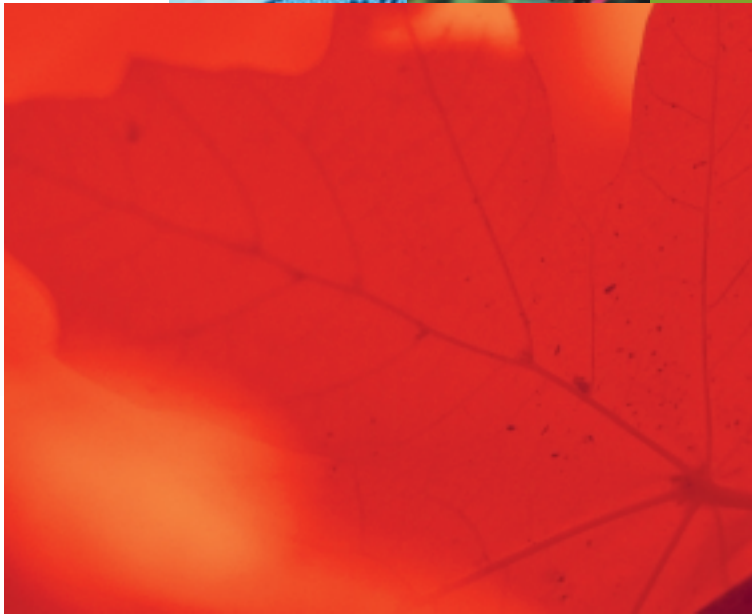
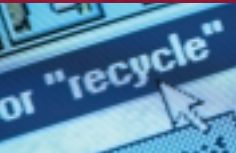


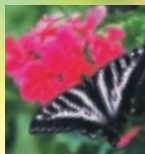
# Environment



PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
OF THE PARTY  
OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS



Everyone  
in Europe recognises  
that there is only one  
environment and that  
our overriding duty  
is to protect it.





## **European Union**



# a Good Environment for Future Generations

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Over many years and particularly at the Göteborg Council in 2001, European Union (EU) leaders recognised that the environment is not an isolated issue that remains within national borders, and that decisions taken in other areas, ranging from transport and agriculture to enlargement and international trade and development, all affect it for better or worse.

To improve the quality of life for future generations, all Union policies and activities must take account of the environment. This is called 'sustainable development': finding the balance between protecting the environment, ensuring economic and social development.

The EU's role is to support and co-ordinate the efforts of Member States and check that governments are living up to the commitments they have made. As such, the EU is the main source of environmental legislation. Today's environment policy covers seven key areas: air pollution, waste recycling, management of resources, soil protection, urban environment, sustainable use of pesticides and the marine environment.



## **European Socialists**

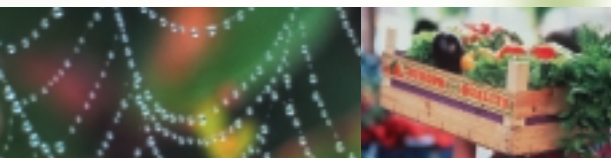


# a Healthy Environment is a Citizen's Right

European Socialists believe in the notion of sustainable development. It is necessary to consume less natural resources and find ways to make better use of them. Living in a healthy environment is a citizen's right, and just as important for the quality of people's lives as an acceptable level of material and social resources.

Sustainable development and respect for the environment are not incompatible with economic goals and employment. Clean technologies, which are also energy saving, already exist in a number of areas of industrial activity. Many new jobs have been created in different areas connected to environmental protection.

Poverty and degradation of the environment are often connected. It is often the poorest populations on the planet that suffer first from the worst environmental degradation. Therefore, the environment in less developed countries should be our concern as well.





## **Future Benefits**



# More People Experiencing a Cleaner Environment

A recent study conducted by the European Commission shows that EU environmental policy in the future Member States will bring significant benefits not only for the countries themselves, but also for the EU and other neighbouring regions. An enlarged Union means that a larger land area will apply the most ambitious environmental policy and legislation in the world.

These benefits include:

- Better public health: as people are less exposed to air pollution, the number of respiratory diseases and premature deaths diminishes.
- Less damage to forests, fields and fisheries, and to buildings, as acid rain and other forms of pollution decrease.
- Cleaner water.
- Safer and sounder waste management: public health will improve because of lower emissions and leakage from landfills.
- Protected natural areas will increase, and the protection will cover a wide range of species.

There are also indirect benefits. Environmental investments and more modern technology will improve economic efficiency and boost companies' productivity. For industry, more efficient waste management brings savings, and better water quality means lower production and maintenance costs, as equipment will no longer be damaged by dirty water.



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



**PES Group:**

<http://www.socialistgroup.org>

**PES:**

<http://www.pes.org>

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