

RELAUNCHING EUROPE

OUR CALL TO ACTION
FOR AN ALTERNATIVE EUROPE



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Europe is in danger.
High unemployment, low
economic growth and shattered
hopes are undermining support
for the European Union, which for
more than half a century has
been the bedrock for prosperity,
democracy and the rule of law on
our continent.

It's time for action. Here's how we pledge to relaunch Europe:

1 Focus on jobs

27 million Europeans and nearly a quarter of all young people are out of work. Creating jobs for young people is a challenge that will define this generation and the next. Fighting unemployment will be our number one priority.

2) **Kick-start the economy**

Austerity has harmed Europe and all Europeans - punishing those least responsible for causing the crisis. We will relaunch European industry with a programme focused on innovation, research, education and training for more sustainable and smarter growth.

3 Restore Europe's social dimension

We will fight for a Europe that leaves no-one behind. We will rebalance our Union so that economic freedoms cannot outweigh social rights or undermine public services, notably those in the health, education and housing sectors.

Reform the financial sector in the interests of all

Speculators must never again be allowed to gamble with people's futures. We will reform the financial sector to ensure that we invest money, not spend it on bailing out banks. We will step up the fight against tax evasion. And we will speed up the introduction of the Financial Transaction Tax to ensure that the financial sector makes a fair contribution to society.

5) Fight discrimination & promote integration

Equality is of utmost importance to progressive politicians. We will fight against discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

6 Promote diversity – Europe's strength

Extremism is a threat to a peaceful continent and the integration of all Europeans into society. We will fight for a Europe that respects the rights and obligations of all individuals and every community.

7 Support safe and healthy lives

European citizens want to live healthy and happy lives. We will work to guarantee people's right to enjoy safe food, safe products and a safe living environment.

8 Democratise Europe

The EU needs to be more democratic and encourage participation. We will make Brussels work for Europe's citizens, not vice-versa, and support decision-making that is as close to citizens as possible. We will also work to ensure high levels of data protection and access to information to enhance European democracy.

9 Make Europe more sustainable

Europe leads the world in fighting climate change and investing in green technology. We will protect our natural resources and ensure an energy policy that is fair for consumers and the environment.

10) Promote Europe's values globally

Europe remains a beacon of democracy, peace and respect for human rights. We will promote these values in Europe and help to spread them globally, support social justice, and fight global poverty.

FOREWORD BY HANNES SWOBODA

It is time for a change in Europe. A change from the Europe of social inequality and crippling austerity we see today. A change for an alternative, fairer Europe.

Relaunching Europe has visited large cities and small towns across Europe, witnessing Europe's impressive geographical and cultural diversity as well as wide-ranging political views. We have listened to the opinions of European citizens and learnt a lot – something that makes me optimistic for the future.

We have heard how important Europe is to its people; the issues on which it should do more; and audiences' views on how Europe is not working, too. People told us they want a better and more socially just Europe; a more democratic Europe; a Europe they can trust and which gives everyone a fair chance in life.

Our 'call for action for an alternative Europe' sets out our vision of the future: a Europe based on democratic values, strong fundamental rights, solidarity and justice, and where those living in Europe for several generations will be able to vote and become European citizens. A Europe where a good education is guaranteed for everyone, where the environment is protected for generations to come and where our privacy is secure, even in an ever-more connected world.

We want to see a Europe that is strong on the world stage, speaking with a common voice and standing up for the European values.

We want to see a Europe where people can find a decent job, pay the bills and support their families; one where the yawning gap between rich and poor, and north and south, is closed. A Europe where those responsible for the crisis – the banks, not the citizens – foot the bill. Where industry is renewed, innovation is fostered and small businesses can get loans to flourish.

We want to see a Europe that gives hope to young people, helping the 'lost generation' in many European countries who are leaving their home countries to look for work.

Together, we can make this change happen. On 25 May 2014, you have the chance to vote in the European elections and to make your choice for a more socially just future.

17/000

Hannes Swoboda S&D Group President



RELAUNCHING...



OUR ECONOMY & FIXING THE BANKS



EMPLOYMENT &
GETTING YOUNG
PEOPLE INTO WORK



INDUSTRY IN EUROPE



OUR DIGITAL ECONOMY, EDUCATION & CULTURE



DEMOCRACY & FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS



OUR SOCIETY & PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY

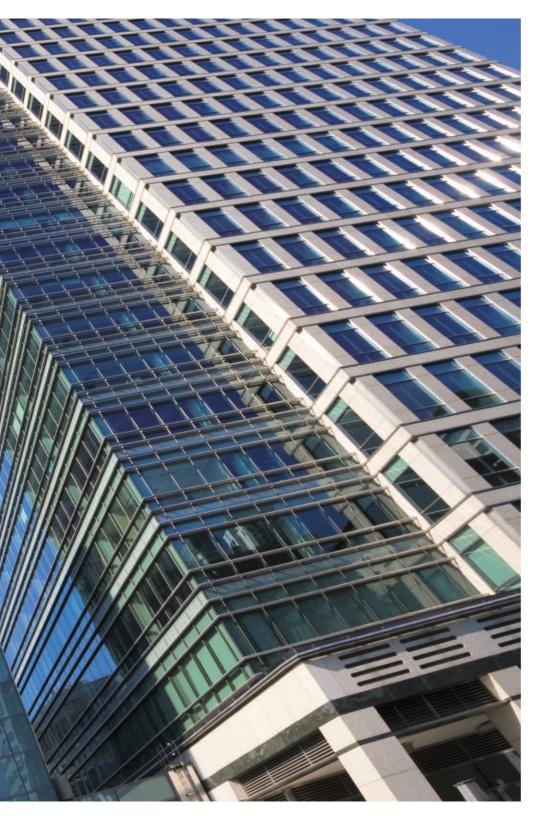


FUROPE'S
GLOBAL ROLE



OUR PLANET &
BOOSTING SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT







Over the past seven years, Europe's economy has suffered its biggest crisis in three generations.

This was crisis fuelled by greed. Too many risks were taken, with too little control to curb excesses. The people of Europe are now picking up the bill.

A fixation with austerity has inflicted massive social damage and deepened the crisis. In 2009, rapid intervention and economic stimulus had started to bring Europe out of recession, but by 2011 ideological attachment to fiscal discipline had stifled the recovery. The result was unemployment, stagnating economies, and social unrest.

The Socialists and Democrats Group does not believe that this type of 'crash diet' is the answer to our economic problems: instead, we need to balance sustainable finances and the control of public debt with investment for the future. We have worked hard to offer a different, more forward-looking response to the crisis.

But we need to fix the causes of the crisis as well as alleviate its symptoms.

We have started to relaunch our financial system with the aim of ensuring that those who caused the crisis help fix it. The Socialists and Democrats Group has led calls for a financial transaction tax, for stricter regulation of credit ratings agencies and bonuses in the financial sector, and for action on tax evasion. All these measures would help make our economy and financial system fairer and more transparent.









Europe should not only be an economic construction – we have to call for a Europe of people, a Europe of civilisations.

Diamanis Koumaris

Participant at Relaunching Europe in Thessaloniki

DISCUSSING THE CRISIS WITH THOSE HIT HARDEST

The crisis cannot be solved just from Brussels. European leaders need to exchange ideas and experiences with those hit hardest by the crisis.

We took Relaunching Europe to Portugal, Greece and Cyprus - three countries where the 'Troika' of the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund has imposed some of its harshest measures.

In Coimbra, we discussed alternative ways out of the crisis. One S&D Group MEP highlighted that Europe cannot have economic growth if it does not create employment, damning the Troika as "a religion of the right wing with a God called 'the market'". Carlos Silva, a Portuguese trade union leader, highlighted the need to fight for people to have good working conditions.

In Thessaloniki, we heard people's experiences of austerity and discussed the

impact of the Troika's measures. We also looked forward: a series of entrepreneurs put forward ideas on how Greece and Europe could emerge from the crisis.

Dimitris Kalavros-Gosiou, founder of TEDx Athens, lamented that Europe had lost its leading position, and the difficulty in finding a European 'Silicon Valley'. He, like other speakers and the audience, highlighted how governments and public bodies need to invest in education, supporting start-ups and encouraging labour mobility. Joke van Antwerpen of the European Creative Industries Alliance spoke about the need for both creative entrepreneurs and a 'facilitating government'.

In Cyprus, the latest country to undergo Troika measures, the focus was on solidarity and democracy. Our audience in the capital, Nicosia, heard Professor Starvos Zenios of the University of Cyprus say that greater accountability and transparency was needed in economic decision-making.

This is a fight that has been spearheaded by the Socialists and Democrats Group. We were the first to recognise that stronger European economic coordination demands far more effective democratic scrutiny. We won European Parliament backing for a report calling for more open and accountable processes.

Sir Christopher Pissarides, a Cypriot-born Nobel laureate in economic science, said that he was very concerned about the current state of Europe and that a radical change in European policy was needed, with a real banking union, Eurobonds and common European debt. Many in the audience agreed that more solidarity was needed.

One S&D Group MEP highlighted the beneficial role of the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) in reining in the financial markets – an idea that the Socialists and Democrats Group put to the top of the political agenda in the European Parliament and a measure that is now in force in 11 member states.

He added, however, that certain countries had tried to water down the FTT, and that further commitment was needed from the other EU institutions and member states to strengthen the policy.

REFORMING OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND FIGHTING TAX EVASION

The theme of solidarity was also present in our event in **Ljubljana** in May 2013. In the Slovenian capital we addressed the issues of tax havens, tax evasion and corruption.

Tax evasion costs Europe €1,000 billion (or €1 trillion) per year – which is more than the entire European Union seven-year budget. This level of evasion also puts into sharp perspective measures such as the €6 billion fund to combat youth unemployment. Everyone must pay their fair share, and loopholes that allow half of the world's trade to be channelled through tax havens must be closed. In the end, it is ordinary people who are cheated, not 'the state'.







It's time to say goodbye to the Troikas.

Hannes Swoboda S&D Group President













Corruption was another issue that was hotly debated in Slovenia. Igor Angelini of Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency, highlighted the need for cross-border rules that allow authorities to freeze and confiscate the proceeds of crime.

THE EURO

Poland is one of the largest European Union countries that is not yet a member of the eurozone. At an event in Warsaw in November 2013 we discussed the prospects for Poland joining the single currency. Our panel included many distinguished guests, notably Marek Belka, a former Polish prime minister and the current President of the National Bank of Poland

It is clear that the structural difficulties of the euro - as shown by the economic crisis -



I am concerned about the current state of Europe... a radical change in policy is needed.

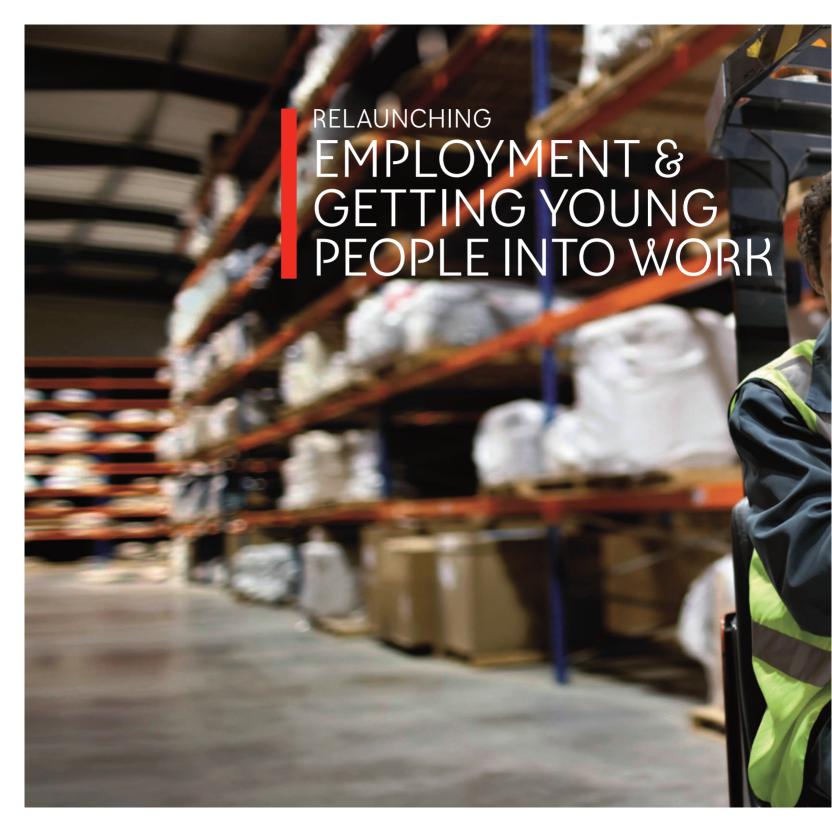
Sir Christopher Pissarides Nobel laureate in economic science

mean a more substantial and democratic dialogue is needed on whether to become part of monetary union. Marek Grela, a former Polish ambassador to the EU, feared that Poland would be marginalised outside the euro, but pointed to the growth in gross domestic product in Poland (20%) and the eurozone (zero) since 2007.

Poles, while enthusiastic about the EU, are more cautious on whether to join the euro. The single currency and its decision-making structures still need reform to regain the trust of people inside and outside the eurozone

DID YOU KNOW...

Tax evasion costs €1 trillion a year in Europe





2

For the first time in recent history young people can't look forward to a better life than their parents.

In some European countries, more young people are out of work than in work. For many of those who have a job, there is insecurity or low pay. It is time to relaunch job creation in Europe, providing decent work for all. It is time to restore hope to young people.

Getting Europeans back to work has been a major theme of Relaunching Europe and is the top priority of the Socialists and Democrats Group. It is time to make high-quality jobs and full employment the top priority for the European Union, too.

Europe is often blamed for the problem of unemployment. The reality is that it can be a big part of the solution.

A Europe-wide employment pact would ensure coordinated action in each country to boost employment and investment. A European Youth Guarantee - promising young people a job or further training or education if they are still unemployed after several months – is a key pledge of the centre-left. European investment in sustainable technology can create green jobs – the employment of tomorrow. And fair rights for workers – guaranteed in European law – help build a more inclusive society and reduce economic insecurity.







Freedom of movement is not negotiable. Regardless of our nationality, we are all European citizens.

Rovana Plumb

Romanian Minister for Environment & President of the Social-Democratic Party Women's Organisation

FIGHTING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: JOBS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

One of the key aims of Relaunching Europe is to listen to European citizens and understand their lives, hopes and fears. At our event in **Nottingham** in December 2012, we heard stories from unemployed young people, giving those most affected by the crisis a rare voice. The leader of Britain's Labour Party, Ed Miliband, endorsed the Socialists and Democrats Group's demand for a jobs guarantee for young people.

Later in our programme, people in Estonia (in September 2013) and Lithuania (in January 2014) joined us to debate how to relaunch employment in Europe.

In Narva – a city in the far east of Estonia, bordering Russia – we heard stories that often do not reach decision-makers in Brussels. In Narva, the main concern was the brain drain and emigration, with an

increasing number of young people forced to leave the city (or Estonia altogether) as they cannot find any job opportunities.

A similar problem faces Lithuania. The country has a population of around three million people, but there has been a demographic collapse over the past ten years, as its population has fallen by 11% due to emigration to the United Ringdom, Sweden and other European countries. Many more young people are considering leaving the country and working abroad.

The Prime Minister of Lithuania, Algirdas Butkevičus, told people at our event in **Vilnius** that more vocational training and better education were vital in stemming this brain drain. His words were echoed by Mirosław Rrzanik from the European Youth Forum, who said that "education should be thought of in terms of investment and not cost... it is not just about manufacturing future employees".







Participant at Relaunching Europe in Narva



The problem of a 'brain drain' was also discussed at the Relaunching Europe debate in Hungary's third-largest city, **Szeged**. The city's university is one of the best in Hungary and is among the 500 best universities in the world, but graduates often look abroad for work. Attila Mesterházy, the leader of the Hungarian Socialists highlighted concerns about young people leaving the country in massive numbers and called for a Youth Guarantee to be introduced, ensuring that people between 25 and 30 years are offered a job or training within four months of

The Socialists and Democrats Group has led the campaign for the European Youth Guarantee and helped to secure €6 billion of funding to guarantee employment for people aged under 25 years. It is not enough – at least €20 billion is needed – but it is a starting point in our fight to secure the necessary funding to support young people.

leaving a job or education.

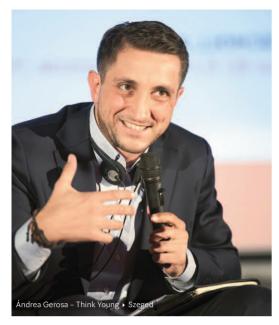
Szeged's mayor, László Botka, said that projects such as the EU superlaser centre, which will be based in the city, is already drawing highly skilled young people back to Szeged, and showed the power of investment in research, innovation and education.

However, an S&D Group MEP pointed out that the process needs to be inclusive: forty years ago, more than a third of children living in poverty went on to higher education in Hungary; now only two per cent do. A Europe-wide 'talent rescue programme' is urgently needed to realise the full potential of Europe's young people.

HELPING THE NEWEST MEMBER STATES REALISE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF EUROPE

One of the dangers of rising unemployment and inadequate responses to the crisis is that Europe becomes divided on national lines. In some countries, migrant labour from Eastern and Central Europe is often depicted as part

















of the problem. In April 2013 we went to **Sofia** to discuss with young Bulgarians their own difficulties in finding jobs.

Nearly 30 per cent of young Bulgarians are out of work. Solutions are needed to restore hope as well as dignity and independence. Our debate showed that the problems in Bulgaria are not so different from those in other parts of Europe.

And the solutions are clear: training, education, targeted investment in jobs and programmes that help young people expand their horizon and skills are essential. Mobility through schemes such as Erasmus - is also vital. The debate also looked to a future with investment in long-term jobs in renewable energies and cutting-edge technology.

Much later in our programme – in February 2014 – we went to the other member state that joined the European Union in 2007, Romania. At our event in **Bucharest** we debated economic development and how it can enhance employment prospects. Eugen Teodorovici, the Minister of European Funds, was clear that the final goal of European funding was to encourage real economic growth and give young people more reasons to stay in Romania.

However, Matthias Jobelius, a Representative of the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation in Romania, noted that many young Romanians do travel abroad for work. He also called for a fact-based debate, noting that most Romanians working abroad were actually well integrated into their host society. "For progressives it is important to connect



the debate about migrant workers with the debate about decent work". he said.

The Socialists and Democrats Group has led negotiations on new laws to ensure decent work, giving new rights to workers, safeguarding labour standards and preventing the exploitation of low-paid migrant workers and seasonal workers.

In May 2013, just six weeks before Croatia joined the EU, we went to **Split** to debate the opportunities the EU can provide.

Speakers highlighted the huge income and wealth gap between European countries, as well as between regions and even individuals. Participants debated how to resolve these inequalities, including through an efficient strategy for regional development and fighting poverty – which is in the interest of all European citizens.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The south of Europe has been hit particularly hard by the economic crisis, ruining the prospects of a generation of young people in countries such as Spain and Portugal.

Relaunching Europe travelled to **Málaga** in November 2013 to discuss how we could get Europe back to work. Unemployment in Andalusia is the highest in any of Spain's regions, and a packed audience came to discuss solutions to a devastating problem (more than two-thirds of young people in the region are out of work).

There was some optimism in the gloom: a leading Spanish Socialist activist,

Six billion euros for the European Youth Guarantee is not enough, but is a good start.

Nicolas Schmit

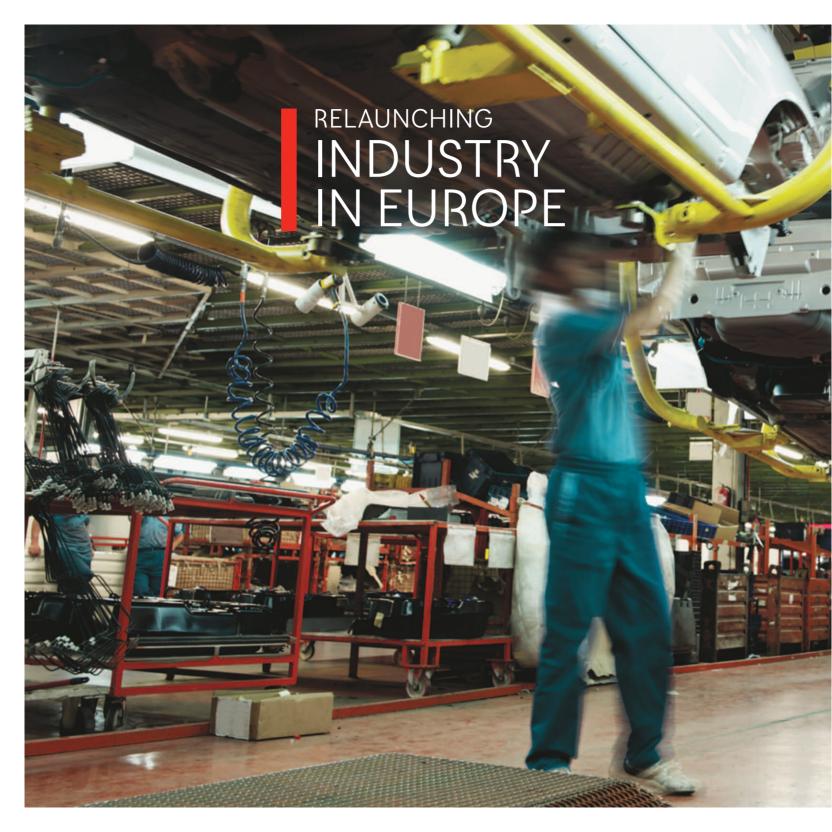
Chair of the Party of European Socialists' Social and Employment Ministers Network

Atenea Melgarejo, spoke up for politics as a way of pushing through the changes needed to avoid creating a 'lost generation'. Her ideas included the creation of a Youth Unemployment Agency to address this problem and for the European Central Bank to invest more in young people.

Rrystelle Lonchard, a representative from Streetfootballworld, said that her organisation uses football "to reach out to youth who have lost faith in society and disengaged from it".

At the debate in Málaga, an S&D Group MEP said that "unemployment is an EU problem despite national disparities - it's not a Southern problem". This was a theme taken up at a Relaunching Europe event in the Dutch city of **Utrecht** in June 2013: although the Netherlands has a comparatively low unemployment rate, speakers agreed on the need for solidarity with other European countries to get the economy back on track and create mutual benefits.

In the Portuguese university city of Coimbra, an S&D Group MEP provided a startling statistic: while one per cent of the population continues to accumulate wealth, another one per cent - approximately 120,000 young people - left Portugal in 2013 to try to find work. Our debate heard from young female entrepreneurs who have succeeded in Coimbra and focused on the need for public and private investment to generate growth and create employment.





3

Two centuries after Europe's industrial revolution, it is time to relaunch Europe as a powerhouse of innovative manufacturing.

Europe, which is increasingly dependent on services and high-technology niche activities, needs a new and ambitious industrial policy to diversify its economy. A revitalised industrial sector will provide millions of high-quality jobs and demonstrate that Europe can still be competitive in the world.

To do this, we need European-level action: an ambitious and strategic approach, better coordination between countries, and incentives to innovate. We need to maintain and further develop highly-trained workers and cutting-edge research. We need effective infrastructure. And Europe needs to show competing regions that high environmental and social standards are no barrier to success.

The world is changing rapidly and Europe must adapt to new challenges and tough competition.

One way Europe can do this is by exploiting its 'environmental edge'. Smart and sustainable technology can provide jobs and give Europe a competitive advantage. The potential of Europe's 'SME edge' also needs to be realised: small and medium-sized companies provide jobs for millions of Europeans, but need more sustainable access to financing to survive and develop. And Europe's 'innovative edge' must be supported too, with an effective European patent to protect intellectual property and encourage future discovery.

Arts and culture are now part of the answer to the question of how to relaunch Europe and create jobs

Gerfried Stocker Ars Electronica



USING CULTURE, ARTS AND DESIGN TO RELAUNCH EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

In May 2013 Relaunching Europe went to Linz, Austria - a city that bucks the trend of industrial decline. The venue for our event - a former tobacco factory that is now a cultural hub - demonstrates how culture, arts and design can play a key role in Europe's industrial renaissance.

The rest of Europe can follow the example of Linz, with high-quality jobs, thriving small businesses and start-ups, and a community where art and culture can generate fresh, successful ideas. However, other industrial cities also need the financial support – at local, national and European level – afforded to Austria's third-largest city.

Gerfried Stocker, the artistic head of Ars Electronica, a centre for electronic arts in Linz, highlighted how EU funds have helped to successfully launch art and research projects. Art and culture are assets for Europe and key elements of future innovation and job creation, he added.

While these assets should be exploited, it is fundamental that workers are not. Despite pressure on wages, global competition and the temptation to join a global 'race to the bottom', Europe needs to ensure that social standards are maintained, with dialogue between employers and employees and decent minimum wages. Social dialogue and partnership leads to success in industrialised nations, and Europe should become a more socially just and inclusive region that stands for strong values and principles both at home and abroad.

Closing the event, Socialists and Democrats Group President Hannes Swoboda noted how Europe is often wrongly criticised as being 'the problem'. However, Europe can deliver: there is a great potential for investment in education, research and development and











innovation to nurture Europe's creative talent and build successful industries.

The Socialists and Democrats Group has made efforts to realise this potential, backing an ambitious and integrated industrial policy report in the European Parliament that makes the case for green, sustainable and resourcefriendly European manufacturing. We also supported the addition of ambitious targets and policies to a report on how to build an 'innovation union' by stimulating creativity in products, services and processes..

MAKING OUR FUTURE: THE IMPORTANCE **OF MANUFACTURING**

To see the significant positive impact of manufacturing on job creation and living standards, you need look no further than Germany's industrial heartland. Relaunching Europe travelled to Mannheim, a city that is home to seven of Germany's hundred highest-grossing companies.

And it is not just these companies that provide jobs: they are the hub that connects a whole range of economic activity. Each industrial job creates, on average, two additional jobs in the supply chain.

However, future planning needs to be considered if economic success is to continue, providing high-quality jobs and



This is a moment of crisis for Europe - we need a debate about how we create jobs and innovation across our national frontiers

Will Hutton Oxford University



good standards of living. The EU needs to build a legal framework that promotes startups and is led by a new philosophy of innovation, rather than wasting valuable time supporting outdated sectors without a future.

Speaking at the event in September 2013, Peer Steinbrück a German MP and former federal finance minister, noted the problems highlighted by business leaders, notably a shortage of skilled labour. Hannes Swoboda took on this point, saying that education and training is a vital investment for Europe, as is improved labour mobility around Europe through long-term projects.

Solidarity was another important theme. Further harmonisation of corporate tax rates - a key political demand of the Socialists and Democrats Group - will avoid companies

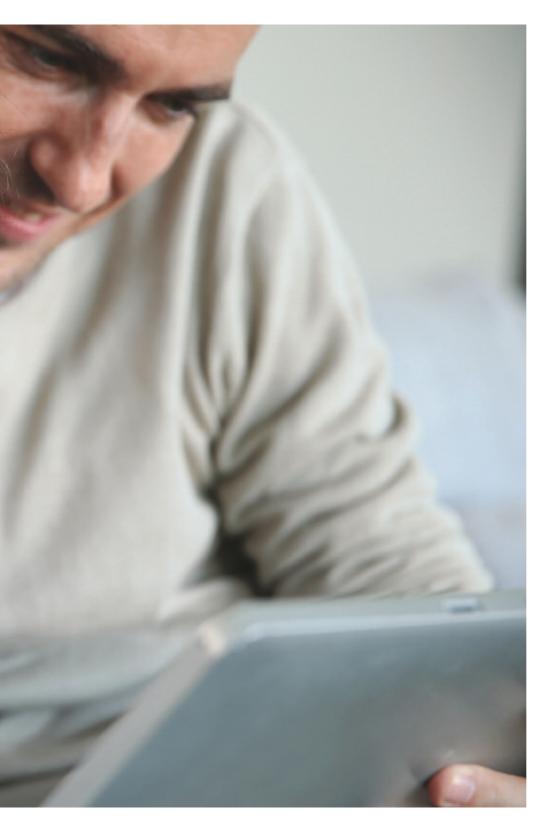
shopping around for the lowest rate, which leads to national governments having less income to provide public services used more intensively by poorer sections of society.

Wages must also provide a decent standard of living: one S&D Group MEP highlighted that Europe cannot compete with low-income regions, so it needs to be better in other areas, such as energy, access to raw materials, and connection in the digital age.

DID YOU KNOW...

Each industrial job creates, on average, two more jobs in the supply chain





4

The digital world presents immense opportunities for our economy, our culture and our democratic life.

However, it also presents challenges: the volume of personal data, and the speed at which it is exchanged, requires us to address potential threats to privacy. The freedom of expression afforded by the internet can be threatened by rules on filtering of electronic communications or the shadow of over-zealous and shadowy monitoring by security services and law enforcement agencies.

Intellectual property rules need to be carefully drafted for the digital age, to balance access to information and culture with the rights of creators to be properly rewarded.

And Europe needs to consider how its rich cultural heritage – in music, film, art, design and elsewhere – can contribute to economic growth, and what changes are needed to our education and training systems to support this development.

The Socialists and Democrats Group recognises the potential of Europe's cultural past and present, and its digital future, to contribute to a relaunch of the continent's economy. We see information and communications technology (ICT) skills and education as a priority. We also understand the potential of the digital revolution for improving our society and making it more democratic, as well as for enhancing freedom of expression and media pluralism.

It is now time to make it happen.

There is not enough clarity about the different spheres between national security and espionage on the one hand, and the digital rights agenda on the other.

lan Traynor Europe Editor, The Guardian

EDUCATION AND CREATIVITY – THE GATEWAY TO ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Our Relaunching Europe event in **Linz** examined education and creativity as a way to support economic and industrial growth. A series of workshops at the event examined how Europe's potential could be realised.

Education was recognised as a vital element in making Europe competitive in the world: speakers noted that while globalisation and increased competition can be frightening, if we also use it to encourage educational exchange between universities and companies throughout the world, it can offer great opportunities.

Political courage is needed too, by making smart investments in education, training, and research and development. S&D Group MEPs emphasised these points and the need for Europe to catch up with the United States in its spending on R&D. But business leader Wolfgang Eder identified regulation as an issue: while it was often helpful for industry by giving clear rules, it frequently hindered creativity.

Creativity could also be hindered by a lack of openness, said Reinhard Kannonier, Rector of Linz's University of Arts. He stressed the need for life-long learning, and not forcing people to specialise too early in their lives.

The Socialists and Democrats Group strongly supports an increase in public and private



















We also want to use the full potential of Europe's information and communications technology (ICT) expertise – not least because it has a big impact on the competitiveness of every other economic sector. A European digital single market would make the ICT sector – which employs more than four million people and is growing by three per cent a year – to become more efficient and support greater prosperity for all.



MAKING THE MOST OF OUR CREATIVE SKILLS

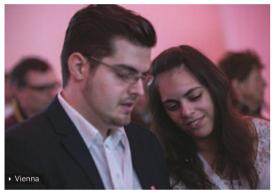
In October 2013 Relaunching Europe went to **Rošice**, Slovakia's second city and one of the European capitals of culture in 2013.

The event took place in the newly-opened Rasárne Rulturpark, a 19th-century military compound that has been turned into a space for contemporary arts, exhibitions, concerts and creative industries. Richard Raši, the Mayor of Košice, highlighted the importance of such developments not only for culture, but for the economy and employment too: he said that Košice's solution to unemployment and emigration was to create "the conditions and environment to keep talented people in

















the town, so they can transform their ideas into reality".

Ivan Stefunko, a local patron of start-ups. talked about how ideas can be turned into products and then jobs, while Joke van Antwerpen, Director of the Amsterdam Innovation Motor (AIM) in the Netherlands. presented a surprising statistic. "Despite the crisis since early 2000s the number of cultural sector workers has increased from 80 000 to 90 000 people" she said

In Košice, heavy industry has given way to cultural infrastructure and the development of a creative economy that brings together design, media, architecture, music and film production, ICT and creative tourism.

But this environment cannot be created only with bricks and mortar. Socialists and Democrats Group President Hannes Swoboda pointed out the importance of education and training as the basis of success: "without investment in education and in culture we cannot promote creativity".

SAFEGUARDING OUR DIGITAL RIGHTS AND MEDIA PLURALISM

The Socialists and Democrats Group strongly believes that your data always belongs to you. In addition to our work to safeguard personal

details in agreements with the United States on bank details and passenger name records, we are also fighting to ensure that EU data protection legislation establishes clear minimum standards on data use and retention, providing legal certainty for individuals, companies and governments.

We want any future international agreements - including the proposed trade agreement between the European Union and the United States – to include data protection clauses to protect your data.

Our Relaunching Europe event in Vienna, Austria, took place in March 2014, the week after the European Parliament had adopted two major reports on privacy: one on mass surveillance of EU citizens by intelligence agencies, and another where the Socialists and Democrats Group won major concessions for new EU rules on data protection.

Participants discussed the need for the innovative power of the internet and a modern, data-driven economy to create jobs, but also highlighted that some issues such as privacy - should not be subject to economic criteria

The President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, bemoaned the fact that technical questions of digital infrastructure are given a higher priority than citizen's digital

The many different cultures in Europe connect us and bring us together.

Participant at Relaunching Europe in Košice

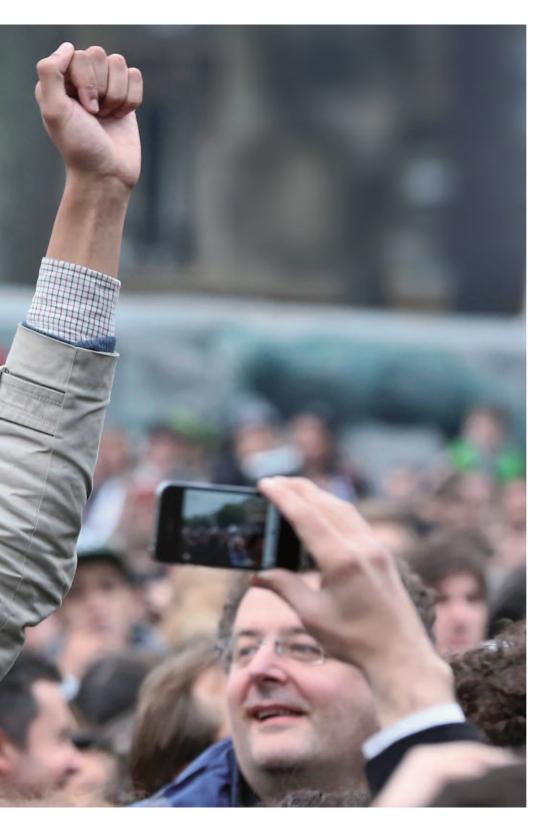


rights. Andreas Krisch, the president of the European Digital Rights Network, said that a lack of enforcement of data protection rules was the biggest problem.

Participants at the event also debated the need for content creators to be able to resist pressure from organisations that aggregate content but which often contribute little in terms of employment or tax. The creation of original content is necessary for a healthy democratic society, said the head of the Austrian Newspaper Association, Gerald Grünberger.

The Socialists and Democrats Group has been particularly vigilant about the threat to media diversity posed by technological developments and by the actions of some governments. Recently, several EU countries have tried to establish laws or measures that threaten media freedom. In response, we have called for minimum standards on media freedom and pluralism to protect our democracy and enhance our culture.





5

The preservation and promotion of democracy is a cornerstone of Europe.

Out of the dust of war came a new way to work together, and new institutions to protect against abuses of power and safeguard fundamental rights. When the Berlin Wall fell, the European institutions were a magnet for the new democracies of central and Eastern Europe, with respect for democratic government and human rights made a formal criterion for any new country wishing to join the European Union.

But Europe cannot rest on its laurels.

Far-right and nationalist groups are well-established in many European countries. Cloaked in false notions of democracy and liberty, many seek authoritarian government and restrictions on fundamental rights. The economic crisis has led to a social and political crisis that has seen new extremist parties emerge, playing on people's fears by offering simplistic 'solutions' to Europe's complex problems.

The Socialists and Democrats Group recognises the threat posed by these groups to Europe's values and its institutions. We have fought a fierce battle to strengthen European democracy by defending and promoting the values of human dignity, solidarity and security throughout Europe.





European history shows how important it is to remember why the European Union was founded and to be firm in our call for a peaceful and democratic Europe. Europe must be based on strong values and fundamental rights for all, irrespective of religion or national background.

Hannes Swoboda S&D Group President





FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY: VALUES AT THE CROSSROADS

These themes were discussed at the Relaunching Europe event in **Trieste** in January 2013. The choice of location was no accident: the only concentration camp on Italian soil was based in the city, and the brutal Foibe killings at the end of World War II took place nearby.

One of the guest speakers at the event, renowned author Boris Pahor, had survived Nazi concentration camps but had also seen his freedom of expression curtailed in fascist

Italy and in communist-ruled Slovenia. He provided a first-hand account of the danger of taking democracy and freedom for granted.

Hannes Swoboda, the Socialists and Democrats Group President, pointed to the modern-day threats: in Italy, Silvio Berlusconi had praised Mussolini; in Hungary, media freedoms had been threatened by new laws enacted by the Viktor Orbán and his party.

MAKING THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS MORE DEMOCRATIC

However, the European Union – while responding robustly to threats to democracy and fundamental rights around the world and in Europe – must not forget to ensure that its own institutions are democratic and that its own actions respect fundamental rights.

The Socialists and Democrats Group has led the way in ensuring the latter point: we vetoed proposals for agreements between the EU and the United States on bank details and passenger name records – both of which failed to safeguard citizens' data and civil liberties





I agree with the younger participants here – there is a need for the EU to have a more democratic system.

Tarja Halonen

Former President of Finland



We played a pivotal role in killing off the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which used heavy-handed methods that would have sacrificed civil liberties to commercial interests. We supported the Schengen agreement, which protects one of the EU's four fundamental freedoms – the freedom of movement for citizens.

But we recognise that Europe's institutions need to be more democratic and more responsive to the needs of citizens. Indeed, the Relaunching Europe initiative was built on a realisation that citizens need to feel more connected to the European institutions if they are to trust them to act.

At the first Relaunching Europe event in Florence, Hannes Swoboda said: "Europe is in the middle of an unprecedented crisis. This crisis is not only a systemic financial crisis, but also a political and institutional crisis that stems from weaknesses in the development of the European project that have long been apparent. It is time to renew the European idea... [to] give people back trust and hope for the future

"Europe must not be an elite project... we will do our utmost to give Europe back its soul and vision and make it a truly democratic and citizen-driven project."

MOVING FROM PROBLEMS TO SOLUTIONS

A lively event in Helsinki in September 2013 debated these ideas and some possible solutions, with opinions from a range of voices.

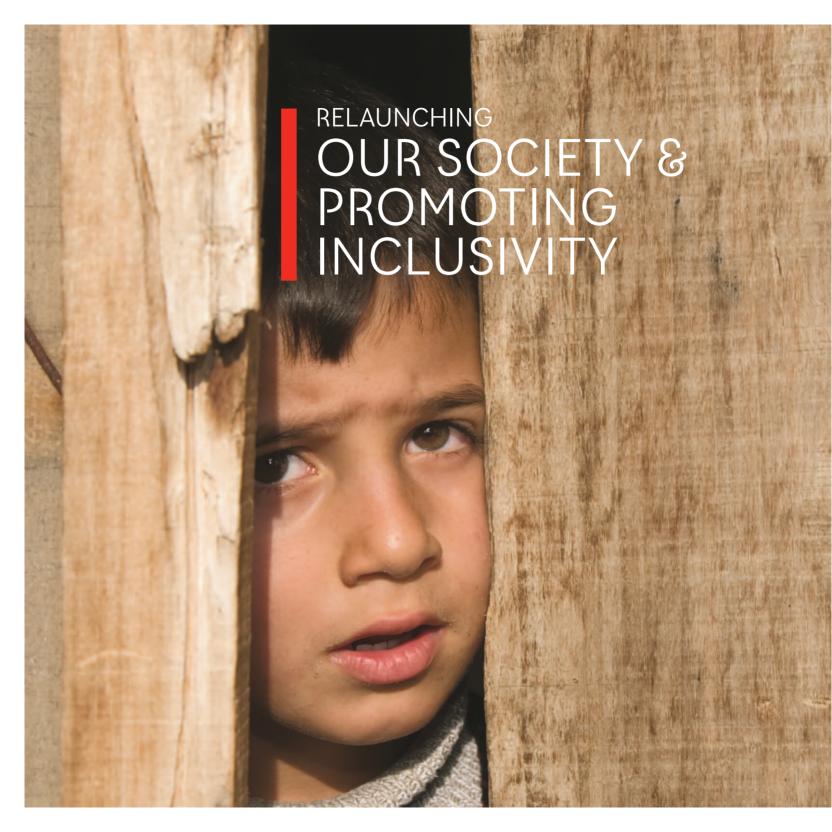
Leading politicians - such as Tarja Halonen (President of Finland from 2000 to 2012) and Finland's Finance Minister and Social Democrats leader Jutta Urpilainen – were joined by Iranian-born comedian Ali Jahangiri, journalist Ville Blåfield and actor Jasper Pääkkönen.

The debate highlighted the disquiet in European countries about the democratic legitimacy of the actions of the 'Troika' (the European Commission, European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund). There are alternatives to the Troika's austerity. It is not unavoidable. It is a political choice.

Other topics included the use of primaries for selecting candidates and the role of European Citizens' Initiatives – championed by the Socialists and Democrats Group as a new way for citizens to have a direct impact on what the EU does by allowing one million citizens to request that the European Commission propose a new law.

But more work needs to be done: our panellists in Helsinki were divided on how democratic the EU was, with Professor Teivo Teivanen of the University of Helsinki giving the EU a mark of just three out of ten for its democratic legitimacy. He argued that the EU should be bolder – for example, by taking lessons from Brazil on American cyber-spying activity (an issue on which the European Parliament in particular has been very active).

Tarja Halonen was more generous: a seven out of ten score, highlighting that while the structures are sound, the personnel needs changing. The European Parliament was seen as the most democratic and responsive of the European institutions,







Extremism is a threat to a peaceful continent and the integration of all Europeans into society.

Europe is currently plagued by rising extremism and xenophobia, with nationalist and far-right groups playing on the economic crisis and unemployment to promote simplistic and discriminatory 'solutions'. Sadly, many mainstream conservative groups also accept far-right ideas, notably attacking the Roma.

The Socialists and Democrats Group thinks differently. We stand for a Europe of tolerance, solidarity and inclusion, united in its diversity. We are proud to defend the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and to stand up for civil liberties and democracy. We want to end discrimination, whether it is based on ethnicity, religion, belief, age, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

We believe that all citizens of Europe are an integral part of our society, and that migrants and their children should be given opportunities to become fully integrated into European society. We also promote a sustainable asylum policy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Europe was founded on respect for fundamental rights. We want to make that an everyday reality for all European citizens.







Europe's new citizens have shown their readiness for mobility and entrepreneurship and can facilitate the creation of an outward-looking and optimistic climate - something the old and often tired societies of Europe need.

Hannes Swoboda S&D Group President

INTEGRATION: LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

In April 2013 we travelled to **Lyon**, France's second-largest urban area, for a debate on integration.

Some of the most vulnerable people in European society are those who are migrants from outside Europe, or whose parents migrated to Europe. We discussed how to better integrate these citizens into European society at a time when migrants are often made the scapegoats for high unemployment.

A lively debate included ideas about how integration could be improved, using the experiences of countries and cities around Europe. Migrants must have access to health services and education and have a voice in the media if we are to have an inclusive and integrated society. Crucially, migrants must have the right to vote and participate in political life.

Cécile Ryenge Rashetu, a Congo-born Italian politician who has served as integration minister in Italy, recounted her experiences and the need to encourage the participation of migrants in political life.

Other speakers highlighted the need for all children born on European soil to have the possibility to gain the citizenship of the

country into which they are born. The aim should be to build integrated communities where people can have multiple identities: regional, national and European.

This last point was one of the themes of another Relaunching Europe event in **Brussels**, Belgium, in October 2012. In a country where there are strong sub-national identities, the ideas of multilingualism, diversity and pluralism of identities is a hot topic, but it can also be a confusing one for many people. Film-maker Patric Jean admitted: "I feel European. But I don't know what that means".



One of the biggest challenges for Europe is to help many groups even feel European, and to be included in society.

In **Košice**, Slovakia – which was European Capital of Culture in 2013 – we discussed the issue of Roma integration. Košice is a multicultural, multinational and multi-ethnic city that includes not only Roma, but also Hungarians, Roma, Czechs, Russians, Ukrainians and Germans. Each of these groups need cultural outlets to integrate into local and European society.

Kristína Magdolenová, the director of the



Roma Press Agency, highlighted how cultural integration can bring both social and economic opportunities. "Educational and media programmes for Roma offer a basis for forming creative industries", she said. We also got a taste of Roma culture with a music and dance performance by Roma theatre group Romathan, who brought colour, melancholic songs and lively dances to the event.

Roma integration was one of the many issues raised at our event in the Romanian capital **Bucharest** in February 2014. One of the speakers was Damian Drăghici, a Romanian Senator and advisor to the Prime Minister on Roma issues. He highlighted how inaccurate perceptions were harming the ability of

Roma, and of other people from southeastern Europe, to integrate into European society – citing in particular the doom-laden predictions of an 'influx' of Romanians and Bulgarians into the United Ringdom that never materialised

In **Split**, Croatia, other aspects of integration were discussed, including the right to citizenship.

Firstly, regional development funds can help groups such as Roma integrate into their local society and prevent larger-thannecessary migration. And secondly, integration of migrants can have a positive economic impact: in a time of globalisation, well-integrated foreign people, culture and

trends can be of enormous help to meet global challenges.

The Socialists and Democrats Group has led negotiations to develop fair rules on immigration, including new laws on employment and legal migration. We have also played a pivotal role in safeguarding high standards in laws on asylum, helping to ensure a fairer, quicker and more consistent asylum system across Europe.







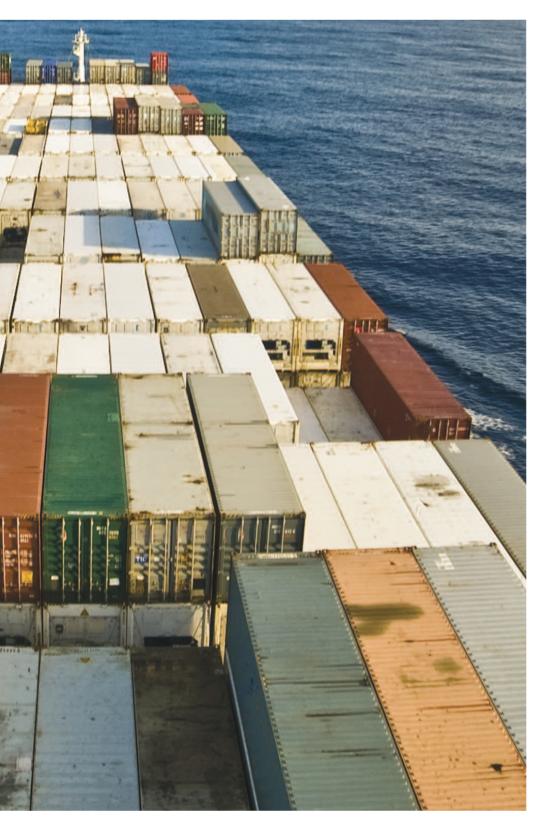




We don't have to live in poverty, we have the right to an education, we have the right to a decent job, and should be able to benefit from these rights anywhere in Europe.

Participant at Relaunching Europe in Bucharest





7

The world is changing rapidly.

Countries are increasingly interdependent and increasingly aware that they cannot tackle alone challenges such as climate change, energy supply, migration, the effective management of financial markets and global security.

Europe is a leader in addressing these challenges. But our position of leadership is too often harmed by a lack of coordination between our countries. United, we can bring about a foreign policy based on the principles of solidarity, freedom, justice and equality. United, we can make a difference.

We have the tools to bring about change in the world: with 500 million consumers, Europe can have a big say in developing trade policy that benefits citizens and businesses in Europe and which supports development in other parts of the world. Through binding social, labour and environmental rules we can fight discrimination and inequality and support sustainable development. The Socialists and Democrats Group also supports data protection clauses in new trade deals, ensuring that individuals' privacy is respected in Europe and around the world.

Solidarity – in trade, and in aid – is a key concept for Socialists and Democrats MEPs. We support the fight against poverty and the efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

Working together, we can relaunch Europe and make it a positive voice for a more just, more democratic, more prosperous and more sustainable world.







EUROPE ON THE WORLD STAGE

Hamburg was the location for the second Relaunching Europe event, in September 2012. We visited the Bucerius law school and gave the students a chance to ask questions and discuss the role of European institutions on the world stage. The German port city was an appropriate choice, having been at the centre of one of the great trading blocs of the late Middle Ages, the Hanseatic League.

The Socialists and Democrats Group President, Hannes Swoboda, outlined the importance of European countries working together to meet the challenges posed by the growth of other countries and regions, such as China.

A strong European Union, speaking with one powerful voice, is the best way to protect our interests, face up to global challenges and compete to secure decent employment in Europe. No individual country is big enough to go it alone – we need a strong Europe to improve our citizens' quality of life, reduce poverty and make the world a safer place.

CREATING A FAIR TRADING SYSTEM

The Socialists and Democrats Group believes that a fair trade policy must include decent social standards, as well as corporate and environmental standards that prevent a race to the bottom.

Workers' rights must also be ensured. At our event in Linz we discussed how the collapse of a clothing factory in Bangladesh raised questions about slavery in the modern age. Europe must take the lead in preventing a 'race to the bottom'. The European Parliament now has real power over trade deals, and Socialists and Democrats MEPs have used that power to press for agreements that respect social and environmental standards, and the rights of individuals. For example, we blocked the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) that would have made criminals of ordinary citizens through heavy-handed enforcement of intellectual property rights.

ENDING CONFLICTS AND STRIFE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The EU must be at the forefront of efforts to protect civilian populations in war-torn

countries like Syria. The Socialists and Democrats Group has defended EU humanitarian aid and spending, ensuring that assistance reaches the millions of desperate people in need of food, medical treatment and basic services

We have also backed the desire of countries in our European neighbourhood to have closer ties with the European Union. We will continue to support Ukraine in its transition to a new government, chosen in free and fair elections and that government's attempts to institute economic reform and fight corruption.

EU membership is still an aspiration for millions of young people, hoping for greater opportunities and a decent future. However, countries applying to join the EU must clearly show that they are stamping out corrupt practices and organised crime. We want to see Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rosovo take further steps towards becoming FU members

A COMMON APPROACH TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

We believe that if the EU leads the way and addresses climate change now, it will be the winner tomorrow. Climate action is necessary and is an opportunity to create new jobs and sustainable growth.

The EU must continue to act constructively in international climate negotiations. We want binding global climate targets, with Europe taking the lead by implementing its commitments and adopting ambitious targets.

The Socialists and Democrats Group also supports an improvement in access to water and sanitation – a fundamental human right. We will continue to push the EU, international institutions and governments to guarantee this right for everyone. Water is a public good, not a commodity.



We need to create the conditions for our interests and our values to survive in a globalised world.

Hannes Swoboda S&D Group President

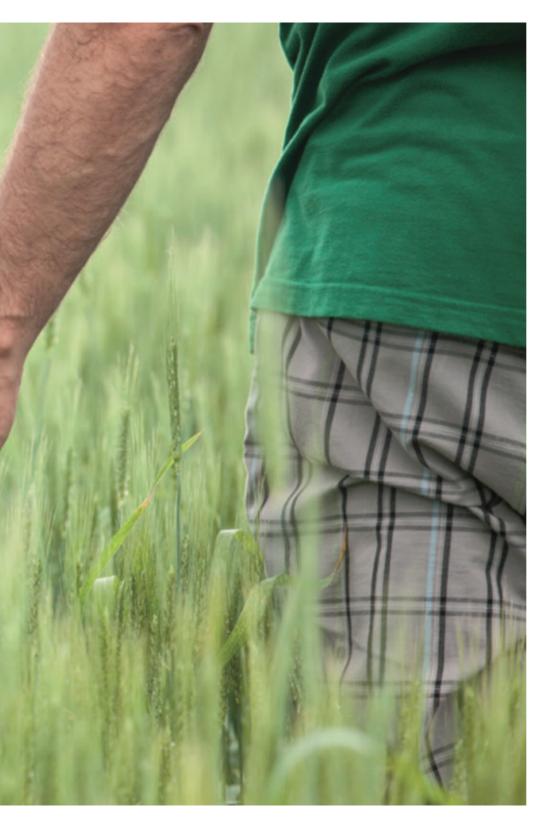












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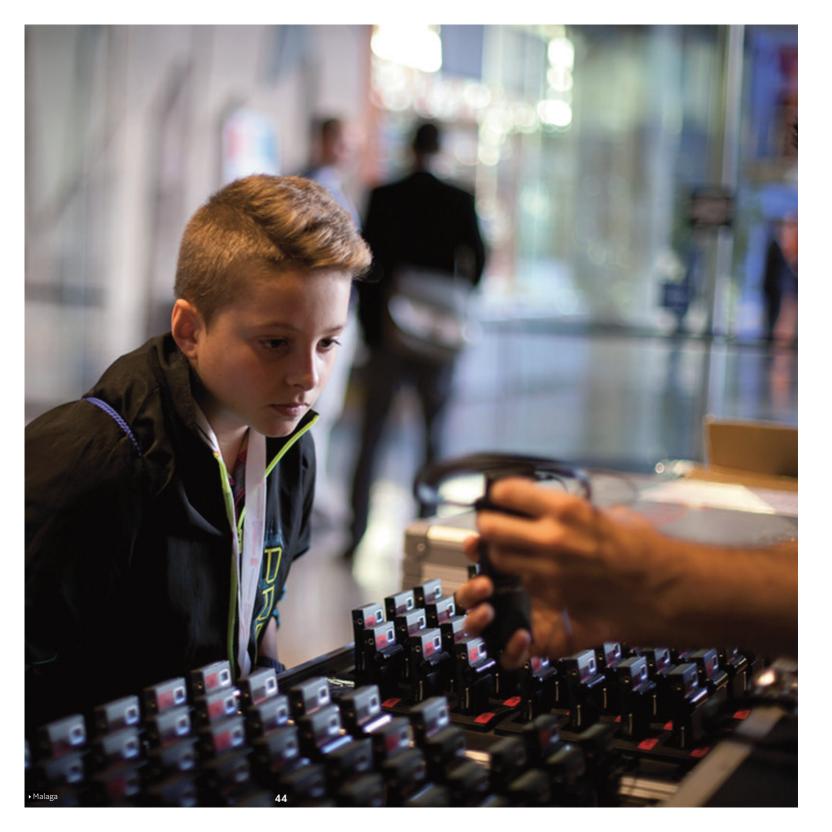
Our planet is facing an existential crisis.

Climate change is a reality, bringing extreme weather to Europe and other parts of the world that threatens food security and water supply. The effects of climate change could be to cause mass migration and social unrest. Action is needed now, at a European and a global level.

The economic crisis has distracted attention from the environmental challenge, and even masked the scale of the problem: as industrial output in Europe has stagnated or fallen in recent years, so have greenhouse gas emissions. However, we cannot ignore the long-term threat of climate change and the need to address it.

Nor should we ignore the opportunity presented by taking action against climate change: 'greening' Europe is not only about improving our environment, but about taking advantage of the long-term economic opportunities presented by building a more sustainable economic model and developing green jobs.

We need more solidarity, both with people in the developing world, and with future generations.









Social sustainability is the key: people and the environment need to work together to make the best impact.

Jytte Guteland Former Chair of Young Swedish Social Democrats

LEADING ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Socialists and Democrats Group has taken the lead on issues such as energy efficiency, research and innovation in clean technologies, sustainable transport networks, restrictions on hazardous substances, and limits on CO₂ emissions from vehicles.

We have also worked to reform Europe's Common Agricultural Policy, seeking to promote better long-term management of natural resources, and the EU's fisheries policy, where we have supported moves to make fishing more sustainable by ending overfishing and allowing stocks to recover.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In March 2014, Relaunching Europe travelled to **Kiruna**, Sweden's northernmost town. Situated in the province of Lapland, Kiruna is an important location for iron ore extraction and mining. However, mining is causing

structural problems in the town, which has led to a plan to moved or demolish several buildings and shift the town centre three kilometres east.

Creating sustainable green communities and neighbourhoods requires an integrated action across a range of different sectors transport, housing, green space, health, leisure employment and skills. For some successful urban regeneration programmes there have been others that did not achieve sustainable change.

In Kiruna, the debate focused on the sustainable development of future cities and how to adapt local industries to new economic and environmental challenges while maintaining social cohesion in urban communities. The discussion took place with experts, local politicians, trade unions, representatives of the mining company and citizens living in Kiruna.















BUILDING A VIBRANT ONLINE COMMUNITY

From the start of the Relaunching Europe initiative, we have worked to discuss ideas for a better future with you in venues across Europe as well as online. Through our website and social media we have debated ideas for a better future and how to make our alternative vision a reality.

The Relaunching Europe website has become a multimedia resource on the initiative, with the latest news on events, articles, photos and videos. The 'mindmaps' created at our events – a selection of which appear overleaf – have been another popular feature. These illustrated summaries of the topics discussed at the events have been widely viewed and shared

Our Facebook page is the main discussion platform for the initiative between the events. By March 2014, nearly 40,000 people had 'liked' our page with around 3,000 talking about the issues we raise on a daily basis, from the economy to employment, foreign

affairs to fundamental rights, and from the digital world to democratic engagement. Our Facebook page also hosted webchats with senior Socialists and Democrats Group politicians, including Group President Hannes Swoboda.

Through our Facebook page, we also organised a successful first photography competition on the theme of 'This is my Europe'. The competition attracted high-quality entries from nearly 500 people around Europe. Many more people voted on the photographs to select prize winners.

In addition to the online public vote, there were also prizes awarded by our jury. The prize-winning photographs are featured opposite. The competition winners came from Austria, Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Romania, with the victorious photographers winning a trip to one of the European Capitals of Culture for 2014, the Latvian capital, Riga.

We have also used **Twitter** to engage with a wider audience around Europe, with



questions sent via the social network, using the #RelaunchEU hashtag, being put to our panels.

And with our **live webstreaming** of each event on the Relaunching Europe and Socialists and Democrats Group websites – watched by around one thousand people each time – we engaged a wide range of citizens from across Europe in a series of debates on the key issues facing the continent.

ONLINE VOTE

1st prize:
Georgios P. (Greece)
2nd prize:
Ramona B. (Romania)
3rd prize:
Gabriella H.P. (Hungary)

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNING ENTRIES





1st PRIZES

MY VISION
DIVERSE IDENTITIES
Charlelie J.
Belgium

DAILY LIFE DO NOT DISCONNECT THE WAGONS Marcin P.



2nd PRIZES

DAILY LIFE
THESSALONIKI

Jozef H. Austria

MY VISION
MULTIKULTI
Paul S.
Poland



3rd DRIZES

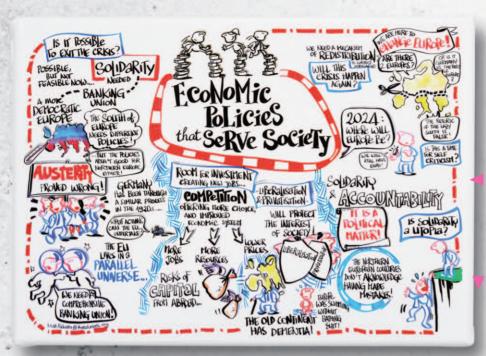


MY VISION INVOLVEMENT MEANS SUCCESS

Nicoleta C. Romania









NICOSIA, CYPRUS January 2014

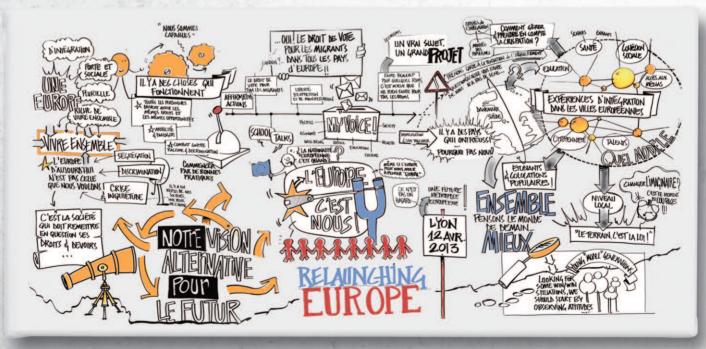
RECOVERY THROUGH MORE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY Mindmapper:

Lucia Fabiani

LYON, FRANCE April 2013

INTEGRATION: LIVING BETTER TOGETHER Mindmapper:

Guillaume Lagane

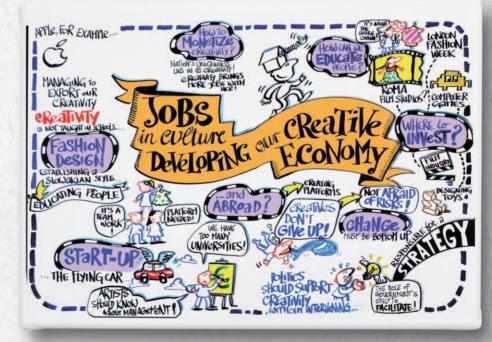




NARVA, ESTONIA September 2013

A MORE EQUAL FUTURE: SOCIAL JUSTICE & JOBS FOR ALL Mindmapper:

Lucia Fabiani



KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA Cotober 2013

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF EUROPEAN CULTURE

Mindmapper:

Lucia Fabiani



26 EVENTS, 23 COUNTRIES

 $\frac{1}{2}$

September

October

Decembe













More & better jobs

Integration:
living better together

Lyon, France

for young people

Sofia, Bulgaria



Transparency & fairness: fighting tax evasion & corruption Ljubljana, Slovenia



9 Jobs through industry, innovation, culture & arts

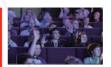
Linz, Austria



8 You and the EU: solidarity & opportunities Split, Croatia



1 What do you want from Europe? Utrecht, the Netherlands



A more equal future: social justice & jobs for all

Narva, Estonia



© Democratic Europe: what's your opinion? Helsinki, Finland

Making our future: European industrial

Mannheim, Germany

policy



(6) Unlocking the potential of European culture Rošice, Slovakia



(B) A brighter future for youth: education 8 jobs for the next generation Szeged, Hungary



18 Poland & the eurozone: which way forward? Warsaw, Poland



D Back to work: training for the future Málaga, Spain

May

III

September

October

November

Jobs for young people: alternatives to emigration

Vilnius, Lithuania



20 New ideas out of the crisis

Thessaloniki, Greece



② Recovery through more European solidarity

Nicosia, Cyprus



Solidarity & opportunities for an inclusive Romania

Bucharest, Romania



A brighter future: jobs for all

Coimbra, Portugal



growing together Prague, Czech Republic

26 Europe

Over the course of the past two years, we have held 26 events in more than twenty countries. Here's a look at where

we've been...



The conversation goes on, with more events and more ideas to relaunch Europe and build an alternative future for Europe...

② Shaping our digital futures – for better European democracy & empowered citizenship

Vienna, Austria

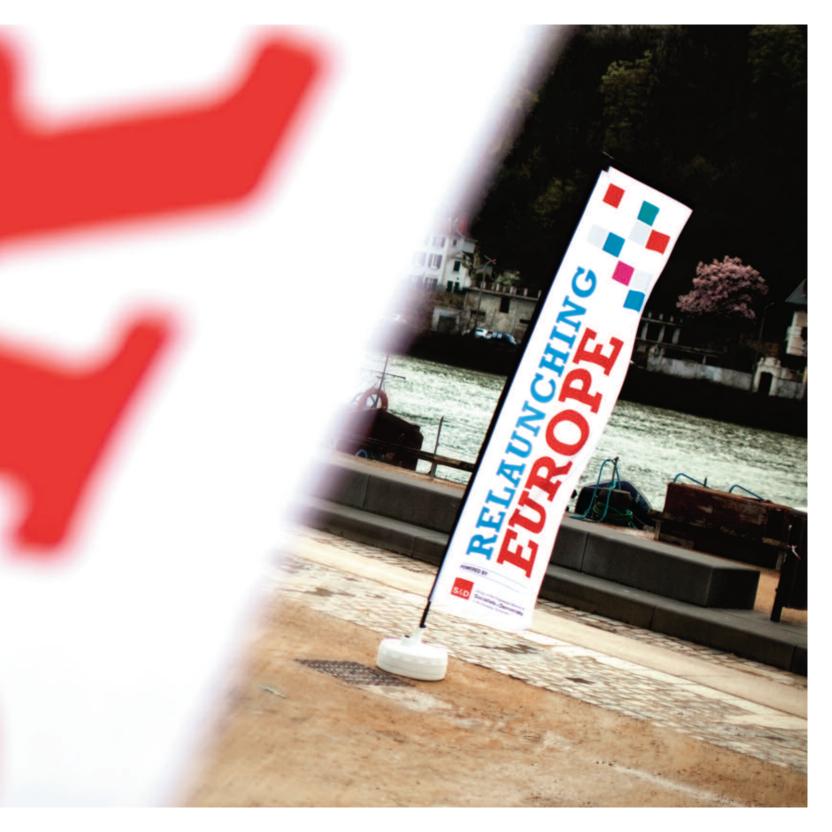


Looking north: urban transformation & sustainability

Kiruna, Sweden







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