

a better world for all



PSE

Socialist Group in the
European Parliament

TRADE AND A NEW GLOBAL ORDER

TODAY'S GLOBAL ORDER ISN'T WORKING

... FOR THE POOR

- ▶ 800 million people suffer from hunger
- ▶ Half the world's population lives on 2 dollars a day
- ▶ The gap between rich and poor has trebled since 1960

... FOR THE PLANET

- ▶ The fight against global warming is being fatally undermined by a lack of strong international rules and institutions
- ▶ Over 12000 living species are threatened with extinction, including a quarter of all mammals and one in eight bird species
- ▶ Half of the world's rivers are seriously polluted. Growing water shortages, deforestation and encroachment of deserts are destroying human and wildlife habitats

... OR FOR US

- ▶ Europe's economy is destabilised, and jobs destroyed, by a global financial system which lurches from crisis to crisis
- ▶ Europeans are vulnerable to terrorism and organised crime - often with their roots in failing states and human rights abuses half a world away
- ▶ From SARS to AIDS to avian flu, failures in health policy are felt worldwide.

These are problems too big for purely national solutions. Through the EU, European nations are cooperating ever more closely in the interests of a safer, fairer, more sustainable world. But at global level, institutions are too weak, too locked into failed economic dogmas, or too lacking in democratic legitimacy to offer effective solutions. It's time for a **new global order**.

WHO DECIDES FOR US?

The truth is that our jobs, our public services, our health, our security - even our weather - now depend as much on global forces and global decision-making as they do on decisions made by our own governments.

The questions of **who shapes these global forces, what they decide** and **whose interests they represent** now have a far-reaching impact on our daily lives.

That is why global governance must be reshaped to meet the tests of democracy, fairness and effectiveness. The present system fails all three.

THE GLOBAL PROGRESSIVE FORUM - A NEW KIND OF POLITICS

The struggle to make globalisation answer to the needs of people will be one of the great challenges of the 21st century. It calls for a new kind of politics.

All those who want change - whether from North or South, politicians, social movements, or individual citizens - must find ways of working together. As a step in this direction, social democrats from Europe and worldwide have launched a new **Global Progressive Forum** to promote co-operation between progressive politicians, NGOs, trade unions, academics and other organisations and individuals, and to begin to build a broad social and political coalition for change.

Since its launch last November, the Global Progressive Forum has started work on several key issues including: **AIDS, global security, the fight against poverty** (including **trade and poverty**), and **reform of the UN, IMF and World Bank**.

If you want to get involved, or just to know more, check out the Forum's website: www.globalprogressiveforum.org



THE TWO FACES OF TRADE

Trade is a powerful tool for development... but it can also destroy jobs, wreck communities, devastate the environment.

Much depends on how world trade is governed. And who makes the decisions.

Currently, world trade works in an unfair, unsustainable and undemocratic way. Radical changes are needed to ensure **a fair deal for the world's poor**; to promote **sustainable development**; to put **human development and the public good** above the interests of corporations and national advantage.

A CHOICE OF TWO PATHS

Trade policy in Europe is now decided largely at EU level - and it is the **European Parliament's** job to ensure that it answers to the needs and aspirations of Europe's citizens.

A NEW DIRECTION

Socialists and social democrats in the European Parliament stand for a new **citizen's agenda** of trade reform.

Our priorities are:

- ▶ a radical shift in trade rules, to let trade work for the poor;
- ▶ defence of worldwide social standards, to stop child labour, guarantee the rights of workers in poor countries and protect our own workers against unfair or illegal competition;
- ▶ respect for high standards of environmental and consumer protection;
- ▶ reform of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy to phase out export subsidies, open our market to products from developing countries, and target domestic subsidy towards environmental, welfare and social objectives;
- ▶ a more open, accountable and democratic WTO.

... OR MORE OF THE SAME

Conservatives, Christian Democrats and other right-wing parties in the European Parliament stand for "*business as usual*" in trade policy. They have fought to slow down reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, listened more to big business than to Europe's citizens, shown little interest in strengthening environmental and social standards and insisted that poor countries must open their markets to multinational companies, regardless of the social and environmental consequences.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

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