



Rome Conference, December 14 – 15, 2012

A Progressive Network for the 21st Century

The progressive, democratic, social democratic, socialist and labour movement is founded on the belief in human rights and the pursuit of freedom, justice, social equality and international solidarity. Our time is defined by rapid changes and historic economic and political shifts. Looking around us, many countries are striving with grave economic challenges, while in other geographical areas people have a more optimistic view for the future than ever before. In every circumstance, the demand for progressive policies which provides answers to the needs of ordinary men, women and children is strong.

We have seen how policies of injustice and inequality divide our societies and erode social cohesion and solidarity. The neo-liberal system has utterly failed.

It is time for a progressive global political and economic system that puts people first. We need a progressive answer which provides hope not fear, which gives people the chance to contribute to society instead of being excluded, and which fosters cooperation, not confrontation.

As progressive parties, we will work to make the 21st century a century of democratic, economic, social and ecological progress. To achieve results, we must understand the needs of the people and develop modern policies which provide solutions to those needs. Furthermore, we must strengthen our parties, organizations and campaigns.

Therefore, progressive parties should enhance our cooperation and build on existing strong networks to form a progressive alliance of political parties. As our debates this past year have shown, we should aim to form a new progressive alliance of political parties as a global forum for cooperation and support.

We came together in Rome on December 14 – 15, 2012 to discuss the scope and objectives of a new, future-oriented way of networking among progressive political parties. In Rome, we agreed on the following elements:

- We establish a network of progressive political parties which is also open for cooperation with other progressive social forces, foundations and NGOs;
- The network will be founded during the first half of 2013;
- The network will be a platform for formulating common progressive answers towards global political challenges, for exchange on election campaigns as well as strengthening of party organizations, and for the support of international campaigns;
- At the outset, the network will be financed by voluntary contributions;
- We set up a steering committee for the network. All interested political parties can appoint a representative for the committee. The steering committee prepares the founding event of the network;
- The network is called „Progressive Alliance“.