



Short guide to the PES Manifesto 2009

The Labour Party is a member of the Party of European Socialists PES, which brings together centre-left parties across Europe. The 2009 European elections are a chance to change the way the EU works and change the Parliament that has been dominated by the Right since the last elections.

The PES has agreed a common manifesto for all its members, including our own Labour Party. This is a summary of some of the pledges – for more details and the whole manifesto, see www.pes.org

Introduction

In today's increasingly inter-linked world, no one country can solve global problems by acting alone. The financial crisis and subsequent economic recession are demonstrating starkly that events in one part of the world can have a devastating impact on our own doorstep. Concerted European action is vital to deal with the financial crisis, high food and fuel costs, climate change, and security threats ranging from terrorism to crime.

The voters of Europe face a fundamental political choice in these European elections: a choice between our vision of a progressive Europe in which citizens, member states and institutions work together to address the issues of greatest concern to the people of Europe; or a conservative Europe in which the future of our countries and people is left in the hands of the market.

We will relaunch the economy and prevent new financial crises

- Building on talks that have already taken place, we propose to reform the financial markets. Regulation should cover all financial players. There should be rigorous capital requirements and limits on excessive borrowing and bad loans. Limits are also needed on top executive pay and bonuses
- We propose to put an end to tax havens, tax avoidance scams and tax evasion
- We will build new green jobs, including by building a new network of high-speed rail links across Europe
- The EU internal market should be completed and the red tape facing businesses reduced to generate more jobs
- We will support job creation by ensuring access to capital and borrowing

We will give people a fairer deal

- We propose to establish a European framework for public services, so that European competition and business rules do not run counter to citizens' rights
- We propose to seek agreement on a European Social Progress Pact, proposing goals and standards for national social, health and education policy
- We propose a European pact on wages, guaranteeing equal pay for equal work
- We want to develop a European framework for cross-border collective bargaining and collective agreements.
- We propose a review of the Posting of Workers Directive after recent court cases, to prevent social dumping
- We propose to strengthen individual and collective consumers' rights and ensure these are properly enforced in the European Union
- We will work to support parents so that they can balance their caring responsibilities with their professional responsibilities

We will make Europe a leading force against climate change

- The EU should take the lead in international negotiations to get agreement on a 30% global target for emission reductions by 2020
- We propose to introduce a comprehensive EU climate directive that would ensure that targets and actions in all sectors, including energy, agriculture, food, building and transport, are combined to enable the Union to reach its overall emission targets
- We will support a modern Common Agricultural Policy that promotes comprehensive rural development and values the fundamental role of farmers, recognising the role of agriculture in protecting the environment, ensuring food
- quality and security of supply, preserving the landscape, and protecting animal welfare and plant health.

We will develop an effective migration policy

- We propose to establish common standards for legal migration into the European Union, based on solidarity and burden-sharing
- We propose to step up European efforts to combat illegal migration through a common External Border Control Policy
- We support the further development of the Common European Asylum System, based on fair asylum rules

We will enhance Europe as a partner for peace, security and development

- We will strengthen police, judicial and security co-operation across Europe to fight terrorism, drug trafficking and crime
- We propose to step up European efforts to support international disarmament
- We propose to increase defence cooperation amongst European member states, without affecting the individual Member States' defence and security policies.
- We support the reform of the UN, World Trade Organisation, World Bank and IMF
- We believe the future of the Western Balkans lies within the EU, and support an open-ended process of negotiations with Turkey towards it joining the EU
- We shall work to ensure all EU trade agreements include appropriate enforceable human, environmental and social rights, and we will work to promote the expansion of fair trade goods across Europe