



**Our Common Pact: Making the 21st century the progressive century**  
**By PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**

**Check against delivery**

**Closing speech delivered at the PES Congress, Prague, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

Friends, the past two days have been intense and very productive for our PES family.

I'd like to thank you for your hard work, for your openness in our constructive debates.

I'd like to thank all our parties, our leaders and our activists, our organizations – the members of our groups in the European institutions – PES Women and ECOSY, and all those of you who are engaged in strengthening our political family.

**We've decided to define a new way forward.**

**This century is ours to conquer.**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the progressive century.**

**We will make our way back to influence and power to shape progressive societies.**

We share a common destiny.

That's why we have **concluded a pact** to reform the PES and our national parties.

**Over the next 5 years we will**

- Change the political priorities of Europe
- Increase our influence in the European institutions
- Strengthen our political family

**We lost people on the way into this crisis. We have to win them back for a way out of the crisis.**

**An end to mass unemployment. A promise to refuse business as usual. A new hope for people.**

**We will win people back to our parties by building a new bridge between the nation state and Europe. To ensure the future of our welfare states in a globalised world. A new direction for human security and progress.**

**Our pact is for a new way of doing politics.**

Let's be clear, it's going to be hard work. But we will make it together.

- **A democratic process to develop our new governing programme for Europe** over the next two and a half years, to adopt at the next PES Congress.
- A vision, a programme and a candidate to win the European elections and take the Presidency of the European Commission. **Choosing our Commission President candidate in a democratic and transparent process the year before the European elections.**
- A clear work programme to influence the European agenda:
  - We will coordinate all our members in the European institutions and mobilise all our members in national parliaments and in the European Parliament, using the increased powers provided by the treaty;
  - We will support our parties to enter government and work intensively with all PES members in government;

- We will work with PES Women to mainstream all gender policy in our work;
- **We will form a new network on Modernising politics;**
- We will consolidate the role of PES activists;
- We will revitalize PES networks with the most relevant decision-makers and thinkers of our member parties and organisations;
- We will coordinate our activities and campaigns for maximum impact;
- **We will stimulate grassroots engagement, through our networks, organisations, activists, and citizens' initiatives.**

**We will be the party of engagement, freedom and hope.**

**We will strengthen our political family.** We will renew social democracy.

We will modernise our way of doing politics. Building the bridge between our national and our European parties.

**Yes. Because we will achieve our goal of shaping progressive societies by acting together, in unison, at local, regional, national and European levels.**

**Becoming the natural parties of government - nationally and in Europe – to create truly progressive societies.**

**Stronger together. Giving people the means for their own empowerment. Turning apathy into a new aspiration.**

**A new vision. A new way forward.**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> century - our progressive century.**