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Subject: Social democratic summit calls for UN solution to Iraqi crisis

News from the Party of European Socialists

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SUMMIT CALLS FOR UN SOLUTION TO IRAQI CRISIS

A summit of prime ministers and party leaders from the Party of European Socialists in London today called for a UN solution to the Iraq crisis.

The four-hour Downing Street summit, hosted by British premier Tony Blair and chaired by PES President Robin Cook, dealt with three broad themes:

- The pursuit of European policy priorities for the Party
- Reform of the European Union
- Iraq and other international issues.

Summit participants stressed the importance of economic cooperation with a view to promoting employment, development of policies to promote social inclusion and deal with social insecurity as well as drawing up a common approach to immigration issues.

In a discussion on the future of Europe, led by PES vice-president of the Convention Giuliano Amato, the summit sought a Europe that delivers on the people's agenda, focussing on such issues as environment protection, the European social model and protection of people's freedoms.

On Iraq, the summit called for resolution of the Iraq crisis through UN action, with inspections leading to the removal of weapons of mass destruction held by Saddam Hussein. Participants paid tribute to the role of Tony Blair in providing a link with the United States and securing action through the United Nations.

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