

A PROGRAMME, A MAJORITY AND A CANDIDATE TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

A Declaration by personalities of the Socialist and Social-Democratic family

The present crisis has opened a period of historical choices. It can lead either to a depression with mass unemployment coupled with economic and political entrenchment or a unique opportunity to bring about a new growth model with more sustainable development and social justice as well as reform the international order.

Socialists and social-democrats have a central responsibility in the face of these historical choices. It is up to them to present the proposals for this transformation; it is up to them to fight for leadership at national, European and international levels.

That is why the next European elections are particularly decisive. Socialists and social-democrats have already been capable of presenting a plan to overcome this crisis, which makes a difference and which shows why a lasting solution requires a stronger Europe, able to avoid mass unemployment, coordinate the economic recovery, reform the financial system, promote smart and green growth and emerge as a true global actor in reshaping the international order. Many national problems can only be solved if new choices are made at European level.

The socialist and social-democratic alternative is a clear one. It is now necessary to translate it into the best electoral outcomes, aiming at strengthening the presence of socialists and the social-democrats in the European institutions, not only in the European Parliament but also in the Commission and the Council.

The European Popular Party has already supported an official candidate for President of the European Commission. It is with expectation that many socialist and social-democrats and many other progressives are waiting for a candidate from the Party of European Socialists, the only European Party which disputes the leadership of the EPP. In the current economic and political situation a new majority is possible in the European Parliament, opening a real opportunity for a PES candidate.

It is with this purpose in mind that we address a call to socialists and social-democrats, on the basis of our common historical responsibility, to take this fundamental next step.

Felipe GONZÁLEZ, former Prime Minister of Spain

Lionel JOSPIN, former Prime Minister of France

Paavo LIPPONEN, former Prime Minister of Finland

Aleksander KWASNIEWSKI, former President of Republic of Poland

Gerard SCHROEDER, former Prime Minister of Germany

Constantino SIMITIS, former Prime Minister of Greece

Mário SOARES, former President of Republic and Prime Minister of Portugal

Franz VRANITZKY, former Prime Minister of Austria