



7th EPSU Congress, 14-17 June 2004, Stockholm

Elections to the European Parliament – 10 EPSU Tests

Let us vote to shape EU policies!

Water, energy, health care, social services, dependant care, education, research, culture, information, transport represent essential public infrastructures and services. Citizens, communities as well as companies have to be able to rely on stable and efficient public services and administrations. The European Union must recognise the vital role of these services for citizens to exercise their fundamental rights.

EPSU embraces the enlargement of the European Union as a historic step in the further construction of the European Union. This development provides the opportunity to further build peace, stability and prosperity in Europe. But this also means that the European Union and so much more the enlarged European Union cannot be reduced to an internal market. The social welfare of all people must not be subordinated to competition rules.

The pursuit of a social European Union providing good jobs, democracy, respect of trade union and workers rights, an environment free of discrimination, equal opportunities, and improved conditions of life for all remains a political priority.

EPSU and its affiliated unions will mobilize their members to participate in the elections to the European Parliament and will measure the election programmes of the political parties by their commitment to a social, democratic and open Europe, high quality public services and services of general interest **against the following 10 EPSU tests.**

1. Lisbon Strategy: ensure a balanced implementation by giving more emphasis to the aspects of social inclusion and job creation through and in public services.
2. The enlarged EU: take action to enforce the social acquis in the new EU member states; facilitate administrative co-operation through training and information programmes with involvement of social partners at national and European sectoral levels; extend directive on workers' information and consultation rights to explicitly cover all public administration workers.
3. Services of General Interest: take urgent action on a legal framework covering Services of General Interest. Seek guarantees for essential public services as a means for citizens to exercise their fundamental rights. Confirm the right of local self-government regarding the organisation of public services.
4. Intergovernmental Conference: Take action for a democratic and social Constitutional Treaty, and to provide for the possibility to regulate Services of General Economic Interest from an angle of economic, social and territorial cohesion.
5. Working Time Directive: No to individual opt-outs, derogations only through negotiations, support implementation of the rulings of the European Court of Justice regarding on-call duty;

6. Growth and Stability Pact: promote sustainable economic growth through more investments in public infrastructures and services;
7. Migration: Ensure equal treatment of migrant workers and ethnic minorities on the labour market through active promotion of integration and combating racism, using legislative and contractual measures; disseminate and foster best practice policies;
8. Temporary Agency Work: adopt directive;
9. Gender equality: Take action to enhance quality job opportunities for women and reduce the existing pay gaps between women and men and address the issue of low wages for women in the public sector;
10. Pensions: ensure that pension reforms meet the EU objective to provide adequate pensions for all and that trade unions are properly consulted on the reforms.