



# BULGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY

## National Council

*Sofia, 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2015*

To  
**Ruairi Quinn**  
**Chair of the Rules and Procedures Committee**  
**Treasurer**  
**Party of European Socialists**

Dear Mr. Quinn,

On 27 July 2014 the 48<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Bulgarian Socialist Party made a unanimous decision to nominate and support the nomination of comrade Sergei Stanishev for President of the Party of European Socialists (PES) for a second term of office.

Today, more than four years after Sergei Stanishev became a leader of the European Socialist and Social Democratic family, the evaluation of the outcome of this difficult period, not only for Europe but for the whole world too, has shown that he justified the trust of his national party and of those who supported his fully-fledged election in September 2012 at the regular PES Congress in Belgium.

The European political environment has changed throughout this period. We are going through difficult and challenging times. We are facing a number of risks but also opportunities. Under Sergei Stanishev's leadership PES has made significant progress in developing and implementing a political approach which stands out and is a real alternative to the neoliberal governance of Europe. PES has outlined and proposed a clear plan to overcome the economic and financial crisis and mitigate its negative consequences through specific proposals and measures on a national and European level. This progressive plan put an emphasis on employment, economic growth, social rights protection, targeted investments and efficient cohesion policy, financial markets regulation and reindustrialization to counteract the conservative policies of cutting public spending and austerity.

Throughout the past few years PES has made significant progress in terms of reaffirming itself as a strong and united political party on a European level as well. In this spirit of unity, through common actions, efforts and targeted messages and policies we have accomplished more than what we would have separately. A positive example in this direction is the established practice of holding EU Council Preparation meetings of PES Heads of States and Prime Ministers ahead of the EU Summits which are attended also by Commissioners, belonging to our political family and chaired by the PES President. At the same time the political influence of PES is expanding and today the number of Prime Ministers who are socialists is eleven which has changed the balance at the European Council and has allowed for the effective and successful upholding of our priorities.

The powerful messages, the enhanced operational organization of PES and the stronger solidarity have helped PES consolidation and its working as a homogenous organism that draws its strength on the diversity of its member parties and organizations too. In his capacity of PES President Sergei Stanishev has shown consistent support and European solidarity with member parties in upholding their important national issues with a European dimension.

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The unity of actions and the joint efforts were also at the heart of the first of its kind campaign of PES for the European elections in 2014. Its implementation helped for the development of a qualitatively new level of cooperation within PES. For the first time in the history of the European democracy PES has held a European elections campaign with a Common Candidate, Common Progressive Manifesto, integrated election strategy and European comprehensive mobilization of left-wing voters. The Social Democratic family in Europe maintained and reaffirmed its stable position by turning into an uncircumventable factor when the priorities of the new European Commission for the next five years were being set. PES insisted on one condition in an uncompromising and categorical way which the new European Commission took into account and committed to. Due to the proposals by PES, the Commission drafted a European Investment Plan for EUR 315 bn to support employment, economic growth and competitiveness. Debates and discourse started changing from austerity only to policies aiming at incentivizing the growth of our economies.

Within his term of office as a President Sergei Stanishev launched and led an energetic and mobilizing European campaign combating youth unemployment. Its successful completion led to the implementation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme all over Europe. In this period ideas about enhancing the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union were adopted. In order to defend fundamental rights of the European citizens, PES implemented a number of other consecutive thematic campaigns: to reject ACTA, in favor of the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax, in favor of Equal Pay for men and women for Equal work, for combating tax evasion and grey economy. For the past few months PES has been acting consistently in upholding and respect for the social aspects and the accomplishments of the European social model in terms of the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and USA.

Under Sergei Stanishev's leadership for the past few years PES has been focusing its efforts and activating its role beyond the EU too by establishing strong partnerships and forming progressive alliances in neighboring and more remote regions. Interaction was enhanced and cooperation was intensified visibly between PES and its partner parties from the region of the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership, the Middle East and North Africa. The ever bigger role PES plays globally is linked to its mission to reaffirm social-democratic values and to translate them not only in the policies and agenda of Europe but also in the growingly interconnected and more mutually dependent world. Today when we are faced with the challenges of rising extremism, radicalism, nationalism, xenophobia, inciting of hatred and barbaric terrorist attacks more than ever our cooperation in and outside Europe, our agenda and our efforts on a national, European and international level are of a key importance to guarantee a united, peaceful, fair and secure world.

We are convinced that Sergei Stanishev is going to continue working with the same political drive and confidence, devoting his entire political enthusiasm, vision and experience to further developing what has been accomplished during the years while he has been the leader of the European Socialists and Social Democrats in the name of a better, more secure and progressive future for Europe and its citizens.

Yours faithfully,



**Mihail Mikov**  
**BSP Chairman**