



# EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

Guide to the manifestos of the European parties  
and political groupings

## PREFACE

The forthcoming European Elections running between the 4th and 7th of June are the largest ever elections taking place in a coordinated way across nation states. European Alternatives sees a potential in the European project to develop a politics beyond the nation state that answers to the demands of globalisation. For that reason we have produced a guide to the manifestos of the European-level parties and groupings standing in the elections. We believe that the only way a democratic Europe will be built is with informed voters who hold their elected representatives to account on their election policies.

European Alternatives is committed to the emergence of a transnational politics. It would be a mistake to call these European elections truly transnational in their structure: rather a series of elections in nation states are all happening at the same time. There are some transnational aspects to the election, such as the fact that European citizens can vote in any EU member country where they are resident, but the lack of transnational lists of candidates, the divergence of electoral rules in different countries, and the fact that most European political parties are groupings of national parties means are all blockades against the emergence of a sphere of political discourse beyond the nation state. But whatever the national contexts in which members of the European parliament may be elected, they will take decisions in a parliamentary chamber that has responsibility for all of the European Union, and that therefore exercises its power transnationally. For this reason it is crucial to understand the commitments of the political groups in this truly European context.

European Alternatives believes in the radical democratisation of Europe, and acknowledges shortcomings in the current institutional arrangements in the European Union. The European parliament is the only directly elected European institution, and therefore must raise its voice ever louder to overcome the democratic shortcomings of those institutions around it. This voice will only have authority if it is accompanied with the voices of the peoples of Europe, and the peoples of Europe must demand they are given a real choice at the European level.

Here we present the main choices, such as they are, for these elections.



Further information about the elections, the full manifestos of the parties, and ongoing commentary is available on our webpage [www.euroalter.com](http://www.euroalter.com)

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# INTRODUCTION

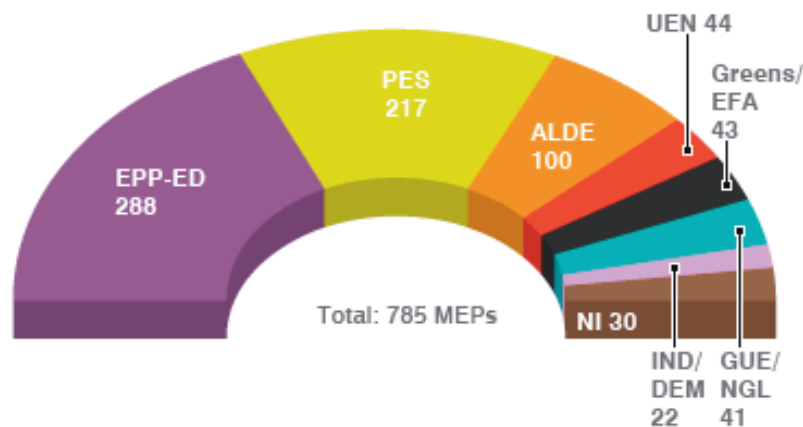
The next elections for the European Parliament will take place in June 2009. 357 million voters from the 27 European Member States are called to participate in the EP elections, where 736 MEPs will be elected for the next 5 years. The European Parliament is the EU's only directly elected institution and with the new Lisbon Treaty (if it will be implemented), this institution will have an equal footing as a lawmaker to that of the Member States' ministers, in virtually all areas of EU policy as well as playing a much greater role in the election of the President of the European Commission (EU's executive).

According to the European Parliament, there are 9 major issues that elected MEPs will face: economic and monetary affairs, social policy, climate change, EU enlargement, immigration,

terrorism, security, agriculture and - if and when ratified by all Member States, the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. The European political groups and parties have very different programmes and ideas for the future of Europe.

MEPs organise themselves in political groups according to their political affinities while the political objectives vary from one political group to another. There are currently 7 political groups in the European Parliament with the biggest being the *European People's Party (Christian Democrats)* and *European Democrats* with 288 (of a total of 785 MEPs), while the smallest is the *Independence/Democracy Group* with 22 members. Around 30 MEPs do not belong to any political group.

## SEATS IN PARLIAMENT



Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats



Socialist Group in the European Parliament



Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe



Union for Europe of the Nations Group



Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance



Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left



Independence/Democracy Group

# GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) AND EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS

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The Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (EPP-ED) has been the largest political group in the European Parliament since July 1999. The Group unites Christian Democrats, Conservatives and other mainstream centre and centre-right political forces from across the 27 members of the European Union. The EPP-ED group, is a major political force in the European Union and it is the direct heir of the tradition established in the 1950s by Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer and Alcide de Gasperi. The EPP-ED group comprises the European People's Party and the non-party subgroup of the European Democrats.

Website: [www.epp.eu](http://www.epp.eu)

# EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S AND EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS PARTY MANIFESTO

EPP slogan for the elections:  
Strong for the people

The EPP's electoral program is divided into five major areas: economy and how to deal with the current crisis; climate change; the response to the challenge of demographic change; security (including immigration, food security and the threat of terrorism); and the role of Europe in the world.

In this manifesto, the European People's Party insists on its clear vision of Europe (as heirs of the founding fathers of European integration) in order to shape the future of Europe, according to common values and traditions. The EPP offers a conservative and Eurocentric approach for the future of Europe, as well as a non-inclusive idea of the European society.

## ECONOMY

The EPP insists on the concept of a Social Market Economy as the best response to the current financial and economic crisis. In order to limit the impact of the current crisis on the real economy, it suggests making financial markets transparent and accountable, restoring confidence in the banking system, and consolidating European and global supervision and efficient regulation.

Although there is no reference to the role of the European Central Bank in the EPP's manifesto, the EPP-ED group has insisted on the independence and strengthening of the ECB as a response to the financial and economic crisis.<sup>1</sup> Regarding the role of European structural funds no direct reference appears in the manifesto, although the EPP-ED group suggests a more efficient use of these funds to create cohesion within the EU and the implementation of the Cohesion Policy to promote the goals of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs.

Other economic priorities can be summarised as follows:

- The creation of knowledge-based and low carbon economies; the prevention of a resurgence of protectionism in the EU and the world; rebuilding the international financial architecture

by strengthening international cooperation; the creation of jobs while preserving good work conditions and increasing the employability of the unemployed; the increase of the investment in green technologies.

## MIGRATION

The EPP actively supports migration within the EU. Moreover, as regards the legal immigrants, it advocates that the EU needs a long-term strategy to encourage and attract talented, qualified and skilled workers from the rest of the world to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-driven economy.

Regarding the illegal immigration, which is seen as a source of organised crime and human trafficking, the group calls for more coordinated efforts – such as the establishment of Frontex. It supports the European Commission's Return Directive in order to balance the repatriation of illegal immigrants and human rights, and it guarantees the creation of a European Coast Guard to protect the coast of the EU.

Moreover, the EPP opposes unilateral mass regulations by individual Member States and supports the establishment and implementation of the Blue Card system for highly skilled workers in Europe.

## SOCIAL EUROPE

The EPP claims that pension reforms should be aimed at the implementation of flexible retirement schemes ("the burden of pensions schemes should be distributed across generations") while unemployment, disability and other welfare benefits must not be used as alternative pathways to an early exit from the labour market; and assistance should be given to those elderly workers who want to re-enter the workplace.

The party stresses the implementation and ratification of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Treaty, and underlines the importance of workers' rights and European trade unions.

As regards to health policies, the EPP supports a wider 'healthy ageing' strategy, which focuses on promoting healthier lifestyles. Furthermore, within a more transparent and regulated financial

infrastructure, private pension funds should be established as a supplement to public ones.

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

The EPP considers individuals as human beings belonging to family (and that this deserves special support in a moment of profound social changes). Family friendly policies such as education, employment, transport, health and the inclusion of the young people should be introduced in order to improve flexibility for working parents, especially women, who find it difficult to strike a balance between high qualifications and success in the labour market with their wish to raise a family. At the same time, it suggests the promotion of equality between men and women in all decision-making processes as well as in the labour market.

Although there is no reference to women's rights issues such as abortion, the EPP has refused to consider abortion as "a solution" to problems created by unwanted pregnancies.<sup>2</sup>

## **DEMOCRACY AND ATTITUDE TO THE EU**

The EPP supports the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights as a means to strengthen the democratic legitimisation and the judicial foundation of a Union of values. The EPP is convinced that Europe needs to be more transparent, more efficient, more democratic and more capable of acting in order to cope with the challenges.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

The EPP insists in the respect of human rights, religious freedom and democracy building in the world. In the manifesto, it supports the promotion of universal values and human rights in the Muslim world as a means to fighting terrorism and intensifying global cooperation.

## **EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND EUROPEAN VALUES**

EPP's idea of Europe is based on the values of a European common cultural heritage, common values and traditions deeply rooted in the

European civilisation: universal spirit, Europe's Judeo-Christian roots, the classical and humanistic history of Europe and the active role played by the churches in order to promote tolerance and mutual respect, among others. It believes in the promotion of religious freedom and freedom of conscience both inside and outside the EU and advocates that religious freedom of Christian minorities in other countries must be improved.

Although there is no reference to the prospect of Turkey joining the EU, the EPP considers Western Balkan states as having an accession perspective. It also suggests that European countries which cannot or do not want to become members of the EU should be offered a close partnership with the EU.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The EPP is determined to consolidate the EU position in the world by remaining a source of inspiration, guidance, and support for those non-EU member states seeking to consolidate their democratic system and market economies. More specifically, it stresses the need for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question; the strengthening of the cooperation with neighbouring countries such as Russia and the improvement of political and cultural exchange in the Mediterranean. It primarily supports to develop a firm and deeply rooted transatlantic relationship with America and work together with the US to spread democratic values and suppress fundamentalist terrorism.

Other foreign policy priorities can be summarised as follows:

- to consolidate the European peace area, particularly in the Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.
- to fight every kind of terrorism, including "political terrorist organisations" like ETA and PKK and to strengthen cooperation with Muslim countries.
- to give new impetus to the current European defence architecture with strong cooperation between EU and NATO.
- to intensify action so as to put an end to all forms of global terrorism.

# NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

## **Austria**

Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP)  
Austrian Peoples Party

## **Belgium**

Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams (CD&V)  
Christian Democratic & Flemish  
Centre Démocrate Humaniste (CDH)  
Humanist Democratic Centre

## **Bulgaria**

Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria  
Union of the Democratic Forces  
Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria  
DP (Democratic Party)  
Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union - People's Union

## **Cyprus**

Democratic Rally

## **Czech Republic**

KDU-CSL Christian and Democratic Union  
Czechoslovak People's Party

## **Denmark**

Det Konservative Folkeparti (KF)  
Conservative People's Party  
Kristendemokraterne  
Christian Democrats

## **Estonia**

Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit  
Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica

## **Finland**

Kansallinen Kokoomus (KOK)  
National Coalition Party

## **France**

Union pour un Mouvement Populaire (UMP)  
Union for a Popular Movement

## **Germany**

Christlich Demokratische Union (CDU)  
Christian Democratic Union

Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern (CSU)  
Christian Social Union of Bavaria

## **Greece**

ND (New Democracy)

## **Hungary**

Fidesz – Magyar Polgári Szövetség  
Hungarian Civic Union

Magyar Demokrata Fórum (MDF)  
Hungarian Democratic Forum

Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt (KDNP)  
Christian Democratic People's Party

## **Ireland**

Fine Gael (FG)

## **Italy**

Forza Italia (FI) (dissolved into The People of Freedom, which is expected to join EPP but has not done so yet)

Popolari-UDEUR (UDEUR)  
Democratic Union for Europe

Unione Democratici Cristiani di Centro (UDC)  
Union of Christian Democratic and Democrats of Centre

## **Latvia**

Tautas Partija (TP) (People's Party)  
Jaunais Laiks (JL) (New Era)

## **Lithuania**

Lietuvos Krikščionys Demokratai (LKD)  
Lithuanian Christian Democrats

TS-LK  
Homeland Union - Lithuanian Conservative Party

## **Luxembourg**

Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei (CSV)  
Christian-Social People's Party



**Malta**

Partit Nazzjonalista (PN)  
Nationalist Party

**Netherlands**

Christen-Democratisch Appèl (CDA)  
Christian Democratic Appeal

**Poland**

Platforma Obywatelska (PO)  
Civic Platform

Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL)  
Polish Peasant Party

**Portugal**

Partido Social Democrata (PSD)  
Social Democratic Party

**Romania**

PNTCD Christian-Democratic  
National Peasants' Party

Partidul Democrat-Liberal (PD-L)  
Democratic Liberal Party

Uniunea Democrat a Maghiarilor din România  
(UDMR) Democratic Union of Hungarians  
in Romania

**Slovakia**

Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia  
Demokratická strana (SDKÚ-DS)  
Slovak Democratic and Christian Union  
Democratic Party

Magyar Koalíció Pártja/Strana maárskej koalície  
(SMK) Party of Hungarian Coalition

Kresťanskodemokraticke hnutie (KDH)  
Christian Democratic Movement of Slovakia

**Slovenia**

Slovenska demokratska stranka (SDS)  
Slovenian Democratic Party

Nova Slovenija Kršćanska ljudska stranka (NSi)  
New Slovenia

Slovenska ljudska stranka (SLS)  
Slovenian People's Party

**Spain**

Partido Popular (PP)  
People's Party

Unió Democràtica de Catalunya  
Democratic Union of Catalonia

**Sweden**

Moderata samlingspartiet (M or MSP)  
Moderate Party

Kristdemokraterna (KD)  
Christian Democrats



The Socialist Group in the European Parliament is the second largest political force with 217 members. The Socialist Group consists of the Party of European Socialists (PES) which is a European political party comprising of thirty-two socialist, social democratic and labour parties from each European Union member state and Norway.

Website: [www.pes.org](http://www.pes.org)

## **PES MANIFESTO**

### **Party of European Socialist People First: A New Direction for Europe**

The PES is committed to creating a fairer and safer society; relaunching the economy and preventing new financial crisis; tackling the climate change; promoting social justice and in particular, gender equality; developing an effective European migration policy and enhancing Europe's role as a partner for peace, security and development.

In this clear and well-structured manifesto, the PES offers itself as a real alternative against the conservative majority in the EU institutions. The PES offers a more progressive program based on economic, political and social reforms to give a new direction for Europe: "people first".

### **ECONOMY**

In order to prevent the recurrence of financial crises, the PES proposes the reform of the global financial architecture to serve the real economy, jobs and growth (in cooperation with Europe's global partners) by establishing better regulation of all financial actors, better standards of transparency and disclosure, and an improved European system of supervision.

The PES believes in the principles of sustainable development, a European budget of solidarity focused on improving living standards, foster social cohesion and growth throughout Europe and supporting convergence of the least-developed EU regions.

With regards to the European Central Bank, the PES claims that this institution must encourage growth and employment while maintaining price stability.

### **MIGRATION**

The PES insists on the positive and undeniable benefits of migration: a wealthy and prosperous diverse society. On the other hand and in order to preserve this diversity, the PES is committed to stop illegal immigration across European borders; combating human trafficking through a common External Border Control Policy; ensuring a fair asylum policy for those fleeing persecution; achieving fair and responsible legal migration.

The PES claims that legal migrants must have the same rights and duties as other workers. It wants humane answers (based on values such as fairness, democracy, human rights and solidarity) to the challenges of legal and illegal migration by creating common standards for legal migration. It's aim is to implement an inclusive citizenship achieved by full integration of migrants into their new communities.

However, the PES also addresses the problems of "brain drain" created by the migration of highly qualified professionals and skilled works from third countries into Europe.

### **SOCIAL EUROPE**

The PES believes in a New Social Europe by tackling inequalities, protecting the most vulnerable people, non-discrimination and respect for all in a positively diverse society.

It supports the fight against poverty and inequalities through new goals and standards for national social, health and education policies. More specifically it seeks to guarantee a life of dignity through needs-based social welfare benefits for all those who are retired, unemployed or unable to work in European countries.

As regards to the workers' rights, it aims to strengthen information and consultation through collective bargaining in order to prevent exploitation, to promote decent working time and to meet health and safety standards and overall a fair work-life balance.

### **GENDER EQUALITY**

Gender equality is one of the key points in the PES manifesto. It focuses on the inequalities in the workplace (lower-paid, low-quality jobs) and the discouragement from entering the labour market; inequalities in politics as well as the exploitation and rights violations that millions of women face around the world. The creation of a European Women's Rights Charter is proposed as a means to achieve gender equality in all aspects of social, economic and political life. In politics, the PES campaigns for equal political representation in all decision-making bodies at European level and the creation of a European Commissioner for Gender Equality.

The PES suggests strengthening anti-discrimination legislation to ensure equal treatment on grounds of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

## **DEMOCRACY AND ATTITUDE TO THE EU**

The PES supports a more active European cooperation in an increasingly globalised world and in order to tackle common challenges. For this, it supports the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, subject to ratification by all EU Member States, which would make Europe more able to address common issues democratically, transparently and effectively.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

The PES considers human rights as one of the inherent values of the EU, which should always be respected and promoted. It is committed to ensure that EU legislation respects citizens' rights as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

## **EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND EUROPEAN VALUES**

The PES believes that Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity is one of the richest assets and a key part of its identity. It supports and encourages the values of equality, democracy, human dignity, solidarity, freedom and justice.

It believes that stability, prosperity and security of the Western Balkans lie on EU membership negotiations and partnership. It supports an open-ended process of negotiations with Turkey towards the EU accession, based on clear criteria and as long as both Turkey and the EU fulfil their respective commitments.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The PES is in favour of strengthening Europe's position in the world by promoting peace, development and security within and outside its borders (and within the framework of the UN). This would benefit people in poorer countries and at the same time it would increase European security; as a means to enhance world peace and security, the EU should actively promote an Alliance of Civilisations through the UN.

In order to strengthen its position in the world affairs, according to PES, the EU needs to speak with a single voice, for instance, by strengthening the role of the EU High Representative of Common Foreign and Security Policy. It proposes to increase defence cooperation within the EU while maintaining the Member States' defence and security policies and in coordination with NATO.

The PES also supports the reform of the UN, particularly the UN Security Council; the revision of the decision making process of the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF (where the allocation of voting rights must better reflect the interest of developing countries).

Other aspects of foreign policy priorities can be summarised as follows:

- a structured dialogue with Russia on issues including democracy, human rights, energy security.
- strengthening Euro-Mediterranean relations;
- an active role in resolving conflict in the Middle East.
- a comprehensive partnership with Latin America.
- a strong transatlantic partnership with the new Democratic leadership of the USA.
- Africa-EU Strategy to support the long-term development of Africa.

# NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES OF THE SOCIALIST GROUP

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## **Austria**

Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs  
Social Democratic Party of Austria  
[www.spoe.at](http://www.spoe.at)

## **Belgium**

Parti Socialiste, Socialist Party  
[www.ps.be](http://www.ps.be)

Sociaal Progressief Alternatief  
Social Progressive Alternative  
[www.s-p-a.be](http://www.s-p-a.be)

## **Bulgaria**

Bulgarski Socialdemokrati  
Bulgarian Socialdemocrats  
[www.pbs-d.bg](http://www.pbs-d.bg)

Bulgarska Sotsialisticheska Partiya  
Bulgarian Socialist Party  
[www.bsp.bg](http://www.bsp.bg)

## **Cyprus**

Kinima Sosialdimokraton  
Movement of Socialdemocrats EDEK  
[www.edek.org.cy](http://www.edek.org.cy)

## **Czech Republic**

Ceská strana sociálně demokratická  
Czech Social Democratic  
[www.cssd.cz](http://www.cssd.cz)

## **Denmark**

Socialdemokraterne  
Danish Social Democratic Party  
[www.socialdemokraterne.dk](http://www.socialdemokraterne.dk)

## **Estonia**

Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond  
Estonian Social Democratic Party  
[www.sotsdem.ee](http://www.sotsdem.ee)

## **Finland**

Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue  
Social Democratic Party of Finland  
[www.sosialidemokraatit.fi](http://www.sosialidemokraatit.fi)

## **France**

Parti Socialiste  
Socialist Party  
[www.parti-socialiste.fr](http://www.parti-socialiste.fr)

## **Germany**

Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands  
Social Democratic Party of Germany  
[www.spd.de](http://www.spd.de)

## **Greece**

Panellinio Sosialistiko Kinima  
Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement  
[www.pasok.gr](http://www.pasok.gr)

## **Hungary**

Magyarországi Szocialdemokrata Párt  
Hungarian Social Democratic Party  
[www.mszip.hu](http://www.mszip.hu)

Magyar Szocialista Párt  
Hungarian Socialist Party  
[www.mszip.hu](http://www.mszip.hu)

## **Iceland**

Samfylkingin  
Social Democratic Alliance of Iceland  
[www.samfylking.is](http://www.samfylking.is)

## **Ireland**

Labour Party  
[www.labour.ie](http://www.labour.ie)

## **Italy**

Democratici Di Sinistra, Democratic Left  
(dissolved into the new Partito Democratico.  
The relation between the new party and the  
PES is still to be defined).

[www.partitodemocratico.it](http://www.partitodemocratico.it)

Partito Socialista, Socialist Party  
[www.partitosocialista.it](http://www.partitosocialista.it)

## **Latvia**

Latvijas Socialdemokratiska Strādnieku Partija  
Latvian Social Democratic Workers' Party  
[www.lsdsp.lv](http://www.lsdsp.lv)

**Lithuania**

Lietuvos Socialdemokratu Partija  
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party  
[www.lsdp.lt](http://www.lsdp.lt)

**Luxembourg**

Lëtzebuenger sozialisteschen  
Aarbechterpartei (LSAP)  
Luxembourgian Socialist Workers' Party  
[www.lsap.lu](http://www.lsap.lu)

**Malta**

Partit Laburista, Labour Party  
[www.mlp.org.mt](http://www.mlp.org.mt)

**Netherlands**

Partij Van De Arbeid, Dutch Labour Party  
[www.pvda.nl](http://www.pvda.nl)

**Norway**

Det Norske Arbeiderparti  
Norwegian Labour Party  
[www.dna.no](http://www.dna.no)

**Poland**

Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej  
Democratic Left Alliance  
[www.sld.org.pl](http://www.sld.org.pl)  
Unia Pracy, Union of Labour  
[www.uniapracy.org.pl](http://www.uniapracy.org.pl)

**Portugal**

Partido Socialista, Socialist Party  
[www.ps.pt](http://www.ps.pt)

**Romania**

Partidul Social Democrat, Social Democratic Party  
[www.psd.ro](http://www.psd.ro)

**Serbia**

Demokratska stranka, Democratic Party  
[www.ds.org.yu](http://www.ds.org.yu)

**Slovak Republic**

SMER - Sociálna demokracia, Socialdemocracy  
[www.strana-smer.sk](http://www.strana-smer.sk)

**Slovenia**

Socialni Demokrati, Social Democrats  
[www.socialhidemokrati.si](http://www.socialhidemokrati.si)

**Spain**

Partido Socialista Obrero Español  
Spanish Socialist Workers' Party  
[www.psoe.es](http://www.psoe.es)

**Sweden**

Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetareparti  
The Swedish Social Democratic Party  
[www.socialdemokraterna.se](http://www.socialdemokraterna.se)

**United Kingdom**

Labour Party  
[www.labour.org.uk](http://www.labour.org.uk)  
Social Democratic and Labour Party  
[www.sdip.ie](http://www.sdip.ie)

# GROUP OF THE ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE

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Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for **Europe**  
Alliance des Démocrates et des Libéraux pour l'**Europe**



The Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe comprises 99 Members of the European Parliament from 22 countries of the Union which makes it the third-largest Group in the Parliament. It is made up of MEPs from two European political parties, the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party and the European Democratic Party.

Website: [www.alde.eu](http://www.alde.eu)

## EUROPEAN LIBERAL, DEMOCRAT AND REFORM PARTY MANIFESTO

The ELDR manifesto is divided into four main points: **civil liberties; EU Single Market, Growth and Employment; Environment and energy policy; and Enlargement, foreign, security and defence policy.**

In this manifesto, ELDR focuses on the modernisation of Europe according to the values and principles of liberal democracy and market economy. With its 15 short and direct priorities, ELDR addresses mainly economic and political issues.

### ECONOMY

ELDR believes that cross-border competition, knowledge sharing and free trade in goods and services are essential for increasing the EU's international economic competitiveness. For this, ELDR calls for a single market for intellectual property ("fifth freedom"); the abolition of custom duties and non-tariff barriers and the opening of Europe's single market to the wider world. A competitive European business environment is essential to achieve the highest possible standard of living for Europe's citizens.

ELDR claims that sustainable growth, independence of the European Central Bank and national central banks and a sound fiscal policy are essential for prosperity and welfare. Liberals advocate that steps to reform the financial system are necessary and must be based on a better regulation and a proper supervisory implementation. They oppose policies of nationalisation, over-regulation and protectionism and support international cooperation where a reformed IMF should play a leading role in order to prevent future financial crises.

The ELDR's manifesto makes no reference to the European structural funds, however ALDE has already stated their belief that removing disparities in the levels of development of the various regions and Member States of the EU and in particular catching up with growing disparities within regions and Member States, should remain the main objective of the future cohesion policy.<sup>3</sup>

### MIGRATION

The only reference to migration in ELDR's manifesto refers to their support to a measured economic migration through the introduction of the "blue card", while addressing the damaging effects of the "brain drain".

This sustained economic immigration flows should take into account the reception capacities of the Member States, so as to meet the needs of the EU labour market in order to ensure Europe's prosperity. ALDE stresses that any measures to combat illegal migration and to step up external border controls, also in cooperation with third countries, must be compatible with the safeguards and the fundamental rights of the individual. ALDE believes that a coherent European immigration policy must be accompanied by an ambitious integration policy considered as a 'two-way process' that presupposes both the immigrants' willingness to, and responsibility in, integrating into their host society and the EU citizens' willingness to accept and include immigrants.<sup>4</sup>

### GENDER EQUALITY

There is no reference to gender equality in ELDR's manifesto however, the ALDE group has been campaigning for and sponsoring the European Parliament initiatives to improve GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) rights, to fight homophobia and discriminations based on sexual orientation, in Europe and in the world.<sup>5</sup>

### DEMOCRACY AND ATTITUDE TO THE EU

ELDR believes in the modernisation of the EU according to the values and principles of liberal democracy and market economy. ELDR believes in the necessity to adopt the Lisbon Treaty, which considerably reforms the institutions of the EU, enhances transparency, strengthens its democratic character and equips the EU with the necessary tools for today's global challenges.

One of ELDR's missions and values is a transparent, democratic and accountable Europe: ELDR supports a constitutional settlement for Europe.



## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Promoting human rights throughout the world regardless of nationality has been and remains one of the top priorities for the Alliance of European Liberals and Democrats for Europe.

## **EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND EUROPEAN VALUES**

ELDR believes in democracy, the rule of law, human rights, tolerance and solidarity. ELDR manifesto begins with the defence of civil liberties and freedom as the foundations for a liberal Europe.

ELDR supports the EU enlargement for those countries fulfilling the Copenhagen EU accession which includes “integration capacity” as an important consideration. Although ALDE is open to the enlargement process of the EU, they insist that the recruitment of new members should not become its prime objective nor should the objective of integration be to get more and more member states. ALDE strongly supports Turkey's modernisation along European lines, and are critically and constructively engaged in the present negotiations with Turkey, whose outcome cannot be foreseen. However, a number of ALDE members would prefer a solution based on a ‘privileged partnership’ or an extension of the current customs union between the EU and Turkey.<sup>6</sup>

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

ELDR supports a Common Foreign and Security Policy and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy to better serve EU Member States' interest.

In order to enhance the EU's military defence cooperation and its responsiveness to international security and humanitarian emergencies, new efforts must be made to strengthen and extend the European Security and Defence Policy by bringing together European defence-related resources and capabilities.

# NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

## **Austria**

Liberal Forum

## **Belgium**

Flemish Liberals and Democrats

Reformist Movement

## **Bulgaria**

National Movement for Stability and Progress

Movement for Rights and Freedoms

## **Denmark**

Venstre – Liberal Party

Danish Social Liberal Party

## **Estonia**

Centre Party of Estonia

Estonian Reform Party

## **Finland**

Centre Party

Swedish People's Party

## **France**

Democratic Movement

Civil Alliance for Democracy in Europe

## **Germany**

Free Democratic Party

## **Germany**

Free Democratic Party

## **Hungary**

Alliance of Free Democrats

## **Italy**

Italy of Values

Italian Radicals

## **Ireland**

Fianna Fail

## **Latvia**

Latvian Way

## **Lithuania**

Labour Party

Liberal and Central Union

## **Luxembourg**

Democratic Party

## **Netherlands**

People's Party for Freedom and Democracy

Democrats 66

## **Poland**

Democratic Party

## **Romania**

National Liberal Party

## **Slovenia**

Liberal Democracy of Slovenia

## **Spain**

Democratic Convergence of Catalonia

Basque Nationalist Party

## **Sweden**

Liberal People's Party

Centre Party

Feminist Initiative

## **United Kingdom**

Liberal Democrats



The Greens/EFA is a European parliamentary group made up of Greens and representatives from stateless nations. It was created in July 1999 from two separate and progressive European political families, the European Green Party and the European Free Alliance (EFA) and their will to co-operate in the European Parliament. It is currently the fifth group in the European Parliament and counts with 43 MEPs from 14 countries.

Website: [www.greens-efa.org](http://www.greens-efa.org)

# EUROPEAN GREENS MANIFESTO

## A Green New Deal for Europe

The manifesto of the European Greens focuses on the need for a new direction for Europe by creating a new economic and social system based on stability, sufficiency and sustainability. The Green New Deal means a Europe of solidarity that can guarantee its citizens a good quality of life based on economic, social and environmental sustainability; a truly democratic Europe that acts for its citizens and not just industry interests; a Europe that acts for a green future.

In this manifesto, the European Greens discuss on many and diverse issues, however their main focus is the need to offer a new direction for Europe through economic, social and environmental sustainability.

### ECONOMY

The European Greens see the financial, food and energy crises as an opportunity to transform Europe's economic and social system into one that will offer generations-to-come a future based on stability, sufficiency and sustainability. The Greens want to end the careless deregulation and to develop a new economy (a truly prosperous, innovative, stable and sustainable) driven by long-term prosperity.

In their manifesto there is no reference to the European Central Bank and the European Rescue Fund.

### MIGRATION

The European Greens oppose the idea of "Fortress Europe" and believe that immigration is an opportunity and not a threat. They defend equal rights for immigrants in the workplace and in politics and the opportunity of European citizenship. They oppose repressive, xenophobic and inhumane legislation on migration.

Moreover, the Greens/EFA have stated its refusal to the fact that the immigration and asylum pact focuses on border control rather than on prioritising means of legal migration; the systematic return of illegal immigrants represent barriers to access asylum and family reunification. They also accept the Blue Card proposal as a first

step towards a more open migration programme, while they reject any hierarchy of rights for migrant workers.<sup>7</sup>

### SOCIAL EUROPE

The European Greens believe that the European Union should defend social systems and labour conditions from the pressures of fierce competition, both within Europe and beyond.

Europe should lead a global economic revolution that can only be achieved by a massive investment in education, science and research in green, future-oriented technologies. This new economy requires a fairer society guaranteeing fair working conditions, equal opportunities and a decent standard of living for all. The Greens aim to reverse the widening gap between rich and poor and guarantee a decent minimum living standard for all Europeans.

The Greens want to strengthen social and labour rights through collective bargaining. Equality in the workplace is a must regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, disability, religion or sexual orientation as well as equality for immigrant or temporary workers. Finally, they advocate that fair pensions are needed to enable senior citizens to actively participate in economic, social and civic life.

### GENDER EQUALITY

The Greens claim that the fundamental right of equality between men and women must be made a reality. They lead by example: they have an equal number of male and female MEPs.

The Greens support the Charter of Fundamental Rights which implies fighting for equal rights for women, ethnic minorities including the Roma, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people and religious minorities as well as for social and civil rights. This also means continuing the fight against sexism, and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

## **DEMOCRACY AND ATTITUDE TO THE EU**

The Greens want to reform the EU, so that it can become a truly participatory democracy. As the only EU institution directly-elected by the people, the European Parliament should be granted the right to initiate legislation. They also support the reformation of the European Parliament and the way the MEPs are elected.

They support the Treaty of Lisbon as a further step in the European constitutional process. It is a compromise, and in many ways an unsatisfactory one, however it is indispensable and represents a step forward. They believe that the Irish No has once again demonstrated that national referenda are not an adequate instrument to decide European questions. The Greens offer 25 reasons to oppose Barroso's candidacy.<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, the political party EFA urges the reform of the EU institutions to achieve democratic legitimacy and to create greater openness and transparency in decision making. For this purpose, the reform of the Parliament is essential. The Committee of the Regions should be reinforced and reformed as a Senate of the regions. EFA wants a democratisation of Europe and wants to enhance the participation of the citizens through a direct election of the President of the Commission.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Greens emphasise that human rights are for all, particularly within EU Member States. For this reason, European policies must champion peace, democracy and human rights in the world and do so consistently and coherently.

## **EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND EUROPEAN VALUES**

One of the projects of the European Greens is to deepen democracy by decentralisation and direct participation of people in decision-making that concerns them, and by enhancing openness of government in Council and Commission, and making the Commission fully answerable to Parliament.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Greens are in favour of a new style of foreign policy for Europe: European policies must champion peace, democracy and human rights in the world through international cooperation and humanitarian aid. Moreover, they believe that the European Union must lead by example in its engagement with the rest of the world, devoting its energy to solving root causes of international tensions; and strengthening multilateral bodies and international law.

# NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

## **Austria**

The Greens – The Green Alternative

## **Belgium**

Ecolo

Green!

## **Finland**

Green League

## **France**

The Greens

## **Germany**

Alliance 90/The Greens

## **Italy**

Federation for the Greens

## **Latvia**

For Human Rights in United Latvia

## **Luxembourg**

The Greens

## **Netherlands**

Green Left

Europe Transparent

## **Spain**

Confederation of the Greens

Initiative for Catalonia Greens

Eusko Alkartasuna

## **Sweden**

Green Party

## **United Kingdom**

Green Party of England and Wales

Scottish National Part

Plaid Cymru – Party of Wales

# CONFEDERAL GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT - NORDIC GREEN LEFT

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**EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT**  
**NORDIC GREEN LEFT**  
**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

The Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) is a democratic socialist, eco-socialist and communist political group involving two main organizations: European United Left and Nordic Green Left. Danish, Swedish, Dutch, Irish and Finnish parties form the Nordic Green Left, and parties from other countries are in the European United Left. This left-wing bloc with its 41 MEPs from seventeen political parties in thirteen European countries is the fifth force in the European Parliament.

Website: <http://www.guengl.eu>

## **PLATFORM OF THE PARTY OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT FOR THE ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2009.**

**European Left slogan for the elections:  
Together for Change in Europe!**

In this manifesto, the European Left highly criticises the neo-liberal foundations of the EU and supports radical reforms to create a more just, democratic and social Europe. It offers a more progressive, inclusive and non-Eurocentric concept of Europe.

Website: [www.european-left.org](http://www.european-left.org)

The European Left is a European Political Party which sits as part of the GUE/NGL grouping but has its own coherence. It was formed in 2004 in advance of the previous European elections.

The European Left considers the next elections to the European Parliament as an opportunity to change the neo-liberal foundations of the EU and to open a new perspective for Europe. For the 2009 elections to the European Parliament the Party of the European Left adopted a common electoral platform based on the principles of PEACE, DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE and SOLIDARITY.

## **ECONOMY**

The European Left believes that the global financial crisis demonstrates the failure of hazardous neo-liberal capitalism, EU institutions and world economic bodies such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO which have imposed privatisation and deregulation.

For the European Left there are two alternatives: either the EU continues its current capitalist policy, which is deepening its financial, security, food and energy crisis, or the EU becomes an area of sustainable development and social justice, of peace and mutual cooperation, of the equality of women and men; of democratic participation and solidarity, where antifascism, antiracism, civil liberties and human rights are common practice.

The European Left questions the neo-liberal foundations of the EU treaties in particular the idea of an "open market economy with free competition": the unchecked free circulation of capital, the liberalisation and privatisation of public services, and the status and mission of the European Central Bank. It criticises the absolute independence from any form of political address and the lack of transparency in the decisions and actions of the Central Bank and strongly support the reform of this institution in line with the criteria of employment and social and ecological development and its submission to public and democratic control.

The Party of the European Left believes that the only way out of this crisis is to fight for a democratic and social Europe. It strives for a strategy based on the values of solidarity and cooperation, full employment, and a rational relationship with nature. This is possible only by changing the existing rules of the international economic and financial system.



## **MIGRATION**

The European Left opposes the idea of “Fortress Europe” and supports a cosmopolitan Europe open to migration. For this, the European Left rejects any EU regulation imposing expulsion, the already existing Frontex system of border controlling, the “Return Directive” and the “Pact on Migration and Asylum”. It supports the creation of a common EU refugee and migration policy in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the closing of detention prisons.

Moreover, the European Left demands a reinforcement of migrants’ rights to work wherever they live in the EU.

## **SOCIAL EUROPE**

The European Left denounces the neo-liberal policies that have led to scandalous realities, such as the increasingly deteriorated living and working conditions, featuring longer working hours, longer working lives, insufficient wages, growing long-term and youth unemployment, mini jobs, temporary employment and unpaid internships. The European Left demands the reinforcement of workers’ rights and the strengthening of collective agreements.

The European Left rejects the privatisation of public services and goods, and supports publicly controlled companies and more investment in education, nursing and health care, public transport, culture, and sport. Its priorities are steps against poverty, social marginalization and precariousness for full employment in regular jobs, increasing wages, pensions and social allowances.

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

The European Left stands for guaranteeing full equality of women and men in all aspects of life. Moreover, the European Left supports a European regulation which guarantees the right of women to decide on their bodies, free contraception and abortion within the public health system.

The European Left supports the strengthening of individual rights and freedom rights and the protection of the rights of those who are discriminated because of their ethnic origin, sexual orientation and gender identity, religion, ideology, disability and age.

## **DEMOCRACY AND ATTITUDE TO THE EU**

The European Left considers that the Irish, French, and Dutch “No” to the Lisbon and the European Constitutional Treaties have shown that an increasing number of people in Europe disagree with the undemocratic and unsocial policies of the European Union. For this and other reasons, the European Left reaffirms its “No” to the Lisbon Treaty and believes that the EU citizens must discuss and decide on an alternative to the Lisbon Treaty.

The European Left considers the democratic reconstruction of Europe as an urgent task to guarantee the future of the EU. It claims the right to participate in the shaping of the EU and its future development of all citizens and the reform of the European Parliament as a real legislative power. The European Left demands direct participation in the European decision-making process including referenda at EU and national levels on EU landmark decisions and the participation of civil society in the EU institutions.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

The respect and promotion of human rights are one of the priorities of the European Left in its project of a new direction for Europe. It supports the reform of the EU in an area of social justice, peace, equality, solidarity, and democratic participation where civil liberties and human rights are common practice.

## **EUROPEAN VALUES AND EUROPEAN IDENTITY**

The European left supports a cosmopolitan and secular Europe where different cultures can coexist in an ever more multicultural and multireligious society.

The European Left stands for further enlargement and supports the preservations of democratic governance, of guaranteeing human rights for all people, of respecting and protecting minorities and the state of law as important preconditions for negotiating with countries applying for EU membership. In the case of Turkey, the European left considers that Turkey must respect in a legally binding way the political and human rights for all people living in the country, including all minorities. For this, social and legal reforms in accordance with the rule of law to pave a democratic and peaceful way for all Kurdish citizens in Turkey must be carried out.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The European Left opposes the logic of military blocs, reaffirms its demand for the dissolution of NATO and the creation of an alternative concept of security based on peace, dialogue, and international cooperation. The European Left believes that security in Europe must be based on the principles of peace and security, disarmament and structural assault incapacity, conflict solution by political and civil means within the OSCE system, conforming to international law and to the principles of a reformed and democratised UN system.

The European Left supports more international cooperation to achieve peace and security and the active participation of all political forces and civil societies in the countries involved.

## NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

### **Cyprus**

Progressive Party of Working People  
(European United Left)

### **Czech Republic**

Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia  
(European United Left)

### **Finland**

Left Alliance  
(Nordic Green Left)

### **France**

French Communist Party  
(European United Left and European Left Party)

### **Germany**

The Left  
(European United Left and European Left Party)

### **Greece**

Communist Party of Greece  
(European United Left)

Synaspismos

(European United Left and European Left Party)

### **Ireland**

Sinn Fein  
(European United Left)

### **Italy**

Communist Refoundation Party  
(European United Left and European Left Party)

Party of Italian Communists  
(European United Left)

### **Netherlands**

Socialist Party  
(European United Left)

### **Portugal**

Portuguese Communist Party  
(European United Left)

### **Spain**

United Left  
(European United Left and European Left Party)

### **Sweden**

Left Party  
(Nordic Green Left)



The Independence/Democracy Group (IND/DEM), set up on 20 July 2004, is the smallest political group in the European Parliament. The IND/DEM Group comprises of 22 Members coming from 9 different countries and it incorporates EU-critics, eurosceptics and eurorealists.

Website: [www.indemgroup.eu](http://www.indemgroup.eu)

The main goals of the Group can be summarised as follows:

- Rejection of the Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe and of all forms of centralisation and bureaucratisation. The IND/DEM group believes that the EU political structure is centralist and undemocratic as there is no such a thing as “European people”.
- Promotion of a transparent, democratic, and accountable co-operation in a Europe of Sovereign Nation States.
- Respect for traditional and cultural values. Peoples and nations have the right to define and protect their own traditional, ethical and cultural values. The Ind/Dem Group rejects xenophobia, antisemitism and any other form of discrimination.

One of its partners is the EUDemocrats, an alliance of parties, movements and political organisations operating as a transnational party at a European level and incorporating members from both the centre-left and the centre-right. Its project is the reform of the EU in terms of democracy with a strong emphasis on transparency, subsidiarity and diversity. Although it is close to the Democratic part of the INDDDEM Group, the EUD is not formally affiliated to them and therefore, follows its own agenda.

Another strand of the IND/DEM group, more radical and eurosceptical, consists of members notably from the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), who advocate the complete withdrawal of their country from the EU. The UKIP considers the EU as an alien system of government which is inherently bad for Britain’s economy and prosperity.

There is no common programme for the members of the IND/DEM group.

## NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

### **Czech Republic**

Nezavisli

### **Denmark:**

JuniBevægelsen

### **France**

Mouvement pour la France

### **Greece**

LAOS

(People’s Orthodox Rally)

### **Netherlands**

ChristenUnie – SGP

### **Poland**

League of Polish Families

### **Sweden**

Junilistan

### **United Kingdom**

UKIP

(United Kingdom Independence Party)



The Union for Europe of the Nations Group (UEN) is currently the fourth political force in the European Parliament with 44 MEPs - with the largest membership from Poland, 20, followed by Italy with 13 MEPs. The Group consists of representatives of the Alliance for Europe of the Nations, part of the membership of EU Democrats and 3 non-aligned national parties.

Website: [www.uengroup.org](http://www.uengroup.org)

The Group, established in 1999 and is situated in the right political spectrum. It takes a stand for Europe of state-nations, which enables the governments and states to join their efforts for coordination and cooperation in order to establish more consolidated and stable Europe, based on diversity.

There is no common UEN campaign in this election as the parties tend to put national issues first. Some argue that the UEN's future is uncertain, since Fianna Fail has left as of 17 April 2009. While the UEN in the broad is national-conservative, some members are uncomfortable with this political line. The Italian National Alliance has left the UEN grouping as it merged with The People of Freedom Party in March 2009, which is expected to join the EPP.

The Alliance for Europe of the Nations is a pan-European political party that gathers conservative and national-conservative parties across the continent. The common programme of the Alliance for Europe of the Nations can be summarised as follows:

- The political, economic and cultural unit should be the nation-state and Europe should be based on the legal equality of sovereign states.
- Diversity should be founded on the respect of the traditions of the states and a united Europe should not equal to a uniform Europe.<sup>9</sup>

## NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

### **Cyprus**

Fighting Democratic Movement

### **Estonia**

People's Union of Estonia

### **France**

Rally for France

### **Latvia**

For Fatherland and Freedom

### **Lithuania**

Lithuanian Peasant Popular Union

Order and Justice

### **Luxemburg**

Alternative Democratic Reform Party

### **Poland**

Law and Justice

### **Slovakia**

Movement for Democracy

# NOTES

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