the Euro-Muslim initiative at the time Mr Cook said it would 'promote dialogue between the West and the Islamic world and strengthen relations between our communities in Europe.'

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For more information please phone PES Spokesman Tony Robinson on
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