



## MESSAGE FROM IRATXE GARCÍA PÉREZ, president of the S&D Group

This is a crucial time in Europe, for the future of both the European project and our social model.

There are serious challenges that face Europe, laid bare by the coronavirus pandemic. The EU is under threat like never before. The inequalities that have been growing since the 2008 financial crisis have worsened during the pandemic. Populist, Eurosceptic, xenophobic and far-right movements are taking advantage of the crisis to weaken the European project.

There are real everyday challenges that affect all of us: post-Covid economic recovery, the climate emergency, globalisation, digitalisation and migration. The EU must show that it can and will tackle those challenges and offer an antidote of safety and security with a sound project for a better future. We, the Socialists and Democrats, have a clear vision to ensure the ecological, economic and social sustainability of the EU and to reinforce these values in the world.

**This time we can't fail. We can't fail the young people out demonstrating for the planet. We can't fail the elderly who are afraid for their lives. We can't fail the women demanding gender equality. Nor can we fail the many citizens who lost their jobs due to the pandemic or had to leave their regions due to a lack of opportunities.**

Now is the time for positive action and our political family has the right answers. We have the principles and we have the experience. Throughout our history, we have managed to combine idealism with effective action to tackle inequality and injustice. Now is the moment to do it again. Europe needs us more than ever and I am honoured to lead our collective efforts within the Parliament to turn that transformation into reality. Social democracy is, above all, about the future and about hope.

Let's turn this new page together. Let's make it happen together!

The S&D Group's Bureau co-ordinates its political activity and is made up of MEPs from across the EU.

**Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ**, president

**Eric ANDRIEU**, vice-president for financing a better, fairer Europe and co-ordinating the multi-annual financial framework

**Marek BELKA**, vice-president for international trade and engagement with citizens and institutions

**Simona BONAFÈ**, vice-president for parliamentary affairs, development (Sustainable Development Goals) and inter-institutional relations

**Biljana BORZAN**, vice-president for a new economy that works for all and co-ordination with national parliaments

**Ismail ERTUG**, vice-president for transformation, innovation and a strong digital Europe

**Helène FRITZON**, vice-president for a new social Europe of equality, cohesion and rights, and relations with trade unions

**Pedro MARQUES**, vice-president for European Green Deal and for communication

**Kati PIRI**, vice-president for a strong and values-based Europe in the world

**Rovana PLUMB**, vice-president for a just transition and demography

**Eero HEINÄLUOMA**, treasurer



## CONNECT WITH US



[www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu)







Our MEPs are committed to **fighting for social justice, gender equality, decent jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reform and human rights** to create a **stronger and more democratic Europe** and a better future for everyone.

**WE ARE WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH LIKE-MINDED GOVERNMENTS, COMMISSIONERS AND NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES. WE ARE A BIG FAMILY WITH A GREAT PAST BUT - MOST IMPORTANTLY - WITH A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE.**

We want a Europe with more **social justice, unity, gender equality and environmental protection**. We will be the voice of all those who demand urgent action to **save our solidarity-based social model, working with our entire political family through sister organisations** like the Party of European Socialists, the Young European Socialists, PES Women, PES in the Committee of the Regions and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies.

We Socialists and Democrats bring **together centre-left MEPs from all over Europe** to form the second largest political group in the European Parliament. We stand for an **inclusive European society** based on these principles:

**Freedom  
Equality  
Solidarity  
Diversity  
Fairness  
Sustainability**

## Our Priorities

- **TACKLE THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
by investing in our healthcare systems and ensuring a robust and fair EU recovery plan, **supporting the countries and citizens hit hardest by the pandemic.**
- **FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE**  
by implementing the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at EU level with the European Green Deal, **ensuring climate neutrality by 2050.**
- **A ROBUST EUROPEAN BUDGET**  
that serves the citizens and includes common European bonds and new direct EU revenues by taxing polluting companies and financial markets and by **ensuring that multinationals pay taxes where their profits are made.**
- **CONTINUE TRANSFORMING THE EU**  
towards a radically different economic, social and decision-making model including in the digital transformation, giving younger generations better prospects for a sustainable society with **better opportunities for everyone and no person or region left behind.**
- **DELIVER THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS:**  
ensure fair working conditions for everyone including EU legislation on minimum wages; ban all forms of exploitation including unpaid internships and zero-hour contracts; create binding targets to reduce inequalities; introduce a Child Guarantee to protect children from poverty; increase support for social housing; and **support families with better laws for maternity, paternity, parental and carers' leave.**
- **FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ACROSS EUROPE**  
and ensure that the **EU suspends funds for governments that threaten its democratic values.**
- **LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE TO INVOLVE CITIZENS**  
in the decision-making process on the EU's future by fully engaging with the Conference on the Future of Europe, **in order to strengthen Europe's democracy and resilience.**
- **SUPPORT MULTILATERALISM TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES**  
with the aim of strengthening our rules-based international order built on international law and cooperation, promoting fair and responsible trade, reducing inequalities, securing human rights and fundamental freedoms, achieving peace and stability, and **stimulating development and prosperity through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.**