



# Re:new

*"PES Council, Warsaw 02-03.12.2010"*

PES DEBATE ON PROGRESSIVE SOCIETIES

## **A democratic and transparent process for designating the PES candidate for the European Commission Presidency**

**Resolution adopted by the PES Council in Warsaw on 2 December 2010**

European politics has changed. As the fields of competence of European institutions have been enlarged, EU legislation is affecting more and more citizens, and having a greater impact on more areas of their lives. At the same time citizens now have more opportunities than ever before to influence the policies decided on at European level. The scene has been set for a higher politicization of Europe.

Both the greater role given to the European Parliament and to national parliaments, and the recent introduction of provisions for the European Citizens' initiative, clearly show that the EU is moving towards a strengthening of both participatory and representative democracy, and also towards greater openness and transparency. Just as at local, regional and national level, European politics must articulate itself around clear democratic choices, in order to fully become the fourth level of democracy and of governance.

The heart of European democracy lies in the direct election of the citizens' representatives to the European Parliament. Yet, despite the noticeable strengthening of European political parties and of the common work done at European level, the significant abstention rate at European elections demonstrates that the choices and visibility of the different parties and programs were not apparent enough.

The European Council will now have to take into account the results of the elections to the European Parliament when proposing a candidate for President of the European Commission. The chosen candidate has to obtain an absolute majority in the newly elected European Parliament. This will transform the face of the European elections as citizens will clearly see an immediate consequence of their vote. It will also change the level of accountability of the European Commission towards European citizens and their elected representatives. As such, European elections will become as politically important as national elections, which should in turn, promote a higher voter turnout.

This politicization of the European elections sets the scene to further strengthen and build the role of European political parties. In this context, it is our duty to make the issues at stake and the choices on offer clear and visible to European voters.

Last year, at the PES Prague Congress, we took the unanimous decision to run for the next European elections with a common strategy to implement a common program, embodied by a common candidate for the position of European Commission President.

By acting as a coherent political family, with both a program and a personality to lead Europe, we will gain in unity and visibility, and be better able to communicate articulate messages and policies.

We, European socialists and social-democrats, will select our candidate through a democratic and transparent process. We will take this new step towards a more democratic European Union in an open and confident approach. We have always taken the lead in making the EU more democratic and more accountable to its citizens; we have always strived to make European politics more accessible and understandable.

We will apply these principles to our own house and strengthen the internal democracy of the PES by bringing on board all our parties and all levels within the parties. Our common candidate will be chosen in an open way, we need to reinvigorate European citizens' engagement with European politics, and thus engage our members in one way or another. If we want to be a credible, modern and forward-looking alternative, the PES must have a democratic, transparent and inclusive process, which is both understandable and flexible and ensuring both the quality and the legitimacy of the candidate.

Therefore the PES Council sets up a Working Group "Candidate 2014"(see composition in annex), to discuss and propose a process. The discussion could include:

- The criteria to stand as a candidate, including proposals for endorsement
- The scope of the electorate
- The selection procedure
- The organisation and financing of the selection process
- A timetable for the selection

The Working Group "Candidate 2014" will report back to the Presidency, which will make a proposal to be adopted at the 2011 PES Council. Taking into account the crucial role that the European Parliament has in endorsing the candidate for the Commission Presidency, the S&D Group will be represented in the Working Group "Candidate 2014" by its President or his representative.

**Our aim is to win the European elections in 2014.** In order to do so we need to present a convincing alternative with a common manifesto, to agree upon a common strategy, to put forward a single candidate, to give him/her strength, support and visibility. The PES candidate for Presidency of the European Commission, together with the national Heads of lists of our member parties, will embody our message to European citizens. A new direction for Europe is possible and the PES is ready to lead it.

The decision on the process on how to select the PES common candidate will follow this timetable:

PES Council 2010:	Establishment of the Working Group "Candidate 2014"
June 2011:	Intermediary report of the Working Group "Candidate 2014" to the PES Presidency
September 2011:	Final report of the Working Group "Candidate 2014" to the PES Presidency
PES Council 2011:	Proposal from the PES Presidency to the Council. Adoption of the process by the Council



## Composition of the Working Group “Candidate 2014”

adopted by the PES Council

Chair	Ruairi Quinn	Labour, Ireland
Members	Karl Duffek Gilles Mahieu Saïd El Khadraoui Tero Shemeikka Alain Richard Achim Post Paulina Lampsa Tibor Szanyi Piero Fassino Frans Timmermans Titus Corlațean Andrej Horvat Diego Lopez Garrido Ann Linde Wayne David Petroula Nteledimou Zita Gurmai Martin Schulz	SPÖ Austria PS Belgium sp.A Belgium SDP Finland PS France SPD Germany PASOK, Greece MSZP, Hungary PD Italy PvdA, The Netherlands PSD, Romania SD, Slovenia PSOE Spain SAP, Sweden Labour, UK ECOSY PES Women S&D Group in the EP
Rapporteur	Philip Cordery	PES