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News from the Party of European Socialists  
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## TACKLING CONCERNS ABOUT GLOBALISATION

A new process to tackle public concerns about globalisation was launched in Copenhagen today.

Leading European social democrats met representatives of more than 20 non-governmental networks to discuss practical proposals for action.

Globalisation spokesman of the Party of European Socialists, former Danish premier Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, called for a new progressive alliance between politics and civil society.

He told an international seminar -- organised by the PES in conjunction with the Danish social democrat party and the PES group in the European Parliament:

'For many of our citizens, globalisation appears predominantly and increasingly as a threat. They are afraid of losing their jobs, they are anxious about immigration and increasingly link this to their fear of crime. And they worry about losing cultural identity.

'They turn to the nation state to find solutions -- but mostly they give short-term, inward-looking answers. What is needed are long-term solutions and outward-looking, inclusive policies'.

Mr Rasmussen added: 'We need to develop a new political agenda for this new century. Shaping such an agenda and translating it into action will require input and support from civil society. It will also require political alliances with other political forces ready to engage in a progressive agenda, not only in Europe but worldwide.'

Mr Rasmussen set out a three-point paradigm for a 'new global progressive agenda'.

- o More effective, generous development policy coordinated with the 'right kind of asylum, immigration and integration policies in developed countries';
- o More investment and technology transfer to poorer countries -- 'ensuring that this does not cause unacceptable social upheavals at home'; and
- o Securing strong economic expansion to fight poverty in many parts of the world whilst avoiding environmental destruction.

The seminar, attended by about 100 politicians and civil society representatives from Europe, Asia and Africa, addresses three main themes.

- o Poverty and environmental degradation
- o The role of global civil society
- o Social partnership in the world.

Leading the opening session of the talks, Euro MP Glenys Kinnock called for a "Brandt Commission Mark II".

The President of Medecins du Monde, Claude Moncorg, said that only one per cent of the 1,200 new medicines developed in the last 20 years was for treating tropical disease. Yet 500 million people were infected with malaria with one million dying every year. Half a million people hit by sleeping sickness are treated by an arsenic based medicine from 1949 that kills one in 15 patients whilst an effective and safe medicine of 1990 has gone out of production because it is not profitable enough.

The conference today will be followed tomorrow by a private seminar to refine the PES position for further discussion at a meeting of the PES Council in Warsaw next month.

Participants will include European commissioner Pascal Lamy, Socialist International President Antonio Guterres and leading academics. PES President Robin Cook and the leader of the European Parliament's Socialist Group Enrique Baron will make keynote speeches.

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