

WHAT WE STAND FOR.

Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

The logo consists of a white square containing the letters 'S&D' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The 'S' and 'D' are large and blocky, with an ampersand between them.

S&D


Campaigning for social justice, promoting jobs and growth, reforming financial markets, fighting climate change, championing equality and creating a stronger and more democratic Europe: this is the agenda of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament for the next five years.

The challenge for politics in the 21st century is to make globalisation fair, just and sustainable. As existing inequalities and, in the wake of the economic crisis, rising unemployment and high food and fuel costs put new pressures on people, Europe faces a two-fold task: tightening the control of financial markets and leading the economic recovery by promoting jobs and growths.

It is time for a new social Europe that puts people, not the market, at its heart. While the economic recession is the world's most immediate challenge, we must not let it blind us to the biggest threat humanity is facing today: climate change. Sustainable development is the road we must take to make Europe the world leader in the fight against climate change, to reduce our energy dependence and create jobs.

In times of growing interdependence, problems recognise no national boundaries and no state can solve them by simply acting alone. The European Union is our best tool and we must now translate its great potential into a capacity to act effectively.

Managing globalisation to the benefit of everyone must be the cornerstone of a progressive agenda for Europe.



Martin Schulz

President of the S&D Group

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat and a necklace, is looking through a microscope. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple gradient.

Leading the economic recovery

The worst credit crunch since the 1930s has plunged the economy into a crisis that is hitting people hard. In times of economic recession, rising unemployment, high food and fuel costs, our ideas and values are more relevant than ever. We want an economy that puts people first, not the market.

We call for a European strategy for smart green growth that will create 10 million new jobs by 2020.

A person is shown from the chest up, holding a black marker and drawing a line graph on a white surface. The graph shows a line that starts at a low point, rises to a peak, falls to a trough, and then rises again to a higher peak, ending with an arrowhead pointing upwards. The person's face is partially visible on the left side of the image.

Tightening the control of financial markets

Blind faith in the market has led us into a global economic crisis. First the banks were hit hard, now the Euro has come under attack by speculators. The S&D group has always led demands to regulate financial markets and outlaw dangerous forms of speculation.

We want clearer rules, more transparency and stronger supervision.



Campaigning for social justice

Europe is a political and social project. Existing inequalities and economic globalisation place new pressures on people. It is time for a 'New Social Europe'. We want a 'social progress' clause in all EU laws.

We want to strengthen workers' rights, we want to prevent unfair tax competition, we want a European pact against wage dumping and we want a decent minimum wage.



Climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity today. If we don't act now we put the future of our planet in peril. We want Europe to lead by example and introduce a more ambitious energy policy for the EU. In the wake of the disappointing Copenhagen Conference we continue to fight for a global agreement and the goal of a 30 per cent emissions reduction.

Sustainable development can create jobs and help save the planet.

Securing energy supply



The gas crisis was a wake-up call. Europe needs to reduce its energy dependence and fight energy poverty. The EU today imports 50 per cent of its energy supply and by 2030 this could rise to 70 per cent. We want to build up storage capacities and diversify energy supply routes and energy sources.

We want Europe to invest in environmentally friendly, affordable and renewable energy produced in Europe.



Safeguarding consumers

Making Europe a better place to live in is what motivates us. Over the years, our achievements have made a huge difference in the quality of life for millions of people. We've steered through tough laws on toy safety and the use of chemicals, outlawing many of the most dangerous substances. We have secured safer food and cheaper phone calls – and we have improved passenger rights.

We want to build a safer and fairer Europe for everyone.



Thanks to the S&D Group, significant progress has been made towards equality. But there is still a long way to go. We lead the fight against the gender pay gap, and for improved parental leave rights. We encourage the EU to stop gender-specific, racist and homophobic violence and discrimination. We work towards ending human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

We want an inclusive Europe for everyone.



Migration is a crucial challenge facing Europe today. To continue to benefit from migration, we must make it work and introduce real reforms. We live in a global village. People leave their countries of origin to find new homes. We want a society proud of its democratic traditions, open to and enriched by other cultures.

To learn to live together is to share the same rights and the same responsibilities.



Enhancing Europe's role in the world

A strong Europe is the best guarantee of a better future. We want a Europe with a global vision – a Europe that gives a lead but that also lives up to its responsibilities.

To strengthen our ties with partner countries, support the reform of the United Nations, call for international disarmament and work for the eradication of poverty in the world – that's our global agenda for Europe.



Protecting citizens from security threats

In a globalised world, security threats don't stop at country borders. Terrorism, organised crime and extremism have become international. If we want our response to succeed, it must be international, too. We want to strengthen police, judicial and security cooperation at European level to fight international terrorism and organised crime effectively.

We want a safer world for everyone.



Defending human rights

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are the core values of the European Union. We believe that Europe has the responsibility to use its power to defend the most vulnerable people within and beyond its borders.

We want Europe to fight discrimination at home, and be a force for human rights in the world.



Managing globalisation for the benefit of everyone


We live in times of global change, but also in times of huge opportunities. In today's interlinked world, no country can solve problems by simply acting alone. We have recently experienced forceful reminders of our shared vulnerabilities and global responsibilities.

At a time when the world is struggling to cope with the economic crisis and climate change, we need a strong Europe more than ever.

Join us at socialistsanddemocrats.eu

S&D **Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament**

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Fighting climate change

Climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity today. If we don't act now we put the future of our planet in peril. We want Europe to lead by example, and introduce a more ambitious energy policy for the EU. We are working towards achieving a new global agreement for the post-2012 period on the basis of a 30% emissions reduction. Sustainable development can create jobs and help save the planet.

- Talking Point**
- News room**
- Library**
- Policies**
- Group activities**
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LATEST: 0 | - Plenary Session - European Parliament in Strasbourg from 8 to 11 March, Socialist and Democ


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President Martin Schulz's welcome

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S&D Group - Job offers



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