

European Socialists eager to work with U.S. Democrats

OPORTO, Portugal (Reuters) - European Socialists promised on Thursday to work to rebuild Europe's strategic alliance with the United States now that the Democrats control Congress after last month's elections.



Symbol of the Pro-Global Taxes Party of European Socialists (PES)

INTERNATIONAL **Herald Tribune**

U.S. Democrat leader Dean tells Europe his party wants to rebuild relations

The Associated Press
Friday,

PORTO, Portugal

U.S. Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean told European Socialist leaders Friday his party intended to restore close political ties with the continent.

Democrats now "have a say" in U.S. policy after last month's midterm elections brought them control of both houses of the U.S. Congress, Dean said in a speech to a congress of Europe's center-left parties in northern Portugal.

US elections - new directions for Iraq & Middle East and climate change?

8 November 2006

In a letter to Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean, who is due to attend PES Congress in December, PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said that he hoped that the US election results will begin a new era of greater cooperation and understanding between the US and EU.

In his letter Rasmussen states "By taking control of the House of Representatives, for the first time in more than ten years, the Democratic Party can – as Nancy Pelosi said – take your great country in a new direction."

"I am very hopeful that the Democratic Party's new direction for America will herald the start of a new era of greater understanding and closer cooperation with the European Union, and with all those progressive forces who believe that the world's problems can only be dealt with multilaterally: in cooperation and dialogue."

"I am excited at the prospect of a new debate – and a new direction – on Iraq and the Middle East, on the wider war against terror, on other global challenges such as poverty, AIDS, climate change and world trade."

On a more personal note he added "I have always admired America, and the opportunities I had to meet and work with President Clinton are among the most cherished memories of my time as Prime Minister of Denmark."

"I look forward to welcoming you our Party of European Socialists Congress in December and to forging new progressive relations between the Democrats and the Party of European Socialists."



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POLITICAL DECLARATION HIGH LEVEL POLICY GROUP ON GLOBALISATION

EMBARGO 5 February 2004, 14.00

EUROPE 2004

CHANGING THE FUTURE

Executive summary

Globalisation is a formidable challenge to the future of our planet, presenting us with both opportunities and risks. If we allow it to follow its course as a largely ungoverned phenomenon, it stands to undermine the integrity of democratic Nation States and the political systems on which they are based, as well as threatening the sustainable and balanced development of the world in human and environmental terms.

Europe and the world are faced with crucial commitments over the coming years. Ensuring fulfilment of the Lisbon objectives for a dynamic, competitive, social and sustainable Europe in the world economy; Making an enlarged Europe strong and cohesive; Attaining the UN Millennium Goals; Reforming the system of global governance and of the United Nations.

against the interests of the majority of the poorest countries; however, developed countries should open their markets, particularly for agricultural goods. In this context, Europe must address the need to reform the common agricultural policy to end protectionism.

- Be raised significantly. Financial contributions in development aid remain strikingly lower than what is recognised as needed. The 25 year-old objective of 0.7% GNP of developed countries for development aid has still not been reached. The European Union, while being the world's primary contributor to development aid, has not even reached half of that figure. Moreover, the Millenium Objectives agreed in the year 2000 by all the Member States of the United Nations demands at least a doubling of international aid. Europe should raise its aid substantially by setting targets for the achievement of the 0.7% objective by 2010. This additional budgetary effort will be facilitated by a more growth-oriented economic policy in Europe, as outlined above.
- To be completed by substantial efforts with regard to the debt of poor countries. Significant measures must be taken to alleviate and, over time, to cancel the debt of poor countries. Debt represents an obstacle to development and to the financing of essential policies, such as the fight against poverty, health, education, or the access to water.
- The prevailing "Washington consensus" must be replaced. A more sophisticated and more diverse approach to development policy should take account of people's social needs, the importance of education and vocational training, the need for real employment policies, the essential role of efficient public services for all, the consolidation of public administration and the national legal framework, and legislation to protect the environment and natural resources.

Faster sustainable and environmentally-friendly social and economic development in developing countries is justified on human grounds. At the same time, this development will contribute to stabilising the planet, eliminating armed conflict, controlling migratory flows, and rendering the fight against trafficking and arms proliferation more effective. Furthermore, this development will progressively open up new markets to the European economy, contributing to growth and job creation.

This is at the heart of our profound conviction that there is a positive and dynamic link between economic growth and an adequate re-distribution of new wealth. We have always applied this principle in our Nation States and in Europe through the Structural funds and regional policy. Today this principle should increasingly be applied at global level. It is in the spirit of the Millenium Objectives that **the development of poorer countries should, from now on, be at the heart of the international agenda of the developed world.**

But do even the richest countries have the budgetary means to provide what we now call "global public goods", given the tremendous financial demands of concerns such as the fight against poverty, AIDS and other diseases, access to drinking water, infrastructure needs, peace and security operations?

We think not. For this reason, a serious international discussion has to take place on where to find new innovative sources of financing, independent of national budgetary constraints. The idea of an international tax continues to gain ground and should be explored, such as a tax on speculative movements of capital, on CO₂ emissions, or a global tax on multinational corporate profits.

Within this new development framework, **strengthening social standards in developing countries takes on a new importance as a means of securing the quality of human life.** European countries, and other rich states, need to commit themselves politically and financially to faster, more sustainable development in developing countries. However, such a commitment cannot be conceived without a substantial effort on the part of developing countries to link economic progress closely with social progress. It is in the interests of both their citizens and our own.

In other words, **globalisation should cease to be a social battlefield that harms workers everywhere.** There are two ways of doing this: consolidating the role and competences of the International Labour Organisation, equipping it to uphold the social standards it sets out; or, integrating social standards into the trade liberalisation agreements of the World Trade Organisation. A renewed commitment from developed countries to raising development aid and allowing poorer countries to benefit more from trade liberalisation should lead to the emergence of a new political understanding between developed and developing countries. This should end the continuing perception amongst developing countries that social standards constitute a form of protectionism. Moreover, the goal of building a genuine bedrock of minimum working standards should be incorporated in all international and development policies, notably in the framework of IMF and World Bank policies. Only coherent action in this field can guarantee social progress for us all.

Furthermore, there has already been some reflection on how to turn the considerable economic weight of Multinational companies into a force for progress. As net beneficiaries of globalisation, multinationals have a duty that goes beyond profit maximisation. The concept of **corporate social responsibility**, elaborated over the past few years at European and global levels, deserves greater attention. While the concept should not replace the ongoing need for appropriate, binding regulation, tight and structured cooperation between public authorities, multinational companies, trade unions and non-governmental organisations is essential to exploiting the potential of corporate social responsibility to contribute to social progress and environmental protection. Furthermore, well-informed and aware consumers can strongly encourage more responsible corporate behaviour. Multinationals have the right to demand a political, regulatory and commercial framework that favours entrepreneurship and innovation. Society, on the other hand, has the right to expect socially and environmentally responsible behaviour of companies that is independently verifiable. There are only gains to be made from such an approach.