

S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Summit of Socialists and Democrats parliamentary leaders

BRUSSELS, 11/05/23

With just over a year left for the current European Parliament mandate, the S&D Group is determined to work side by side with national parliaments **to build mutual understanding and define common political perspectives and priorities**. This is why the S&Ds hosted a **summit of social-democratic parliamentary leaders in Brussels** on 26 April 2023. This summit brought together the S&D Group leadership and their national leaders or representatives from 19 member states. National and European parliamentary leaders focused their discussion on the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the progressive response to its consequences.

A historic turning point for Europe



The world after February 24, 2022 is no longer the same as before. Socialists and Democrats came together to discuss this historic turning point for Europe. For over a year now, Russia has

been waging an unrelenting war of aggression against Ukraine. Nevertheless, the EU has never been so united in its foreign policy and clearly stands behind the Ukrainian people. The EU has adopted ten sanctions packages against the Russian Federation, has provided humanitarian assistance and military support to Ukraine, has welcomed millions of refugees from Ukraine and has stated its support for the people of Ukraine and their leadership by granting the country a perspective for a European future and the status of a candidate country for EU membership. However, S&D leaders agreed that the effectiveness of some sanctions has not fully materialised yet and requires further work on closing loopholes and preventing circumvention, including via third countries.

It emerged from the discussion that the EU focuses a lot of energy on defining new concepts, such as strategic autonomy and the strategic compass for the EU, but it seems that what matters in the current multi-polar world is whether a global player acts or not. S&D parliamentarians agreed that unfortunately the EU is not yet playing the key role it could play at this decisive moment for the European continent.

At the same time, S&D leaders drew attention to the political implications of the war for their electorates. Although the vast majority of European citizens support Ukrainian people, there is a sense of fatigue with the war.

The progressives offer answers to the multiple economic and social crises



Destroyed lives, destroyed homes and destroyed infrastructure are the immediate consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The war also imperils the EU's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic: inflation, food security, energy security and further supply-chain pressures are among the many challenges

policy-makers must tackle across Europe. Indeed, the rising cost of living, followed by the threat of poverty and social exclusion are the most pressing worry for Europeans.

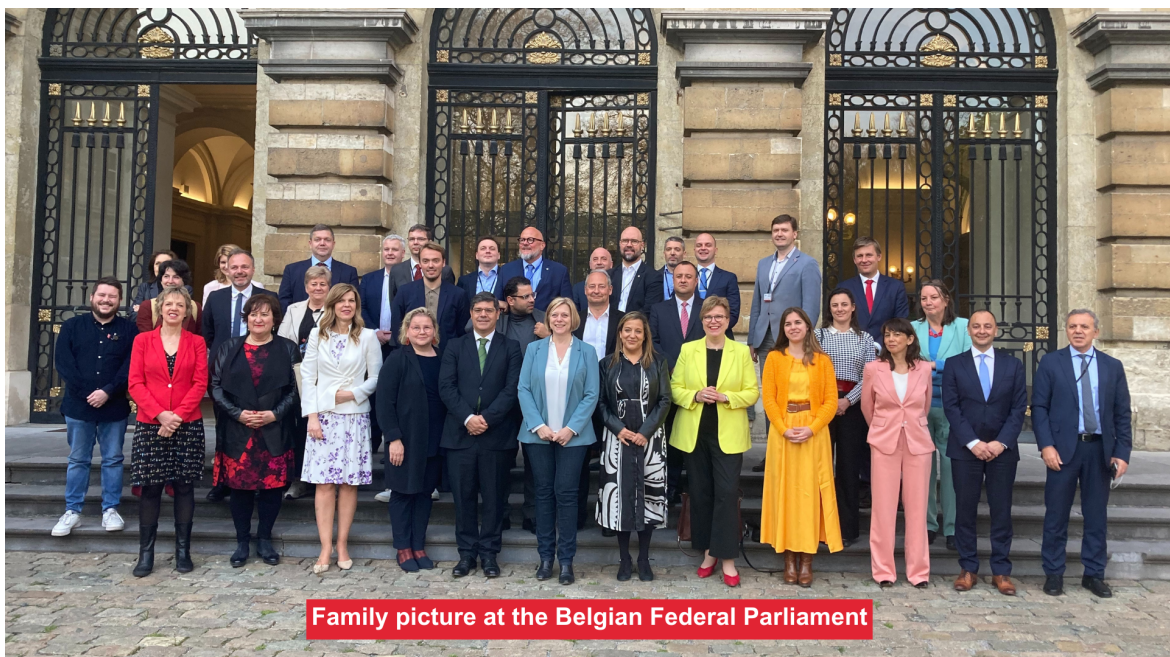
The social-democratic political family has been the driving force to find solutions to the multiple crises the EU has faced since the Covid pandemic and now the war in Ukraine. The S&Ds secured a strong EU response with the NextGenerationEU Fund, and then REPower EU. In many ways, the EU is supporting measures taken at national level. S&D vice-president Biljana Borzan MEP, declared at the summit: ***“Crisis after crisis has taught us that we achieve far more together than we ever could alone”***.

Leaders nonetheless agreed that the EU and the Member States need to further strengthen coordinated EU policy responses to mitigate the burden that high energy and food prices, inflation, supply-chain disruptions (including shortages of medicines), rising debt levels and the increased cost of borrowing and mortgages are placing on European households and businesses. **A profound transformation of the European energy model is necessary to ensure universal access to decarbonised sources of energy and to eradicate energy poverty.** It was also clear to S&D leaders that **social and environmental policies and objectives must be integrated on an equal footing with economic ones. This is why the S&D political family is calling for the revision of the Stability and Growth Pact.**

S&D Group president Iratxe García stated at the end of the discussions:

“Inter-parliamentary cooperation is crucial for us to succeed in building a fair and progressive Europe”.

A clear commitment to ever-closer cooperation towards 2024



The S&D Group cherishes its cooperation with its national parliamentary group but it is also

committed to nourishing it with concrete actions. To mark the occasion, the president of the Belgian House of Representatives, [Éliane Tillieux](#), invited all the European and national S&D leaders to join her at the Belgium federal parliament at the end of their summit, underlining the excellent cooperation between the European and national parliaments.

Concluding the summit, social-democratic parliamentary leaders committed to meeting more regularly, as strong coordination between the European and national levels will go hand in hand with a stronger presence at all levels of power in Europe in 2024.

Please find the link to the pictures from the summit [here](#)

Please find the link to the wrap-up video of the summit [here](#)

WHAT'S NEXT

- 14-16 May - Plenary meeting of the **LXIX COSAC**, Stockholm
- 25 May - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on **'Reaching the transport objectives of Fit for 55 at national level - opportunities and challenges'**
- 1-2 June - High-level meeting on **Protecting Children: EU support for Reconstruction and Reform of Ukraine's Child Protection System**, Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Stockholm

PRESS RELEASES

- [S&D Parliamentary leaders commit to working together to build fair and progressive Europe](#) 26/04/2023
- [From Krakow, S&Ds push for the EU Charter for Women's Rights](#) 03/05/2023
- [First Hungary, now Poland. Another far-right government blocking Post-Cotonou Agreement](#) 04/05/2023
- [Thanks to S&Ds push European Parliament will turn Methane Pledge into concrete measures](#) 08/05/2023
- [S&Ds keep their promise to young Europeans: No more unpaid traineeships](#) 08/05/2023
- [S&Ds secure approval for healthy school food scheme in EU despite EPP's attempts to water it down](#) 09/05/2023
- ['Today, we commemorate the birth of this project of peace and freedom', says Iratxe Garcia on Europe's Day](#) 09/05/2023
- [EU urged to play active role in Sudan's peace process to counter dangerous foreign interference, says S&Ds](#) 09/05/2023
- [S&Ds: EU ratification of Istanbul Convention a great achievement, but we will go further to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence!](#) 10/05/2023

- [More concrete action and mutual trust needed to ensure progress of Serbia and Kosovo on their path to the EU, urge S&Ds](#) 10/05/2023
- [The European Pillar of Social Rights must be a shield to protect people against austerity](#) 10/05/2023

Our Team



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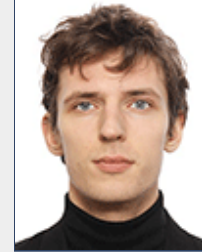
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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 145 members from 26 EU member states. We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

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S&D

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