

The Congress for Jobs 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009

- **Full employment is the overall objective of economic policy**

The overall objectives of economic policy should be full employment, high growth and equitable distribution. This was reaffirmed by the Social Democrats at their Congress for Jobs. The Social Democrats stressed that the target of a surplus in public finances and the cap state expenditure are to remain unchanged.

- The most important factor in ensuring future prosperity is strong public finances. The freedom provided by strong public finances will be used to strengthen the policy line on work and increase employment, said Social Democratic economic policy spokesperson Thomas Östros.

- Work is the prerequisite for prosperity. Every hour worked contributes to paying for welfare. Therefore growth in employment is also a central concern for the quality and funding of welfare.

Jobs and prosperity go before large tax cuts. New reforms and expenditure will be introduced at the pace that the fiscal space permits. In order to achieve full employment and growth in a modern economy, knowledge is a key factor. For this reason education must be an essential part of economic policy.

Congress also supports the need for a new global political course in which economic, social and environmental values are integrated. It is time to abandon the belief in the market. Global financial institutions operating under national supervision must be replaced by a strengthened cooperation on establishing a global financial framework.

The financial guidelines include the following:

Local government finances should be safeguarded - a job crisis must not lead to a quality crisis in welfare.

Sweden's ability to cope with and accept structural change needs to be strengthened. Social Insurance policies and lifelong learning are central to this development.

Investments in education, the Green changeover and a competitive business sector will take Sweden out of the crisis.

Stop excess bonus payments.

Financial markets must be regulated and monitored globally, in a first step within the EU.

EU trade barriers and tariffs against poor countries must be removed.

The EU Posting Directive must be changed.

The fight against child labor will be intensified.

The presence in all international forums will be increased so that power and influence globally can be removed from the market to a democratic and political institutions.