



**THE S&D GROUP**  
**IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**OUR**  
**POLITICAL**  
**PRIORITIES**



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



# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

*Dear friends,  
Thanks to your support we are fighting our battles in the European Parliament.  
Battles which can directly affect millions of European citizens, economic recovery,  
immigration and foreign policies.*

**A**s Socialists and Democrats we are fully committed to an alternative to blind and counter-productive austerity. We've already had our first successes. Our call for an investment plan and greater flexibility in the implementation of fiscal rules to revive the European economy was heard. The European Commission's president, Jean-Claude Juncker, made concrete proposals - our first step in changing the direction of Europe.

However, Europe is facing many other threats and challenges. The worst enemy for Europe today is the lack or the ineffectiveness of solutions to major problems.

On terrorism, we urge the EU to look at the whole picture, taking action such as tighter co-operation between

intelligence services, better integration, reinforced controls on external Schengen borders, and tackling the causes of radicalisation.

Global issues need a global response. The European Union must become a political giant and be at the forefront of defending democracy against every type of extremism, whether in Europe, Syria, the Middle East or Nigeria. We want Europe to wake up.

The S&D Group stand for all these priorities. Your priorities.

GIANNI PITTELLA  
S&D Group president

# S&D BUREAU

*The Bureau co-ordinates the S&D Group's political activity. It is composed of the president, nine vice-presidents and the treasurer.*

**E**ach vice-president is in charge of specific European policy portfolios and supervises cross-committee issues. Two of them are responsible for the S&D Group's communications and for the co-ordination of parliamentary affairs.

The Bureau was elected on 25 June 2014. The team has a clear gender balance and reflects European diversity with members coming from the south, north, east and west of Europe, as well as from both small and large countries.



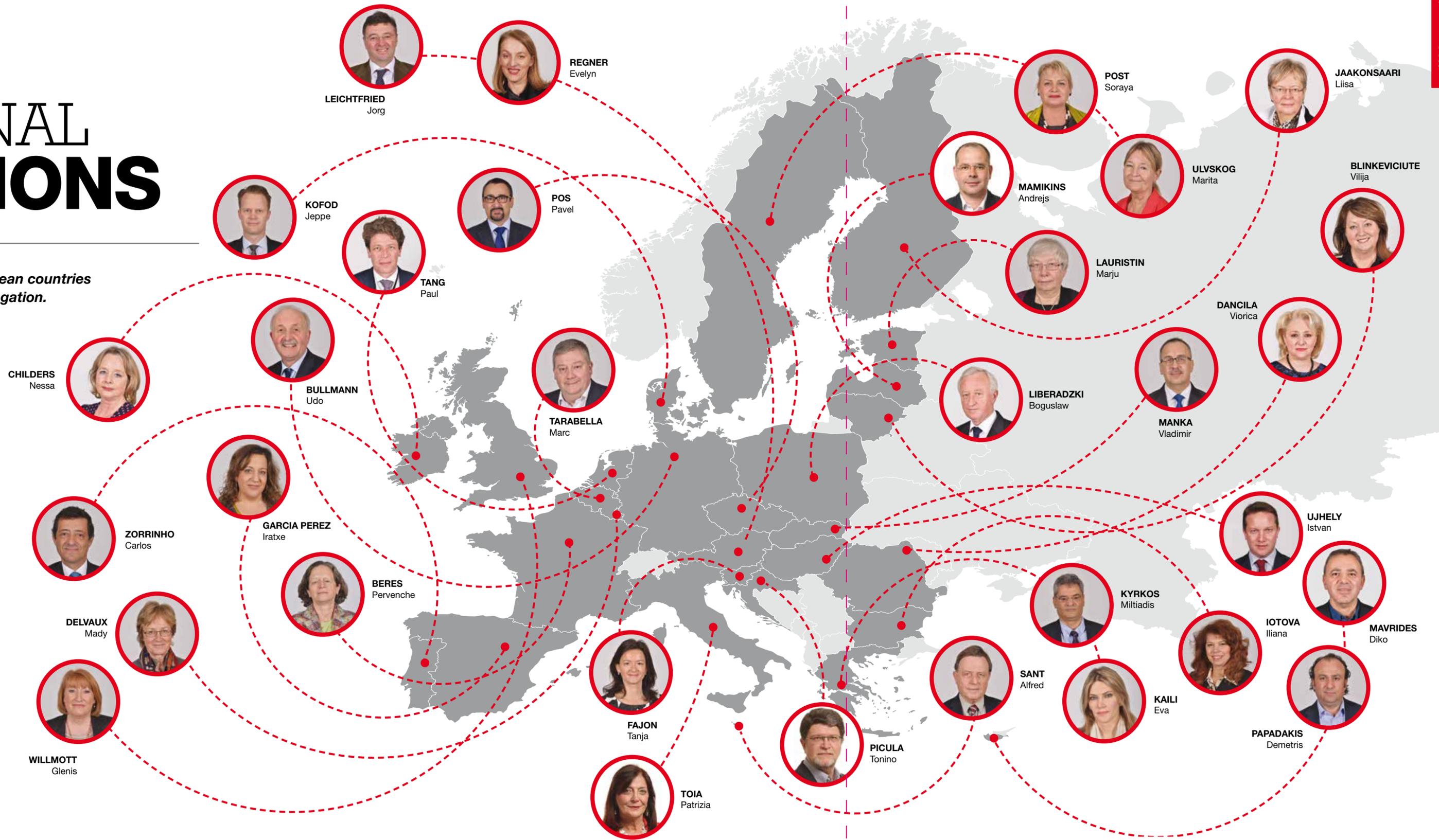
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Kathleen VAN BREMPT Vice-president • Knut FLECKENSTEIN Vice-president • Maria João RODRIGUES Vice-president • Péter NIEDERMÜLLER Treasurer • Tanja FAJON Vice-president • Gianni PITTELLA President • Isabelle THOMAS Vice-president • Jörg LEICHTFRIED Vice-president • Marju LAURISTIN Vice-president • Enrique GUERRERO SALOM Vice-president • Victor BOȘȚINARU Vice-president

# S&D NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

The S&D Group consists of MEPs from all 28 European countries with 32 different parties, each led by a head of delegation.

 AUSTRIA	 ITALY
 BELGIUM	 LATVIA
 BULGARIA	 LITHUANIA
 CROATIA	 LUXEMBOURG
 CYPRUS	 MALTA
 CZECH REPUBLIC	 NETHERLANDS
 DENMARK	 POLAND
 ESTONIA	 PORTUGAL
 FINLAND	 ROMANIA
 FRANCE	 SLOVAKIA
 GERMANY	 SLOVENIA
 GREECE	 SPAIN
 HUNGARY	 SWEDEN
 IRELAND	 UNITED KINGDOM





# OUR MEMBERS

*The S&Ds are proud to have 190 MEPs representing all 28 EU countries and an (almost) equal number of men (55%) and women (45%).*

*The S&D Group is still the second largest group in the European Parliament and its MEPs work in all parliamentary committees and international delegations. Find out more about your MEPs and which policy areas they're working on.*



*S&D Group is proud to have Martin Schulz as president of the European Parliament.*



*S&D members during the Group meeting in European Parliament in Brussels, 2015 © Guy Laurent*



# OUR POLITICAL **PRIORITIES**

## SOCIAL & ECONOMIC

### Social rights cannot be subordinate to economic freedoms

**T**he S&D Group stands for the strengthening of economic growth across all member states in order to reduce unemployment significantly and steadily, with a special focus on youth unemployment and the elderly as well as long-term unemployment.

We call for a better legal framework for cross-border movement of workers in order to safeguard wages, social standards, collective bargaining and the autonomy of social partners. We are pushing for a European system of decent minimum wages - an important step in the fight against poverty, but also a powerful weapon against the current chronic

weakness in demand which is undermining economic recovery. We believe that Europe will be more efficient and more competitive with a well-trained and fairly treated workforce, so we call for a Social Progress Pact guaranteeing decent jobs, labour rights, social protection, social dialogue and the right to organise.

We believe that the European Union and European governments should take urgent action to boost public and private investment - without putting further consolidation of public budgets at risk - in order to create jobs, repair decaying infrastructures, modernise our economy and curb social and territorial inequalities.

The S&D Group wants to take ambitious action against tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax havens. By halving corporate tax dodging we could relieve pressure on public budgets and reduce the damage done by austerity policies that are undermining investment and wrecking public services. We have led the campaign for a Financial Transactions Tax to counter the abuses of the financial sector and we will keep pushing for its implementation on the widest possible basis.

 MORE ON TWITTER:  
[@TheProgressives](#) [#EUBack2Work](#)  
[#TaxJustice](#) [#NoTaxHaven](#)



# OUR PRIORITIES

# HUMAN CAPITAL

## People at the heart of our concerns

**T**he S&D Group wants to take action to reverse the alarming rise in poverty and inequality. There must be binding targets across the European Union, including one for the total eradication of child poverty. We are pressing for measures to reduce insecure work and provide the widest possible access to vocational training.

Education and training must be made accessible, targeted and flexible, to meet the needs and aspirations of young people, students, workers and older people.

We want to close the gender employment and pay gaps and combat all forms of violence against women.

 MORE ON TWITTER:  
[@TheProgressives](#) [#YouthGuarantee](#)  
[#OurFightWomensRights](#)



# OUR PRIORITIES FOREIGN POLICY

## Europe in the World

**E**urope must become a true global player promoting democracy, peace and respect for human rights around the world. The European Year for Development 2015 should focus on Africa as a crucial partner and on the EU contribution to the UN post-2015 development agenda.

The S&D Group wants to see an end to the Ukraine conflict whereby sanctions

aim to change the Russian government in the hope that dialogue with Moscow can be re-established.

Furthermore, the European Union should take responsibility for comprehensive peace in the Middle East, defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists and ending the conflict in Syria and Libya.

A trade agreement with the United States can boost jobs and employment. However, Europe's health, social, labour, environmental and data protection standards should be safeguarded along with the European Union's right to regulate. (No Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)).

 MORE ON TWITTER:  
[@TheProgressives](#) #EUWakeUp  
[#TearUpTerror](#)



# OUR PRIORITIES IMMIGRATION & DEFENCE of HUMAN RIGHTS

**A European immigration and asylum policy based on true solidarity**

**W**e support a more humane European asylum system, solidarity in receiving refugees, help for member states facing exceptional pressures, and the recognition that external borders are common borders to all member states. The European Union must also promote channels of legal migration such as those for researchers

and seasonal workers. From a broader perspective, Europe should give more support to national and local efforts to integrate migrants and enable them to participate fully in society.

 MORE ON TWITTER:  
[@TheProgressives #EUWakeUp](#)



# OUR PRIORITIES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Our model of economic and sustainable development

**T**he S&D Group has a strategy to strengthen European industry, encourage Research and Development (R&D) and innovation while preserving a level playing field. Our strategy would help Europe achieve a transition to a digital economy and move towards long-term sustainability through targeted policies for re-industrialisation, a better environment for small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs) and a common energy policy. This common energy policy should consist of more integrated energy markets and networks, ambitious and binding targets for energy efficiency, increased use of renewables, reduction of emissions and more secure energy supplies.

 MORE ON TWITTER:  
[@TheProgressives](#) [#EnergyUnion](#)



# A MESSAGE

FROM OUR

# SECRETARY

# GENERAL

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*“The staff of the S&D Group represents the continuity and the memory of our political activity, of our actions from one mandate to the next. We are highly motivated and experienced people, politically committed, working towards the political objectives of our MEPs and our president, based on progressive values.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMS', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAVIER MORENO SÁNCHEZ  
S&D Group secretary general



# S&D SECRETARIAT

*The S&D Group's Secretariat is the central body working for all Socialist and Democrat MEPs from all European member states. Based in Brussels, it has become a vital unifying force within the group due to the commitment of the 250 or so members of staff – from all European Union countries – who provide dedicated support for the work of the S&D Group as a whole. The Secretariat brings a sense of professional stability and continuity to the political body of the group.*

The Secretariat has three key roles:

- 1** offering political advice
- 2** assisting in policy development and negotiation
- 3** providing logistical support and technical assistance for Group activities

**T**he Secretariat takes part in political activities, whether they are organised within the group or together with PES and other parties. It also ensures the legal and practical implementation of European staff regulations. One of its main goals is the promotion of equality, diversity, respect and dignity at work.

The Secretariat supports environmental working standards on a day-to-day basis and offers modern working arrangements (part-time, flexitime and telework) to all staff members.



S&D Group Secretariat staff engaging in a wide array of activities for promoting S&D Group values to the wider audiences. © Michael Contes



"The work of the EU represents fraternity between nations"- Alfred Nobel.  
© Uros Kekus Kleva



S&D engaging with visitors during the Open Days event.  
© Michael Contes



# S&D TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMMES



S&D Group trainees in the European Parliament, Brussels © Uros Kekus Kleva

**T**he S&D Group offers many traineeship opportunities to involve young people in the work of the S&D Group and the European Parliament and to promote the integration of citizens across Europe. All our trainees receive a grant and working opportunities include monitoring the work of parliamentary committees, working with the press team, participating in the S&D Group's events, etc.

Annually, we take on approximately 25 young people at a time for traineeships which last from three to five months (depending on the program) and begin every year in mid-February or mid-September.

Our Funds are:

- The Francis Vals Fund
- The International Cooperation Fund
- The Fiorella Ghilardotti Fund
- The Fund for young people of Roma origin
- Traineeships for young people with disabilities
- Ad hoc or Individual Traineeships

For more information check our website  
[www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/traineeships](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/traineeships)



S&D Group Roma trainees in the European Parliament, Brussels © Uros Kekus Kleva



S&D staff engaging with visitors during the Open Days event in Brussels, May 2015 © Magalie Uystepruyst

# ABOUT THE S&D GROUP

The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 190 members from all 28 EU Member States.

We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We campaign for social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.



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EUROPE**



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