

# Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)



PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
OF THE PARTY  
OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS



The EU seeks to promote security, peace, international co-operation, democracy, rule of law and human rights.

Beginning in the 1970s Member States started to consult each other and co-operate on major international policy problems.





## European Union



# Strengthening Security

---

In 1999, five objectives of the CFSP were outlined:

- To safeguard the common values like peace, democracy, rule of law and human rights.
- To strengthen the security of the Union in every way.
- To preserve peace and strengthen international security.
- To promote international co-operation.
- To strengthen democracy and the rule of law and respect for human rights and freedom.

The main priorities and goals of the CFSP are set by heads of governments and foreign ministers of Member States.

The EU appoints a High Representative in areas of crisis or conflict to provide a direct link to developments in those area and allow the EU to have an active role in lasting solutions.

The EU is also engaged in implementing European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) which covers all matters relating to its security, including a common defence policy. The EU has strengthened the ESDP through crisis management task forces (the Petersberg Tasks), including humanitarian aid, emergency rescue, peacekeeping and a combat task force - Rapid Reaction Force.



## **European Socialists**



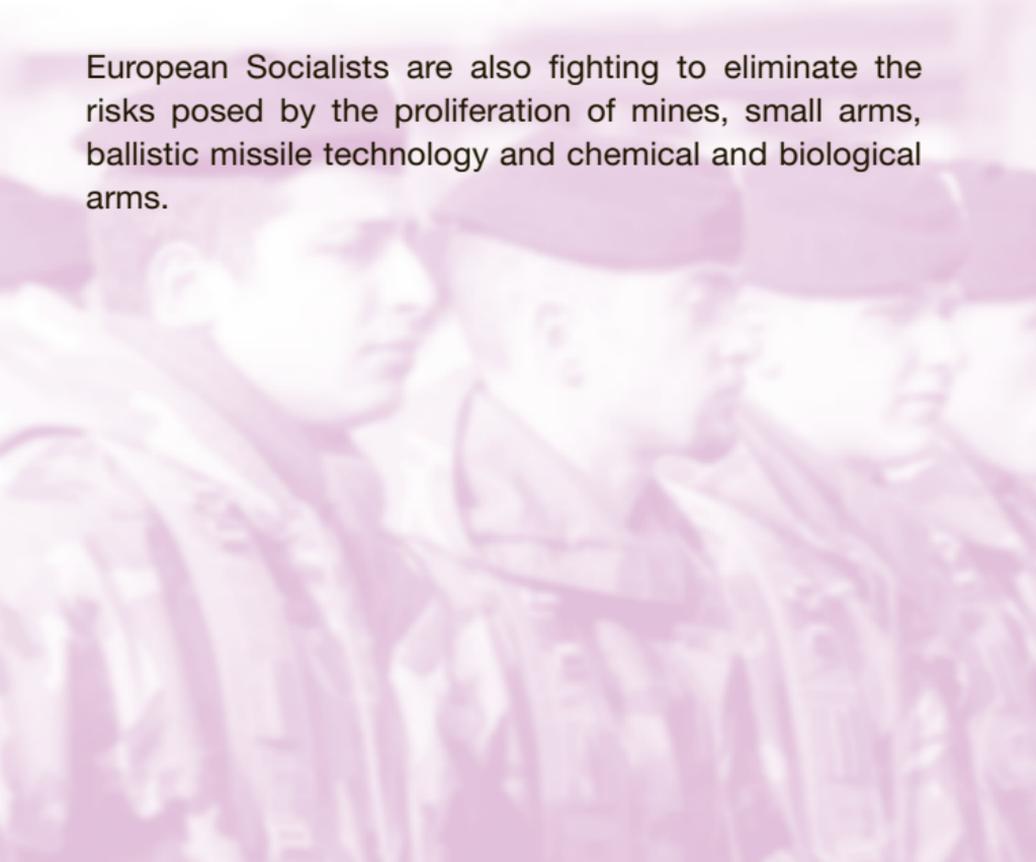
### Prioritising Conflict Prevention

For European Socialists the most important priority is conflict prevention based mostly on economic co-operation, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction aid.

European Socialists regard the promotion of human rights and democracy as one of the main priorities for parliamentary work.

European Socialists strongly support all efforts leading to disarmament which would mean the end of nuclear threats.

European Socialists are also fighting to eliminate the risks posed by the proliferation of mines, small arms, ballistic missile technology and chemical and biological arms.





## **Future Benefits**



# The Strongest Actor on the International Stage

---

The enlarged Union will be one of the world's strongest actors, able to promote its values of peace, democracy, international co-operation, the rule of law and human rights.

A Common Foreign Policy is also needed to tackle modern threats such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapon of mass destruction, issues which cannot be solved separately by individual Member States.

EU decisions on foreign policy are mostly taken unanimously by the heads of government from each EU Member State. This means that a decision can only be taken if it has the support of all countries, irrespective of their size, a rule which will continue to apply in an enlarged EU.

In this way, EU Member States working together have the unique opportunity to safeguard their own values on the international stage, where it would be impossible to do so individually.





To find out more about what European Socialists are doing in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), please consult the websites below:



**PES Group:**

<http://www.socialistgroup.org>

**PES:**

<http://www.pes.org>

**Contacts**

Parliamentary Group  
of the Party of European Socialists,  
European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels.  
Tel.: +32 2 284 14 40  
E-mail : peswbprogramme@europarl.eu.int