



Socialdemokraterna

A Sweden for tomorrow

Extra Party Congress 25-27 March 2011



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“Social democrats do not seek power for the sake of power. We seek power to change society. Our conviction is that by working together people can build a society for tomorrow that is better than the society we have today. We are also convinced that the Social Democratic Party can become, even more than it is now, the democratic party of equality and opportunity that Sweden so deeply needs.”

From the report “A new start for social democracy”.



Sweden's Social Democrats will come together at a Party Congress on 25–27 March 2011. This extra congress will mark a new start for the party and create the impetus to shape an attractive social democratic agenda with its sights set on an election win in 2014. The new start launched by this congress must be seen against the backdrop of having lost the 2010 election. The Crisis Commission which carried out an extensive analysis of the party's situation presented its concluding report to the National Board on 15 February. The congress will make important choices and provide scope for broad debate. The debate will focus on three areas: analysis of the world around us, party organisation and policy development.

The Party Programme from 2001 must be rewritten. A proposal for a revised Party Programme is to be submitted to the next ordinary Party Congress, with the Programme Commission responsible for drawing up the proposal. This March congress will debate the current situation the party faces and its philosophy. This discussion will serve as important groundwork ahead of the revision of the programme and will be submitted to the Programme Commission set to start work in spring 2011.

An inquiry into the way the party is organised will commence in spring 2011. The discussion regarding party organisation at this congress will provide important underlying information for this inquiry.

The congress will act as the starting point for policy development work. The debates at the congress will be extremely important in terms of ongoing work to shape policy for the future. Bringing the party together at a congress to debate policy choices places the focus on the challenges we face.

This document is the National Board's *discussion document* for the policy debates at the congress. Like the congress debate, the document is divided into three sections: the world around us, policy and organisation. Within these areas the document sets out a number of starting points, arguments and questions posed by the National Board ahead of the debate. However, it is important to emphasise that the aim of the congress is not to form an opinion on the wording or the content of the



document. The document constitutes the National Board's underlying discussion material for the debates at the Party Congress. The discussion at the congress will be an important starting point for developing a social democratic policy for the future.



The world around us

From the Party Programme of the Social Democratic Party:

Everybody must be free to develop as an individual, to govern their own lives and to influence their own society. Freedom involves both freedom from external compulsion and oppression, hunger, ignorance and fear of the future, as well as the freedom to participate and to decide on questions together with others, to develop as an individual, to live in a secure community and the freedom to live one's own life and to choose a future of one's own.

This freedom of people presupposes equality. Equality means that all people, despite different preconditions, are given the same opportunities to build their own lives and to influence their society. This equality presupposes the right to choose and develop differently, without differences leading to social ranking and to social divisions in power and influence over everyday life and in society

Our challenges

As social democrats we want to work for a society in which everyone is able to develop their talents and abilities. Where there is scope for people to turn ideas into reality and make life choices. A society that gives people the freedom to explore and expand their opportunities can only be built by working together, helping each other and respecting other people's rights as if they were our own.

Social democracy has always been a freedom movement. We have fought to eradicate obstacles to human development. Freedom is an individual and a collective right. By reaching solutions together, we have brought about freedom from many unfair conditions. Through major investments in education we have created opportunities for people to choose for themselves how they want to live their lives.

The Social Democratic Party must be a movement in tune with the spirit of the age. Our age is the age of the knowledge society, with a transformed manufacturing industry and a fast-growing service sector. More people are remaining in education for longer, more people are in white-collar jobs and fewer have traditional occupations. Our



fundamental ideology and our values remain steadfast but as we have done throughout our history – with the welfare state, a strong society and a comprehensive welfare system – we now need to develop our ideas and our policies in order once more to gather a broad spectrum of social groupings together in today's globalised and connected knowledge society.

Our fight against inequalities and for equality must be in tune with people's differing dreams and affirm their ambitions, desires and successes. Our ideas must be firmly rooted in people's day-to-day lives, while at the same time raising the bar and taking us far into the future.

We want to emphasise our conviction that politics offers opportunities to change social development in the right direction. Social development is not merely something that happens but something that can be influenced and guided. We assert the importance of making important decisions together, democratically, at a time when market forces are gaining increasing ground. The future encompasses positive opportunities – where we clearly choose a path and forge forcefully ahead.

The social democratic social model remains strong. For us, striving for economic development and greater equality are two sides of the same coin. In Swedish politics there is no force that openly dares to challenge jointly funded, high-quality welfare and a social security system for all. This is because there is huge support for the social democratic model in Swedish society. Despite this we are seeing shared resources being cut and social insurance and unemployment insurance undermined.

Societies that stick together, with great trust between people, have a better functioning democracy, better economic growth and lower crime than societies with little trust. A comprehensive, general welfare system increases trust in society. Therefore, a strong general welfare system that provides good security helps to boost the economy as well as improving society.



More education enables people to grow. They gain new perspectives and recognise new opportunities. They also demand greater power over their lives; they want control of their own existence and to have a voice. The level of education is increasing. People are moving to the big cities. People's everyday lives look different. We have to be better at being there for them, appreciating their ambitions.

Population change is a challenge that the whole of Sweden faces. Major educational disparities create major income disparities – this is why the growth and distribution of knowledge plays an important role in shaping the society of the future. One important task for us is to create more chances for everyone across the whole of Sweden, in cities and in sparsely populated areas, to choose their path in life and shape their future.

Globalisation is a strong force in social development. It opens up new export markets and lowers the price of many consumer goods. Globalisation shift power and wealth between countries and within countries. At the same time it reduces global inequalities. In countries such as China, India and Brazil, hundreds of millions of people are lifting themselves out of poverty at the same time as the inequalities in these countries are growing.

New inequalities arise when the power balance of societies shifts. The new inequalities we are seeing emerge – between people with and without jobs, between people with permanent jobs and people with insecure jobs, between Swedes who have moved here and Swedes who were born here, and between people with and without higher education – mean that we constantly need to develop the political methods we have used up until now.

Globalisation means that the new major countries of India and China, which now account for an increasing amount of global trade, are providing increasingly skilled production. Hundreds of thousands of freshly qualified engineers are ready to add their bit to the global market. Sweden's prominent position in the global economy rests on our shared investment in research and development. Our competitiveness cannot be taken for granted but must be constantly secured.



The economy is globally interlinked. Economic disruption spreads across the world at the speed of lightning. Huge market forces can have consequences that are impossible to envisage. Over-mortgaged homes and poorly regulated financial markets in the US led to tens of thousands of people losing their jobs in industry here in Sweden.

As climate issues grow, awareness that we all share the same environment increases. Responsibility for the environment is an issue that affects every one of us and which is of crucial importance to the way we see society and the job of politicians. The international community has not so far succeeded in tackling the challenges raised by climate change. We need a climate transition that stimulates economic and social development and fairly distributes the burden.

The internet has brought about a revolution in human communication. One striking example is the popular uprisings in the Arab world in which Facebook played a vital role. People are coming together online in new forms all the time and the net has become an increasingly more important part of many people's lives. It has become easier than ever before for us to share our opinions and experiences. Freedom of expression has been extended. However, at the same time, penetrating questions are being asked about personal privacy and protection against rumours, bullying or crime on the net. Splintered media habits are reducing the number of shared arenas.

Commercialism is growing, consumption increasing and advertising becoming more intense. New gadgets can fill important needs or be merely a short-term stimulant. When it becomes increasingly important to show your social adherence by consuming the "right" product – being able to maintain your ability to consume – people with low incomes remain excluded from the social contexts that promote active choices, good information and economic power. Trends in the media and online are heading in the same direction with an increased focus on what is visible – on the surface. Many young girls in particular feel pressurised by the obsession with appearance that they encounter.

All people are of equal value but not everyone has equal chances in our society. Discrimination due to sexual orientation, gender, disability or ethnic background closes off people's opportunities. Particularly in the



world of work, many older people find that their experiences and expertise are not valued to the full.

Our tasks

- *Develop social democracy* so that our movement, which originated in the industrial society, takes social development on into the knowledge society of the future. How can we strengthen politicians' opportunities to shape social development in a direction that demonstrates greater solidarity?
- *Develop our policy for gathering a broad spectrum of social groups together* in a world characterised by greater pluralism and new disparities. We need to be much better at combining an active policy for greater equality with our being the obvious alternative for wage-earners. We are a feminist party and that brings obligations with it. Gender equality must pervade all of our policies. How can we amass the best broad-based support for a policy of equality and against the new inequalities of today?
- *Find new ways of combining general solutions with a policy that responds to people's increased demands to exert the deciding influence themselves.* How can social democracy combine the growing demands for freedom of choice with a strong general welfare system that benefits everyone?



Our policies

Full employment

From the guidelines adopted at the Congress for Jobs 2009:

We will achieve full employment. Work for all means freedom and opportunities for the individual and a stronger development for society. For this reason we will take the Swedish economy from a deficit to a position of strength by putting jobs first, by making the most of every hour worked and every person's desire and ability to contribute to the development of society.

Our challenges

Our goal is jobs for all. The fight against unemployment is our most important task.

Sweden has weathered the storm of the economic crisis but many people are still living with the consequences. Once more the Swedish people have carried Sweden through the crisis. Once more we have been reminded of the importance of healthy government finances to see us through tough times. Strong and healthy government finances are a necessary prerequisite for growth and for welfare. The surplus, our joint savings that we painstakingly built up while the Social Democrats were in government, was the buffer we needed to surmount the crisis.

When the economic cycle hits a low point, strong government finances provide the resources needed to make wise investments – climate investments, investments in infrastructure, education and enterprise – that tackle unemployment and lead to new jobs.

The crisis has been succeeded by high growth but also by high unemployment. The recovery is measured in historically high growth figures, and production in Sweden has returned to the same level as before the downturn. At the same time, the crisis has been allowed to leave a permanent reminder in its wake in the form of high unemployment. Long-term unemployment is at record high levels. A third of all unemployed people – more than 100,000 – are long-term



unemployed. Sweden has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Europe. We are about 100,000 jobs short of 2006 employment levels and to reach our goal of full employment, our ambitions need to be set much higher than that.

Full employment demands strong global competitiveness. Sweden must have an economic policy that stimulates jobs and transition. The EU needs a new employment policy that puts jobs first. We must compete on skills and not on low pay.

We now need a new policy for sustainable economic growth and to develop Swedish competitiveness. We now need an active economic policy with an ambitious innovation policy. New sectoral programmes are an important element. Many small and medium-sized companies need initiatives to get them out onto the export markets, to invest more in their own product development and to boost innovativeness. The importance of the service sector will continue to grow – and there is still great potential for growth in productivity. A far-sighted economic policy must promote interaction between competitive industry and the service sector across Sweden.

One challenge is to formulate growth and development strategies for the entire country. We need to re-establish regional policy. Government initiatives must be focused on the regions gaining an opportunity to grow and develop on the basis of their own unique features and characteristics.

Climate transition means opportunities for new jobs and economic development. Sweden paving the way in this transition process will see our companies leading the world in developing the technology and the systems the world demands to combat climate change. This will benefit Sweden's exports and means that Sweden can become a global role model.



Much indicates that in the years ahead we may experience a labour shortage in parallel with high unemployment. This is the consequence of insufficient investment in labour market policy, education, homes and infrastructure.

Today there is a major lack of housing in many places in Sweden which is having a direct impact in terms of hampering growth. The lack of housing makes it difficult to increase employment as people have no opportunity to move to where the jobs are. The shortage, particularly of rented accommodation and single-family houses at reasonable prices, leads to major difficulties for young people and many families in finding suitable homes.

Many people are completely dependent on being able to quickly get to and from work and their children's leisure activities if their lives are to be at all manageable. As a country we depend on a functioning infrastructure to remain internationally competitive. The deficiencies of Sweden's infrastructure are clear thanks to the chaos the snow brought to the railways, with cancelled or severely delayed goods transport and major disruption to important passenger transport. We need major investment in expanded public transport, roads and railways, to meet people's needs for transport that works, to encourage the development of regional labour markets, meet industry's need for transport and at the same time reduce our climate impact. Society must take overall responsibility for our entire infrastructure.

We need a more mobile and dynamic labour market. Many people are currently stuck in long-term unemployment or on meaningless schemes that do not lead to jobs. Mobility demands investment in education for growth – a well-developed education system in other words. Sweden needs a new knowledge boost. Lifelong learning must also make it possible to switch careers by gaining new skills or by building on previous knowledge throughout your working life. Dignified solutions also need to be put in place for work according to ability for those who are unable to obtain jobs on the regular job market.



We need to expand adult education and labour market training. Today the unemployed are steered towards so-called guarantees: the Job and Development Guarantee and the Job Guarantee for young people. Here only a fraction benefit from initiatives – education, work experience and apprenticeships – that lead to jobs. This is why long-term unemployment has risen. Passivity will never put paid to unemployment – instead more and more people risk permanent exclusion from the labour market.

Now, widespread investment is required in education and work experience that leads to jobs – a labour market policy worthy of the name. We need a right to skills development that gives people opportunities to make progress at work. The absence of such opportunities to develop is currently leading to a labour shortage and a consequent threat of increased inflation. This would result in a risk of higher interest rates – despite prevailing mass unemployment.

The fact that so many young people have not completed upper secondary education is a major problem. More than a quarter of twenty year-olds in Sweden do not complete upper secondary school and this has been the case for several years now. This is one of the fundamental reasons behind Sweden's consistently high youth unemployment figures. Quality in upper secondary schools must increase so that many more people can complete their education.

In recent years opportunities to complete upper secondary school later in life have been severely limited. The number of places in adult education have suffered major cuts. Far too many people never get a second chance. This sets in stone young people's difficulties in entering the job market, a waste for Sweden and for the young people themselves. Young people who start adult life as unemployed carry this burden with them for years into the future in the form of higher unemployment, lower incomes and worse health. We therefore want a zero vision for youth unemployment. All young people must have a job or an initiative that leads to a job.

Our social model is based on everyone who can work being able to work. This is necessary if we are to be able to finance a welfare system that aims high, particularly in view of the challenge posed by demographic trends. Social security insurance must ensure that those



who cannot work due to illness or unemployment have income security and gain opportunities to move into work. At the same time, the welfare system creates many new jobs and social security insurance strengthens our ability to transform society.

Jobs are the key to Sweden and social cohesion. High unemployment among those of us born in another country is devastating. A job is a chance to start again and an opportunity to contribute. A changed integration policy is therefore required, at the heart of which lies getting new arrivals established in jobs on the labour market, and which gathers resources – at as early a stage as possible – to see people more quickly established in work.

For the vast majority of people their job is an extremely positive and important part of life. Work brings freedom through earning a living and gaining a sense of community and personal development. A job can make us healthier if it is fulfilling and provides good working conditions, but it can also make us ill and ultimately burnt out if the level of stress is too great or the work environment poor. People need good opportunities to influence the work they do. It is high time we put workplaces under the spotlight. If our aim for a good life for all is to be realised, the goal of a good job must become reality.

Work environment management must once more be put in focus. Working lives that do not leave people prematurely burnt out will see more people able to work on into later years. Development in the service sector towards round-the-clock staffing requires the expansion of childcare to cover the evenings and nights.

The pace of our working lives is increasing and many of the new jobs being created demand even more education and expertise. Many people with disabilities or with a previous history of illness have been completely excluded from the world of work. We need to find a system that also provides lasting employment for those who have been unemployed for a long time and are having difficulties finding jobs in the ordinary labour market. It is a waste not to make the most of the energy of everyone who can work. This is particularly true of all those who are sidelined into jobs that are insecure or part-time. We need every single hour worked.



We have seen several serious examples of wage dumping. Collective agreements are undermined by political changes. This threatens the Swedish model and our ability to compete on knowledge instead of low pay. The Swedish regulations need to be tightened to protect collective agreements, while EU law needs to be changed.

Part of the work towards full employment is an expanded rehabilitation service for people on long-term sick leave. However, initiatives are also needed in the world of work so that working processes and tasks can be adapted to people with a reduced capacity to work.

Our tasks

- *Sweden must progress to achieve full employment.* Invest in education, work experience and apprenticeships as well as research and development. Expand infrastructure and build homes. How can we design policy so that everyone who can work has an opportunity to work?
- *Work must be the basis of prosperity and welfare.* The principle of replacing lost income is a linchpin of the social democratic welfare model. Taxes must encourage more work, redistribute income, finance welfare and contribute to environmental transition in the best way possible. What are the most important measures for achieving a social democratic approach based on each and every one of us contributing according to our ability – and on social insurance covering lost income up to a reasonable level?



- *Create new jobs and new businesses.* We must have a more active economic policy that safeguards our competitiveness and encourages companies to grow by being successful, making profits and employing more people. Small companies must be given the climate they need to grow. What does a social democratic economic policy with teeth look like?

The social democratic model

From the guidelines adopted at the Congress for Jobs 2009:

We put jobs at the top of our agenda because we know that if we manage the jobs issue we will manage the economy and quality in health, schools and care services. For this reason full employment is an overriding goal, also in welfare policy. Our welfare is based on everyone who can work being able to do so. When welfare and security cover everyone, people dare to do more; change jobs, start companies, move house or start studying. This creates a positive climate for change, which in turn benefits economic development in a modern globalised economy with a high pressure for change.

Our challenges

Society is changing fast. Companies are holding their own amid international competition with increasingly advanced products and services. We are aiming high in terms of the quality of the welfare system. For more and more jobs the demands for expertise and education are increasing. This trend brings with it exciting opportunities for individuals and for the whole of society.

Therefore our party has taken the lead in investing in education to throw open the doors to the knowledge society to more people. We have introduced a major expansion of the higher education sector and of adult education. It must be possible to educate yourself to gain better job opportunities and for your own personal development.



At the same time, failings in the education system have greater consequences than before. The results of Swedish students have fallen steadily since the 1990s. The proportion of students who are not completing compulsory education is unacceptably high. This trend is particularly dramatic in socially disadvantaged areas. When segregation increases in schools, school results go down overall. The large group failing to complete upper secondary school are much more likely to be unemployed or living on benefits. New barriers are being raised for those who do not have an ideal start in life.

Investment is now needed to turn the Swedish education system around. We want to look to the future and create a modern education system with knowledge, quality and creativity at its heart. An education system that gives all students the best possible start for the future irrespective of their parental background.

Older people today have worked and struggled to make things better for the next generation. Now it is their turn. People should not be forced to rely on relatives to receive good care. When health fails and people cannot manage at home alone, the home help service, social services and the care sector must be there, for everyone. It is important to have good opportunities for older people to choose to move to a more sheltered form of housing. The most important measure for raising the quality of care of the elderly is to invest in staff and their expertise.

The health service must always provide equally good care to everyone according to need. No-one should need to take out a separate insurance policy to get the care they need. Everyone must be treated in the same way on the basis of how ill they are and what they need and not according to how much they can afford to pay or who they are. This is not always the case today.

Better health care that provides good care without long waiting lists demands more resources. One big problem is crowded accident and emergency units and the shortage of beds. There must be greater access to health care. Dignified care of people with dementia requires more staff.



When people's standards are raised in other areas, their expectations of welfare also increase. The world's best welfare for all. The goal must be set this high. The social democratic model is based on education, health care and social care being provided to everyone on the basis of their needs, maintaining a very high quality and being jointly funded. We social democrats can never accept private shareholders making a profit by cutting the quality of welfare or by choosing not to care for citizens with greater needs.

Women and men must have equal opportunities to shape their lives, to participate in every area of society and have the power to make decisions. This is our task as feminists. But this is not how things look today. Women are still responsible for the majority of unpaid domestic labour, have lower pay and less power. Many women are not safe in their daily lives. Development is champing at the bit.

The disparities are increasing and segregation is growing. More and more children are growing up in poverty with poorer opportunities and greater restrictions than their contemporaries. The amount paid out in benefits is increasing. Groups growing ever larger are no longer covered by functioning insurance against illness or unemployment. People having their benefits cut off, or higher charges and worse terms imposed, have created large groups of people without insurance who are in a very vulnerable situation.

Economic differences between different residential areas are building new walls between people. An active policy is needed for mixed residential areas. The homes from the days of the Million Programme need updating.

The aim of a good job demands a focus on the issues of the world of work. New technology makes work less restrictive for many but at the same time erases the boundary between work and free time.



Stressed families find there just aren't enough hours in the day. The proportion of temporary and insecure jobs is increasing. Many people work part-time but would like to work more. The high pace and the huge demands made of us at work make it harder for everyone to find a job. Many people have limited opportunities to influence their duties at work.

Our tasks

- *Strengthen the social democratic model.* A cohesive policy is needed for a jointly financed general welfare system of high quality, functioning social security insurance and a job market with full employment. What do we need to achieve this?
- *Create an economic policy more clearly based on knowledge for competitiveness.* A clear programme for education of equal value where all children receive an equally good start in life. Open routes to high quality education. What does the successful strategy for greater competitiveness look like?
- *Develop a welfare policy that puts itself on the side of the citizen* – that is, based on needs, guarantees, and freedom of choice, and which safeguards the highest quality. What kinds of demands does a change like this make?
- *Safeguard the opportunities for all children to have a good upbringing.* Child poverty can never be accepted and must be combated. Parents need work and a secure living. Tough measures that combat housing segregation must be taken. What are the most effective initiatives to eradicate child poverty?
- *Combat stress and the problem of juggling our lives.* We need a new policy to create good jobs. Working life with true equality for all demands new initiatives. How can we change the world of work?



A better world is possible

From the guidelines adopted at the Congress for Jobs 2009:

We live at a time when the foreign policies of countries have become the domestic policies of the world. We are global neighbours and we are dependent on one another in the strongest possible manner, regardless of where we live in the world. The choices made by the world in the face of the common global challenges will have a strong impact on our country and we must shoulder our share of the responsibility in ensuring that the choices made are the right ones. The climate crisis had wakened our insight to the need for common political responses and solutions.

Our challenges

Globalisation characterises our age. All the countries of the world are growing closer together in an increasingly more cohesive economic system. Goods, capital and people cross national borders. The internet is creating new global communities.

We welcome globalisation. Development surges ahead when people work together across borders. We have always believed in free trade. The global economy and the distribution of labour are increasing overall financial prosperity. Global problems demand shared global solutions.

Which path globalisation takes is a political issue. If countries are forced to compete on lower salaries and poorer working conditions in an ever descending spiral, only a few will benefit. In the same way there is a major problem if the focus shifts from productive investments to gains from short-term financial speculation. If the fruits of globalisation are instead to benefit everyone, we need an active policy and union engagement that extends across national boundaries.

Goods and emissions move all over the world. What we eat, do and buy affects someone else's life and environment. If the whole world consumed the same amount of resources as we do in Sweden, we would need more than three planets to support the population of the Earth. We need shared initiatives to secure dynamic and sustainable growth.



The climate issue is the momentous question of our age. The world's climate is on the brink of changing so radically that it threatens life on Earth itself. We therefore need to turn things around and manage with less energy, use new green and efficient fuels and technology, and recycle what we consume. Going green offers opportunities to take a proactive approach to building society. As social democrats, we want to build a green welfare state with important technological developments that encourage Sweden's exports, while making Sweden a global role model. Climate change risks affecting the countries that are already poorest the hardest. One of the most important tasks in the immediate future is to meet the requirements of the UN's millennium goals to halve poverty by 2015. This will take more free trade, improved aid measures and active initiatives for climate and environmental change. Establishing effective international regulations is one of the biggest challenges the world's politicians currently face.

The fight against poverty also goes hand in hand with the fight for democracy and human rights. The trend we have seen in North Africa is inspiring. Young people have put their own lives at stake to stand up for themselves, being involved and making their voices heard. They have demonstrated, used new social media and shown the power that can be harnessed when people join forces for a better future. What we are now seeing in North Africa is similar to the developments we saw twenty years ago in Eastern Europe.

This is part of the wave of democratisation moving across the world. One country after another is gaining democracy. Now the welfare state has to gather its forces to spread democracy and human rights to the countries and regions where democracy is weak. Sweden and other democratic states must act consistently and clearly and provide strong support to all those fighting for democratic rights.



Sweden is a sparsely populated country on the Arctic Circle. Attracting investment and production should by no means be taken for granted. To be able to maintain our prosperity on into the future, we have to be able to invest in research and development so that our companies continue to be in the forefront. This requires that we focus our energies on national development programmes that stimulate investment and interaction around the sectors and the expertise that will build a strong Sweden, and that we pursue an economic policy that continues to stimulate transition.

Sweden is a small country but we can make a difference. We can set an example to others. We can show that it is possible to combine high growth and a consistent climate policy. We can show that gender equality and a high level of female employment are a success factor. But to do so we have to dare to be a clear voice for change.

The EU is part of our political reality. The same ideological conflicts are found in the EU and in Sweden. The EU's overall objective must be full employment. The EU must be an open common market with strong rights for wage-earners and consumers. At the same time the different welfare and labour market models of member states must be respected. All goods must be subject to effective environmental requirements. Cross-border crime must be tackled together. Our security must be built jointly with others and be based on our military freedom of alliance. The EU must be a clear voice for democracy and human rights in the world.

Our tasks

- *Build a strong Sweden amid tough international competition.* How can we be better at stimulating investment and interaction around what strengthens our companies' competitiveness and creates new jobs?
- *Work for strong international regulations that promote union and social rights and our shared environment.* How do we best create proactive global collaboration between progressive parties and unions to tackle globalisation?



- *Drive EU policy for full employment, social rights and a sustainable environment.* Here we need to be involved in building a powerful progressive alliance in the EU. What do we do to make sure that practical politics in the EU makes it onto the political agenda and that policy takes on a social democratic focus?
- *Be a clear voice for democracy and human rights in the world.* Sweden must pursue a consistent policy against poverty and oppression. What should this kind of modern and active social democratic foreign policy look like?
- *Create a green, economic and socially sustainable society* in which people's quality of life can increase. We social democrats must show that it is possible to achieve good economic development without damaging the environment we all share. What are the most effective things we can do to tackle climate change?



Our party

From the decision at the Congress for Jobs that the party's organisation is to be examined:

The party must work actively to adapt its organisation to the new conditions and openly try out new organisational solutions. The role of the membership fee must also be analysed. Therefore the organisation is to be examined, with particular attention paid to urban areas where both the party's voters and membership strength have been undermined in recent years.

The opportunities for members to directly exert influence have increased through consultation and internal party ranking of candidates. On the other hand, the party's decision-making body, based on the principles of representative democracy, has not changed. The number of decision-making bodies, and their size and composition, should be considered during the congress period ahead.

Our challenges

The Social Democratic Party needs to be strengthened as an organisation and regain its full force as the broad progressive party in Swedish politics on a firm footing as a popular movement. This demands development work leading to a more open, questioning and creative way of operating. The party and its representatives need to change their attitude to the world that surrounds us. We need to find new ways of showing interest and meeting people with the experience, perspectives and ideas we need in building the future.

The members are the party. A strong party must constantly gain new members and elected representatives. Young people need to find arenas in which they can become involved and active. Our members must feel that they are building relationships, learning new things, are able to communicate and exert influence to make membership rewarding and encouraging. One important element in this is the development of work in the local associations. New methods will make it possible to find out what individual members want.



In modern politics, the content, organisation and communication of policy must be closely interwoven. Communication is a crucial factor in updating the party. The internet offers rich opportunities for stronger communication internally with members and externally too. Completely new paths are now opening up for dialogue, information and active influence. Important steps have been taken through greater direct communication to all members, a well-received website and through the active blogging network, NetRoots.

The collaboration between the Social Democrats and the Swedish Trade Union Confederation is an obvious part of social democracy. The links between the political and union aspects of the labour movement make the perspective of wage-earners a natural part of policy. In this strong relationship there is scope for a vital discussion in a dynamic climate in which different perspectives come together and stimulate the development of ideas in the labour movement.

In a changing world of work, contacts and networks between politics and wage-earners need to be expanded and reinforced. Our party addresses wage-earners from a broad spectrum of society and therefore needs to find new ways to obtain viewpoints from white-collar workers and academia too.

New campaign methods were introduced in the 2010 election. One important gain was the historic major doorstep campaign that exceeded high targets set for the number of contacts and conversations with voters. This successful organisational and campaigning work must be taken further in future election movements and mobilisation campaigns.

To develop membership and to give leaders at different levels the conditions they need to do their job, we need good opportunities for education and study. Study fosters long-term growth in skills within the organisation. Advanced political leadership is needed to meet the requirements of citizens and members.



The content of policy must constantly be developed, tackling new realities, challenges and dilemmas. This happens every day among the elected representatives but it is important that resources are also concentrated on long-term policy development and encounters with organisations, debaters and researchers able to contribute new ideas.

Our tasks

- *Make membership more attractive.* If the party is to gain more influence, it needs to grow by attracting more members – by developing member recruitment. This demands advanced communication, participation and influence for members. Particular attention must be focused on attracting more young members. How can we become Sweden's most open, enquiring and humble party?
- *Linking the content of policy, its organisation and its communication.* Collaboration between unions and politicians develops in line with changes in the world of work. Long-term policy development with increased external contacts is central. What are the most important changes our organisation needs to undergo? How can we create better platforms for meetings between union activists and politicians?
- *Develop political leadership.* Studies and education pave the way for growth in skills. What initiatives does this demand?

