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## **Resolution**

### **8. Free trade policy. Protect People – Not Jobs**

*Resolution submitted by SSU Sweden*

Free Trade Policy has since the Second World War contributed to peace in Europe. It has been crucial - both for growth of our economies and essential when it comes to binding people together. Trading people, people who depend on each other, tend not to seek conflict. Without a growing economy, it is also difficult to create equal societies, which is why a free trade policy may also be a policy for economic - and social - equality. The fact that a free trade policy often creates painful structural changes on the labour market is not an argument for protectionism, it is an argument for a progressive social democratic policy.

The social democratic philosophy must always be to protect people – not jobs. If politicians support people between employments, the chance of them getting another employment is significantly higher. It's not a cost, it's an investment. These social bridges must consist of substantial unemployment funds - in order to ensure that people have an income, as well as different sorts of municipal adult education. This way unemployed are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and competence in order to strengthen their position in both their working and social life.

A free and fair trade policy, with these social reforms included, can take people out of poverty. And not just in Europe. All parties are winners if there is an economic, as well as a social, equality policy at the same time. Therefore, it is not just a way to guarantee peace within Europe. It will also facilitate the development of non-European countries - countries that have the real economic challenges.

The results of a free trade policy we can see already. An increasing number of non-European countries are not in need of international aid to the same extent as they used to be. That is why a free trade policy can be a policy for all of us – providing it is combined with a social democratic policy where we can ensure social bridges - in terms of a unemployment funds and municipal adult education. As young socialists social democrats in Europe we must push for this development.

SSU therefore recommends YES to:

- Take a principle stand for free trade policy, crucial for European growth and equality.
- Hold up the social perspective, such as unemployment funds and municipal adult education, regarding free trade negotiations
- Recognize the ILOs conventions as the basis of human rights in working life.