



"Tony Robinson"
<trobinson@europarl.
eu.int>

05/06/2002 16:49

To: undisclosed-recipients;;
cc:
Subject: Far Right 'feeds false dream of simple solutions' -- PES
President Robin Cook

From Tony Robinson, Spokesman, Party of European Socialists
Vienna: 5 June 2002. Tel: +32-475-257410

FAR RIGHT 'FEEDS FALSE DREAM OF SIMPLE SOLUTIONS'

The President of the Party of European Socialists, Robin Cook, today called on the Left to defend freedom, tolerance and equality against the rise of right-wing populism in Europe.

He announced a Summit of EU social democratic party leaders in Brussels next month to address the issue.

Speaking at a PES seminar in Vienna to draw up strategies for tackling right-wing populism, Mr Cook called on democrats across the European political spectrum to 'expose the false promises that the populist Right offers to our societies.'

He said: 'The populist Right is feeding a false dream of simple solutions. We must use our strength to make sure our countries are spared the false claims and dangerous policies of the Far Right.'

Issues to be addressed, he said, included the alienation from the political system that many people experience.

Mr Cook stressed: 'The Far Right is not a European movement. There are many differences between Far Right parties in different countries. But it is important that we make a common front against them.'

Representatives of 20 countries from the EU, central and eastern Europe, Switzerland and Norway, took part in today's seminar.

Austrian social democrat leader Alfred Gusenbauer is to present a strategy paper on tackling right-wing populism to the Summit of PES leaders in Brussels on 5 July.

Speaking at today's seminar, Mr Gusenbauer said: 'We have to address existing problems and develop solutions. To play them down or even ignore them is the wrong option.'

end