



Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and De-
mocrats in the European Parliament

Leader

Hannes SWOBODA MEP

Rue Wiertz 60

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Brussels, the 17th January 2012

Dear Mr President-elect,

Dear Hannes,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you to congratulate you on your election as the new President of the S&D group in the European Parliament. I wish you a successful mandate, with dynamic and fruitful developments.

The election marks an important change in the group and I wish you my best wishes. It is a very significant period in the progressive movement in Europe at the moment and the strategies of the S&D group play a very important role within the European institutions and with wider family and its citizens. As you said, we must work urgently to promote citizen's interest and future prosperity. The approaching European elections in 2014 will be imperative to the future of the progressive movement across Europe.

At his recent speech at the SPD congress in Berlin, the former Chancellor of Germany highlighted the need 'to give a bigger role to the European Parliament within the European Union.' Indeed the treaty of Lisbon has reinforced the role of the European Parliament and it is now fundamental that this institution overcomes the inter-governmentalism that the Council is currently undertaking and instead should provide a more democratic method to its decision making processes.

We look forward to working together with you and the S&D group and to keep up the good cooperation as always.

Once again I send you my deepest congratulations.

Yours sincerely,

Massimo D'Alema