



Press Release

6th March 2014
For immediate release

PES Congress in Rome: official relaunch of the network and adoption of the PES Manifesto



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Last weekend, the Party of European Socialists (PES) held its congress in Roma in order to adopt its common program for the coming European elections ([PES Manifesto](#)) and elected Martin Schulz as its candidate for the next President of the European Commission.

Rainbow Rose took full part to the elaboration of this text as an observer member of PES. Aurélien Mazuy, President of Rainbow Rose declared *"This short, strong document gives a clear sign to citizens that PES candidates will fight for a more inclusive and tolerant Europe. It is crucial to vote for PES parties in order to improve the social and civic rights of every citizen. It is very important for Rainbow Rose to see political parties committed to freedom*

of movement for all type of families, including LGBT ones, and the need to fight against homophobia and transphobia."

Before the Congress, Rainbow Rose board members joined events organized by **PES Women**. Rainbow Rose was invited as a speaker to a workshop of the Congress for "a more equal Europe". It was agreed that the idea of a Commissioner for "Gender & Equality" should be examined more carefully and there is an urgent need to stop all forms of discrimination with a strong focus on Education.

Marije Leffeber, Deputy Secretary General of PES, agreed to give some financial support to Rainbow Rose in order to organize many activities for the months to come. Aurélien Mazuy commented on this: *"It is a clear sign that PES is believing in our work and is committed to helping us deliver actions all over Europe. It is a very important formal step for the network."*

In the margin of the Congress, Rainbow Rose was officially re-launched. Many people attended it and showing interest and happiness for the new path of Rainbow Rose. The board came together to explain to everyone the re-foundation and objectives of our network. **Michael Cashman's**, MEP from the UK, showed his support to our group as co-president of European Parliament Intergroup on LGBT Rights. **Elena Valenciano** (Vice President of PES and n°1 on Spanish list for the European elections) came by the auditorium to support this event.

Our panel was composed of:

- **Zita Gurmai**, President of PES women, who showed her personal determination to support Rainbow Rose and bring LGTB rights to all Europe, and the need to fight conservative forces.
- **Cyrus Engerer**, candidate on Malta's list to the next European elections, told us about the experience of his country, with a recent Labour Government, and how important is to make a change by legalizing and formally accepting LGTB rights.
- As vice-president of The International Socialist, **Puri Causapié**, focused her speech on how important Rainbow Rose's work is facing the European elections.
- Finally, our special guest **Vladimir Luxuria**, told us about her arrestt in Sochi and how Russian authorities treated her and LGBT people.

An informal meeting took place in Partido Democratico's offices with all the Rainbow Rose activists and **Sergio Lo Guidice** (Italian Senator) interested in a debate on our activities and how to actively engage in the campaign in the weeks to come.

Ends

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.
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](#) or its [website](#)