

# Europe. Clearly. Different.

The LSAP's manifesto for the 2019 European elections

## **Europe. Clearly. Different.**

Europe is the peace, democracy and common values that we share with our fellow European citizens.

Europe is the freedom to travel and work without checks or conditions. Europe is the freedom for our youth to study and develop themselves in all countries of the European Union, to experience other cultures and meet new people.

Europe is the largest single market in the world underpinning the prosperity of our country. Europe is a strong single currency.

Europe is also the guarantee of minimum social rights for all and the protection of personal data in the digital age. Europe is the bastion of consumer rights.

Europe allows us, Luxembourgers, to discuss and decide alongside our European partners on an equal footing. Europe gives force to our voice in the world.

There is no alternative to Europe.

But Europe has lost its energy. Solidarity between European states seems to be worn out. Austerity politics has reinforced inequalities and weakened Europeans' confidence in politics.

Too many find themselves in a precarious situation. They face poverty or the risk of poverty and lack money each month. One European child in four is affected by poverty.

The poor are in particular the most harmed by the consequences of environmental issues. They suffer the most from air pollution, poor water quality and the impacts of climate change.

Nationalist and populist tendencies are reinforced by the frustration of those people left behind by the current economic system.

There is a common denominator to all of this: inequality. The social, ecological and democratic crises are all symptoms of a lack of fairness. They must consequently be addressed together.

This is all the more valid as these crises have a common origin: a short-termist economic system which cares little for human needs and still less for the environment.

We, socialists, are committed to a better Europe. For European policies which put people, social rights, ecology and the public interest at the centre of their concerns.

Voting for the socialists on the 26 May means voting for another Europe. A fair, unified, sustainable, innovative, democratic and peaceful Europe.

### **Europe. Naturally. Fair.**

Europe will only become social and fair if we fight inequality and injustice. Citizens, consumers and employees must be able to reclaim their rights effectively.

Voting for the socialists means:

- a strategy for the equality of women and men which ends all discrimination based on gender
- a European Union agenda to fight poverty. With the objective of reducing the number of people affected by 25 million in 2030 and by 50 million in 2050
- a European minimum wage calculated on the basis of national indices which will permit all citizens of the European Union to live decently in their country
- social protection for all employees, including those working for digital platforms and other sectors prone to engaging the artificially self-employed
- strong and stable working conditions for all employees
- the reinforcement of employees' right to co-decision-making throughout Europe
- a European employment agency to supervise the respect for employment regulations and to prevent social dumping
- a right to continuing education for all workers to support them during the huge transition in the world of work
- strict labelling of food products providing information on nutritional value, origin, environmental impact and fair trade
- new rights for consumers using online platforms covering issues of delivery, the right to rescind, legal protection against new types of fraud
- the possibility for consumers to come together to launch class-actions throughout Europe.

### **Europe. Undoubtedly. Unified.**

Europe will remain the largest economic zone in the world. It's up to us to decide its rules of governance. We must leave behind us an economic model which focuses exclusively on short-term profit. People and the environment must be placed at the centre of economic thoughts. The European economic model must be sustainable, social and fair.

Voting for the socialists means:

- the introduction of a "corporate responsibility passport" fixing mandatory social and ecological criteria for businesses which want to access the European single market

- social and ecological criteria in public procurement
- corporate taxation with a minimum effective rate of 18% throughout the European Union to ensure that all businesses contribute to tax revenues. This applies equally to large multinationals and to companies operating in the digital sector
- a financial transactions tax used to fund the ecological and digital transitions
- better cooperation between the tax authorities of European Union member states
- rethinking the requirement for unanimity of member states on tax matters at the European Council
- a European policy to support small and medium enterprises in general and to favour enterprises in the social and cooperative economy in particular. Europe must be attractive to entrepreneurs
- strengthening European industry which must remain competitive and innovative to continue Europe's long industrial tradition.

### **Europe. Categorically. Renewable.**

Science leaves no doubt: we must limit the warming of the climate to 1.5°C if we want to leave a viable planet to our children and grand-children. The emergency is as acute for other environmental issues such as biodiversity and soil fertility. As with all environmental risks, climate issues represent fundamental challenges of fairness between generations and between rich and poor. Europe needs a socially fair ecological transition.

Voting for the socialists means:

- a science-based climate and energy strategy for 2050 integrating a socially fair transition and foreseeing specific transition programmes for sectors of high energy intensity
- a European investment policy which stimulates the energy transition as a priority
- a European agricultural policy which follows climate and biodiversity objectives in combination, guaranteeing fair prices to farmers, valuing their role in healthy food production and supply chains, and which helps young farmers to access agricultural land
- budgetary rules for member states which, in addition to the criteria for public debt and deficits, include social and ecological objectives
- a new mandate for the European Central Bank so that its policy doesn't only target price stability but also social and ecological objectives
- a fiscal policy which penalizes pollution and reduces the tax burden on employment
- strict measures to eliminate single use plastic, to limit food waste and to increase the useful life of electronic devices.

### **Europe. Absolutely. Innovative.**

The 4th industrial revolution is underway. Digitalization, robotization and artificial intelligence create new opportunities in all sectors of society. We need to ensure that everyone benefits from this chance. No one should be excluded. Education and professional development must remain accessible to all. At the same time, it's essential to guarantee the respect for our fundamental European values in a digital world: freedom of expression, personal security, tolerance, mutual respect and consumer protection must remain the pillars of our society.

Voting for the socialists means:

- a European investment policy focused on research and development favouring dynamic innovation especially by small and medium enterprises
- the right to professional development at the European level and guaranteed employment for those confronted by the risk of redeployment or even the loss of their job due to the impact of digitalization and robotization
- no automated filtering system, which would reduce freedom of opinion and expression, in the context of the copyright directive. On the contrary, requirements should be placed on digital platforms, notably regarding payments to content creators
- further reductions in geographical blocking to ensure free access to online content throughout Europe
- efficient European co-operation on cyber security.

### **Europe. Definitely. Democratic.**

The future of European democracy is at risk. Nationalist and populist forces manipulating public discourse, European institutions lacking transparency, multinationals exerting a disproportionate influence on political decisions, representatives of civil society being excluded from democratic processes are all factors which feed the disillusion amongst our citizens regarding the European project. Concluding a new contract between Europe and its citizens is vital to reinvigorating European democracy.

Voting for socialists means:

- a rapid introduction of reinforced rights to citizens' petitions as well as the harmonization of voting rights in the EU to guarantee the same rights to the citizens of all member states
- more transparent decision-making, especially at the EU Council
- reinforced parliamentary control over all political decisions, especially in respect of finance and the economy
- protection of whistleblowers at the European level
- the introduction of a new social dialogue giving additional rights to unions and civil society in European legislative processes
- the expansion of the right to negotiate and conclude collective bargaining agreements.

### **Europe. Forever. At peace.**

The fundamental ideals and world vision on which the European Union rests are more and more challenged internationally. If Europe is above all a peace project, its survival depends on our continued commitment to multilateralism, to the rule of law and human rights. Europe must have a strong and independent foreign policy to defend its citizens and its values and to speak with one voice at the global level.

Voting for the socialists means:

- abandoning unanimous voting on foreign policy matters to guarantee an effective European foreign policy
- a fight to the end to safeguard the INF treaty and to develop new multilateral disarmament treaties with the ultimate goal of abolishing nuclear weapons
- putting in place strict legal frameworks to regulate or forbid lethal autonomous weapons systems, cyber weapons and other new weapons systems

- a European action plan for development aid based on the 17 sustainable development objectives of Agenda 2030 and the obligation for member states to allocate at least 0,7% of their GDP to development aid
- to impose social and ecological norms in free trade agreements to protect citizens, employment and the environment
- the revision of the Dublin III Regulation which should aim at a unified and fair system of allocation for the placement of migrants to reduce the pressure on certain member states
- improved European regulation for the integration of migrants.

There is no alternative to Europe. There are however alternatives to current European policies. The socialists aspire to a Europe which places citizens at the centre of its issues. A fairer Europe, more social, more ecological. A Europe of solidarity within its borders but also beyond them. A Europe facing the future.

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