



## Press Release

**23 November 2013**  
**For immediate release**

**Social Democratic LGBT groups working together for a more Equal Europe**



At an historic General Assembly in Brussels on Saturday the 23rd of November, Rainbow Rose, the LGBT Observer member of the PES, formally adopted its statutes and rules of procedure. The purpose of Rainbow Rose is to create a strong LGBT Social Democratic network which will promote LGBT issues within the PES family and beyond.

*"We have to make sure LGBT groups are on the right side, - which is the left side," said the President of PES Women, Zita Gurmai, who opened the General Assembly, "Discrimination, in so many areas of life needs to be ended, which will take time, but there is a way to speed it up, to make it happen sooner rather than later. We need a PES Commission President and we need more LGBT MEP's in the S&D group to make our voices even louder. Rainbow Rose will be key to this."*

The 16 funding LGBT structures has committed to fight against all types of discrimination based on sexual and identity principles and has decided to promote LGBT issues during the next European elections.

The new elected board is composed of:

**Aurélien MAZUY** (HES France): President

**Aleksander Lewandowski** (SLD, Poland): Secretary for economy and finance

**James Asser** (LGBT Labour, UK): Secretary for communication

**Kristin Bergersen** (DNA, Norway): Secretary for programs & ideas

**Bea Tilanus** (PvdA Netwerk Homo Emancipatie, Netherlands): Secretary for networks

**Lars Vorberger** (Schwusos, Germany): Secretary for organization

**Jose Angel Santoro** (Grupo LBGT del PSOE, Spain): Secretary for activism

The meeting was followed by a discussion on the next steps for Rainbow Rose as well as a debate with other international LGBT organisations and how Rainbow Rose can be more effective during the next European election Campaign.

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Join our group on Twitter : [RainbowRose\\_PES](#)

**Ends**

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Notes for editors:

1. Rainbow Rose is the network for the LGBT groups of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties across Europe.
2. Rainbow Rose is affiliated to the Party of European Socialists and works with the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats in the European Parliament
3. You can find more about Rainbow Rose on [Facebook](#)