



**ECOSY**  
YOUNG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

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**11th ECOSY Congress**  
**hosted thanks to the hospitality of SSU Sweden**  
**in Bommersvik, Sweden, 7th to 10th March 2013**

**Draft position paper**

**ECOSY: A PROGRESSIVE ORGANISATION**

ECOSY – Young European Socialists unites young socialists and social democrats from all over Europe to provide a forum for debate, advocacy, capacity building and exchange at the European level. ECOSY strives to be an integrated and progressive organisation at the heart of the socialist and social democratic movement and to contribute to and shape the European debate and policy.

ECOSY – Young European Socialists works for a democratic, social and federal Europe, promotes a clear socialist and social democratic vision for its future and combats inequality, social injustice and right-wing and extremist policies. Our vision for Europe is a united democratic community based on, and globally active for, individual and collective human rights and freedoms. To achieve its goals, ECOSY works closely with its member organisations and represents the European socialist and social democratic youth within the PES, PES Women, S&D and PES Groups, Rainbow Rose, FEPS, GPF and social fora, and works towards a democratic structuring of these organisations. Besides our cooperation within ECOSY's fraternal organisations, IUSY and IFM-SEI, we strive for cooperation with progressive partners. ECOSY is a committed member of the European Youth Forum and engages with other youth organisations in order to achieve its goals.

The values and aims laid down in this Position Paper are the basis of our work. It is the aim of the ECOSY - Young European Socialists to promote these goals both at the national and international levels in Europe. At the national level with and through our Member Organisations and at the international level as a growing, coherent and vibrant organisation.

**POLICY PAPER**

**1. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE**

We believe in Europe. We believe in the welfare and prosperity of all people in Europe, equally, regardless of origin, occupation, or place of residence. But Europe and the European Union as they are today do not respond to our vision of the society we want to live in. In this Position Paper we, young European socialists, define the Europe we want and for which we will continue to work.

We want a Europe that is:

A democratic Europe

An Inclusive Europe

A social Europe

A Europe speaking with one voice

**2. A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE**

Democracy is one of the core principles of socialism. Without democracy, we cannot create a society that fulfils the other principles. Therefore the state of democracy in Europe, both nationally and at European level, is a grave concern for us. Europeans must remain vigilant at

54 all times as the power for people to decide for themselves is always dependant on the people  
55 demanding their rights.

## 56 57 **2.1. FOR A MORE DEMOCRATIC AND FEDERAL EUROPE**

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59 Challenges that require a pan-European approach should be dealt with at the European level:  
60 this requires a drastic overhaul of the existing institutional framework. ECOSY – Young  
61 European Socialists stands for a federal and democratic Europe. This means that the European  
62 Union should not only be the Europe of member states, but should be a political union driven  
63 by and for its people.

64  
65 We see a need for large reform that should begin with the single directly elected European  
66 institution, the European Parliament. The reform of the European Parliament is a necessary  
67 start: parliament needs to have the power to co-decide on all European Union legislation and  
68 the right of initiative. The Council of the European Union should be transformed into a truly  
69 representative upper house of the European Union's bicameral system, representing the  
70 members states: the Commission should be developed into the government of the European  
71 Union, as the main executive power. It should be formed without interference from member  
72 state governments or parliaments and its composition must follow the results of the European  
73 elections. It should be fully accountable to the European Parliament.

74  
75 Today, a significant threat to democracy at all levels comes from the hegemonic discourse of  
76 the current economic system that attempts to limit the room for political decision-making by  
77 setting the parameters within which the discussion can take place. We should never accept  
78 exclusion of any part of economic policy from democratic control: we should not allow specific  
79 economic policies to be enshrined into constitutional law or imposed through undemocratic  
80 channels and will continue to fight for the extension of democracy into all areas of life.

## 81 82 **2.2 INTEGRATION AND ENLARGEMENT GO TOGETHER**

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84 On the 1st of January 2007 the European Union enlarged to 27 member states, uniting different  
85 states with different cultures, political realities, and perception of civic processes, procedural  
86 habits, development levels, social welfare states and economies. ECOSY - Young European  
87 Socialists is proud of this unique diversity of the European Union, and is at the same time not  
88 blinded by the difficulties that emerge from the institutional and structural weaknesses of the  
89 EU project. The ambition to deepen integration in order to continue with the enlargement  
90 process is one of the main challenges of the European Union.

- 91 • Deeper integration is necessary in order to ensure that further enlargement remains  
92 possible. Institutional reform, increased cooperation on several policies and extending  
93 competences of the European Union are necessary.
- 94 • Application and adherence to the Treaties and principles of the Union are not only  
95 necessary for applicants, but also for members. The integration process should be  
96 stricter about the control of existing member states in future.
- 97 • ECOSY – Young European Socialists believes that it is of great importance to continue  
98 the process of integration and that the scepticism of a few member states should not  
99 prevent it. Therefore, it is necessary to allow and encourage enhanced cooperation  
100 between those who are willing and able according to the EU acquis. However this should  
101 not result in a permanent structure of a multi-tiered European Union, but should always  
102 be considered as a temporary phase, clearing the path for integration to resume in a  
103 united manner.
- 104 • It is a collective responsibility of all member states when one is unable to follow political  
105 integration. In the European Union's budget, extra financial means have to be made  
106 available and expertise has to be offered to these countries, with the aim of allowing  
107 integration to proceed at the same pace for all.
- 108 • The European Union's enlargement has to continue. The acquis entails all objective  
109 criteria (respect of democracy and human rights, rule of law, economic policy, financial  
110 accountability, good neighbourly relations etc) accessing member states have the  
111 responsibility to comply with. The European Union has to offer sufficient financial means  
112 and expertise to enable these states to comply with the European Union's criteria and  
113 has to work on reforming itself so as to be fully able to welcome candidate countries  
114 properly whilst ensuring the continuation of its political project.

## 116 **3. AN INCLUSIVE EUROPE**

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118 The Europe we want is an inclusive one. Everyone, regardless of background, beliefs or  
119 personal choices has to have equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, it is the  
120 responsibility of the state to ensure the realisation of these rights through services, legislation  
121 and control. No one should be threatened, discriminated against or excluded because of who  
122 they are. The wealth and welfare of Europe comes from its people and their ability to benefit  
123 from the diverse experiences, ideas and cultures that the people represent.

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### 125 **3.1. ALL EQUAL, ALL DIFFERENT**

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127 The social model ECOSY - Young European Socialists stands for is based on the values of  
128 common responsibility, cooperation and equality. Our individual and social differences bring us  
129 together; they do not set us apart.

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131 Everyone has the responsibility to contribute and participate in the society according to their  
132 abilities and, at the same time, everyone has the right to have a decent livelihood, income and  
133 welfare in our societies for the sake of inclusion and social cohesion. ECOSY - Young European  
134 Socialists makes its mission to ensure that everybody can make a decent living and fully  
135 participate in civil society.

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### 137 **3.2. CIVIL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE**

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139 A globalized world means globalized exchanges in culture and people. To create a society  
140 where every individual can fulfil her or his personal dreams and expectations must be a goal for  
141 ECOSY Young European Socialists. Regardless of income, ethnic or social origin, gender, sexual  
142 orientation or other identities, religious or political orientation and citizenship, everybody  
143 should be entitled to fully participate in society.

144

145 ECOSY - Young European Socialists stands for a society where everybody's human and  
146 fundamental rights are guaranteed, where all individuals have the right to decent work under  
147 equal opportunities. No one can be denied the right of benefiting from social welfare, education  
148 or health care on grounds of any kind of discrimination. We need to recognise and tackle both  
149 structural discrimination as well as social norms based on racism, homophobia, sexism and the  
150 lack of attention for persisting gender inequality.

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152 The challenge is to create the economical and political conditions for the full development of  
153 individuality in a common society, where the respect for human rights is valued and  
154 widespread. We demand anti-discrimination policies combined with a Europe-wide awareness-  
155 raising campaign. Comprehensive integration programmes and free language courses for  
156 immigrants aiming at empowerment and integration have to be developed.

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158 In the middle of big political and economical turmoil is essential that we continue to fight  
159 against populist rhetoric that feeds discrimination. Therefore, social cohesion and integration  
160 must be a priority. We need to continue to fight poverty and growing income and wealth  
161 divides. We need to protect and develop welfare states and ensure access to services for all.  
162 We especially need to guarantee equal and fair access to education for everyone at all ages,  
163 including adults, particularly those coming from disadvantaged groups.

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### 165 **3.3. REAL GENDER EQUALITY**

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167 Inequality between women and men is still a reality in Europe. The economic crisis is hitting  
168 women more severely. The austerity policies have stronger and harder consequences on  
169 women, who are much more exposed to the lack of social protection. Furthermore, economic  
170 turmoil is often used as an excuse for the return of a patriarchal society and the loss of  
171 women's rights. ECOSY - Young European Socialists continues to work for an inclusive society  
172 that guarantees women equal rights, whether political, social or economic.

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- The gender pay gap between men and women remains at unacceptable levels in Europe. Thus, strong effective measures must be put in place in order to reduce this gap and eliminate discrimination in working conditions negotiations. Much further work is needed to accomplish equal career, wage and pension perspectives for women and men.

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- 178 • Gender-sensitive policies of the active labour market must be developed. Social benefits  
179 cannot depend only on working hours paid in public services and must include the  
180 private sector as well.
- 181 • Sufficient, paid maternity, paternity, co-maternity and parental leaves must be available  
182 for all parents. The system must be open to the working woman as well as the caring  
183 man and parental leave should be equally distributed between both parents. The role  
184 and right of fathers to care for their children should be encouraged and supported by  
185 state-funded high-quality child care systems which allow both mothers and fathers to  
186 return to work or studies at the end of the parental leave.
- 187 • Public services need to be continuously developed to decrease the gender imbalance in  
188 care-work. Also other forms of gendered, un-paid work done by women need to be  
189 balanced between the genders both through expansion of services and also through  
190 education and social change.
- 191 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists advocates for high-quality gender-sensitive health  
192 care. We demand the right to decide and plan family life, which is possible only when  
193 information, free artificial insemination, adequate support for adoption, free  
194 contraceptives and legal safe abortion, are available.
- 195 • Creation of a women's information service network to deal with awareness-raising  
196 activities and public information is also necessary.
- 197 • We regard women's right to decide over their own bodies as a fundamental right that  
198 has to be integrated into the Community acquis. Respect of this condition has to be one  
199 of the criteria for accession for the EU as well as continuity of the membership.
- 200 • Violence against women, both in and outside the thome, mobbing, trafficking and forced  
201 prostitution are a reality also in Europe.
- 202 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists calls upon all European countries, in close  
203 cooperation with developing and less developed countries to accept gender-based  
204 violence like female genital mutilation as a reason to accord asylum and we continue to  
205 strongly fight against trafficking of women.
- 206 • The struggle for a global right to equality must include all regions in all continents. The  
207 Beijing + 15 declaration and platform for action has to be strengthened. The general  
208 political commitment to the implementation of its goals, at the same time that engages  
209 in the millennium development goals and the United Nations convention on the  
210 elimination of all forms of discrimination against women must be put into practice and  
211 give way to more effective and practical results.
- 212 • The number of women in any higher position, in the business world as well as in politics,  
213 especially in elected positions at international, national, local or even organisational  
214 level is too low. Gender quotas are a good means to elevate women's representation in  
215 politics as a short-term measure and to increment their participation.
- 216 • Quotas must be implemented in private and public enterprises, to ensure that women  
217 occupy at least 40% of all executive board positions.
- 218 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists will continue to push for the adoption of the "zipper  
219 system", both by electoral lists and by speakers' lists. The socialist parties should lead  
220 by example and commit to having 50 % women candidates in all lists in all elections.

### 222 **3.4. THE RIGHT TO BE QUEER**

223 The latest EU youth poll on LGBTT rights showed significant reason for concern. LGBTT people  
224 face continued discrimination in society, the labour market, education and politics and, in fact,  
225 homophobia and cases of civil rights denial are rising.

- 227 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists demands complete freedom of gender identity and  
228 sexual orientation, guaranteed by the state, and sufficient anti-discrimination legislation  
229 to be implemented.
- 230 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists urges all member states to adopt equal marriage  
231 legislation and grant same-sex couples the right to adopt children. This recognition is  
232 essential to guarantee to same-sex couples or LGBTT individuals the same rights when  
233 it comes to being entitled to benefits or proper treatments. The forbiddance of blood  
234 donation to LGBTT people in some countries must come to an end.
- 235 • Same-sex marriages and same-sex partnerships must have the same legal status as  
236 marriages and partnerships between women and men, including equal social security  
237 benefits for same-sex couples. This includes equal rights for one spouse in case of  
238 illness, temporary or permanent disability and death of one of the elements of the

- 239 couple.
- 240 • LGBTT people should have the same rights in terms of family planning, including the
- 241 right to adopt children, equal access to artificial insemination people and the right to
- 242 unite families for same-sex couples.
- 243 • Transgender people must have the same rights as anyone else in the society. The right
- 244 to define ones gender identity must be guaranteed at the European level through
- 245 binding legislation.
- 246 • Transgender people should also retain their re-productive rights after gender corrective
- 247 surgery and any legislation demanding compulsory sterilisation must be abolished
- 248 immediately as they are violating human rights.
- 249 • ECOSY – Young European Socialists calls upon all European countries, to give asylum to
- 250 LGBTT people who come from countries that consider their sexual orientation to be a
- 251 crime.

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### **3.5. FOR AN OPEN AND MULTICULTURAL EUROPE**

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Migration is not a new phenomenon in Europe. ECOSY – Young European Socialists sees that the movement of people create both challenges and opportunities, not only for the migrants, but also for the host societies. Still, especially now with the current economic crisis, European responses to migration remain more based on fear, mistrust, and a protectionist approach.

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ECOSY – Young European Socialists strongly oppose to this approach and promotes a common, coherent EU migration and asylum policy that promotes integration, and a more fair and balanced policy response covering all aspects of this complex issue, including tackling the root causes of migration, the social and economic challenges and opportunities of migration, migrants integration, security and protection, asylum procedures etc.

- 265 • Migration and development policies in the migrant’s countries of origin. EU may and
- 266 should play a role by investing in the countries of origin, to boost stable democratic
- 267 systems, social justice, viable economies and sustainable environment policies.
- 268 Furthermore, EU should reinforce greater partnership with the countries of origin
- 269 through the exchange of best practices and knowledge in order to reach balanced
- 270 development with a long-term vision which will allow people to thrive in their countries
- 271 of origin, and not feel compelled to leave in search of a better life.
- 272 • Put an end to the large numbers of undocumented migrants by creating a common,
- 273 stable and coherent Asylum Policy, including equal sharing of the costs of accepting and
- 274 integrating immigrants in member states, full civil, political and social rights for
- 275 immigrants with or without legal status, the right to unite families, to sole and to
- 276 multiple nationalities. In this dimension, and as a sign of solidarity among European
- 277 Union member states and viability of their societies, it is necessary to re-examine and
- 278 reform the Dublin II Regulation, which poses excessive burdens to those member states
- 279 which are at the borders of the European Union and are the main receivers of increased
- 280 immigrate flows. Europe cannot close its borders (internal or external). It rather needs
- 281 to strengthen the acquis of the free movement inside EU Member – States and to ensure
- 282 that people entering any European Member States are entering under the same
- 283 harmonized human conditions, to guarantee the trust between Member States and an
- 284 efficient working of the Schengen Agreement and migrants protection.

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### **3.5. AN INCLUSIVE EUROPEAN YOUTH AND CHILD POLICY**

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The future of Europe depends on the ability to foster a European society that is child- and youth-friendly. This society must enable young people to acquire knowledge and skills to take up future possibilities and challenges. It must ensure equal autonomy for all and secure every young people a future. Youth policies have to be mainstreamed into all policy areas of the European Union, with the general aim to improve and develop the living, learning and working conditions and the participation of young people, encompassing the whole range of social, cultural, economic, democratic and environmental issues. ECOSY – Young European Socialists believe that the European Union must continue to promote and to support partnerships between young people from the European Union and from outside.

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We believe that the agenda to improve young people's chances in the knowledge economy through education must go hand in hand with a legislative process to ensure that jobs and educational placements provide for a decent living: therefore a widened youth pact is

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301 necessary.

- 302 • One European Commissioner for child and youth policies has to be elected with a  
303 widened political mandate, enabling this European Commissioner to advocate youth  
304 policies on all matters. This mandate must include the obligation to organise  
305 consultations and a real dialogue between young people and decision-makers.
- 306 • European youth policy needs to consider young people as the future of Europe, being  
307 citizens with full capacities and with the same rights, regardless of their cultural, ethnic,  
308 geographical or economic background. Young people must have full citizens' rights and  
309 should be able to participate in political and governmental decision-making processes,  
310 including the right to vote from the age of 16.
- 311 • A clear framework must be established for non-formal education and its complementary  
312 role to formal education practices.
- 313 • In all areas of European policies, and especially in the field of sustainable development  
314 strategy, social policy and foreign affairs, young people have to be incorporated in the  
315 decision-making process.

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317 *Put children's rights at the heart of European policy*

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319 • The European Union should maintain and develop legislation on children. The European  
320 Union should urge its member states to ratify the United Nations convention on the  
321 rights of the child. All relevant European Union legislation must be evaluated on the  
322 basis of this convention. Control mechanisms must be developed including granting the  
323 European Court of Justice jurisdiction over the implementation of the convention. It is  
324 also necessary to offer children opportunities to demand their rights. Therefore ECOSY -  
325 Young European Socialists requests a European Union children's ombudsperson.
- 326 • The role of the European Union children's ombudsperson will be to coordinate work of  
327 mutual benefit between offices of children's ombudspersons in different states in  
328 Europe, and also to work with children's rights NGOs on developing shadow reports to  
329 the United Nations on the progress made by states who have signed up to the United  
330 Nations convention on the rights of the child.
- 331 • Children should be heard more in the policy processes concerning them as well as we  
332 should aim at giving them the ability and understanding of society and political  
333 processes from early age. For this we need age-appropriate political education in early-  
334 education institutions, tackling gender, class and ethnic hierarchies from pre-school age.

## 335 336 **4. A SOCIAL EUROPE**

337 Europe needs to be more than just an area for single markets or a place for governments to  
338 externalise difficult decisions. It needs to be a place of rights and welfare, of participation and  
339 power for its citizens. We need a Social Europe, that legitimises the economic union, and sets  
340 the framework within which the economy can work. We need a Social Europe that defines the  
341 level of welfare and services the economy needs to help provide, not other way around. ECOSY  
342 - Young European Socialists works for this huge change in thinking of the Union to be achieved,  
343 for the benefit of the people living in Europe.  
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345 Social rights need to be set and guaranteed at the European level to assure equality between  
346 the European citizens. Even if the implementation of the policies would take place at the  
347 national level. We need to create a European welfare model that takes in the best practises of  
348 the European states, rather than encourages race to the bottom. We need to move towards  
349 new thinking of the welfare states. The balancing between the markets and welfare provision  
350 must a fair balance between rights and responsibilities. Every person must have a right for a  
351 decent job, and also a responsibility to contribute to the society at their ability. We must look  
352 towards creation of inclusion guarantee, a commitment of guaranteeing every member of the  
353 European societies the tools and abilities to participate in the society, lead a fulfilling life and  
354 contribute to the welfare states. This demands wide range of education, employment and  
355 democracy policies that together form a basis for active citizenship.  
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### 357 358 **4.1. OUR EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL**

359 It is high time that the European Union enters into a new path towards a social Europe. A  
360 monetary union without a social and democratic approach is not our vision for Europe. The  
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362 European social model has to ensure for each and every person in Europe decent living and  
363 welfare, as well as protection against risks. No one in Europe should live in poverty or be  
364 excluded from the society. Therefore we demand a European social model what is a synthesis  
365 of what is best in each national system.

- 366 • ECOSY demands free public services under democratic control. The European public  
367 service strategy can no longer be based on privatisation and continuing liberalisation.  
368 We demand public services that guarantee everyone everywhere equal quality and  
369 access to their essential needs.
- 370 • We demand health care that is accessible, high quality and free of charge.
- 371 • ECOSY calls for a new solidarity between generations. We demand a pensions system in  
372 all European countries what prevents poverty among the elderly. Equal access to  
373 pension and retirement schemes has to be realised. Laws against age discrimination  
374 have to be implemented and reinforced. The high risk of poverty among elderly women  
375 has to be tackled specifically. Career length and hardness of work in some sector have  
376 to be acknowledged in the definition of retirement age and the possibility to benefit  
377 from early retirement.
- 378 • High quality free child care is a social right and an important tool to improve the  
379 women's access to the labour market. We demand the availability of public child-care  
380 for every child following the parental leave. We demand the right for the parental leave  
381 to be extended in all member states to a minimum of a period of 6 weeks before and 6  
382 months after birth. Paternity or co-maternity leave must be a right of all parents, in  
383 addition and concurrently to maternity leave.
- 384 • Social discrimination in Europe need to be abolished. We as ECOSY condemn any  
385 discriminatory practices of social discrimination like a lower minimum wage for young  
386 employees or lower unemployment benefits for specific groups in society.
- 387 • The sectors that must be protected and of which services need to be guaranteed in an  
388 accessible and affordable way under the concept of services of general interest and  
389 services of general economic interest include: security, justice, health care, education,  
390 water, energy, public transport, post and telecommunication, public media and  
391 information, culture, sports, child care and social security.
- 392 • The European Union and member states must have the right to impose public service  
393 requirements on private companies, and to establish publicly owned market actors in  
394 certain sectors.
- 395 • A European housing directive has to be developed. This should exclude social housing  
396 from the scope of the market economy, include improving accessibility to decent  
397 housing and housing conditions, especially for students, working youth and those less-  
398 favoured groups which are particularly affected by poverty, such as disadvantaged  
399 people and the elderly.
- 400 • Homelessness should not occur Europe. More attention should be paid to the issue of  
401 homelessness, by providing care, imparting basic skills, and promoting social  
402 integration.

#### 403 **4.2. AN ECONOMY THAT SERVES THE WELFARE STATES**

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405 We as ECOSY refuse the current thinking of the European Union as namely the single market.  
406 We as ECOSY think that the economy needs to be an instrument that serves the welfare of the  
407 people and the welfare state. Therefore we demand a complete turn in Europe's economic  
408 strategy:  
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- 410 • We strongly condemn the conservative austerity-only policy. The current stability and  
411 growth pact has proven to be inefficient. The addition of the fiscal pact only makes  
412 things worse. We demand fostering of growth, innovation and development for Europe.  
413 In times of economic downturn, we demand for anti-cyclical investments in education  
414 and growth in order to create the necessary employment and to ensure the social  
415 security of all. We demand new pact: a pact for growth and full employment. The new  
416 pact has to change the current guidelines on financial stability: the maximum deficit  
417 should vary across countries, according to three indicators: their overall debt situation,  
418 the severity of the recession or economic growth the country faces and the reference  
419 value, used to judge the budgetary situation of countries, and should be based on the  
420 structural deficit.
- 421 • Inequalities between the European economies need to be balanced to develop a stable  
422 European Economy.

- 423 • To ensure that a system a common European Social goals is not misused to drive social  
424 standards in some member states down, a system of minimum standards and target  
425 corridors need to be combined with a social progressive clause, what ensures that the  
426 level of social security already achieved at national level will be kept.
- 427 • We demand binding goals for the reduction of national account balances in Europe.
- 428 • We need a new industrial policy in Europe, what strengthens the base of the European  
429 economy and build an industrial core for all regions in Europe.
- 430 • Regional employment disparities have to be targeted via specific policies focusing on  
431 the quality of education and training, investment in skills, education and life-long  
432 learning and partnerships at local and regional level to promote job creation and  
433 addressing the skills gap.
- 434 • We demand effective Financial Institutions: we call for the restriction of speculative  
435 financial market products, supervision of banking and a financial transaction tax. The  
436 already existing framework of the European Investment Bank and the European  
437 Investment Fund should be further developed.
- 438 • Tax competition must not exist in the European Union. Taxation systems must be  
439 coordinated and respect a clear regulatory framework with the aim of harmonisation,  
440 starting with harmonisation of the corporate tax base and value added tax rates. Tax  
441 havens must have no space within the European Union, nor in its overseas countries  
442 and territories. A minimum level of corporate taxation is needed.

443 The European Budget has to change. The European Union has to increase its own resources  
444 and reform and expand its budget, with a strong political will and clear political choices for  
445 investment in the welfare of all its citizens. The 7-year budget cycle must also be changed to  
446 reflect the 5-year cycle of the European parliament mandate. This increases democratic control  
447 and transparency of the European budget policy.

449 ECOSY demands a ceiling concept of 1% of member states' GDP for the European budget can  
450 be applied only when Europe has a new clear fiscal strategy with its own tax sphere. Otherwise  
451 a 1,5% ceiling has to be applied. The spending on the common agricultural policy should be  
452 reduced in favour of improving the financing of R&D investments, growth stimulus in  
453 underdeveloped regions and the insurance of a social security system and free public services.  
454 A European tax on capital movement and a European green tax can increase the European  
455 Union's own funding abilities.

### 457 **4.3. EDUCATION FOR ALL**

459 For ECOSY - Young European Socialists education is the key to encourage young people to learn  
460 to think independently and critically and drives sustainable progress for Europe. Education can  
461 ensure the self-fulfilment of all by promoting equality, active citizenship, high-quality  
462 employment and better cultural understanding. Education empowers young and old to take on  
463 the challenges of the future. . Therefore we fight for a free access to education regardless of  
464 social backgrounds, students' country of origin, gender and age. ECOSY - Young European  
465 Socialists strives for quality education for all, free of charge and free of discrimination. We  
466 understand the educational process as a lifelong process.

#### 468 *Free and equal access to education*

470 Public, secular, high-quality education, starting from the earliest age, should be guaranteed for  
471 free for every child, adolescent and adult in Europe. The trends to privatise education, leading  
472 to lower or non-existent grants and increased and differentiated tuition fees, mean excluding  
473 the less affluent from education. In the perspective of ECOSY - Young European Socialists  
474 education is a public good and can never be treated as a commodity. It constitutes one of the  
475 key means of ensuring equality of opportunity in society, and guarantees the rights of  
476 individuals to self-development and fulfilment.

- 477
- 478 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists fight for comprehensive and integrative schools in  
479 the whole of Europe. Comprehensive schools are essential for equal chances in the  
480 educational system. Teaching methods must be introduced that encourage individual  
481 abilities.
  - 482 • ECOSY - Young European Socialists underlines the necessity to improve the accessibility  
483 of higher education. All levels of education have to be free for everyone. A system of  
484 student grants should be in place to finance the individual student's costs, also for



- 485 students in research or doctoral programmes.
- 486 • Other, non-financial, access barriers to education like knock-out exams, and numerous
- 487 clausus systems have to be eradicated.
- 488 • Students need a social infrastructure to ensure adequate conditions for living and
- 489 studying at the same place. Student housing must be publically provided and an
- 490 affordable price level.
- 491 • To achieve equal chances for everyone, young people from economically and socially
- 492 disadvantaged backgrounds have to be encouraged and economically supported by
- 493 public programmes and networks that help them finding their own way of education. .
- 494 • Education has to be accessible at all levels for people with disabilities. Special
- 495 programmes and teaching methods meeting their particular skills and needs have to be
- 496 developed. Common learning experience, mutual understanding and the abolition of
- 497 discrimination have to be established in education institutions to reach an integrative
- 498 system.
- 499 • Personal counselling and pupil-oriented programmes such as dual education should be
- 500 strengthened to prevent drop-outs. In a society where professional destiny is largely
- 501 determined by the curriculum achieved, it is necessary to provide active support for
- 502 those who have or are about to leave education prematurely. Moreover people who have
- 503 left education prematurely should be able and encouraged to get back at any time
- 504 during their life.
- 505 • Self-organisation, democratisation and co-decision of student unions at all levels of
- 506 education are essential for the concept of active citizenship. At every educational level
- 507 these independent bodies have to be established.
- 508 • Gender-sensitive subjects together with gender-sensitive teachers' and learners' tools
- 509 and anti-discrimination programmes have to become standard in all schools. Gender
- 510 sensitivity should be mainstreamed into all teacher training, including nursery and
- 511 pre-school teachers' training. The gendered segregation between studies should be fought
- 512 by active policies stimulating women to enter into traditionally more male-dominated
- 513 fields of study and vice-versa. Programmes promoting choosing untraditional fields of
- 514 study are an example of this policy.
- 515 • Racism and xenophobia have no space in public education institutions. The experience
- 516 of values such as freedom, democracy and solidarity as well as awareness-raising
- 517 concerning historical backgrounds and political debates help to avoid racism and
- 518 xenophobia and should play an important role in teaching and study.
- 519 • Public investments need to ensure elementary and higher education for everyone. In the
- 520 perspective of ECOSY – Young European Socialists sufficient educational funding has to
- 521 be ensured through a progressive tax system which taxes high income and capital
- 522 income and discharges low and middle labour incomes. Charging students or levying an
- 523 additional tax from graduates can never be an option.
- 524 • Yearly investment of at least 6% of the national GDP of all European states as well as
- 525 1% of the European Commission budget into education have to become effective
- 526 guidelines. Budget lines for education and research have to be separated to ensure that
- 527 extra investments are not at the expense of one another. Sufficient extra funding to
- 528 train and employ enough teachers and academic staff is necessary.
- 529 • Pressures to privatise education at any level have to be counterbalanced and a
- 530 prohibition for private companies to buy themselves into educational institutions
- 531 developed.

532  
533 *For a real European education area*

534  
535 ECOSY – Young European Socialists welcomes the basic principles of the Bologna process: it is

536 necessary to ensure student mobility, promote better intercultural understanding and

537 multilingualism, and improve the personal development of European students. ECOSY – Young

538 European Socialists is, however, increasingly worried about the course of events. The Bologna

539 process is often misused to implement other reforms like the introduction or raising of tuition

540 fees that limit study opportunities, cuts in financing or staff numbers or the introduction of less

541 flexible education systems. ECOSY – Young European Socialists strives for a real European

542 education area, based on the principle of free and equal access for all.

- 543 • The Bologna process should be about real diploma recognition, including vocational
- 544 training, European Credit Transfer System credits and parts of study. The Bologna
- 545 process should be about increased mobility of all students and not just of the richest

- 546 ones. A more integrated and more controllable approach in the Bologna process,  
547 involving students and higher education institutions themselves has to be established.
- 548 • The upcoming second decade of Bologna will and must be used for evaluation and for  
549 continuing the process in order to reach better standards. But not only: if evaluation  
550 shows that social rigidity has not been reduced, that free and equal access to higher  
551 education is in danger and that national implementations of the Bologna process rather  
552 serve market than students' needs, it must be allowed to question not only national  
553 policies but also to re-think the process. Therefore a critical evaluation will also have to  
554 examine which elements in the process and its implementation led to the undesirable  
555 results and where the core of impacts can be found: in this critical consideration there  
556 should be no taboos.
  - 557 • Increased spending in the Bologna process to enhance student and academic staff  
558 mobility especially for students from less advantaged financial backgrounds is  
559 necessary.
  - 560 • Diplomas and credits from both formal and non-formal education need to be recognised  
561 by all European educational, state and professional institutions.
  - 562 • The European education area has to become open for students from third countries,  
563 under at least the same beneficial conditions as European students.

564  
565 *Life-long learning for everyone*

- 566 Education and life-long learning constituted the most important pillars of the Lisbon strategy,  
567 however, in the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives "Youth on the Move" and "New Skills, New  
568 Jobs" this has been reduced to the employability of youth and retraining of older workers at risk  
569 of layoffs. Citizens must be continuously facilitated in every way to participate in life-long  
570 learning. The success of the life-long learning initiative depends on not confining it to middle  
571 and higher management or to a market-based logic, but applying it to all workers according to  
572 their choices for self-fulfilment. It must embrace different elements including vocational  
573 training in order to prepare people for the labour market and cooperate closely with the private  
574 sector whilst remaining independent of it. The private sector has an important role to fulfil in  
575 the life-long learning agenda in that it must take on its responsibilities to keep on training its  
576 employees, however cannot interfere with autonomous education itself.
- 577
  - 578 • The budget for life-long learning programmes has to be increased and a comprehensive  
579 strategy at the European level to implement life-long learning as promised in the Lisbon  
580 strategy has to be developed.
  - 581 • It is important that everyone has the right to receive the additional schooling of their  
582 choice free of charge, especially the disadvantaged.
  - 583 • A minimum of 3% of national GDP has to be invested in research and life-long learning  
584 in every member state.

585  
586 *Full recognition of informal and non-formal education*

- 587 Learning outside of formal education institutions plays an important role in the learning process  
588 and development of young people. Informal learning includes the experience of values, the  
589 learning of building own opinions and arguments and the education to think critically. Non-  
590 formal education is gained in social experiences like voluntary work, social engagement or  
591 other activities in teams or groups. ECOSY – Young European Socialists sees informal non-  
592 formal education as extremely valuable for both the individual and for society as a whole and  
593 therefore calls for its full Europe-wide recognition in the academic, state and professional  
594 spheres. ECOSY – Young European Socialists stresses that this value must be additional: it can  
595 never replace formal education or perform tasks that should be the state's or a company's  
596 responsibility, and voluntary work can never replace a decent, paid job.
- 597
  - 598 • Non-formal education and prior learning have to be fully recognised and strengthened in  
599 the European Union as a tool to empower people and give them the opportunities to  
600 reach self-fulfilment.
  - 601 • Recognition of informal and non-formal learning processes have to be encouraged to  
602 establish a culture of emancipatory lifelong learning. ECOSY – Young European Socialists  
603 welcomes the increased funding of the European Voluntary Service. Other European and  
604 national programmes for voluntary work as well as informal and non-formal education  
605 have to follow. The accessibility of the voluntary programmes for disadvantaged groups  
606 in society has to be increased.

- 607 • All volunteers should enjoy full social rights. Misuse of voluntary work as cheap or even  
608 free labour has to be prevented.

609  
610 **4.4. MORE AND BETTER JOBS**

611 For ECOSY – Young European Socialists full employment remains a central part in our vision to  
612 create a high-quality European social welfare state. ECOSY – Young European Socialists opposes  
613 easy and low-cost hiring and firing. Everybody must have the right to have a decent job.  
614 Therefore, ECOSY – Young European Socialists advocates more and better jobs for everyone.  
615 Therefore we demand:

- 617 • Work has to pay. ECOSY demands that a guaranteed European minimum income above  
618 poverty level is implemented. This must consist of a living wage set either as national  
619 minimum wage or through collective agreement negotiations-

620  
621 *Working time*

- 622
- 623 • The redistribution of work must be achieved through the reduction of working time, with  
624 the aim to reduce unemployment and achieve a higher quality of life. Our goal is  
625 decreasing working time to 32 weekly hours, in order to share work and increase  
626 freedom of people.
  - 627 • The working time directive has to be changed, ensuring a maximum of 40 hours working  
628 time per week for all workers in the European Union. A special provision has to be  
629 drafted to guarantee existing shorter working times in several member states of the  
630 European Union.
  - 631 • Part-time employment should not mean working in poverty, conditions of part-time  
632 employment have to be equal to full time employment. Additionally, part-time work  
633 should be a choice, not necessity. Full-time contracts should remain the basis of  
634 legislation and the norm.

635  
636 *Active labour market policies*

- 637
- 638 • ECOSY demands an active labour market policy in Europe. Active labour market policies  
639 should effectively support transitions between jobs as well as from unemployment and  
640 inactivity to jobs; empowering life-long learning systems enabling workers to remain  
641 employable throughout their career and facilitate labour market mobility and transition.
  - 642 • Active labour market policies should enable especially young people to enter the labour  
643 market more easily, at the same time protecting them from exploitation within the  
644 framework of unpaid internships or short-term contracts without proper social security

645  
646 *Youth unemployment and decent jobs for the youth*

- 647
- 648 • Youth unemployment and young people working in poverty have to be effectively  
649 tackled throughout the European Union.
  - 650 • ECOSY – Young European Socialists demands for a binding, European youth guarantee to  
651 be established. This guarantee must ensure that every young person under 25 and  
652 recent graduate under 30 will receive a job, further training or education within 4  
653 months of start of unemployment or graduation.
  - 654 • The links between higher education institutions, research and technological centres and  
655 enterprises have to be strengthened. We support the idea of a specific youth  
656 entrepreneurship, what ensures the youngster full access to social security service.
  - 657 • ECOSY demands decent working conditions for young people, we oppose underpaid and  
658 unpaid jobs, long working hours, temporary employment for the young generation
  - 659 • ECOSY – Young European Socialists also calls for the adoption of a framework directive  
660 for internships: internships should be decently paid, not exceed 6 months each and not  
661 represent more than 10% of the workforce of the company or administration concerned.  
662 Moreover, trainees should be recognised the same rights as people employed under a  
663 short-term contract and internships should be taken into account in the calculation of  
664 pension rights.
  - 665 • ECOSY demands the urgent elimination the gender pay gap. We want more women in  
666 leadership positions and support quotas both in public and private sectors.
  - 667 • Unemployment among people with disabilities remains unacceptably high. There is a

- 668 need to provide a broad spectrum of employment opportunities, including protected and  
669 assisted employment, the possibility to obtain and constantly renew qualifications and  
670 representation of disabled people.
- 671 • The free mobility of workers must be a real mobility for all people. ECOSY rejects the  
672 exclusion of anybody from the right of free movement. The free mobility of workers has  
673 to go hand in hand with the free movement of social benefits. The mobility of pension  
674 schemes, health care benefits, unemployment benefits and other social benefits of  
675 collective agreements have to be ensured.
  - 676 • Undeclared work has to be transformed into regular employment.
  - 677 • ECOSY calls for strong trade unions in Europe. We demand a proper representation of  
678 workers in the social dialog. We believe that collective agreements are the best way to  
679 strengthen the rights of workers to bargain wages. We demand the expanding the scope  
680 of, enhancing the right to information and consultations and improving working facilities  
681 for representatives of employees in European work councils. We demand better  
682 regulation supporting the multinational work of trade unions. ECOSY demands the right  
683 to engage in neutrality agreements, means the right of trade unions to go into the  
684 working place, as well as the right to strike and to establish picket lines. The informal  
685 economy must be abolished to strengthen the work of trade unions.

#### 686 **4.5. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

687

688 Protecting the environment is essential for the quality of life of current and future generations.  
689 The challenge for both developed and developing countries is to combine this with continuing  
690 economic growth and improving living standards in a way which is sustainable in the long run.  
691 In other words economic, social and environmental policies must be closely integrated.

##### 693 *Innovative environmental policies*

694

695 Our Europe has to be environmentally sustainable.

- 697 • The European Environmental Agency should become the actual environmental control  
698 body ensuring the respect and implementation of European Union environmental  
699 legislation. The agency must be supplied with sufficient financial means and legal  
700 sanctions in order to bring countries and companies to justice if they infringe legislation.
- 701 • Energy efficiency must be emphasised at all levels of domestic and commercial life  
702 across Europe. Passive and active houses should become the building standard in all  
703 newly built houses in Europe, and this development should be encouraged by both  
704 incentives and tighter regulation.
- 705 • The principle of “the polluter pays” has to be the guiding principle in establishing green  
706 taxes. These taxes have to be invested in financing the research and education and  
707 related environmental strategies, realising a European environmental fund.
- 708 • It must be a priority to intensify the research on new, alternative energy resources. The  
709 European energy strategy has to be based on clean and sustainable forms of energy  
710 production and distribution, not as currently based on highly polluting and insecure  
711 fossil and nuclear forms of energy production and distribution.
- 712 • Sustainable water management must be one of the main concerns of the European  
713 Union. The implementation of the European water directive has to be secured and  
714 member states have to address their lack of commitment.
- 715 • We must protect biodiversity and oppose the release of genetically engineered crops  
716 and animals into the environment. We must promote measures like the labelling of  
717 genetically engineered foods and the segregation of genetically engineered crops and  
718 seeds from conventional and organic seeds, in order to give citizens the opportunity to  
719 make informed choices and responsible decisions about their future.
- 720 • Special attention should be brought to animal rights. Common European laws and  
721 regulations should be implemented for the protection of laboratory animals. Common  
722 laws should be passed against the hunting or fishing of endangered species, and animal  
723 welfare must be protected more robustly within agriculture, particularly with regards to  
724 intensive factory farming techniques.

##### 725 *Fighting climate change globally*

726

727 The European environmental policy can only be effective when embedded in a global strategy.  
728

729 The European Union must work towards a progressive global consensus on addressing climate  
730 change. European Union member states must accept their own responsibility and aim at  
731 ambitious targets, followed by the use of Europe's strength in global negotiations pressuring  
732 states like the United States, China and India to adopt sustainable policies.

- 733 • A safe global livelihood is a human right, including a safe and healthy environment. The  
734 European Union must use its authority to promote a better environment for all.
- 735 • The global warming must be stopped and sufficient policies should be adopted to make  
736 sure that the temperature increase does not exceed the scientifically considered  
737 recommendations.
- 738 • The European Union must commit to increase the share of renewables in its total energy  
739 mix to 30% by 2020 and to 100% in 2050.
- 740 • Europe-based multinationals and members of the European Union involved in waste  
741 dumping in developing countries should be sanctioned.
- 742 • Any proposed green taxes must be designed in line with the polluter pays principle.  
743 No industry should be protected in the name of national interests or for any other non-  
744 environmental reasons. The aim of the green taxes must be to change behaviour and  
745 therefore eventually make themselves redundant.
- 746 • Excessive profits from price rises caused by the rapid depletion of natural resources  
747 should be subject to windfall taxation.
- 748 • The consumption of carbon intensive food produce should be discouraged and  
749 decreased. Taxation is a useful tool for this.

#### 750 *Sustainable transport networks*

751 Today, the vast majority of personal transport is still based on the use of fossil fuels. A radical  
752 change in mentality is crucial, and the use of other more environment-friendly alternatives  
753 should be encouraged.

- 754 • A directive for clean cars has to be developed and implemented.
- 755 • The European Union has to establish a legally binding certification system for both  
756 imported and domestic biological fuels.
- 757 • To reduce the environmental damage of road and air transport and to address its  
758 increasing congestion problems, the European Union needs to promote alternative  
759 modes of transport.
- 760 • Public transport has to be free of charge and one European (high-speed) rail network  
761 developed. Passengers' rights have to be strengthened. Continental transport of all  
762 kinds of goods has to be moved from the roads onto the railways and water which are  
763 more efficient and sustainable.
- 764 • Improving public transport networks across Europe, both in urban and rural areas has to  
765 be made a priority in Europe, both nationally and in European Union policies.
- 766 • Carpooling should be actively promoted in areas where public transport is insufficiently  
767 developed.
- 768 • Planes have to become cleaner and the number of short distance flights should be  
769 decreased by increased incentives to use rail travel and by higher taxes on short-haul  
770 and domestic flights. A European tax on flights within 500km should be imposed.

#### 771 *Reform the common agricultural policy*

772 The common agricultural policy uses up 40% of the European Union's annual budget. In a  
773 globalising world and an enlarging European Union the original goal of food security has to be  
774 redefined. Bringing other priorities such as sustainability, efficient water management,  
775 production of food on the basis of quality and not quantity, environmental and animal-friendly  
776 ways of production, and the focus on rural populations with high standards of quality of life and  
777 welfare. This model can empower small farmers and producers on one hand, and would be  
778 much more coherent with the European policy regarding the development of the poorest  
779 countries on the other hand. Nowadays, the importance of agriculture should not be  
780 underestimated.

- 781 • ECOSY – Young European Socialists underlines that the expenditure on the common  
782 agricultural policy must be substantially reduced and must also be reformed into a  
783 social rural development fund and an innovative rural environmental and forestation  
784 initiative. The focus of both shifts from general agricultural production into protecting  
785 and strengthening the natural value of the landscape, stimulating environment-friendly

- 790 production patterns of small farmers and stimulating the production of renewable  
791 energy.
- 792 • Co-decision by the European Parliament on all matters of reforming the common  
793 agricultural policy has to be implemented.
  - 794 • Payments of agricultural subsidies should be re-nationalised whilst the decision-making  
795 and coordination of the policy should remain at the European Union level. This would  
796 increase the transparency of the common agricultural policy as well as reveal the  
797 expenditure at national level without risking unfair competition.

## 799 **5. A EUROPE SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE**

### 800 **5.1. A STRONG AND COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY**

802 A large share of the world's power lies today in Europe. The European Union must use this  
803 power to make our world fairer, to make human rights respected, to strengthen international  
804 law, to support peace and prevent conflicts, to promote international democracy, and to create  
805 a fair distribution of the world's wealth. Security and development are closely inter-dependent.  
806 This strong, common and coherent foreign policy should be the doctrine of the European  
807 common foreign and security policy and the association agreements. Its most important  
808 instrument in the next years will be the new European External Action Service, directed by the  
809 High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: we want it to work for a  
810 well-functioning multilateral system built on the basis of the United Nations, a strong labour  
811 movement, disarmament, fair trade, an enlarged international development cooperation based  
812 on engagement, and a serious neighbourhood policy.

814 The challenge of European foreign policy lies in making the European common foreign and  
815 security policy a tool of international solidarity by both increasing the actual importance of the  
816 common foreign and security policy and by changing the current content of it.

818 *Improve international law*

820 Societies without laws are left to the solemn arbitrary decision-making of the strongest, leaving  
821 the smaller and weaker with no rights and only few opportunities to affect their development.  
822 This also applies to our international society. Therefore, international law is crucial to build  
823 international democracy and a fair world order. We see the urgent need to develop and  
824 strengthen it, especially in a direction where human rights and democracy are at the core of it.

- 826 • The International Court of Justice has to become the independent judiciary part of the  
827 new global governance system. The International Criminal Court, the International  
828 Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for  
829 Rwanda have to become an integral part of this judicial system. There should be no  
830 option for states to exempt themselves or their citizens from the jurisdiction of the  
831 International Criminal Court. All countries should sign and ratify the statutes of the  
832 International Criminal Court, which mandate should be strengthened by replacing the  
833 present ruling principle of complementarity binding the hands of the International  
834 Criminal Court with the principle of universal jurisdiction. The regional tribunals should  
835 be merged into the International Criminal Court.
- 836 • International law must be improved in order to not only regulate the behaviour of states  
837 at international level, but everyone including individuals, associations and corporations.
- 838 • It is of great concern when states violate international law since it unbalances the world  
839 and makes it a more insecure place. With respect to this we strongly condemn any so-  
840 called pre-emptive strikes or wars.
- 841 • An independent and unique international prosecutor's authority should be established  
842 being responsible for the coordination and the management of the impartial  
843 investigation necessary for the court procedure.

### 844 **5.2. GLOBAL DEMOCRACY**

846 Globalisation means that we can no longer rely solely on national solutions to problems.  
847 Sustainable development and security must be achieved in concert. At the same time  
848 democratically organised states, regions and municipalities remain the indispensable  
849 cornerstones for better communities and a better world. Instead of replacing or undermining  
850

- 851 democracy, international co-operation must aim to expand and strengthen democracy in  
852 communities and at all levels where it is lacking.
- 853 • Power over global development cannot be left to multinational companies and their  
854 search for short term returns on capital.
  - 855 • The interests of the few must not be allowed to dominate the shaping of international  
856 rules and agreements.

857  
858 The globalisation of democracy and the democratisation of globalisation are natural aims for  
859 socialists and social democrats. When the market forces can be reined in, then globalisation  
860 and fair distribution of wealth will be a force that can serve everyone. By strengthening the  
861 global trade union rights and free trade unions these can then function as a strong  
862 counterweight to the interests of capital.

- 863 • On the global level we must work for a shift of power from the market to political  
864 institutions. International bodies such as the United Nations must be more  
865 representative even for those countries with limited resources.
- 866 • Socialists and social democrats must take the lead in organising global solutions to  
867 global problems even though the obstacles can appear insurmountable and we meet  
868 opposition from individuals and powerful capitalist interests.

869  
870 We socialists believe in the opportunities presented by globalisation. Although in many  
871 countries the internal gap between the richest and the poorest had been widening, the  
872 economic globalisation of the past decades has led to greater welfare and contributed to a  
873 reduction in poverty for several hundred million people. The distances between people have  
874 been reduced in the wake of globalisation; knowledge and understanding of the living  
875 conditions on the other side of the globe have improved. The demands for democracy, respect  
876 for human rights and social security grow stronger round the world. There have never been so  
877 many democratic states as there are today. The link between democracy and economic  
878 development is strong.

879  
880 *The United Nations - a protector of peace and human beings*

881  
882 ECOSY - Young European Socialists believes in cooperation, international law and  
883 multilateralism as the best way to reach peace and international democracy. Therefore the  
884 United Nations is the most relevant global body the European Union must invest time and  
885 energy in, and the European Union must improve its coordination within the United Nations to  
886 enable the European Union's common foreign and security policy to become effective. The  
887 United Nations also needs to be reformed, especially in order to increase the effectiveness of  
888 its decision-making process, to protect human beings instead of borders and to implement  
889 more effectively its own decisions.

- 890 • The United Nations must be reformed in order to become more democratic and  
891 representative of the world's population. The aim is to enable the United Nations  
892 General Assembly to function as the parliament of the world. International political  
893 networks of all political families must cooperate towards this goal.
- 894 • The United Nations Security Council needs reform aiming at abolishing the system of  
895 permanent members' vetoes. This is a long process and one initial step should be to  
896 have only one permanent member from Europe, a seat that should be taken by the  
897 European Union. Permanent seats made available in the process of reform should be  
898 attributed to emerging countries from under-represented regions of the globe such as  
899 Africa, the South American continent and the Indian sub-continent.
- 900 • The United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with civil society and especially  
901 globally organized youth organisations.
- 902 • The United Nations' possibilities and human and financial resources to execute  
903 humanitarian interventions must be improved.
- 904 • The United Nations charter must be revised in order to enable the United Nations to  
905 effectively stop genocide and other crimes against humanity and human rights, no  
906 matter whether they are perpetrated due to domestic, regional or international conflicts.
- 907 • In parallel the cooperation and coordination among the various international institutions,  
908 both political and financial, must be strengthened in order to make international politics  
909 more effective and transparent.

910  
911 **5.3. FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH**

912 The development of democracy is threatened by poverty and authoritarian regimes.  
913 Organisations that use violence to achieve their aims call for tough opposition. At the same  
914 time this opposition must not be allowed to compete with respect for human rights and the  
915 individual's right to respect for personal integrity. The struggle between the interests of the  
916 people and those of capital continues, the issue of whether power should be measured in terms  
917 of money or in terms of every person's democratic right to vote. This globalisation offers great  
918 opportunities but brings with it problems and very real challenges.  
919

920 People all over the world bear the same hope of being able to live in a secure and socially  
921 responsible society based on respect for human values.  
922

- 923 • Through democratic elections between free political parties citizens can make their  
924 voices heard on issues of social reform and free trade union rights.
- 925 • The advances of democracy mean that fewer people die of famine and fewer wars are  
926 fought between nation states.
- 927 • The current pitching of low-pay countries against each other makes it difficult to  
928 struggle for better conditions.

929 Our conclusion is not that we should prevent change but rather that we must steer the process  
930 of change. It will not be international capital interests that ensure that people will be prepared  
931 for work in new branches. What is needed instead is firm political decision-making and trade  
932 union-political co-operation in order to achieve success in the face of global competition.  
933

934 One of the most important ideas in the socialist and social democratic movement is that  
935 security for people and investment in skills is a prerequisite for greater growth.  
936

- 937 • We do not believe that insecurity and fear of losing one's job can contribute to  
938 development.
- 939 • Collective solutions to the problems of education, health, the environment and  
940 infrastructure are often the most effective.
- 941 • We as young socialists and social democrats, have two parallel strategies. We can in a  
942 spirit of solidarity work to ensure that globalisation spreads welfare all over the world  
943 and that everyone can feel secure in their jobs.

944 The expanded globalisation of the last few decades has contributed to increased welfare and a  
945 higher average income level almost everywhere. But still today, almost half of the world's  
946 population live on an income of less than two dollars per day. The majority are women. More  
947 than half a billion people in work earn less than a dollar per day. A person living in the  
948 industrialised world is expected to live almost 30 years longer than a person living in one of the  
949 least developed countries in the world.  
950

951 Making demands for a trade policy for developing nations and sharpening the struggle for  
952 decent working conditions is not enough.  
953

- 954 • The industrialised world must not disadvantage developing nations by means of import  
955 tariffs and export subsidies to their own industries and to farming. The developing  
956 nations are losing incredible sums because of trade barriers. It is especially important  
957 that subsidies to farming in tobacco production and alcohol are abolished.
- 958 • Farming is the most important sector in developing economies. It is therefore of decisive  
959 importance that the European and North American farm policies are reformed. The EU  
960 initiative in abolishing trade barriers for the least developed countries is a step in the  
961 right direction.
- 962 • Every year the EU spends almost half of its budget on direct subsidies to agricultural  
963 production, equivalent to more than the total global aid budget. These resources should  
964 be used to develop welfare, improve the environment, develop the countryside and  
965 strengthen European competitiveness instead.
- 966 • Both domestic disadvantages and foreign dumping of foodstuffs strike hard at the  
967 majority of the world's poor who depend on agriculture for a living.
- 968 • Genuine free trade in agricultural products would provide for greater security and better  
969 incomes for both farmers in developing countries as well as for industrial workers in the  
970 rich countries.

971 We will work to ensure that more countries strive towards the best of conditions, with  
972



973 opportunities for development and a fair distribution of wealth.

974  
975 Used in the right way, aid can act as a catalyst for increased education, equality between men  
976 and women and for building faith in the future but it can also be used to fight corrupt and  
977 undemocratic governments. Together with efforts in other areas aid can create the conditions  
978 for development. Unfortunately, there are few countries in the rich world that live up to the UN  
979 goal of 0.7 percent of their GNP in aid. Within the EU we are well on our way and aid is rising  
980 slowly but surely, though countries like the USA and Japan must join in with considerable  
981 contributions.

982  
983 The increase in aid today is not enough. One way to increase global resources is to introduce  
984 taxes and charges by means of agreements between states. Poverty is a question of  
985 unreasonable conditions of living and of hunger but also of a lack of democratic influence. Aid  
986 is a contribution to breaking the powerlessness, hunger and hopelessness. For this reason the  
987 issues of democracy and human rights are fundamental also when it comes to aid. Aid on its  
988 own does not create a positive development. On the other hand it contributes to creating the  
989 conditions for development together with efforts in other fields.

- 990
- 991 • A long term effort to promote democracy and human rights, strengthen civil society and  
992 build institutions that function well.
  - 993 • The poorest countries must be given the opportunity to build health and educational  
994 systems and other institutions that the international investors show no concern for.

995 Aid makes for demands on the recipients as well. The main responsibility for a positive  
996 development lies with every country and its people.

- 997
- 998 • Corruption of every sort hinders development. For this reason it must be combated in  
999 different ways.
  - 1000 • One way is to hold back aid to governments that lack ambitions when it comes to a fair  
1001 distribution of welfare - countries where taxes are low and where corruption is  
1002 widespread.

1003 Women are often the poorest among the poor and those most at risk. The power relationship  
1004 between the sexes means that girls do not get to go to school to the same extent as boys do,  
1005 that laws governing ownership are advantageous to men, that women have lower wages and  
1006 poorer working conditions and very little say in the development of their societies. Aid must  
1007 contribute to increasing the opportunities for people to run their own lives and to exercise  
1008 influence over the development of their countries.

#### 1009 **5.4. DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS**

1010  
1011 Respect for human rights is a precondition for democracy and a fundamental expression of the  
1012 basic values of socialism. Human rights as expressed in the general declaration of the UN from  
1013 1948 as well as in other conventions form an inviolable whole. Despite the fact that all states  
1014 have formally recognised the declaration of human rights violations of these rights take place  
1015 all the time and deliberately.

1016  
1017 Socialists and social democrats hold that the human, political, economic, social and cultural  
1018 freedoms and rights are universal, indivisible and individual. They must not be violated by  
1019 states or any other actors. A decisive step forward is the possibility of holding individuals to  
1020 account for crimes against human rights within the framework of international justice.

1021  
1022 The rights of women have always been at risk and rooted in a traditional cultural underordering  
1023 in every society, though expressed in different ways. Equality between men and women is a  
1024 central social issue for both men and women. Creating equal opportunities, rights and  
1025 obligations entails changes in a number of areas of social life. It is a human right not to be  
1026 discriminated against because of sex, sexual preferences, and to choose who to live with,  
1027 together with the right over ones own body and reproduction. Neither in our own society nor in  
1028 any other culture can this type of violation be accepted. That women, regardless of what they  
1029 want, are passed on as chattels to the relatives of their men if they die, female circumcision  
1030 and murder in the name of honour are all examples of traditions that must cease to be  
1031 observed.

- 1032
- 1033 • When women are not given the right to decide over their own bodies it is not compatible  
1034 with a socialist and a social democratic concept of humanity.

- 1035
- Women must be given the same rights as men in every area of social life.
- 1036
- Poverty and structural disadvantage means that women and children face special risks of being exposed to horrible forms of trade in people and of sexual exploitation. This involves serious violations of their human rights. This is one more reason to fight poverty and strengthen the rights of women and children. This work must be carried out both at the national at the international level.
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- 1038
- 1039
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- 1041
- The role of men and the violence perpetrated by men must be given more thought. The discrimination of half of humanity must be made visible and combated.
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The violation of children's rights is extensive and especially distasteful since the victims have no way of protecting themselves. It is often their guardians that commit the crimes and the home that is the scene of the crime, just as it is for women. When children instead of being given a good upbringing, care and education are exposed to exploitation early on, it leads to a catastrophe for both the victims and society as a whole.

- 1049
- Child labour and other forms of slavery, every form of sexual exploitation, the use of children in war, crime, smuggling people and trade in children and their organs - all this must be combated forcefully.
- 1050
- 1051
- 1052
- Unless individual states are prepared to do something about this then it is up to the international community to step in.
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In a world where recognition, identity, security and influence are needed to defend ones interests and where they have been intimately linked to national states, the rights of those who are stateless are at serious risk.

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Murder and abuse are always wrong, even when carried out by states in the name of justice. For this reason we will continue undaunted in our struggle against capital punishment and torture.

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Popular education and knowledge are important if we are to respect traditions, cultures and religions. A lack of respect and understanding leads to racism, xenophobia, homophobia and religious fundamentalism. Democracy, peace and a good social order become the first victims. On the other hand respect and understanding do not mean that we abandon our basic values of freedom, equality and solidarity. Crimes against these values can never be accepted on the grounds of ideology, tradition, culture or religion. It is important that we understand and recognise that there are nuances and even large differences within a culture or a religion. No culture or religion can claim to stand free from democracy and human rights as overriding values. For this reason the same principled approach must be applied when it comes to the rights of citizens such as freedom of expression, free and regular elections, free media and the legal rights of individuals. Only by doing so could European democracy conquer its past dictatorships.

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Conservative ideas have been put forward from a cultural, political and religious quarters on a struggle between civilisations, instead of promoting the value of a many faceted world based on a democratic foundation. These ideas must be dismissed. We socialists and social democrats are convinced that dialogue, respect, tolerance and common sense can overcome differences and divisions. Fundamentalist intolerance and a lack of respect lead to deep divisions in the relationships between people, nations and civilisations. Wise political leadership can instead enrich the world with this plurality. Fundamentalism that can lead to violent extremism is something that exists in all world religions. This fundamentalism is the expression of a philosophy of man that is foreign to democracy, humanism and tolerance. Action to meet this extremism must to begin with be handled by political and religious leaders and not between religions.

## 1087

## 1088 **5.5. SOUND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES**

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Today international cooperation is developing quickly on the regional level. In Europe the EU is on its way to becoming an all-European organisation. Regional co-operation is also developing through Mercosur in Latin America, Asean in Asia and in Africa through the African Union. These are mainly directed at economic cooperation but touch on human rights, common security and questions that must be addressed in concert. These regional forms of cooperation must take on more responsibilities than they have today both for their own development and for security. It should be the EU that has the primary responsibility for upholding international peace and

1097 security in Europe and the AU that shoulders this mission in Africa. The EU with its superior  
1098 resources should support the organisations in other regions. The final responsibility lies with  
1099 the Security Council of the UN. Increased joint regional engagement strengthens both the UN  
1100 and global security.

1101 Along with greater regional responsibilities comes the need for more coordination between  
1102 them. We need better forms for consultation between the EU and AU for example and between  
1103 the EU and Mercosur, but also with the regions in the South. There are still great differences  
1104 between the North and the South even if the differences within these areas have increased  
1105 dramatically. The need for a well functioning dialogue is pressing. We must take into  
1106 consideration the perspectives and viewpoints of the South when we shape our policies. This  
1107 applies to aid, foreign, and security policies as well as policies in different rounds of  
1108 international negotiations and organisations, not least in the field of economics. Even other  
1109 areas of the world require a well functioning dialogue. One such area is education and culture,  
1110 where increased cooperation between the EU and AU could increase mutual understanding and  
1111 promote exchange even in other areas.  
1112

1113 The conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians affects the world in a way few other  
1114 conflicts do, and it affects our common security. Israel as the stronger party has a special  
1115 responsibility to demonstrate caution in the use of violence and to take the initiative in pushing  
1116 the peace process forward. Israeli settlements, the construction of the wall on occupied  
1117 territory and excess violence must cease. The Palestinians must distance themselves from the  
1118 suicide bombers. Terrorism can never be justified. We want to see an independent democratic  
1119 and vitalised Palestine side by side with Israel, with safe and recognised borders for both  
1120 parties. No change in the borders is acceptable that has not been agreed on by the parties.  
1121 Without mutual engagement there can be no peace. The world community must take  
1122 responsibility for supporting the Palestinians in the work of reconstruction. An international  
1123 presence is needed to strengthen security and combat terrorist actions. The EU must shoulder  
1124 more responsibility. The goal is a sustainable and just peace based on international law and the  
1125 resolutions of the UN.  
1126

## 1127 **5.6. ENGAGE AND DISARM**

1128  
1129 *For a peaceful world*

1130  
1131 ECOSY engages for a peaceful world. We believe in multilateralism, trust, respect, equality and  
1132 solidarity. The European Union history is a success story of peaceful cohabitation of nations.  
1133 Keeping the peace is an important obligation for us. The European Union shall support security  
1134 for the European Union through contributing to conflict prevention and conflict management.  
1135 This must be done through active diplomacy and wealth redistribution, and also through aiming  
1136 at being the mediator supporting sustainable solutions.  
1137

1138  
1139 *We stand for a solid conflict prevention*

1140  
1141 The external affairs of the EU, the Neighbourhood policy and the engagements of the EU  
1142 member states in international organisations like the United Nations and the OSCE should aim  
1143 to avoid or reduce conflicts and engage in civil peacebuilding. If conflicts heat up, we expect  
1144 the European Union to use its role to deescalate. War is not a political instrument for us.

1145  
1146 *We stand for disarmament*

1147  
1148 ECOSY calls for a strengthened effort in disarmament. The quantity and quality of produced  
1149 and exported weapons from European companies, is still increasing and jeopardizes the peace  
1150 in the world. Therefore ECOSY calls for ongoing efforts to reduce the number of weapons  
1151 produced in Europe.

1152 We strongly condemn Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. These  
1153 weapons pose a grave threat to humanity, independently of in which hands they are. To  
1154 achieve disarmament serious multilateral initiatives are needed with the aim of total  
1155 international disarmament as the final goal. The European Union must invest more time in  
1156 advocating international disarmament through all its channels and relations with international  
1157 partners. The European Union should also set the example by starting to disarm its own  
1158 arsenals that are in the hands of different member states. All nuclear weapons present in

1159 Europe owned by non-Member States must be removed or preferably dismantled immediately.

1160  
1161 *We want to reduce military forces in Europe*

1162  
1163 Defence policy in Europe has changed in the last decade. Moving from a highly armed defence  
1164 army in the block confrontation of the cold war, it moved towards a in worst case pre-emptive  
1165 and exterritorialy acting military force. We as ECOSY condemn the ongoing militarisation of  
1166 external policies in some member states. Pre-emptive attacks are not an option for us.  
1167 European armies shall only be used in a defence situation. The European Union's member  
1168 states no longer need national armies to fight against each other. ECOSY - Young European  
1169 Socialists calls for national forces to be reduced step by step. Nevertheless, limited ability for  
1170 military intervention should be kept as a last resort option in situations of humanitarian  
1171 interventions in case of genocides or when civilian population cannot be otherwise protected.  
1172 Military intervention should only happen under UN mandate and following a Security Council  
1173 decision.

1174  
1175 We as ECOSY believe that true security needs to be open and dialogue-based in order to be a  
1176 good basis for improved involvement of and cooperation between all states. Exclusive defence  
1177 systems risk new conflicts true exclusion. Therefore we see the mainly western defence  
1178 alliance NATO critically and wish to displace it by un multilateral approach.

## 1179 1180 **5.7. A STRONG GLOBAL LABOUR MOVEMENT**

1181  
1182 The basic human rights in working life must be strengthened and respected everywhere.  
1183 Freedom of association and freedom to make agreements must be guaranteed and slave  
1184 labour, child labour and discrimination, including wage discrimination between men and  
1185 women, must be eliminated. The work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) must be  
1186 given greater authority and more countries must be persuaded to ratify the ILO's conventions.

1187  
1188 The international and national trade union movement plays a decisive role as a force for  
1189 change in society and as a resource for sustainable economic development. Free and  
1190 democratic trades unions protect the rights of workers and their conditions of employment and  
1191 contribute to greater social justice. Without trades unions and progressive political movements  
1192 that cooperate across borders the multinational companies will easily be able to pitch  
1193 industries and countries against each other. Companies act across borders. So too must trades  
1194 unions and politics. For this reason workers all round the world must be guaranteed the right to  
1195 take international sympathy action. The emergence of a stronger European and international  
1196 labour law and of international trade union agreements is promising both in terms of economic  
1197 development and in terms of justice.

1198  
1199 From technology and communications to trade, economics and politics, the world is undergoing  
1200 rapid change. The consequences of this rapid globalisation directly impact workers around the  
1201 world, affecting their daily working and family lives. The key challenge unions face today is to  
1202 make economic globalisation serve rather than enslave working people; to defend their rights  
1203 in the face of increasingly centralised bodies of power. Trade unions are being confronted by  
1204 the new and difficult challenges of economic globalisation. Modern technology has erased  
1205 geographical borders and increased the pace of change in industry. Twenty years ago,  
1206 companies found it difficult to move production from one country to another - today it can be  
1207 done quickly and easily. The driving force behind this change is the quest for ever cheaper  
1208 production.

1209  
1210 Every one of these decisions affects working people and their families, which is why we believe  
1211 that international trade union activities are more relevant than ever. The core mission of a  
1212 strong global labour movement is to improve workers wages, working and living conditions, and  
1213 to ensure that workers rights are respected.

1214  
1215 A global labour movement should bring together trade unions at national and international  
1216 level to help members challenge the neo-liberal agenda of corporations and conservative  
1217 governments and to ensure all share in the wealth generated through sustainable economic  
1218 growth.

1219  
1220 Some of our goals we want to achieve by working together internationally are:

- 1221 • Build a strong global labour movement.
- 1222 • Organise the unorganised.
- 1223 • Strengthen international solidarity.
- 1224 • Engage with trans-national corporations.
- 1225 • Negotiate international framework agreements.
- 1226 • Secure workers' rights, including the rights of women workers.
- 1227 • Fight for sustainable economic development, and
- 1228 • Promote fair trade, social justice and the elimination of poverty.