



Press Release

15 February 2016
For immediate release

Adoption: The socialists and the left mobilised for equality in Portugal!

On 10 February, the Portuguese Republic's Assembly has confirmed amendments to the civil code proposed by the Socialist Party (member of PES) and the other parliamentary left-wing parties. Portugal becomes the 13th country in Europe to allow same-sex couples to jointly adopt children, and partners in same-sex couples to adopt their spouse's children. These amendments have been initially passed on 20 November, and then vetoed by the conservative president, Ánibal Cavaco Silva.

Rainbow Rose is proud of this move. The initial vote of the Assembly has symbolically taken place immediately after the election of a left-wing parliamentary majority last October, even before the Assembly voted a new government in. Rainbow Rose notes that the road to equal rights for same-sex couples has been a long one in the country, and welcomes the debates on medically assisted insemination for all women, which has also started thanks to the new majority, and our sister party.

Step by step, over nearly two decades, the Portuguese Socialist Party (PS), together with other progressive parties, has made history and led on LGBT issues in the country. New significant progress has been achieved each time a socialist-led government has been elected: legal cohabitation under the Guterres government (1995-2002), equal marriage and legal gender recognition for trans people without compulsory sterilisation under the Sócrates government (2005-2011).

Rainbow Rose notes that while progress proved impossible under right-wing governments, the Assembly's last votes and debates show positive attempts at consensus-building, with a limited but significant number of centre-right MPs backing the left's initiatives. Rainbow Rose is also proud to note that social progress in relation to LGBT people's rights comes together with other positive developments such as a more liberal legislation on abortion, an important issue for women's rights and freedoms across Europe.

Aurélien Mazuy, Rainbow Rose's President, said: *"Portugal tells us a success story. By moving closer to full equality, the Portuguese socialists are displaying an inspiring leadership and sense of responsibility. We met few times with Antonio Costa and the PS during the legislative campaign and it was great to see a strong commitment for a more inclusive society. We would like to congratulate him once more for being the new Prime Minister, and we are glad to be able to rely on his support at the European level."*

Pedro Delgado Alves, spokesperson for the PS parliamentary group, said: *"This has been a great parliamentary debate, a great clarification, and a good day for democracy. [...] This is an achievement against discrimination, which took too much time to be completed"*¹.

¹ <https://www.publico.pt/politica/noticia/parlamento-confirma-decretos-da-ivg-e-adopcao-gay-1722921> and <https://www.dn.pt/portugal/interior/esquerda-e-pan- aprovam-adocao-gay-e-aborto-gratis-5023442.html>

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For further information email: contact@rainbowrose.eu or call: +32 495 16 1005

Notes for editors:

1. Rainbow Rose is the network for the LGBT groups of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties across Europe. It gathers 31 structures.
2. Rainbow Rose is affiliated (associate member) to the Party of European Socialists (PES) and works with the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats (S&D Group) in the European Parliament
3. You can find more about Rainbow Rose on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RainbowRose.eu) its website (www.rainbowrose.eu) and Twitter (@RainbowRose_PES)