



European Parliament, Socialist Group

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THE SOCIALIST GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AN INTRODUCTION

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Members from nine countries and eleven different parties have come together to form the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. They have in common the traditions of the labour movement and the aim of attaining the objectives of democratic socialism in their respective countries and in the European Community as a whole.

With its 66 members the Socialist Group holds one third of the seats and is the largest political group in the European Parliament. Its origins go back to 23 June 1953, when the Socialists in the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community formed a group.

The Group's geographical composition is as follows :

United Kingdom	:	18 members
Federal Republic of Germany	:	15 members
France	:	10 members
Netherlands	:	6 members
Italy	:	5 members
Belgium	:	5 members
Denmark	:	4 members
Luxembourg	:	2 members
Ireland	:	1 member

The figure for each country depends on the total number of seats allocated to it and the proportion of seats held by socialist parties in the respective national parliaments.

Since March 1975, Ludwig Fellermaier (Federal Republic of Germany) has been Chairman of the Group. The Vice-Chairmen are Pierre Lagorce (France), Ernest Glinne (Belgium), John Prescott (United Kingdom), Pietro Lezzi (Italy) and Piet Dankert (Netherlands). Frankie L. Hansen (Luxembourg) is the Group's Treasurer.

The activities of the Group are prepared by the Bureau and in various working parties. The Group regularly meets before and during each part-session of the European Parliament. The Group also holds twice-yearly study meetings in the different Member States in turn, at which subjects of special interest are discussed.

The Group secretariat has a staff of 35 and is based in Luxembourg and Brussels. It is headed by Dr. Manfred Michel, the Secretary-General.

Five of the twelve Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament belong to the Socialist Group : Georges Spénale (France), Rudi Adams (Federal Republic of Germany), Mario Zagari (Italy), Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (United Kingdom) and Erik Holst (Denmark).

The Chairmen of four of the European Parliament's twelve committees also belong to the Socialist Group : Ernest Glinne (Belgium), Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs; Erwin Lange (Federal Republic of Germany), Committee on Budgets; Lord Bruce of Donington (United Kingdom), Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport and Mrs. Johanna B. Krouwel-Vlam (Netherlands), Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

Frankie L. Hansen (Luxembourg) is Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the EEC-Turkey Association and Georges Spénale (France) is Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the EEC-Greece Association.

THE CONFEDERATION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTIES
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

To increase their political impact in the European Community, Socialist and Social-Democratic Parties formed the "Confederation of the Socialist Parties of the European Community" on 5 April 1974. Its President, since the death of Wilhelm Dröscher, is Robert Pontillon (PS, France), and its Vice-Presidents are the former president of the Commission of the European Community, Sicco L. Mansholt (PvdA, Netherlands), Bruno Friedrich (SPD, Federal Republic of Germany) Karen Dahlerup (Socialdemokratiet, Denmark) and Karel Van Miert (BSP/PSB, Belgium). Over and above its task of coordination, the Confederation strives for international cooperation between the parties in order to strengthen the influence of the working man, represented by the Socialist Parties, on the Community's policies.

At a Summit Conference of Socialist Leaders of the Nine in The Hague in November 1974, principles for closer cooperation were laid down. Four working parties of the Confederation have since drawn up a draft for a possible common platform of the Socialist Parties for direct elections to the European Parliament. The Bureau of the Confederation adopted this draft on 6 June 1977 in Luxembourg. A decision about a final text will be taken at a Congress in January 1979. Working parties of the Confederation are currently dealing with various major issues in the run-up to the election campaign (human rights, employment, enlargement of the European Community).

The next Socialist Summit Conference of the Nine will be held in Brussels on 23 and 24 June 1978.