



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

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EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING



Solidarity is a cornerstone of our socialist and democratic values. Volunteering is a natural expression of human solidarity that deserves greater backing. It is a part of active citizenship, through which we can contribute to social justice and social cohesion. By binding people together in a common cause, volunteering can both empower the individual and promote cultural exchange, mutual understanding and peace.

This year the EU will give a voice to volunteering. Many events and activities will be organised at national and European level to support and promote volunteering activities throughout 2011.

Being firmly convinced of the importance of volunteers and their valuable contribution in creating cohesive communities, the S&D Group has decided to take this opportunity to promote various initiatives to make our contribution to the year of volunteering.

S&D GROUP STAFF TAKES ACTION

The Socialists and Democrats believe that there should be support for the universal and public systems of welfare and solidarity. But there will always be a role too for more spontaneous forms of solidarity, which are the expression of human sociability.

From theory to action: throughout 2011, the S&D Group is taking a series of steps to help and encourage staff members to contribute actively to the work of charity or non profit-making activities in Belgium, whether in new initiatives or through continuing with established activities and inviting colleagues to join in.

Through commitment in the local community or in a specific area of action, the S&D Group staff will make concrete contributions to the promotion of wider interests and values. This initiative will send a strong signal of how our Socialist and Democratic values can be translated into day-to-day actions.

S&D GROUP INVITES YOU TO THE “FÊTE DU PROGRÈS” ON 29 APRIL

The Socialists and Democrats support citizens who decide to work together to respond to social needs and promote initiative to build new links and overcome loneliness and exclusion.

For this reason, the S&D Group has invited some NGOs working in the volunteering sector to take part in the “*Fête du Progrès*” on 29 April 2011 at K-Nal in Brussels.

During this event, the S&D Group will stage activities to underline the importance of solidarity and volunteering.

S&D GROUP HOSTS NGOs AT EP OPEN DAYS

The work done by volunteering associations plays an essential role in contributing to social progress. The Socialists and Democrats believe that this role should be promoted more vigorously both for its results and as an index of a healthy and vibrant society. It is an essential complement to collective public action.

Therefore, to raise public awareness of the many opportunities we all have to make a difference through volunteering and solidarity, the S&D Group has invited some NGOs to be present with their own stand at the EP Open Days on 7 May 2011 in Brussels and 8 May 2011 in Strasbourg to show some of their activities and explain to citizens how they can contribute to a better society by offering their help.

