



MESSAGE FROM IRATXE GARCÍA PÉREZ, president of the S&D Group

THIS IS THE TIME TO PROTECT CITIZENS AND TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS.

We are living in historic times. Never before has the European Union faced external challenges such as the war in Ukraine and the coronavirus pandemic. So far, we have maintained our unity and tackled the effects of successive crises with solidarity. However, at times of crises when the burden of the common effort is not equally shared, and people and businesses are left to face the problems on their own, populist and autocratic forces gain ground.

Real life everyday problems affect all of us, and even more so after the brutal invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army, which has brought disastrous consequences for everyone on our continent. This adds to ongoing challenges that we cannot lose sight of: the climate emergency, globalisation, digitalisation, and migration. The EU must provide a safety and security network for urgent problems while staying on our path towards a more sustainable and fairer Union, and at the same time reinforce these values in the world.

Sometimes we are too slow to take action because of complex decision-making at an EU level. We must learn to be more effective and strengthen our common policies where necessary, while respecting flexibility for action at a national, regional, and local level. Europe is not made in Brussels, but in every town and in every neighbourhood.

WE CANNOT FAIL.

We cannot fail the young people worried about finding a job, their independence, or the future of our planet. We cannot fail the elderly whom cannot afford to pay their bills and have to choose between heating and eating. We cannot fail the women demanding gender equality and who fight to maintain the rights we thought were already secured. Nor can we fail the citizens in European countries who see their democracies and fundamental rights being undermined by autocratic regimes.

Now is the time for positive action and our political family has the right answers. Populists can only dismantle and look for scapegoats. We have real solutions based on principles, and we also have the experience. Throughout our history, we have managed to combine idealism with effective action to tackle inequality and injustice. Now is the moment to do it again. Europe needs us more than ever before and I am honoured to lead our collective efforts within the Parliament to turn that transformation into reality. Social democracy is, above all, about the future and about hope. This is why we actively engaged in the dialogue with citizens in the Conference on the Future of Europe. We are in this together.

We are ready to face the challenges and we will do it with our shared values and principles. Only social democracy has a vision for a better future, but we cannot do it alone. We need you all on-board!

The S&D Group's Bureau coordinates its political activity and is made up of MEPs from across the EU.

Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ, president

Alex AGIUS SALIBA, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, innovation, AI and a strong digital Europe for all

Marek BELKA, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, economic and global sustainability - Agenda 2030 and SDGs

Gabriele BISCHOFF, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, a Europe based on the rule of law, values, fundamental rights and fair mobility for all

Biljana BORZAN, head of delegation, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, a new economy that works for all

Mohammed CHAHIM, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, a Green New Deal

Heléne FRITZON, head of delegation, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, a new Europe of gender equality, health, children's rights and youth policy

Elisabetta GUALMINI, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, Parliamentary affairs, Plenary and Interinstitutional relations

Pedro MARQUES, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, a strong social and values-based Europe in the world and vice-president for communication and political planning

Rovana PLUMB, vice-president, S&D Group Bureau, a just transition, cohesion and demography, financing a better and fairer Europe

Eero HEINÄLUOMA, treasurer



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We, Socialists and Democrats, bring **together centre-left MEPs from all over Europe** to form the second largest political group in the European Parliament. We stand for an **inclusive European society** based on these principles:

Freedom
Equality
Solidarity
Diversity
Fairness
Sustainability

Our MEPs are committed to **fighting for social justice, gender equality, decent jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reform, and human rights** to create a **stronger and more democratic Europe** and a better future for everyone.

**WE ARE WORKING
SIDE BY SIDE WITH
LIKE-MINDED
GOVERNMENTS,
COMMISSIONERS
AND SISTER PARTIES.**

**WE ARE A BIG FAMILY
WITH A GREAT
PAST BUT - MOST
IMPORTANTLY -
WITH A FUTURE FULL
OF HOPE.**

We want a Europe with a higher degree of **social justice, unity, gender equality and environmental protection**. We will be the voice of all those who demand urgent action to **save our solidarity-based social model, working with our entire political family through sister organisations** like the Party of European Socialists, the Young European Socialists, PES Women, PES in the Committee of the Regions and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies.

Our Priorities

- **TACKLE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE**
by taking action to make Russia end its illegal war, supporting refugees and boosting action to support citizens against rising prices, tax excess-profits of energy companies, fight climate change, and diversify energy supplies.
- **TACKLE THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**
by investing in our healthcare systems and implementing the EU recovery plan, supporting the citizens and countries hit hardest by the pandemic.
- **FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE**
by implementing the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at EU level with the European Green Deal, ensuring climate neutrality by 2050.
- **A ROBUST EUROPEAN BUDGET**
that serves the citizens and includes common European bonds, and new direct EU revenue streams by taxing polluting companies and financial markets, and by ensuring that multinationals pay taxes where their profits are made.
- **CONTINUE TO TRANSFORM THE EU**
towards a radically different economic, social and decision-making model, giving younger generations better prospects for a sustainable society with better opportunities for everyone and no person or region left behind.
- **DELIVER THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS**
by ensuring fair working conditions for everyone and supporting EU legislation on minimum wages; ban all forms of exploitation, including unpaid internships and zero-hour contracts; create binding targets to reduce inequalities; introduce the European Child Guarantee to protect children from poverty; increase support for social housing; and support families with better laws for maternity, paternity, parental, and carers' leave.
- **FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ACROSS EUROPE**
and ensure that the EU suspends funds to governments that threaten its democratic values.
- **IMPLEMENT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE**
to create a more social, more integrated and more democratic Europe and continue involving citizens in future decision-making processes.
- **SUPPORT MULTILATERALISM TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES**
with the aim of strengthening our rules-based international order built on international law and cooperation, promoting fair and responsible trade, reducing inequalities, securing human rights and fundamental freedoms, achieving peace and stability, and stimulating development and prosperity through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.