



**11th YES/ECOSY Congress
hosted thanks to the hospitality of SSU Sweden
in Bommersvik, Sweden, 7th to 10th March 2013**

Adopted resolutions and declarations

LET'S STRENGTHEN YES NOW

The neoliberal and conservative forces are only strong in Europe if democratic socialism is weak. This is proven by the austerity policy, implemented in Europe at the moment with no mercy. For years Young Socialists have demanded a social Europe and the democratization of Europe. Until now there's only a bit of a so called growth-policy and small demands of the European parliament to get more power and budget to fight against unemployment. We can't see the political will to realize a social Europe beyond that.

We, as Young Socialist said it was time to demonstrate we disagree. With the „Rise up!“ campaign young socialists put an exclamation mark for a deepened cooperation and made ten concrete proposals for a democratic, social and environmental Europe.

In the last years ECOSY organized big campaigns like “Social Europe for Everyone”, “Chance for Europe” and “Talking about my Generation”. The Talking about my Generation-Campaign of ECOSY was the basis of the implementation of the PES-Campaign for a youth guarantee. Especially this campaign was successful. We consider YES strong when it is working like this: being an umbrella-organization to exchange views from a national political public on European issues, but also going beyond the mere status of an umbrella organization and developing a united campaign-oriented way of facing common challenges – especially when Europe is becoming more and more a political recipient for our political visions and demands.

For us YES must enhance progressive policies in Europe and in our mother parties. We enjoy seeing YES alongside the employees, the young generation of the crisis- being part of a left young movement- alongside other critical-left. We must further strengthen the political role of YES and make our political struggles heard in our national member organizations. The divide runs between poor and rich, not between nations, we shall overcome this thinking by democratization!

Especially in the time of crisis YES- using its structures- must be able to have one voice- linked to an evaluation and criticism of the crisis- into the national organizations and also down to the local level. The current structures, developed in times when the organization was founded and

only carefully reformed since then, sometimes hamper us in doing so. We think it is time to sit down together in order to discuss how we can make YES's structures more effective and democratic. Europe unites, so do we.

That is why in the next months and years, we need a debate about practice, structures and reform YES needs in order to fulfill the bigger expectations we all have. This reform-process shall come to results in the period 2013-2015. A reform commission of effective size whose members are appointed within the Bureau, shall openly discuss different proposals in a fixed period of time and present one proposal to the Presidium and Bureau and then to the congress 2015.

The Commission is going to be installed by the next Bureau meeting after the congress 2013.

Following points are crucial for us:

1. Successful campaigns must be organized in another way, giving activists on the local level from the beginning the opportunity to participate. This is not only a task for YES but also for national organizations. How to make campaigns in another way and how to make them more effective bottom-up?
2. The democratization of European structures is a continual task. The old structures of ECOSY do not fully match the needs of a bigger and plural organization of these days. We need a democratic reform which gives answers to the reality of our organization. Solidarity, democracy and representativeness need to be strengthened.
3. YES needs more institutionalized financial resources. Which alternatives are there for youth organizations to get financial resources out of the European budget? How can we fund our umbrella organization in solidarity and on many shoulders?

A reform commission gives the opportunity for an analysis and open discussions. All positions needs to be heard. It's important: Let's democratize and strengthen YES now!

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

TEARING DOWN THE FENCES: TOWARDS A PROGRESSIVE EUROPEAN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY

1. CURRENT SITUATION

Every day at the frontiers of the European Union there are humanitarian catastrophes and violations of the human rights. Many people die crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. Just on September 6th 2012 more than 60 refugees mainly from Syria, Iraq and Palestinian Territories died during their try. This is just one example out of many others. Exact numbers of casualties are unknown, just in 2011 FRONTEX 'rescued' 33.000 refugees from distress. "Fortress Europe" estimates that between 1988 and today more than 18.000 people died of thirst or drowning during their crossing. The degrading conditions in the reception camps also show that these aren't individual cases but a system of structural discrimination. This is how European Union's migration and asylum policy works. The European Union barricades its borders with the construction of a modern 'border protection' in the east and with the European Agency FRONTEX in the south.

2. NO PERSON IS ILLEGAL – ON THE WAY TO A GLOBAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Not every person who is leaving his or her home country is a refugee. Many people leave their home countries voluntarily – to find work at another place, to study abroad or to live by their families. But others were forced due to their religion, nationality, racist discrimination or political persecution to leave their homes. Since it is hardly possible at all to immigrate to the European Union legally, many people hope to get recognized as refugees. But also people who have to be recognized as refugees due to the Geneva Convention are often prevented from the entry to the European Union and the access to the procedure of granting the right of asylum.

While highly qualified people are often welcomed warmly in the countries of the European Union and also political persecuted people get asylum in particular cases, people who flee from poverty, hunger or lack of general life prospects cannot count on such generous reception. They get rejected, criminalized and humiliated in almost every case. As Young Socialists we refuse this notion of selecting human beings depending on their perceived economic utility.

Democracy and the freedom of movement complement one another. Collective self-determination needs a spatial "exit option". Freedom of movement makes other fundamental rights come true, without it in some areas of the world human rights are just empty words. Furthermore, the global gap in income and wealth – opened by colonialism and an unjust world economic order – is likely to be narrowed by global migration. For moral, political and economic reasons we aspire freedom of movement as a global right. We do not separate "good" from "bad" migrants. No person is illegal. We want everyone to choose his or her place of residence. Even though there are substantial barriers to such a demand in the present we draw strength and inspiration from the history of the European Union. The way the EU gradually reduced its barriers to internal movement of people can serve as a model for a global freedom of movement. This idea should guide all our policies on migration.

3. TAKE ACTION FOR A PROGRESSIVE MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY

The European Union needs a progressive and comprehensive concept for its migration and asylum policy. This concept also has to focus on the people who are willing to migrate. The interests of those should also be respected. Migration policy should be centered on migrants' rights and not state sovereignty.

ECOSY-Young European Socialists therefore demand:

Policy on regular migration

- To extend legal options for immigration into the EU on a broad scale
- the improvement of foreign qualification recognition
- to ease family reunion
- to extend the right to hold multiple nationalities and to vote in your country of residence

Policy on irregular migration

- the regularization of irregular migrations and guaranteeing victims of trafficking and illegal migrants immunity from criminal prosecution
- unlimited permits from the start

Border protection

- change FRONTEX' mission statement: migrant protection instead of defence against migrants
- FRONTEX' guidelines and funding ought to be controlled by the European Parliament, the Commission and an ombudsperson

Common European asylum policy

- guaranteed access to the asylum procedure for all asylum seekers
- uniform protection standards, procedures and criteria for to guarantee a high level of protection
- Free movement for any recognized refugee in the EU
- reforming the Dublin II-Regulation in order to the abolish the safe third country rule and develop a mechanism of a responsibility and "burden" sharing within the EU based on solidarity
- recognition of flight due to non-state prosecution, flight of areas of war, escape because of hunger, desertification, environmental catastrophes or persecution due to gender, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation
- regular provision of refugee resettlement in all EU States

Combating root causes of flight

- to make combating the root causes of flight like poverty, hunger and prosecution the key aspects of European Neighborhood Policy
- no EU reception camps on foreign soil

- stop lumping together EU migration policies and national/European security issues

As Young European Socialists we will fight for our ideas to make Europe more open, more humanitarian and based on a stronger solidarity. Because our belief is that no human being is illegal. A society without boundaries is our vision.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

MAKE GENDER POLITICS WORK: WHY WE NEED A WOMEN QUOTA

We are living in a patriarchal society which is dominated by men in most fields. These patriarchal structures impede women and transgenders to have equal possibilities for participation. Our aim as young socialists is to break down patriarchal structures to reach equal participation of women and men. Many measures are needed to reach this goal of equality. One very important measure is the quota for women and transgenders.

This means concretely: every delegation at YES congress has to be gender balanced in the way that at least half of the delegates are women or transgender. More women and transgenders in a delegation are highly desirable and must not lead to loss of votes! If a delegation with a higher number of women or transgenders would be sanctioned this would totally reverse our aim to empower women and transgenders in our organization. Let's make gender politics work and create a real women and transgender quota!

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

SOCIALIST THOUGHT AND REPUBLICANISM

It is compulsory a premise, there are monarchies more civilized and advanced than some republican states. We do not put in doubt that some monarchies are examples of democracy and Rechtsstaat. But the problem that we highlight is another.

This is the conflict between the principle of equality of socialist thought and the monarchy. The king – even in constitutional monarchies – assumes, by virtue of birth, prerogatives and powers that are denied to other citizens, and this violates the principle of equality at the root. Although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says exactly the opposite: "Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights...". This definition is very similar to the famous phrase 'All men are created equal' of the American Declaration of Independence, suggested to Thomas Jefferson by the Italian philosopher Filippo Mazzei. Another philosopher, the Greek Plato, in his Republic says that the rulers are not chosen by birth or wealth, but by nature.

The historical roots of socialist thought, as exhibited in his research by the historian Giorgio Spini, also derive from the Enlightenment, with the motto: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. For Rousseau, sovereignty is inalienable because it can only belong to the people. The great French thinker explains in a precise phrase the concept of republican liberty: "A free people obey but is not in service; has leaders, but not masters; obey the laws, but only to the laws, and it is by virtue of the laws that does not become the servant of men" (Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Lettres écrites de la montagne*, VIII). Even Voltaire in his Philosophical Dictionary under States, Governments, What is the best? he states that "the virtuous man is much more comfortable in a republic: there is no one to flatter".

To Enlightenment and Utopian Socialism, it follows Scientific Socialism embodied by Marxism. In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels assume predictable the republican system in order to then develop the socialist program. We find mention in the Demands of the Communist Party in Germany of 1848, which states in Article 1: "The whole of Germany shall

be declared a single and indivisible republic".

Approaching a century, 3 September 1944, Pietro Nenni, a great socialist leader, proposed at the party congress as an immediate objective of conflict a socialist republic. The British Foreign Office said in a note: "This is very stupid ... but you know that the Italian Socialist Party is a party remarkably stupid". On 3 June 1946 Italy chose the republic as a form of state, thanks to Pietro Nenni. A few years after the socialist policies made Italy a fairer state.

For centuries the incompatibility of socialist thought and monarchy was only a matter of theory, conquerable with reforms that give (almost) full political rights to citizens. Today, however, practical obstacles are involved. The process of building a European federation or United States of Europe, as we call it, it is now essential for the survival of the Continent. The european socialists, more than any other, know that if we fail in this project, remaining divided, a violent decline will fall on our countries and years of social gains will be lost. The construction of a federal entity sanctioned by an european Constitution, a federal head of state, a government and an assembly elected to represent the citizens of Europe, is in conflict with the concept of monarchy. A monarchy can not give up sovereignty to a higher power.

The monarchies can maybe protect tradition, but they remain a medieval and feudal legacy based on caste privileges. The nobility has nothing to do with socialism and equality. The monarchy is a profound injustice in principle for a socialist and a significant obstacle to a modern european constitutional process. So the socialists, at least in principle, can not accept the monarchy as a form of the state and they should declare themselves Republicans.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

ON THE LAST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MACEDONIA

We, Young European Socialists, recalling to the core values of justice, democracy and solidarity that are common ground of our political acting,

Gravely concerned for the last political developments and the undemocratic actions of the conservative government in Macedonia,

adopt the following joint resolution to declare our support for the struggle of our comrades from the Social Democratic Youth and the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia:

During the past two decades, Macedonia has developed as a European nation. During the years, social democratic governments have established and strengthened the nation's freedom and independence.

Over the course of the last seven years, the current conservative Government, have made it clear to all: they don't like freedom. They have firmly used their voices for the creation of autocracy.

The culmination of this dramatic process has been brought on the Black Monday- 24th of December 2012, when:

- the journalists have been violently thrown out of the Parliament;
- MPs of the oppositional coalition have been beaten up by the security services in front of the eyes of their fellows from the governmental majority;
- the HQ of SDUM was attacked;
- citizens that peacefully protested were attacked by another groups organized by governmental supporters;
- the Rules of Procedure, the laws and the Constitution have been breached in order the Annual Budget of the country for 2013 to be adopted;

We find the grave attack on democracy in Macedonia as a threat to the universal values that

we all struggle for;

We heartily condemn the events of December 24th and we are urging for immediate undertaking responsibility of the institutions for those events;

We condemn the functioning of the de facto regime in the country;

We do not know what they are planning, but we know that the Republic of Macedonia and her citizens are in the wrong hands.

We, Young European Socialists, express our deepest support and encouragement to our comrades in Macedonia in their struggle for democracy. Their battle is our battle!

No pasarán!

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

ON GENDER EQUALITY

Young European Socialists believes every aspect of gender equality should be present at each level of the society. YES calls for an equal society with full representation and participation of its citizens. An equal gendered society which delivers and guarantees women's and transgenders' equal civil, social, political and economic rights. Young European Socialists stands for giving women and transgenders social condition for equal economic opportunities and achievements in the society.

YES believes gender equality and empowering of young women and transgenders should be put in the front lines of the agenda of the political organizations and structures. YES calls not just for empowering women and transgenders in political participation and involving them in the political debates, but for active women and transgenders participating in the decision making processes. Gender equality should be claimed through gender quota for executive boards of all kind of organizations, mainly as a first tool towards real gender equality. Women and transgenders should have equal access to every structural level of political and economical organizations. In political organizations and parties gender equality should be assured by gender equality electoral list and gender speakers' list.

Economic gender equality would be achieve in the society though assuring equal access to the women and transgenders to all level of the labour market. YES commits itself for the fight of equal payment for the same job. The gender pay gap is a fact in Europe. We observe not only labour inequality in the sense of an unequal payment for equal work, but also in the gendered segregation of the labour market by industry and permanence of contracts. Too many women and on the labour market are taking part-time jobs, unpaid jobs and voluntary work instead of permanent full-time jobs. The women's participation on the labour as not fully employed – reproduces women pension gap, which makes women's dependence on additional social security from the full- time employed husband/partner, state welfare and social security.

YES claims for gender sensitive policy towards labour market, which will give the young women more opportunities to combine working and family lives in one. The reproductive women's rights should be support with developing and creating an easier access to childcare facilities. The reproductive rights should not affect negatively the professional carrier and working experience of women. The reproductive rights should be supported by obligatory shared parental leave.

YES commits itself for making politics, which come over inclusion of a certain women's groups. We should launch debate and legislation process, which discuss the right and social security of women engaged in a house work. YES considers as a basic right to incorporate the specific needs of women and transgenders by the social security systems.

Young women exclusion from labour market combines with lack of politics, which give social support for easier transfer from education system to the first job are some of the reasons for increasing young women trafficking across Europe. YES calls for creating a strict European

legislation, which is able to fight young women trafficking as in the member states which supply traffic of women, as the member states which experience a demand of young women victims of trafficking. The European policy should come over the problem of women trafficking with simultaneous actions in two areas – preventing new flows of traffic and creating a new opportunities for the victims. YES calls for establishment of nets of help centers across the European Union for legal, psychological and financial support for the women victim of trafficking. YES believes young women victims of trafficking should get the chance to find their own place in the society through different skills developing programs and life-long learning programs.

YES denounces strongly violence against women and transgenders at home or at the work place. The right wing governments in the EU made a lot of financial cuts of help centers for women victims of violence. At the same time economic crisis increases the number of women victims of domestic violence cause of family's economic difficulties. The migrant women face problem of violence even stronger. YES believes our progressive society should experience more information campaigns about violence against women and transgenders, to be build facilities of help centers, where victims of violence will be able to find legal, psychological, financial support for themselves and their children.

Now is the time to set the European Union political agenda for the next decades and to claim stronger and loader for our progressive value of gender equality in every sphere of the society.

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Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

MANDATORY SECONDARY LEVEL EDUCATION WILL RELIEVE THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

As of December 2012, 5.7 million young people in the European Union were unemployed. This figure is equal to the entire population of Finland or more than twice that of Slovenia. According to the European Commission youth unemployment rate is more than twice as high as the adult one – 22.7 % against 9.2 % in the third quarter of 2012. In EU 14% of the young people are NEET youth - the ones who are not in education, employment or training. In some countries, this number is even higher.

Especially dangerous is long term youth unemployment since statistics show that entering the job market is much harder if person is not in it for more than a year. Even though there are steps being taken to fight this rising social disaster, for example European Youth Guarantee, it is not enough. Despite the financial crisis, there are over 2 million job vacancies in Europe and employers are complaining that they don't have anyone to hire.

ECYESOSY believes that all these factors previously mentioned are very much connected with education level of young people. Researches show that the higher the education level of young people the more likely they will find a job. Most of the long-term unemployed people have secondary level diploma or less. Best way to overcome the financial crisis is to create more jobs, what will bring more money to the state budget.

As the society becomes more advanced, the requirements for young employees change as does the structure of the economy. In constantly aging Europe we need to innovate and figure out smarter solutions to sustain the viability of our economy. Therefore, basic education will not be sufficient, now society expects people to have a master's degree to succeed. Even though there are countries in Europe that still worry about providing their citizens basic education, it is not enough. It is time for Europe to take steps so that individual states would start taking actions towards everyone having access to better education, even if people don't fully understand its importance.

In order to reduce the number of NEET youth - the ones who are not in education, employment or training, we suggest making secondary level education mandatory, which

includes high school or vocational education so that young people could have the necessary skills to enter job market. Employers and educational institutions have to cooperate more and vocational education has to be reinvented so that currently vacant job positions could be filled.

Currently young people tend to have jobs that are not stable – in 2012, 42.0 % of young employees were working on a temporary contract (four times as much as adults) and 32.0 % part-time (nearly twice the adults' rate). As Europe's population is aging, it is absolutely vital that every young person is employed so that European welfare system could function. Youth unemployment is one of the most fundamental problems of the current European economic system. Tackling it needs bold moves and improving our education system could be the first step, what should be taken right now.

In order to enforce the access to higher education in Europe, the European Union and member states should be active in reducing the direct and indirect costs of the higher education. YES affirms its full support to the International Covenant on economical, social and cultural rights adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16th December 1966 and particularly to its article 13 that affirms that "higher education should be made equally accessible (...) - by the progressive introduction of free education".

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Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

RESOLUTION ON THE EU BUDGET

For the first time in its 56 years' history the EU has decreased its budget. 32 billion euros will be wiped out of the seven-year budget. An important cut will be in the development aid budget, which will make it impossible to meet the EU target of spending 0,7% of EU members' GNI on development aid by 2015.

After the EU summit Merkel proudly announced this decision adding that the cuts also include a shrinking of the salaries of EU personnel. We condemn this kind of populist discourse and request real solutions to the economic crisis. In this crisis we need a stronger Europe, meaning an increase of the European budget. We call on to Europe's leaders to work together towards a collective approach investing in:

- a European solution for the unemployment issue, especially aimed at young people;
- a European fiscality plan that will allow to create a social security system on EU level;
- more cooperation when it comes to migration in order to ensure humanity and justice towards migrants and at the same time prevent and fight abuse of employers and exploiters due to different migration policy from country to country inside the EU.
- sustainable economic rehab aimed at long term stability instead of constant severe fluctuation

Reviving Europe's economy should not threaten workers' rights, as we oughtn't only invest in material wealth but also in workers' wellbeing. Both from a social as from an economic point of view this is the most sustainable approach.

Decreasing the EU's budget is a step backwards in the process of European integration and more welfare. The idea should not be to allow national countries to have more autonomy in order to protect themselves; it should be about the member countries working together in order to empower each other on as many policy issues as possible, especially in times of economic crisis. Together we stand strong. And the role of the European Parliament should be expanded to to included from the start of the negotiations, in order to find true European consensus.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General

ON THE SITUATION IN MALI

We, young European socialists and social democrats,

- having regard to previous interventions in other developing countries,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement, having entered into force on 1 April 2003,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981, ratified by Mali in 1981,

are concerned about the current situation in Mali,

- whereas it has been in chaos since the beginning of 2012 after a military coup which unseated the democratically elected government,
- whereas at the same time a rebellion in the north led by Islamist groups including al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM),
- whereas these events have created a humanitarian crisis in the north and damaged houses, crops and some important historical ruins,
- whereas according to human rights groups in some cities in the north Sharia law has been imposed, which is concerning, particularly for women's rights. Whereas some HR groups claim that Islamists are compiling lists of single, unmarried mothers with the intention of punishing them for infidelity.

Our concern is not that countries want to intervene in this worsening situation; the concern is rather the reason behind intervention. Isn't the situation at least as bad in Syria or Sudan?

Taking that into account,

- we urge countries not to intervene because of the War on Terror, even if Islamist groups have a name with the word 'al-Qaïda' in it, unless there's a need to support the protection of lives of the civilians in the middle of the conflict,
- we urge EU members to take into account the risk that intervention could cause a spillover in the whole region as those considered rebels can easily flee to neighbouring countries because of porous frontiers,
- we call on the EU member states to insist on peace talks between all parties. An intervention should only support the protection of lives of the civilians in the middle of the conflict.
- we underline that we are in favour of peaceful conflict resolution with only defensive intervention, comparable to UN peacekeeping, only if it is really needed,
- we underline that the reasons for intervention of any kind are very limited,
- we underline that we are opposed to a military intervention of a non-defensive nature in Mali,
- we call on EU members to aim for restoring the government with democratic elections and take on the role of facilitator in the whole process by ensuring stability and supporting the process,
- we underline that Mali, just as any country, will never be able to solve its problems as long as it hasn't got a stable government with political legitimacy,
- we urge EU members to focus on the latter fact and support Mali with that cause.

A minority statement against the entire text was tabled by DSU Denmark, MJS France, JS Netherlands, Labour Students UK and Young Labour UK.

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Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

THE EUROPEAN UNION NEEDS TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

Millions of migrants are today leaving their homes to seek a better future for their families. Many of them spend years in camps, detention centers or hidden away by fear of being sent back to poverty, oppression, torture, and in some of the worst cases, death. Living in poverty,

under danger and oppression has for many people become like living in a burning building with no exits.

Although immigration restrictions do not explicitly mention race, they still apply, overwhelmingly, to people of color. And as long as the immigration policies are influenced by racism and misconceptions about migrants, asylum seekers from all over the world will continue to face closed doors.

Forced to work long workweeks for sub-minimum wages in a country where their presence is resented and where they can expect no institutional support, migrants are often lacking most fundamental rights such as joining and forming trade unions. Many undocumented migrants are exploited under the threat of deportation and without rights to social protection.

We need a humane migration policy that is opening borders to people in need. Decriminalizing border crossing and reversing militarization of borders are two necessary steps. The EU needs to respect international law protecting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The conventions stating that refugees have the right to obtain asylum are rather toothless in a context where the EU is systematically making it more difficult for people to travel to countries within the union by legal means. The principle of non-refoulement is increasingly ignored.

In a time of turbulence, not least considering the current humanitarian crisis in Syria, we young European socialists acknowledge the urgent need to establish a more humane migration policy.

Therefore Young European Socialists argues that the Party of European Socialists and democrats:

- Should take a firm stand in promoting a humane migration policy where human rights are respected and the members of the EU share a common responsibility to offer shelter and protection to all refugees in accordance to the UN convention on the rights of refugees.
- Should act vigorously to create legal ways of access into the EU to bring down the human trafficking and prevent that more lives are lost in the Mediterranean sea.
- Should work for a full implementation of all UN conventions on the rights of refugees and immediately stop its violation of international agreements regulation the rights of refugees.

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Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

FREE AND EQUAL EUROPEAN EDUCATION

YES will initiate a Pan-European campaign for free, secular, publicly funded quality education for all.

As the European integration deepens, national systems of labour and education face challenges created by the single market. Countries with free education find their social democratic education systems threatened by privately operated companies providing higher education for fees. As protectionist measures have been rendered obsolete by the single market, setting up borders and thresholds is no longer an option.

As national systems have been abolished by the single market, no truly European alternative has replaced them. The field has been left open for capitalist actors commodifying education.

The YES Students' Network recognizes an urgent need for a socialist alternative to market-based integration of education systems. The capitalist logic is blind to education as a fundamental human right that should be available to all free of any expenses. We believe that public, secular, high-quality education should be guaranteed for free for every child, adolescent and adult in Europe. We see education as a key mean of ensuring equality of opportunity in society, and a guarantee to the right of individuals to self-development and fulfilment.

If the commodification of education is allowed to run rampant, Europe will face increasing social disintegration and segregation instead of integration and solidarity.

YES will elaborate a credible alternative to the commodified education of the capitalist market integration.

Public investments need to ensure elementary and higher education for everyone. In the socialist perspective sufficient educational funding has to be ensured through a progressive tax system which taxes high income and capital income and discharges low and middle labour incomes. Charging tuition fees or levying an additional tax from graduates can never be an option.

Pressures to privatise education at any level have to be counteracted and a prohibition for private companies to buying themselves into educational institutions developed.

As the threat of commodified education is European-wide, so must be the response. In order to effectively counter the market-based education model, a European strategy platform must be formulated. YES will run a European coordinated campaign to save and reinvent free public quality education for all.

Therefore YES will begin formulating and coordinating an EU-wide campaign for free, secular, publicly funded quality education for all. The campaign is to be organised and executed on national levels in co-operation with local student unions and political youth and student organisations.

On the European level YES seeks to engage organisations like European Youth Forum, European Student's Union and other political youth and student organisations as partners in executing the campaign.

The final aim is to enshrine the principle of free education as a position of the European Commission or the European Ministers of Education.

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NO CUTS ON EUROPEAN MOBILITY PROGRAMS

Ever since Schuman and Monet idealized a sense of community between the European people, a commercial union between nations that just a couple of years earlier were at war with each other, several obstacles have risen. European history is full of examples of how cultural, ethnic, social, economical or ideological differences were often a reason for terrible conflicts between nations and people. A divided Europe prevailed for almost half a century, separating the East from the West, driving apart a continent that should have long been united.

The way this community grew is well known by everyone: from six we became nine; from nine we turned into twelve and then fifteen; from fifteen we ended up being twenty five, twenty seven and, very soon, twenty eight. Divided nations combined efforts to make of their differences their strength and to progressively speak more and more at the same voice. A union was forged and peace lasts for longer than in any other period in time.

However, the economical union, even sometimes the political union, that Europe has become, urges for the need to strengthen a common political and social identity and creating a feeling of belonging that Europeans do not fully relate to. Amongst the several projects which aimed to move closer to this goal there is one that really out stands from the others for its results and figures: the Erasmus Programme. Alongside with other European educational and cultural exchange programs, such as Leonardo da Vinci or Comenius, the Erasmus Programme stands out as one of the most effective way of building in young people the sense of belonging to

Europe that is essential to the identification process of being a European citizen.

Over the last 25 years (since 1987), nearly 3 million people, 230 thousand per year, have travelled across Europe to countries different from the one they originally are from to study and improve their formation. With education and formation purposes as their main goal, these young people also carry the thought of going abroad to learn a new language, broaden their view on other cultures and societies, improve their level of knowledge of other countries and people, amongst many other reasons. Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth stated that "Erasmus is one of the great success stories of the European Union: it is our best known and most popular programme. Erasmus exchanges enable students to improve their knowledge of foreign languages and to develop skills such as adaptability which improve their job prospects. It also provides opportunities for teachers and other staff to see how higher education works in other countries and to bring the best ideas home." Along the way, and at the same time as they enrol in the academic life and activities, Erasmus students built new friendship bonds and a sense of belonging to the country of their destination. An independent study by The Center for Global Engagement at the Northwestern University, conducted in 2011 shows us that almost 40% of the Erasmus students firstly identify themselves as European citizens in comparison to 34% that affirm to be national citizens in the first place. Although it may appear to some as a minor issue, European mobility programs have been almost single-handed responsible for the biggest phenomenon of European citizenship identification ever to be registered in the history of the continent. "Meaning of non-formal education has also been very important for the whole development of the youth field in Europe. The results that the Youth in Action programme has yielded for non-formal education and the mobility of the all European young people is something that we cannot ignore. That is why we need to support the development of non-formal education for the new programme. Also we need to find ways to create more co-operation between the formal and non-formal mobility programs.

Despite of all these considerations and regardless of all the official statistics available on this matter, the proposal that the Council is presenting to the Commission and to the Parliament for the Multi Financial Framework 2015-2019 (MFF) includes a major cut on European mobility programs. The non-attendance of the Commission's proposal means that one million people less will benefit from the European mobility programs.

We, Young European Socialists, hereby appeal to our fellow comrades of all over Europe to:

- Struggle for the non-reduction of funding to mobility programs on the frame of the MFF;
- Appeal to the Party of European Socialists to clearly state their opposition to any financial cuts on this matter;
- Appeal to the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats at the European Parliament to vote against the proposal of the Council.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

ON EUROPEAN SOCIAL SECURITY

Today a significant part of the European Union member states are suffering under the burden of the current Financial Crisis, while other countries are about to be pushed on the same path. This is a structural crisis; it is a crisis that results directly from a deeply flawed monetary union. Having ignored early warnings about the possible imbalances that could derive from this reality, now that they have indeed presented themselves to us, Europe has the responsibility of working that much harder in trying to overcome these difficulties and establishing the institutional changes that could save the Euro and bring renewed hope to the European Ideal.

No monetary union can be expected to bring lasting and shared prosperity if not accompanied by some budgetary integration. Even if it is hard to explain to some national electorates, we need to accept the reality that a monetary union has to exist alongside automatic, non-discretionary transfers of funds from the zones for which the monetary policy brings prosperity

to those for whom it brings stagnation. And we need to understand that this very notion is at the heart of the ideals that presided at the creation of our European Union.

Realising this, we should also take the opportunity of using the necessary institutional change to bring about a deepening of the European Social Model that has made us an example to all. This would be the case if we implemented a European unemployment benefit system that could, providing protection to unemployed European workers, implement an automatic transfer of funds from growing to dwindling economic regions, as the problem of our monetary zone is not one of countries but one of regions.

We accept the principle, stated in our Position Paper and in our Policy Paper on Socialist Economics, that the responsibility for the managing and the implementation of our Social Policies should primarily take place at the national level. That being said, there is no reason that we shouldn't have a European unemployment benefit system aiming not at providing current levels of protection of the richer countries to all European countries, but at providing a minimum unemployment protection to all European workers independently of where they work in Europe and regardless of national budgetary crisis.

This proposal would enable us to solve some of the current structural problems of the Euro, help the consolidation programs of some countries and promote a deepening of solidarity between European workers. It would mainly help us in four ways.

Firstly, it would enable us to make real the principle of solidarity between European workers. All across Europe there is now a struggle that is not between countries. Today the bankers from France and Spain, from Germany and Portugal, are together in their interest of promoting a weaker State. So must we, workers of Europe, stand together if we want to save our Social Models and build a future with more rights and more Economic Democracy. We must understand that it is just our solidarity across borders that can help us on this project. So we must realize that we will never be successful while we can't be able to share in our successes and misfortunes.

Secondly it would, as it was the initial point, create an automatic mechanism of transferring monetary resources from the regions which are better off to those which are worse off. This alone would help solve the institutional problems that come from a monetary zone that has no common budgetary resources that can compensate for the different impact of our common monetary policy on our different regions. This alone can bring some balance to a monetary zone that will otherwise always have within itself profound imbalances that will erode its own sustainability.

Thirdly it would help the adjustment and consolidation processes under way in several European countries. We should not forget, while thinking about unemployment benefits, their important role as one of the most important, if not the most important, automatic stabilizers in budgetary policy. Unemployment benefits work as an automatic stabilizer both on the revenue side and the expenditure side, making it one of the most economic growth sensitive instruments of economic policy. So, by having a shared European unemployment benefit system, we would not only provide stimulus to the most depressed European regions but also do it while not increasing the budgetary deficits of countries undergoing economic crisis. By subtracting part one of the most growth dependant parts of national budgets we would effectively be helping to promote fiscal consolidation unburdened by the effects on the deficit of the economic consequences of that very fiscal consolidation.

Last but not least this proposal would profoundly change the economic relations between member states. This would make real an effective commitment of joint growth for all member states. By sharing an unemployment benefit system, we would be making it not profitable for regions inside the European Union to foster their economic growth and employment at the expense of the economic growth and employment of their European Partners. This would provide the incentives for all European Countries to have the aim, as their own national policy objectives, of helping to create solid economic and jobs growth in all European regions, no matter what country they are in.

By all of these reasons we propose that YES starts working on both defining and promoting the idea of a joint European unemployment protection program and preparing a proposal along these lines.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

ON STATE-OWNED COMPANIES

We live today in a Europe far too dominated by neoclassical economic orthodoxies and neoliberal political views. Worse even than this ideological domination of our institutions and regulations is our inability as European Socialists to sufficiently oppose such domination and clearly call for a change. Ours is the responsibility to bring the terms of the debate about economic policy and the relationship between the state and the market out of the limits of the these political and economic theories.

Europe is at present, more often than not, an instrument for corporations to prevent States from having a more active intervention in the market. We must decisively oppose current policy that does nothing more than enshrine a particular view of the role of Government in European Law effectively preventing our governments from using all possible means to tackle our economic problems. We must abandon 'Third Way' views that are helping the right and the financial interests to drive the State out of fundamental sectors of the Economy.

European law now places important restrictions to the possibility of governments to inject capital in government companies at the same time that European institutions have authorized the injection of public capital in financial institutions usually under the most unfavourable terms for the State and the Citizens. These restrictions have been justified, and often accepted without opposition by us, on the grounds of free competition.

Under these views the state, with supposedly has vast financing possibilities, could invest in state-owned companies enough money to provide them with an 'unfair' advantage in relation to their private competitors. This is not only a profoundly skewed view of the Government's role but also profoundly untrue. Reality has showed us time and again over the last years that that is not the case. And it is showing us now, especially in the countries under financial assistance, that the opposite happens in times of economic distress.

Contrary to promoting free competition between public and private companies, these restrictions, in the context of economic downturn and credit shortage, are helping to destroy the severely indebted public companies. This happens because they are competing against private companies that are able to raise capital from their private investors, while the state cannot increase the capital of its companies in ways that don't involve the entrance of private investors. This is leaving governments, already facing serious challenges, with few options for their companies apart from partial or total privatization.

We call for a clear stand of YES against these limitations, promoting a view that supports the need for, at least the possibility, of more, not less, government intervention in the Economy. This European Union was created in the context of strong Governments working together, and making society and the markets work together, for a common goal and for common prosperity. That doesn't have to be the only way in the future but it must be, at least, an option open for the Citizens of Europe. We demand urgently to stop the process of liberalisation of several public sectors in Europe.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

ON KURDISTAN

The Kurdish people live in a state of constant oppression. The situation may differ depending on which parts the Kurds are based in – Iranian, Syrian, Turkish or Iraqi. In the whole Kurdistan lives approximately 30 million Kurds. The Kurdish people suffer from oppression for more than hundred years. They are denied from their fundamental rights; human, political and collective.

While in Iraq the Kurdish people today enjoy autonomy, in the rest of the region the violation of their rights and of the international law are increasing.

In Turkey, where the Kurdish people are 20% of the population, over ten thousand Kurdish children, elderly, elected officials, human rights- and political activists, and journalists are imprisoned. This due to the arbitrary terrorist laws and a constitution that excludes minority rights. Turkey has several times been criticized by the Amnesty International for their violation of human rights.

In Syria lives approximately 2,5 million Kurds, hundreds of thousands of them are deprived of their citizenship. The Kurds are subjected to rough oppression in various ways as for example a rough assimilation politics.

In Iran Kurdish journalists are risking death penalty for expressing their opinions and criticizing the regime. The Iranian regime has also drawn up death lists of politically active Kurds who are prosecuted as either a threat to national security or "enemies of god". These lists often contain of the names of young people who are not given a fair trial. The Kurdish parts is said to be one of the world's most closed areas, second only to North Korea.

[Kurds are in the Iranian, Turkish and Syrian parts not allowed to speak or be taught in their own language, practice their culture and identify themselves as Kurds in public.] YES believes in freedom for the Kurdish people and the oppressing countries must undertake all necessary measures to guaranty them their political, social, economic and cultural rights. YES also believes in self-determination for Kurds. Finally, YES must work, in the own organization and PES, in order to maintain focus on the Kurdish matters during the democratization processes in Iran, Syria, Turkey and Iraq.

A minority statement against the bracketed sentence was tabled by CHP Youth Turkey: "This statement is false and this resolution does not reflect the reality in Turkey. An example can be given of CHP Youth, in which one of the Vice-Presidents, Erhan Cetinkaya, is a Kurdish teacher as a Kurd himself. What is true is that the Kurdish opposition, just like the rest of the opposition is being imprisoned in jails. Just like how it is stated, every country mentioned in the resolution has a different condition. As an organisation which has 50% Kurd Presidium, we care and fight for the rights of all the minorities in a country where democracy has a long way to go."

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In addition to the alarming climate change and major socio-economic injustice in the world, nuclear weapons are one of the greatest threats to our existence on earth. More than 65 years ago, during the end World War II, the first atom bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. More than 100 000 lives were extinguished immediately, and the radioactive particles that spread have claimed tens of thousands of lives for generations since. Two days after this the second U.S. nuclear charge detonated in Nagasaki causing the death of 70 000 more people and laid the city in ruins. We must remind ourselves of these tragedies. They can, as long as nuclear weapons exist, be repeated.

More states have acquired nuclear weapons since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Additional states are making attempts to equip themselves with nuclear weapons. The original nuclear powers - United States, Soviet Union (now Russia), France, Britain and China - have recently been joined by new ones: Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. The only result of such would be mutual annihilation. The fact that military powers possess weapons that can be used for massive pressure, in form of threats of total annihilation, is a powerful obstacle in our strive to build a peaceful global cooperation. A world free from nuclear weapons would also free enormous resources that currently goes to maintenance, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and instead could be used for example poverty reduction and education.

The non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into force in 1970. The contract requires that states possessing nuclear weapon disarm them. The contract also prohibits non-nuclear states to acquire nuclear weapons, but allows states to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. But since then, four new nuclear weapon states have risen. Today, there are more than 22 000 nuclear weapons with a combined capacity to destroy all life on earth several times over. Many of these are on permanent standby and can be fired within minutes. It is therefore evident that the present disarmament regime in form of the non-proliferation regime is inadequate. Further efforts to strengthen the NPT and to lead efforts towards a nuclear weapon-free world are required.

In 2003 the Blix Commission with Hans Blix as chairman was appointed. The aim was to develop strategies for non-proliferation and disarmament. The Commission recommendations includes a long-term total ban on nuclear arms and demands on the United States to ratify the Test Ban Treaty and to stop US testing of nuclear weapons charges. Blix Commission also recommends a Swedish hosting a permanent secretariat for the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to monitor and carry out the non-proliferation and disarmament process. YES should work for an initiative where a European country hosts a permanent standing Secretariat for the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), according to Blix Commission proposal No. 22.

In Europe, we have an important political platform to drive disarmament and peace issues. Through concerted pressure along with other non-nuclear states, we should encourage the EU's two nuclear powers Britain and France to dismantle their nuclear arsenals altogether. Then all of Europe would become a nuclear weapon-free zone and the EU an example for the rest of the world. The European countries should, with our respectively Social Democratic parties at the helm, lead the way towards a nuclear weapon-free world. YES must work for the realization of the Blix Commission's proposals.

For a successful operation towards a nuclear-free world, it is also necessary that we fight for the enactment of an international convention banning nuclear weapons. Although nuclear weapons are, by far, the most dangerous weapons available, they are not yet banned. International conventions already ban anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, mustard gas and more. What are required are, political will and a mobilization from the public. Negotiations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has often stalled, partly because the U.S. reluctance. But with the change of power in the U.S., where President Obama's declared a vision is a long-term nuclear weapon-free world, and with the fact that more and more states raise their voice for the phasing out of nuclear weapons, it is the state of negotiations more hopeful than ever. We must now raise the disarmament momentum so that we can achieve a nuclear weapon-free world within our lifetime.

Therefore Young European Socialists argues that the Party of European Socialists and democrats:

- Should engage in an active advocacy of nuclear disarmament and for an enactment of an international convention banning nuclear weapons.
- Take stance for Europe as a nuclear weapon-free zone. Thereby disarming current nuclear weapons owned by countries within the European Union and nuclear weapons existing within the European Unions borders.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

OUR FUTURE, OUR BUDGET, OUR RESOURCES

Time has come to implement a social and environmental Europe. Time has come for Europe to have a budget with specific resources, capable of financing its own policies for a Europe of jobs, investing in the transition to a low-carbon economy and in its industry.

Currently, the 7-year budget cycle of the European Union, deciding on the investments EU has will make in the future, only represents 975 billion euros, that means 140 billion each year, hence only 1% of the European GDP. In comparison, the budget of the USA represents 37% of its GDP. The European council decided to reduce the budget even more for the 2014-2020 period, under the pressure of conservatives and regardless of the consequences for the European people. This is without pointing at the democratic issue : the Parliament elected in 2009 will make a decision on a budget which will impact the next seven years, leaving the next EP with no say on the budget for the entire mandate. The lack of coherence of the Commission is appalling : demanding budget cuts to member states while requesting higher contributions to the EU budget is obviously not going to be accepted by the states. An important and specifically earned European budget is crucial to winning acceptance by Members States to reduce their own public spending.

The budget needs to be seriously reformed, as well as increased. The Common Agricultural Policy needs to be significantly decreased and re-targeted to support sustainable and environmentally friendly farming and organic production. ESF and Cohesion Policy need new financing, new competencies and better targeting, to mention some aspects. It is necessary to begin an environmental transition and a policy of public works at the European level, boost employment and enable the development of infrastructures.

A SCARCE BUDGET IS PART OF THE NEOLIBERAL AGENDA

Today it seems that the Council, led by Cameron and Merkel, only follows national short-term interests, impeding any emergence of a real European democracy through the creation of own European resources. Not only is it national interests that are being served, but more importantly it is always the very aim of neoliberals that is being implemented, restraining the capacity of the States and the EU to take action, confining the EU to being only a huge market. We should be aware of the fact that the decision of reducing the budget – or of not expanding it - and the following policies, is not a neutral one but a political orientation : that of preventing public powers from intervening in the economy and leading Keynesian policies.

Giving more powers to the European Parliament in the decision-process and allowing the EU to have its own resources would be the best way to overcome the deep crisis we are suffering.

A TAX ON FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

With the deregulation of financial markets over the past 30 years, trillions of dollars have been sent from one place to another in the world each day, through massive speculation instead of financing the real economy, letting the interest rates increase and the dividends required becoming even higher. In the end the consequences are the weakening of the household consumption, the destruction of jobs, social dumping, and the decrease of investments in firms.

During the crisis, states have bailed out banks, causing a dramatic increase of their public deficit, without controlling their activities afterwards. We should impose a tax of at least 0,1% over all financial transactions in Europe. Such a tax would have permitted to earn between 250 and 600 billion, if it had been implemented in 2008. Such a tax could hence be used to fight the crisis, and moreover to develop job creations, a European energetic transition or development policies.

A EUROPEAN TAX ON PROFITS

The average rate of the tax on profits in Europe has evolved from 37% in 1995 to 25% today (40% in the USA today!). In the meantime, the 600 most important firms in Europe reached a cumulated amount of 550 billion dollars profits, while the redistribution for workers steadily decreased!

The lack of fiscal harmonization at European level pushes states towards permanent competition and thus fiscal dumping. Therefore the implementation of a European tax on profits is the condition to bringing states to stop lowering their own tax levels.

Without hesitating any longer we should implement a fiscal harmonization through the top and a tax on profits at European level, including a transparency obligation in each country. It would give us the means to maintain and develop social protection in our countries by giving a common answer to a common problem.

USING THE MONETARY TOOL

The decisions of the ECB impact the budget of the EU as they impact the budgets of the national States.

First of all, the aim of the European Central Bank cannot only be price stability. The ECB should free the states from the markets' influence and become a tool for their policies. Its mandate should include employment as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

It should put an end to financial speculation firstly by loaning money directly to the states through a change of the Bank's statuses, but also to the European Union by authorizing it to raise loan by itself, and secondly by issuing Eurobonds, emitted by the European Union or/ and commonly by European States.

The fight for a significant federal budget for the EU is crucial for the Union to be more than a market: getting out of the current crisis but at the same time preparing the future by implementing a social and environmental transformation of Europe and launching an industrial policy. It is a democratic issue, barely the ability of the European people to master their own destiny, it is a political battle we as socialist ought to lead today and for the next European elections.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

BEING THE ALTERNATIVE, ACTING TOWARDS IT

YES must gather all socialists and social-democrats across Europe as a way of debating, exchanging, sharing ideas and values. But more importantly it should be the tool for a clear change in Europe, as a political and activists organization.

BE CLEAR ON OUR OBJECTIVES

To create that dynamic, we need to be crystal clear on what our goals are: we shouldn't be ashamed of assuming our ideology as a leftist movement. We want a clear change in Europe; we do not accept the European Union we see today and we call for a Europe of jobs, democracy and environment.

We need to tax the rich in order to increase the public income of the states and ensure welfare and education expenses. We should put an end to the fiscal dumping through a European minimum corporate and high heritage tax levels. In order to fight tax evasion, it is necessary implement transparency on bank budgets and states fiscal policies within Europe. For instance the EU should built its own list of tax heavens.

At the same time a 0,1% financial transaction tax should be introduced in order to enclose international finance and lift up the European budget so as to fight unemployment through a public works policy. European young socialists will be attentive to the amount of the tax and its range.

Time has also come to disarm the time bomb youth unemployment by installing a European youth guarantee for all people under 25. In addition to that, a ban on precarious jobs and the abolishment of unpaid and low-paid internships and trainings are needed.

Moreover, socialists in Europe should resume reducing working time, not only as a way of increasing freedom for workers or sharing work but also as a fair reward to the constant increase of their productivity. Our goal must be "more and better jobs". Hence, to protect the workers of Europe a European minimum wage and compulsory measures in favor of gender wage equality have to be put in place.

In environmental and social matters, we have to be offensive and call for an ambitious domestic and foreign policy. European social and environmental taxes should be instruments of our trade policy instead of the constant liberalization clauses in all bilateral agreements with other countries or regions abroad. The benefits of such a tax would be massively injected into energy savings, renewable energies, public transportation and the emergence of a common European energetic policy in order to create millions of jobs in the environmental transition. It would also engender a relocation of the industry in Europe, which will be necessary on the long term anyway with the dramatic increase of energy costs to come. This also suggests an ambitious development policy towards southern countries by helping them to build new infrastructures, responding to their legitimate needs and overcoming together the ecological crisis we face.

Finally, democracy in Europe also means giving back to the people political and monetary tools. Therefore the independence of the states towards finance has to be ensured by allowing the European Central Bank to lend to them and the EU directly instead of uselessly enriching private banks on the back of the people. But, making the EU democratic also means to put on an equal footing the European Parliament, the only institution directly elected by the European People, and the Council. The Parliament should have the legislative initiative as well as the European Commission.

BE MOBILIZED ACTIVISTS

This clear left-right cleavage must have consequences in our activism, in our respective organizations but also in YES: from this program for a radical change in Europe should result a strong activism by YES. Change at the European level and ideological shift will not come naturally : we need to make them happen.

YES has to be a leading force for the next European elections and, even before that, by intensively supporting our sister parties in their national elections - in Italy, in Germany and Austria - as a first step for a political alternative in the European Union.

Our role is to organize gatherings, for instance one great European rally during the 2014 European campaign so as to change the balance of powers in the European council. It is crucial to create a concrete European activism, relayed by the media and followed up by PES. The only way to allow for this European alternative is to let emerge a real sense of belonging among our activists.

Our role is to demonstrate against far right extremism, against austerity and for democracy and social rights. We should take inspiration from what the European Trade Unions have begun to do: European wide demonstrations and actions. Our presence is necessary in demonstrations called by European trade unions. The outcry of the European Youth has to be heard in Brussels and in all Europe and we should have closer and more visible links with trade unions at the EU level.

Our role is to be on the ground, knocking on doors and spreading our values and demands everywhere: actions occurring the same day in all European countries with common press releases upstream. We have to develop a common understanding for activism. That way a strong political coherence should emerge from our organization, establish links among ourselves and construct a common political program for the Future. This will only be possible by enriching each other from respective experiences in campaigning and ideological debates.

It is our duty to influence as far as possible the line of our mother party and PES and put pressure on our political leaders at national and European levels when it is needed. We need to be exemplary in Parliament, refusing any decision leading to more social regression, neglecting the ecological crisis, empowering national egoisms or putting forward the neoliberal agenda. No compromise, no consensus can be reached on that basis without sacrificing our ideals. This is why we need a strong, common European socialist and social democratic campaign for the 2014 European Parliament elections, designed together and executed in all member countries, led by the common candidate for the Commission Presidency.

That way, and only that way, by assuming a clear political alternative and by mobilizing all our energies in that sense, will it be possible to let emerge a new hope in Europe. A new hope: against the spectre that is haunting Europe today, the spectre of far-right extremism. A new hope against the neoliberal disaster we have been suffering for 30 years.

Off again defending what people expect from socialists: a left alternative for Europe.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

RECOGNIZE PALESTINE AND BOYCOTT SETTLEMENT PRODUCTS

President Mahmoud Abbas went before the UN General Assembly on the 29th of November 2012, to request Palestinian observer status in the United Nations. The UN General Assembly voted to upgrade the status of the Palestinians to a "non-member observer state". Abbas' initiative is an important step toward ending the oppression and the unstable situation in the region.

The Palestinian people have struggled for a long time, in order to establish an independent, sovereign state in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem as a capital, and the Gaza Strip, occupied by Israel during the 1967. The Oslo Accord in 1993 brought a lot of hope to the peace process, however, repeated attempts for peace negotiations between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel during the last twenty years, have resulted in nothing but more loss of land, a huge number of illegal Israeli settlements and discrimination of the Palestinian people. Today, the occupation is more severe than ever.

The Palestinians have therefore changed their strategy in order to establish the state of Palestine, by asking individual countries to recognise an independent Palestinian state with borders following the ceasefire lines, which separated Israel and the West Bank in 1967.

We cannot ignore the fact that people are suffering under this terrible occupation and oppression by the Israeli army. Peace and freedom between Israel and Palestine can only be reached through a free and independent Palestinian state. Therefore YES argues that the Party of European Socialists and democrats should recognise Palestine, as a state by the 1967 borders, should work towards recognition by the EU, and all the member organisations within the EU.

As part of a peaceful solution, we also welcome the Party of European Socialists and democrats to demand label on Israeli settlements products that are bought by the EU. However, we as Young European Socialists want to go one step further. We want to see a total boycott of all settlement products in Europe.

We, the Young European Socialists, also demand that the Israeli settlements must end, as well as other violations of international law as for example transformation of Gaza strip into the world's largest outdoor prison. The international community has a great responsibility to pressure Israel to respect a two-state solution according to the 1967 borders.

It is a long way to go and many steps need to be taken before peace can be reached. However, we believe that peace can start by recognising these steps.

Therefore Young European Socialists argues that the Party of European Socialists and democrats:

- Should recognise Palestine as a state by the 1967 borders,
- Should work towards recognition by the EU, and all the member organisations within the EU.
- Should demand a boycott on all settlement products.
- End the Israeli settlements and withdraw from the 1967 Palestinian borders.

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.

POLICY UPDATE

According to current practice, YES resolutions and declarations do not have a limit date on their validity (contrary to the position paper which is renewed every 2 years), leading to frequent contradictions between new policy and old, forgotten policy. Therefore, as of the 11th Congress YES will adopt a resolution to withdraw all resolutions and declarations adopted by the ECOSY Congress and Bureau up to, but not including the Congress six years previously: this resolution can be amended in order to retain some of the texts.

The YES/ECOSY Congress withdraws the following resolutions and declarations:

- The challenge of globalisation is to be tackled by rising capabilities and introducing "flexicurity" – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- On working time directive – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- 50 years is enough – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- In the name of human rights: policy reform regarding abortion and sexual and reproductive rights – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- Reaction to the communication from the European Commission "Efficiency and equity in European education and training systems": tuition fees are not the solution, they are part of the problem – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- ECOSY demands free education for all – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- No more children behind bars – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- Call for a better marine strategy directive – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- ECOSY condemns the right wing extremism and populism – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- ECOSY reaction on the recent local elections in Belgium – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- On the recent events in Hungary – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 4th November 2006
- On youth policy: making youth a priority for the Austrian EU presidency – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Upon day of Europe and the European Commission: a citizens' agenda, delivering results for Europe – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006

- On the end of terrorist violence in Spain – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- On the upcoming EU enlargement towards Romania and Bulgaria – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Tackling the rise of racist and homophobic far right parties – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Services directive: it is getting worse again – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Working time reduction – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Concerning the recent developments on economic partnership agreements – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Ban Gazprom from the European market – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- Stop the trafficking – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Vienna, Austria on 13th May 2006
- On Turkey – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On Belarus – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On the EU's policy on the Middle East – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On integration – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- For a social labour market: fight unemployment, reduce working time – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- Social Europe initiative: our way to an inclusive society – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On services directive – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On the EU financial perspectives 2007-2013 – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On energy safety and sustainability in an environmentally friendly European Union
- Roadmap to gender equality: international women's day – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- On youth policy: making youth a priority for the Austrian EU presidency – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- Whatever happened to the European youth pact? – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- The ageing society: clearing out the myths – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- Euromed policies: a challenge for tomorrow, a task for today – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th March 2006
- For democracy and human rights in China – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- On the launch of negotiations for accession between the European Union and Turkey – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- On Western Sahara – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- On the EU Council negotiations for the EU budgetary framework 2007-2013 – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- Support economic sanctions against Burma – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- For a real development agenda – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- On the riots in French suburbs – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- On immigration policies from Southern perspective – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in London, UK on 12th November 2005
- On the constitutional referenda: Europe in crisis – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Figueira da Foz, Portugal on 29th July 2005
- Fortress Europe: Schengen, immigration and asylum policies – adopted by the ECOSY

- Bureau in Figueira da Foz, Portugal on 29th July 2005
- After the London bombings – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Figueira da Foz, Portugal on 29th July 2005
- On the IRA statement on decommissioning and the formal end of the politics of terrorism – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Figueira da Foz, Portugal on 29th July 2005
- For a withdrawal of the services directive and a new start from the scratch – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Luxembourg, Luxembourg on 16th April 2005
- On the reform of the growth and stability pact – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Luxembourg, Luxembourg on 16th April 2005
- A call for the constitution of the European Union – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Luxembourg, Luxembourg on 16th April 2005
- A European pact in favour of youth – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Luxembourg, Luxembourg on 16th April 2005
- On postponing the opening of negotiations for Croatian full accession in the EU – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Luxembourg, Luxembourg on 16th April 2005
- For free and fair elections for Lebanon – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Luxembourg, Luxembourg on 16th April 2005
- For a 21st century of human security – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On economic governance for growth and employment – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On individual members – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On the future of education – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- An EU seat in the UN Security Council – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- For a social treaty – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- For the reconstruction of Iraq by the Iraqi people under UN auspices – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On a European pact in favour of youth – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Balkan region – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Beijing + 10 – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Cyprus – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Eastern European cooperation – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Lebanon – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On the Killer Coke campaign – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On the services directive – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On the trafficking of people – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Togo – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Turkey's integration into the EU – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- On Western Sahara – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- To be socialist is to be feminist – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005
- Towards a peaceful solution in the Middle East and a stronger position of the European Union in the peace process – adopted by the 7th ECOSY Congress in Cascais, Portugal on 19th March 2005

- A clear perspective for Turkey – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- Asylum policies within the EU – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- Together for a social Europe – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- On the international human rights day – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- About the last developments in Belarus: no to tyranny – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- For the reconstruction of Iraq by the Iraqi people under UN auspices – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- Stop the Bolkesteinisation of Europe – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- 25th of November: international day for the elimination of violence against women – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- On the recent violence in the Netherlands – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Heerlen, Netherlands on 20th November 2004
- Strategic outline of the ECOSY European election campaign – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Prague, Czech Republic on 8th May 2004
- What future framework for the European Union? – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Prague, Czech Republic on 8th May 2004
- On political injustices in Malta – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Prague, Czech Republic on 8th May 2004
- For peace in Kosovo – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Prague, Czech Republic on 8th May 2004
- What future for the provision of Services of General Interest (SGI) in the European Union? – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Prague, Czech Republic on 8th May 2004
- For a “real” constitution for the European Union – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Warsaw, Poland on 7th February 2004
- Young European Socialists welcome “Geneva accord” for peace in the Middle East – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Warsaw, Poland on 7th February 2004
- On the Basque Country – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Warsaw, Poland on 7th February 2004
- Convention on the future of Europe: intergovernmental conference 2003, proposal of constitutional treaty – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Perugia, Italy on 11th October 2003
- On the Middle East – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Perugia, Italy on 11th October 2003
- After Cancún, who to go on with the WTO – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Perugia, Italy on 11th October 2003
- The post-war situation in Iraq – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Perugia, Italy on 11th October 2003
- On the draft of the white paper on environmental liability – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Perugia, Italy on 11th October 2003
- Convention on the future of Europe: on the institutional reform – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Athens, Greece on 10th May 2003
- On Iraq – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Athens, Greece on 10th May 2003
- On the situation in the Middle East – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Athens, Greece on 10th May 2003
- Europe at the edge: serving peoples’ interests – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Athens, Greece on 10th May 2003
- Against intolerance and terrorism – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- A Federal Constitution for a Social Europe – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On the Middle East – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On Cyprus – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March

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- On Iraq crisis – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On the accident with the oil tanker Prestige – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On the port package – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On Kyoto protocol – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- WTO-GATS – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On Western Sahara – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- The Future of Europe – adopted by the 6th ECOSY Congress in Bommersvik, Sweden on 8th March 2003
- On Belarus – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Copenhagen, Denmark on 7th December 2002
- On the future of Europe – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Copenhagen, Denmark on 7th December 2002
- On the accident with the oil tanker Prestige – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Copenhagen, Denmark on 7th December 2002
- On the Barcelona European Council: a need for more ambitions for Europe – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Valencia, Spain on 20th April 2002
- On the Euromed cooperation – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Valencia, Spain on 20th April 2002
- On the situation in the Middle East – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Valencia, Spain on 20th April 2002
- On the Convention on the future of Europe: a stronger Union on the left – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Valencia, Spain on 20th April 2002
- On Afghanistan and the role of the EU – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Brussels, Belgium on 24th November 2001
- On the outcome of the WTO summit in Doha – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Brussels, Belgium on 24th November 2001
- On the Laeken summit – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Brussels, Belgium on 24th November 2001
- On the EC White Paper on governance – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Brussels, Belgium on 24th November 2001
- New social movement on globalisation – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Brussels, Belgium on 24th November 2001
- On the situation in the Middle East – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Stockholm, Sweden on 21st April 2001
- On the crisis situation in F.Y.R. of Macedonia – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Stockholm, Sweden on 21st April 2001
- On EU student vote initiative – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Stockholm, Sweden on 21st April 2001
- On the United States' decision not to sign the Kyoto protocol – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Stockholm, Sweden on 21st April 2001
- For a clear alternative to the patterns of SDI policy – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- In favour of peace and freedom in the Basque Country, Navarra and the rest of Spain – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On latest US and UK bombing in Iraq – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On Morocco – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- Water: a public concern – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On East Timor – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001

- On Davos and Porto Alegre: Globalisation against the people or with the people – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On LDC access to EU markets – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On Western Sahara: 25 years of struggle – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On the Nice summit – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On the Middle East – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- The struggle against drugs in Colombia – adopted by the 5th ECOSY Congress in Vienna, Austria on 17th February 2001
- On the forthcoming IGC in Nice – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Paris, France on 11th November 2000
- After the governmental coalition in Austria, the new danger of extreme right in Europe – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Espinho, Portugal on 1st April 2000
- Education is our future – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 20th November 1999
- On a harmonised asylum policy – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 20th November 1999
- On the millennium round – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 20th November 1999
- On Chechnya – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Helsinki, Finland on 20th November 1999
- On the agreement of Agenda 2000 – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Berlin, Germany on 17th April 1999
- On the presidential elections in Algeria – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Berlin, Germany on 17th April 1999
- On resignation of the European Commission – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Berlin, Germany on 17th April 1999
- On Kosovo – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Berlin, Germany on 17th April 1999
- On Algeria – adopted by the 4th ECOSY Congress in Toledo, Spain on 13th February 1999
- On East Timor – adopted by the 4th ECOSY Congress in Toledo, Spain on 13th February 1999
- On the enlargement of ECOSY – adopted by the 4th ECOSY Congress in Toledo, Spain on 13th February 1999
- On Kosovo – adopted by the 4th ECOSY Congress in Toledo, Spain on 13th February 1999
- European demonstration for a multicultural society – adopted by the 4th ECOSY Congress in Toledo, Spain on 13th February 1999
- On the Pinochet case – adopted by the 4th ECOSY Congress in Toledo, Spain on 13th February 1999
- On Albania – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Malmö, Sweden on 5th June 1997
- On the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – adopted by the 3rd ECOSY Congress in Strasbourg, France on 18th January 1997
- For an international space against mafia and organised crime – adopted by the 3rd ECOSY Congress in Strasbourg, France on 18th January 1997
- On Cyprus – adopted by the 3rd ECOSY Congress in Strasbourg, France on 18th January 1997
- On European nuclear defense system – adopted by the ECOSY Bureau in Bommersvik, Sweden on 7th October 1995

Done at Södertälje, Sweden, on 9th March 2013.

Thomas Maes, Secretary General.