

PLATFORM FOR A EUROPEAN SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE PARTY.

We think the world is changing. Forms of production and work are changing, and, as a consequence, society is changing,

The change we are facing is mostly produced by worldwide economic and financial powers, which politics often cannot handle. The development of global capitalism affects the daily life of every citizen, making him/her feel lonelier and less protected in the complexity of the modern world. So far, the economic globalization has increased the global wealth, but, at the same time, has widened the gap between the rich and the poor. The countries that are not well prepared for the challenges of globalization risk missing out on the potential benefits that globalization may offer.

It is necessary to come back to politics, in order to invest the best energies in favour of a new affluent society, which may be both economically prosperous and able to focus on the quality of life. It is necessary to restore the leadership of politics over economy.

There is no doubt that young people in all parts of Europe are aware of the challenges of the current social and political order. The young generation, to fully express their potential, need stability in the political and social system, which is to be built in our continent. But how can we do that? It is necessary to encourage European democracy, regenerating the institutions and focusing on building a new "European pattern" (model), which may be able to go beyond the fragmented current situation. In order to follow this pattern, it is necessary to make new policy instruments effective: we believe that the main instruments for the creation of a political Europe must be the parties.

The challenge we are asked to accept is to create a mass movement with both an ideal and a practical aim; the challenge is to give room and time to the European citizenship and sovereignty; and to create a new identity and a deep public consciousness in the feelings of our citizens.

If we Europeans really want to be a decisive and important point of interjection in a politically multipolar world, it is necessary to summon up the courage to go beyond the boundaries.

The time of Maastricht is coming to an end and we cannot consider it solely in terms of numbers and criteria.

For this reason we think the very ESP is summoned to a revealing discontinuity and to a historic change: it is now or never.

We demand the Socialist Party at the Meeting in Madrid next October to be open to new cultural horizons and make a definite change, fully including all the reformist, democratic and liberal European forces. There is a serious risk of the dominance of the neo-con right wing, which is completely inadequate to the task of understanding and confronting complicated current situations. We believe that the gathering of new cultures and individuals is the only answer to confronting the threat posed by this movement's predominance.

We dream of building a strong and inclusive political party which is able to solve the global contradictions, environmental issues, ethical questions and individual discomfort that are currently fragmenting society.

We think the ESP may add the adjectives "democratic" and "liberal (progressive)" to "socialist" and this will not dilute its own identity. On the contrary, it will courageously face the necessity to formulate an alternative project able to give rise to a new idea of the future, for which many Europeans in their lands may live up and passionately strive.