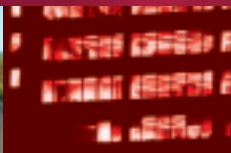# Internal Security

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
OF THE PARTY
OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

Everyone needs to feel safe when going about their daily business. European citizens have not seen war for almost six decades. Nevertheless the European Union (EU) has to ensure the safety of its people on a daily basis.

European Union
↓
Freedom from Fear

The European Union was founded, principally, to ensure peace and security after centuries of conflict throughout the continent. Even though military threats in Europe have diminished since the establishment of the EU, security is still an important issue for all Member States. Internal security in Europe is a question of a person's right to freedom from fear.

As more and more European citizens move freely between Member States of the Union, the EU is working to create a framework of co-operation between customs services, police forces and legal systems. Through various European projects as well as funding, Member States are working together to reduce crime within the Union's borders. In order to maintain internal security, the EU also co-ordinates common rules to police its external borders.
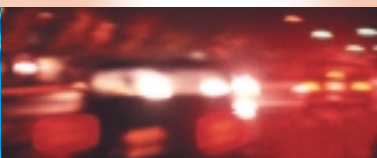
Tackling Instability and Poverty

European Socialists point to poverty as one of the main enemies of peace. Poverty and notable economic gaps between regions are causes of the instability which leads to security threats. Environmental decline, political problems and ethnic and religious conflicts are also seen as major factors to be considered in European security policy.

European Socialists support a wider definition of EU Security policy by taking into consideration not only clear security threats such as terrorism, cross border crime, drug trafficking and military threats - but also the root causes: poverty; violations of human rights; environmental degradation; ethnic and religious conflicts.

Enlargement will spread the EU's policies of equality and tolerance, environmental standards and poverty eradication throughout the continent. European Socialists see the next wave of European enlargement as a key point in the history of European Security policy and in the creation of a Union of peace, security and justice.

Future Benefits
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Co-operation Brings Security

Just as peace and security were the main goals in founding the EU, the next wave of European enlargement looks to consolidate peace and security throughout a wider Union. Over the past decade, the future Member States have applied most of the measures necessary for enlargement and they are already working closely with the EU to adopt the vast number of EU laws into their own legal systems. Similarly, visa systems and border controls are being harmonised throughout Europe to make free movement a right for all citizens of an enlarged Union.

The EU currently supplies funds to assist in border controls and to prevent cross-border crime and illegal immigration.

After enlargement, co-operation between police and judicial systems will be further intensified to prevent cross-border crime such as drug trafficking, trafficking of people and illegal immigration.

To find out more
about what European Socialists are doing
in the area of internal security,
please consult the websites below:

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PES Group:
http://www.socialistgroup.org
PES:
http://www.pes.org

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