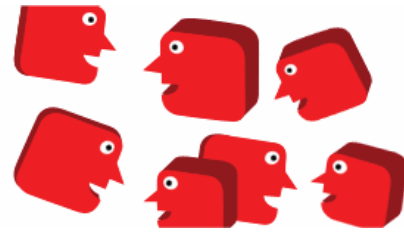




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## Consultation for the PES Manifesto for the European elections 2009: Discussion Paper

### Europe in the world

#### 1. The challenge

The world has irrevocably changed over the past 20 years. The very nature of **globalization** and the rise of new global powers mean that no individual European country is capable alone of really influencing world affairs. Economic, social, environmental as well as **security problems**, including terrorism, have made European member states more aware that it is necessary to join forces to tackle problems that go beyond national borders.

The EU's high population density, high dependence on cross-border infrastructure, economic and trade relations, energy supplies, as well as its geographical proximity with politically unstable regions and countries, exposes European member states more than ever to **security threats**.

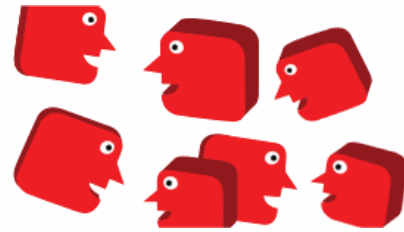
There is a continuing challenge to **democracy** and **human rights** across the world due to the lack of enforcement of even basic political, civil, social, economic and human rights, established under successive UN conventions. The European Union has fundamental responsibilities to fulfill as a beacon of democracy and human rights in the world and as a provider of asylum to those who flee persecution.

The European Union is the most successful example of **political integration** in human history and yet, at global level, we have been unable to develop a multilateral system capable of meeting global challenges. An effective system of **multilateralism** is ever more important given the scale of current global threats – dissemination and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, poverty and global pandemics - and the rise of new global powers. However, the last UN summit in 2005 failed to deliver its promises of a new multilateral system.

**World inequality** is increasing. Nearly 3 billion people live on less than USD\$2 a day. 30,000 children under 5 years old die every day. 186 million people are out of work worldwide. At least 12.3 million people are in forced labour. The number of people seeking to escape these conditions by coming to Europe will continue to rise as a result. The **UN Millennium Goals** (UNMDGs) are far from being achieved and existing instruments for development – such as development assistance and trade – are insufficient or not properly used. Official development assistance (ODA) is only equivalent to USD \$80 billion in 2004, far from the 0.7% GNI promised by developed nations. World trade talks are at a standstill. International trade is yet to be put at the service of sustainable development and **decent work** in developing countries.



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## 2. What's Europe got to do with it?

The European Union has a **common foreign and security policy (CFSP)** since 1992, whose five fundamental objectives are to:

- Safeguard the common values, fundamental interests, independence and integrity of the Union ;
- Strengthen the security of the Union;
- Preserve peace and strengthen international security,
- To promote international co-operation;
- To develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The European treaty identified several ways in which these objectives are to be pursued:

- Defining the principles and general guidelines for the common foreign and security policy;
- Deciding on common strategies that set out guidelines for co-operation with individual countries. Each strategy specifies its objectives, its duration and the resources that will have to be provided by the EU and Member States. So far there are Common strategies on Russia, Ukraine, Mediterranean and the Middle East Peace Process;
- Adopting joint actions and common positions. These commit the Member States to adopting a certain position and a certain course of action.

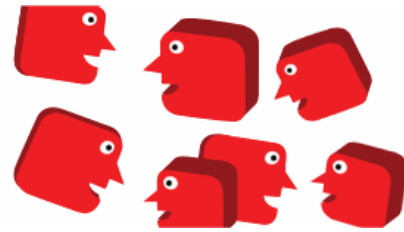
Since its introduction, the EU has come under criticism for not fulfilling the objectives of the CSFP, for example through its inability to act during the 1990s to prevent deteriorating relations in the **Balkans** and to act during the resulting conflict – which later led to the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) – or, more recently, its disunity in relation to Iraq.

The forthcoming EU reform treaty, currently under negotiation, would increase the EU's efficiency and visibility in its external policies, notably strengthening the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, charged with making the EU's external action more effective and coherent and representing the EU, in cooperation with the new post of President of the European Council. The new treaty is due to confirm the progressive framing of a **common defence** policy as well as allowing the EU to sign up to international treaties and conventions.

The European Union has incorporated humanitarian and rescue peace-keeping and crisis management tasks. These have become part of the **European Security and Defence Policy**, whose aim is to strengthen the European Union's ability to act outside Europe in international conflict prevention and crisis management. The EU has set the goal of being able to deploy a force of up to 60,000 personnel within 60 days, and to sustain it on the ground for at least one year, for the purposes of humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping, and crisis management. The European Council adopted the **European Security Strategy** (ESS) in 2003, which identifies today's most dangerous security risks for the European Union and strategies to effectively prevent these threats. Any future EU vision for its foreign policy and foreign relations will have to take account of the different **status** of



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each EU member state (whether they are neutral, members of NATO, etc) and its responsibilities also in relation to other international organisations such as NATO.

The EU does not have a **single voice** in international institutions, with the exception of the WTO, as member states have retained their individual seats wherever they are represented, whether it be in the IMF or UN. As a result, large global powers – such as the US – bring much more weight to bear in international relations than individual European countries.

The European Union is an important global player in international **development and trade** particularly. The EU and its member states are the largest donor in international development, investing roughly €45 billion in 2005 - more than half of global official development assistance. In 2005, the EU budget made available for development some €5 billion and €2.64 billion via the European Development Fund (EDF). The primary and overarching objective of EU development cooperation is the eradication of poverty through sustainable development, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, European development policy is criticised for being incoherent since member states do not properly coordinate their national development policies. Most member states are not on track to meet the goal of 0.7% GDP in development assistance. In addition, it is often argued that EU development policy would be stronger if it were better coordinated with other EU policies, notably trade, agriculture, conflict prevention, human rights and environmental policies. The EU has been accused of working against its own international development objectives, for example as a result of its market access and common agricultural policy.

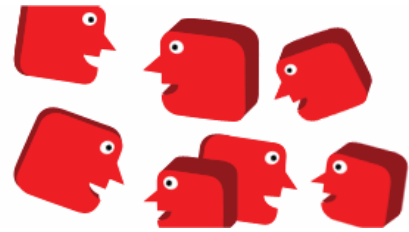
The only international institution in which the EU as such is represented is the **WTO**, since it has powers to negotiate trade agreements on behalf of European member states. The EU also negotiates its own bilateral trade agreements with countries or regional groups of countries. As the world's largest single market, the EU is the most important trading partner of many developing countries and exerts considerable influence on world trade. The current Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations must reach a deal that will help the poorest African Caribbean and Pacific countries to prosper. EU **trade** policy is an important instrument for achieving the EU's vision of development for itself and for the world.

Securing decent work for women and men everywhere must be a primary goal in EU Development policy. The EU supports the promotion of decent work in the EU's external, development aid and trade policies, but has yet to implement a comprehensive strategy on how to achieve this.

Another important aspect of Europe's external relations has been the development of relations with its neighbours. The EU is engaged in negotiations for accession with Croatia, FYR of Macedonia and Turkey. Through the **European Neighbourhood Policy**, the EU aims to avoid new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours to the east and on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean. The policy offers neighbouring countries a privileged relationship, on the basis of a mutual commitment to common values – including democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development - to move beyond existing cooperation to deeper economic and political, cultural and security cooperation. The European Neighbourhood Policy applies to the EU's immediate neighbours– Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority,



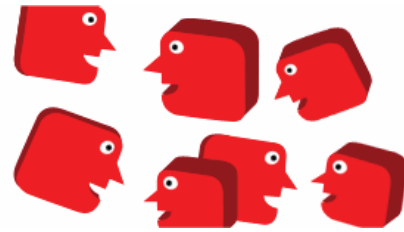
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Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Although Russia is also a neighbour of the EU, its relations are instead developed through a Strategic Partnership.



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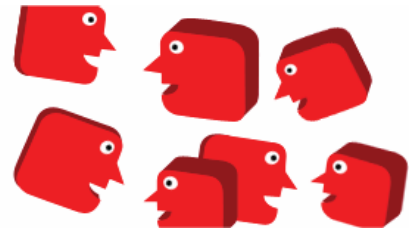
### 3. Our ideas

The PES considers that the EU is not using its full potential to make an impact on global challenges and global governance. The PES has been discussing the following ideas:

- The EU budget for 2007-2013 should focus EU development programmes on equitable development and shift more resources to poor and low income countries;
- The EU should work harder to influence development policies in the UN, the World Bank, IMF and the WTO, and in support of better participation of developing countries and more transparency;
- Greater participation of Parliaments in policy-making, in order to increase accountability, including national parliaments, the European Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, APEM Joint Parliamentary Assembly and EP-Latin America Joint Parliamentary Assembly;
- Democratic governance is key for achieving the UN Millennium Goals; therefore, we must strive to ensure that all EU development cooperation policies and programmes take proper account of the need to involve local authorities in developing countries and countries in transition, giving them the means to fulfil their responsibilities and giving European local authorities the means to offer their support and experience;
- Making EU development policy participatory and allowing more contributions from a broad range of Europe's civil society partners - working with development NGOs, but also women's and youth groups, trade unions, business associations and academia;
- For the EU to play an active role in the reform of the UN. The UN Security Council should better represent today's international relations and integrate new permanent members. The creation of a "Human Development Council" charged with ensuring the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and establishing structural links between the WTO and the UN, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Environmental Programme and the secretariat of Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- Implementing decent work as a global objective for the EU in all its policies;
- New ways of financing development must be found. Alternative sources should be additional to existing means, for example an EU-wide airline ticket tax as well as a European, and later on, international kerosene tax for financing development;
- The cancellation of the public external debt of the poorest countries. The EU must strengthen the case for faster debt relief for those countries committed to poverty reduction, as well as link debt relief much more closely to the international poverty eradication targets;
- Exchanges in the field of training between the military academies of all the European countries as well as human contacts experienced in practice (such as common exercises, operations, etc) must be encouraged and stimulated;
- Improve the EU's civilian-military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention;
- Respect of human rights must be pursued more strongly by the EU in its bilateral and multilateral relations;



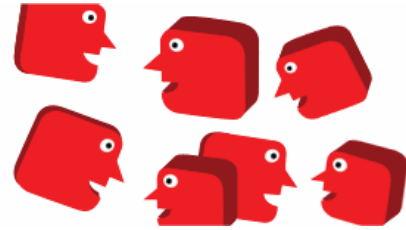
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- The EU taking a prominent role in further developing and improving the international legal order by taking an active role in the creation of international legal instruments, ensuring international accountability and promoting the role of international courts and tribunals.



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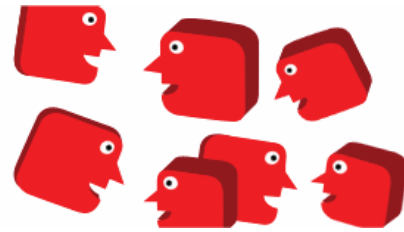


#### 4. Questions for you

1. How should the EU promote effective and collective international action on development and world security?
2. What sort of UN reform should the EU propose?
3. How should the EU facilitate common viewpoints and positions regarding security and defence?
4. How should the EU work efficiently with NATO?
5. What actions should be taken to improve transatlantic relations on security and defence?
6. How should the EU deepen its cooperation with other regional entities?
7. How should the EU support a better cooperation between the ILO and the WTO? What actions should be undertaken by the EU within the international institutions to promote Decent Work and the ILO Core Labour standards?
8. What actions should be undertaken by the EU to achieve the UN Millennium Goals?
9. What should be the EU's international trade policy?
10. What policies and agreements should be promoted to avoid fuelling conflicts over natural resources?
11. How can the EU's development policy ensure that developing countries have the capacity to meet their current challenges, including climate change and environmental protection?
12. How can we achieve security of supply and tackle high energy prices in developing countries?



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## Background documents

“Europe and a New Global Order: Bridging the Global Divides”, A Report for the Party of European Socialists by Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, May 2003

[http://www.pes.org/downloads/Europe\\_and\\_new\\_world\\_order\\_Rasmussen\\_28\\_05\\_2003.pdf](http://www.pes.org/downloads/Europe_and_new_world_order_Rasmussen_28_05_2003.pdf)

“Europe 2004: Changing the Future”, Political Declaration by the PES High Level Policy Group on Globalisation, February 2004

[http://www.pes.org/downloads/Europe\\_2004\\_Changing\\_the\\_Future.pdf](http://www.pes.org/downloads/Europe_2004_Changing_the_Future.pdf)

Decent work

<http://www.pes.org/content/view/483/111>

EPAs

<http://www.pes.org/content/view/945/112>

WTO

[http://www.pes.org/downloads/PES\\_statement\\_on\\_WTO\\_EN%20.pdf](http://www.pes.org/downloads/PES_statement_on_WTO_EN%20.pdf)

EU Development policy

<http://www.pes.org/content/view/297/112>

Debt

<http://www.pes.org/content/view/206>

Non-proliferation

[http://www.pes.org/downloads/Nuclear\\_Non-proliferation\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.pes.org/downloads/Nuclear_Non-proliferation_Strategy.pdf)