

People are concerned about their jobs, their homes, their savings and their futures. But decisions on those issues often seem to be beyond their control.

That's because everything in the modern world is connected. Developments in one country quickly affect lives in another — as we saw when the American housing problem turned into a worldwide economic crisis.

In times like these, our 27 EU countries can act together to defend us all effectively.

The European Parliament is a key part of those defences. It takes increasingly important decisions affecting every one of us.

Voters will have the chance on 4 June to elect a new European Parliament. Taking part in those elections is vital to ensure that the EU pursues the policies you want.

The European Parliament Socialist Group puts people first.

## WHAT WE HAVE WON

Our votes in the last five years mean that:

- **CHILDREN** will be safeguarded from some of the most dangerous chemicals in the world.
- **SERVICES** we all depend on will cost less.
- **NEW RULES** will tighten control over fat cat financiers. We pushed for long-term safeguards for people's pensions and savings, but European Liberals and Christian Democrat-Conservatives kept quiet.
- **EDUCATION** will be stepped up with a billion euro a year for lifelong learning. That's enough for 222,000 students to study abroad. Another 70,000 will have professional training and 1,400 teachers of adults will also gain experience abroad.
- **MOBILE** phone calls abroad cost less — and we are now working on cutting the cost of mobile phone Internet access abroad.



- **TECHNOLOGY** will improve the quality of life. By 2013, an EU satellite navigation system will be the EU's first major industrial project, leading to huge technological advances and jobs.
- **EUROPE** leads efforts for world peace. We promote contacts to help peace-finding and conflict resolution in the Middle East. We want the EU to look beyond its borders, to contribute to peace and stability and to maintain good relations with the Muslim world.
- **POOR** countries, which have been under pressure to open their markets to EU business, find an ally in the Socialist Group. We fight so that they can agree only to trade deals that serve them well.

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Our priorities in the new Parliament will continue to put people first and make sure EU countries have maximum strength and impact from their combined efforts. Our convictions will underpin our priorities for action in tackling the big cross-border and global issues.

**More than markets...** Putting everything in the hands of the market, the wish of the right for the last few decades, is clearly a failed policy. In the new Parliament, the Socialist Group will work to tackle the financial crisis and shape our future to reduce inequalities and poverty in Europe, starting with better European and global regulation of the financial sector to limit excessive risk-taking, reduce tax-evasion or avoidance, and to allow investors and workers to see what is happening to their money.

**Smart green growth and jobs** are not just a strong element in tackling the financial crisis, but are key to tackling climate change — probably the biggest problem facing humankind right now. The transport, IT and energy sectors are key, along with targeted investment in R&D, skills development and reducing red/tape for business. Socialist Group MEPs are best placed to continue pushing on with this agenda in the new Parliament.

**A holistic approach to the future for energy in Europe** is essential and, as we've seen, the market won't take that long term view. Energy independence must grow in Europe, through development of environmentally friendly production, and the Socialist Group will remain committed to this aim.

**Tackling fear by developing effective and humane migration policies.** Unlike the right who play on people's fears, we will continue to make sure the EU manages migration effectively. This is the only way to allow us all to benefit from the diversity and economic contribution brought by people of different origins who are properly integrated into our communities. We will push for effective measures which acknowledge the very different domains of asylum policy, illegal immigration and people trafficking through a common external border policy.

**Freedom from violence and intimidation** whether from crime or terrorism, is the starting point for democratic societies. Democracy is precious and the threats are not so distant, as we have seen in the brutality and murder in ex-Yugoslavia, in terrorist attacks in London and Madrid, and in recent attempts to re-ignite hatred in Northern Ireland. By playing on people's fears, the right fans the flames and worsens the problem. The Socialist Group will carry on promoting measures to increase our security, by tackling terrorist threats and extremism while defending basic freedoms and privacy at home, at the same time promoting conflict prevention, peace, development and poverty reduction outside the EU.

**A fairer deal and respect for all** are essential to our concept of a new social Europe. We want to make sure that all European policies and laws are made with regard to their likely effects on social progress. Access public services must remain a basic right and we need a European approach to a basic minimum wage. We will continue to defend the rights of European workers to equal treatment across borders and to information and consultation by their employers about company changes. We will look at improving the rights of children, young people, and also the elderly. We also want to continue the improvements in women's rights, with better parental leave and child-care arrangements, 50:50 political representation of

women and men, and a elimination of the gender pay gap. Our fight against domestic violence and trafficking and sexual exploitation of women will continue.

## THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND

Europeans have the world's only directly-elected, multinational Parliament.

In June, 375 million people will have the right to vote across our 27 countries.

The stakes are high, the choices are important. This is the once-in-five-years chance that European citizens have to take control of policy.

**Make sure the new European Parliament represents you and the people around you. Vote in June!**



For up to date information about our activities, please visit our website

[www.socialistgroup.eu](http://www.socialistgroup.eu)  
[www.socialistgroup.mobi](http://www.socialistgroup.mobi)

# WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO VOTE



 **PSE**  
Socialist Group in the European Parliament