



DECLARATION ON A NEW EU ENERGY STRATEGY

Adopted by PES Presidency on 28th February 2007

The Spring European Council, at its meeting on 8th-9th March in Brussels, will decide on Europe's new energy strategy. We, Europe's socialists and social democrats, appeal to all heads of state and government of the European Union to take this unique opportunity to give Europe's energy and climate change policies a new direction.

The PES believes ambitious new targets are needed for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

We call for effective measures to fight energy poverty and enhance consumer protection. The PES urges the European Union's Spring Council to invest heavily in an energy R&D strategy.

The PES considers the energy package presented by the European Commission, on 10th January, an essential basis for the European Council's decision. The strategy outlined by the Commission would secure Europe's leading position in the fight against global warming. The PES is convinced that Europe must take this leading role, as outlined in our Congress resolution "Secure energy supply and smart, green growth: A new social democratic energy policy", adopted at the PES Congress of December 2006.

The PES calls on the European Council of 8-9th March to:

- Tackle climate change and energy policy in an ambitious and comprehensive way;
- Recognise the massive growth potential of a future energy-efficient economy;
- Agree on an EU commitment to achieve at least 30% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2020; compared to 1990;
- Acknowledge the imperative of achieving a reduction of global GHG emissions by up to 50% until 2050, implying reductions in industrialised countries of 60-80%;
- Adopt an overall 20% renewable energy target by 2020;
- Opt for a clearer separation of energy production from energy distribution;
- Make the EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency a central feature of the energy package, including its target of to save at least 20% of its current energy use until 2020
- Make a clear commitment to eliminating energy poverty in Europe, notably through an Energy Customers' Charter;
- Make energy a central part of all external EU relations;
- Integrate the EU's energy and development policies;
- Commit the EU and its member states to undertaking large-scale investments in energy technology research and innovation between 2007 and 2013.
- Make sure that the burden sharing within the European Union is fair, transparent, and based on proper analysis.



While the PES insists on the need to agree a target of at least 20% reduction in GHG by 2020, we express our grave concerns that a 20% reduction target will be insufficient in the light of existing scientific evidence, notably the recent IPCC report, the Stern report and the Commission's own expert assessments. There is broad consensus amongst experts that a higher reduction target will be needed to achieve the EU's objective to limit average global temperature increase to a maximum of 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. Therefore, the PES urges the EU heads of state and government to support an EU target of 30% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020, as proposed by a number of Member States, based on sufficient binding targets for energy conservation and RES utilization.

Europe can only achieve these ambitious targets if it invests in new technologies in renewable energies, energy efficiency and a cleaner and more efficient use of fossil energy sources. For this reason, the introduction of binding targets for renewable energy sources, including binding sectoral renewables targets for 2020, appears vital.

High prices of fuels and electricity hit the poor households hardest, forcing them to cope with high heating and electricity bills, and rising public and private transport costs. Therefore, consumer interests and a socially just distribution of energy resources must be at the centre of all future energy policy. The PES urges EU member states to support the poorest parts of their population in their struggle with high energy costs in accordance with their respective social policy. All EU member states must support low-income families and individuals to achieve substantial energy savings in their homes.

Europe's people have realised the desperate urgency of climate change – it is now up to Europe's heads of state and government to respond to their demands for action against it. The European Union cannot afford to disappoint them.

Europe's socialists and social democrats call on the European Council to rise to the challenge of making Europe a world leader in climate change policies.

