



Election Manifesto 2004

**THE ELECTION MANIFESTO OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FOR
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION 2004**

Adopted by the party
board on the 14th of
May 2004

Socialdemokraterna

A more just Europe

On the 1st of May history was made. The expansion of the EU brought to an end the division of Europe between East and West. A third of the EU states is now in the Baltic Region. New opportunities have been created for co-operation, for social justice and for growth in our region.

The EU provides for greater security in an uncertain world and the support from others in the struggle against unemployment, environmental pollution, crime and other problems which no single country can solve on its own. Together we will be stronger than we would be if we were to act on our own. We believe in democracy and in the opportunities to carry through changes provided by political efforts.

The equal rights and the equal dignity of every person must be defended. Every form of discrimination must be rejected. Democracy must be defended at all times and xenophobia must be combated.

We decide on the Swedish welfare system in our parliament, our county councils and in our municipal councils. However, the process of internationalisation makes for dependence on others. Development in our country will be stronger if Europe as a whole moves towards higher employment and increased social justice.

We find the same ideological divisions in Europe that we have in Swedish politics. Today the European parliament is dominated by the Right. Unlike the Right we social democrats put people before the interests of the market. For this reason we need more social democrats in the European parliament. For this reason your vote is vital on the 13th of June.

More secure jobs

Europe faces a downturn in the business cycle and unemployment. There is no greater waste of resources than unemployment. The skills and the will to work of everyone are needed. The goal of social democracy is full employment – in Sweden and in the EU.

We want more jobs and we want jobs that are secure, a working life that provides for new skills, equality between the sexes and greater opportunities to combine work and family life. We want to invest more in higher education, research and an exchange of teachers and students within the expanded EU. For this reason we intensify our work on EU policies for employment and growth.

Country must not be pitted against country in competition for the new jobs. Poverty and unemployment in the new member states must not be used to push through poorer conditions, weaker laws and weaker collective agreements in Sweden. We social democrats intend to confront those forces that would like to see European wage earners compete for jobs with low wages. We will compete with efficiency in production and not with poor working conditions.

We oppose every proposal that limits workers rights, collective agreements and the Swedish welfare model – not least the proposal for a new directive on services. This could entail that the laws and the agreements made in other countries are lifted into the Swedish labour market. We social democrats will guarantee trade union

influence on EU decisions that affect working life. Trade union – political co-operation and trade union rights to adopt sympathy measures must be extended across national borders.

Security and solidarity

The EU is a project for peace. Expansion has strengthened security in our part of the world. The EU is also needed as a powerful actor on the international political arena – for global peace and security, for human dignity and democracy.

The goal of the UN to reduce world poverty by half by the year 2015 must be achieved. The EU countries as a group provide the largest amount of foreign aid in the world. However, the development of many countries is limited by unfair terms of trade and by unhealthy competition. We would like to see the EU as a driving force for a more just world trade policy.

The expansion of the EU means that our common responsibility is now greater. The agricultural policy of the EU is something we must continue to reform and that parallel with the development of regional policy. The resources of the EU used for agricultural subsidies as well as the structural funds must be used efficiently and the priorities must be crystal clear. The needs of the new member states must come first. Sparsely populated areas in the old EU need investments in infrastructures and education.

Crime must be combated as well as the causes of crime. We stand for a successful Swedish model in the struggle against the abuse of alcohol and drugs. Co-operation in the EU has made it easier to fight crime across borders such as trafficking and money laundering. We intend to continue with our co-operation between police forces, customs services and public prosecutors in the EU. We want to see a co-ordinated humane and just policy for asylum seekers all over Europe.

On the 11th of March 2004 terrorism struck Madrid, in the heart of Europe. Co-operation between the EU countries in the struggle against terrorism must increase within the framework, basic principles and rules of a state based on justice.

Non-toxic food and the environment

Changes in the climate, acid rain, pollution, chemicals stored in the human body, dangerous additives and risks to consumers – the environmental issues demand an active international co-operation.

Given the same regulatory framework for every Baltic state, we make for a unique opportunity. Through support and improved technology the new member states must dismantle old methods of production and sources of energy. This will provide a motive for a changeover to cleaner methods of production in Europe as a whole. When dangerous substances and methods of production are replaced by modern technology new products and new knowledge are created. This gives Europe competitive advantages and a huge opportunity for growth and new jobs.

Sweden has actively contributed to the EU strategy for long term economic, social and environmentally sustainable growth. Swedish social democrats in the European parliament will continue to fight for a Europe at work, security and increased social justice. A Europe where welfare is available to all, where people and the environment come before market interests.

But to be able to make a difference we need to be many. We need your support for a shift in power in the European parliament. We promise:

- To fight for more secure jobs and to oppose proposals that force wage earners to compete with low wages and bad working conditions.
- To do everything we can to stop the inhumane trafficking of women and children, drug crimes and other cross border crimes.
- To demand non-toxic food and a clean environment through a tough legislation on chemicals.

Vote for the social democrats on the 13th of June!

On Sunday the 13th of June the election to the European Parliament takes place. Postal voting begins on the 26th of May.

You have the right to vote if you are 18 years old at the latest on the day of the elections, are a Swedish citizen or a citizen of another EU country but resident in Sweden.

If you want to know more about how to vote and who are allowed to vote, go to www.val.se.

The European parliament consists of 732 members from the 25 member states of the EU. 19 of the members are from Sweden.

If you want to know more about the parliament, go to www.euoparl.se.

Up to election day we social democrats will try to reach as many voters as possible. If we do not contact you and you would like to have more information from us, contact the social democrats in your home area or go to www.socialdemokraterna.se.