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EUROPEAN **SOCIAL** ACTION PROGRAMME



 **PSE**
Socialist Group in the
European Parliament

Our goal is a European Union that cares. A Union that acts decisively on the things that matter to you.

European Social Democrats and Socialists want a European Union that's on the side of the citizen, in the face of global challenges, financial turmoil and economic uncertainty. And we have set out in a new European Social Action Programme what needs to be done.

Our **European Social Action Programme** will:

- Regulate financial markets to end the era of casino capitalism.
- Guarantee a decent standard of living, including minimum incomes and decent pensions, with a Europe-wide Social Stability Pact that will establish minimum levels of social provision and encourage upward convergence.
- Tackle poverty – and above all child poverty.
- Ensure free movement of labour across borders and protect workers, guaranteeing equal pay for equal work and full respect for collective bargaining and the role of trade unions including their right to take collective action
- Put an end to the gender pay gap by strengthening the implementation of legislation concerning equal pay between men and women.
- Protect rights of all workers – whatever their contract – and prevent unjustified dismissals
- Give employees stronger rights to be informed and consulted, through European Works Councils, on company decisions that affect their jobs.
- Provide European funds for workers made redundant through restructuring or relocation.
- Ban discrimination in all areas including gender equality, strengthen the rights of people with disabilities; and launch a Europe-wide strategy against exclusion of Roma people.
- Improve health and safety at work, including protection against new risks and guarantee equal access for all to high quality occupational health care.



- Make it easier to reconcile work and family life, improve protection of pregnant workers and provide accessible and high-quality childcare – starting by extending maternal leave on the European level and strengthening legal protections against excessive working hours
- Bring in effective and humane policies on migration and integration.
- Provide training and life-long learning opportunities for all age groups.
- Establish a legal framework to protect public services, including social services of general interest by guaranteeing universal and equal access, quality, local autonomy and transparency.
- Coordinate tax policies to help Member States meet common social, economic, environmental and energy objectives and push for a pact committing every Member State to progressive taxation which pushes nobody below the poverty threshold.

When the banks needed vast sums of money to rescue them from the consequences of their own mismanagement, European governments were quick to find it.

Europe must show the same commitment to support and protect the vulnerable in our societies, and all the European citizens whose prosperity is threatened by the failure of twenty years of casino capitalism.

Social Democrats and Socialists will make it the central purpose of a new, social Europe to build a better life for Europe's citizens in a more secure, more inclusive, more equitable society.