

Paris, 29 January 2015

Letter of candidacy - YES Presidency

Dear comrades,

We all have many doubts about the future of social democracy. The terrible 2008 financial crisis could have been an opportunity for social democracy to finally win and change Europe. But 7 years later our generation and more broadly the Europeans are full of disillusion and reproaches regarding democracy, Europe and social-democracy.

The far right is historically high and less and less people vote. Years of austerity hurt the Europeans hard. Young people are faced with massive unemployment, the elderly with lower pensions and the whole society with worse quality healthcare and public services.

It is time to put an end to this vicious circle and I believe Young European Socialists should play a role in this. Because I find inequalities unbearable and I believe we need to get more and more young people fighting against them, I present my candidacy for the Presidency of young European socialists.

For 3 years I have been involved in YES in different ways. I learned a lot working with organisations which share values but also face different situations. Together we built a campaign called "Rise-Up", and it showed us we could be European activists despite the geographical differences, as did the European wide activism of the European elections or the successful campaign for the Youth Guarantee. As President of MJS France, I have understood the more we allow Member Organisations to campaign at the European level, the more we will be able to have weight in Europe : through petitions, lobbying and communication we can put topics forward. European Socialists will need all our energy and determination to win new battles.

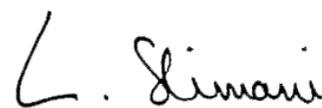
As President of YES, I want to work with all organisations for them to feel they can count on us to push forward their propositions and to train as many activists as possible on European topics. This is also what we do in our summercamps which we can make even more accessible. Influencing PES in its policy and practices is also a crucial fight. This is what the team formed by Kaisa, Thomas and Thomas and the Presidium have worked on for 2 years and I want to continue this work with a great team.

Our organisations are different in the way they campaign and in the issues they put forward. But these are details compared to our common willingness for Europe to regain confidence of its citizens and mean hope to them again. We will need ambition and imagination for our mother parties and governments in order to reach a historic, binding and ambitious agreement on Climate change in December, to finally put finance at the service of the people, and to fight the rise of the far right by convincing young people progress is a better option. On this and many other things, the more we are, the stronger we will be and the more we will manage. I promise to work so that all parts of the continent can participate actively to YES future battles.

Most people are getting tired of the political game which they think is rigged.

Our generation has the duty to prove them wrong and to wake democracy up. Our role is to make it happen.

I hope you support this project and I am available to discuss it with you.



Laura Slimani

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