

What
socialplatform
did in 2009

2009 was the year after the financial crisis hit and became a general crisis. It also saw European elections held, a new Commission appointed, and negotiations for the Lisbon Treaty take place.

Thanks to the work of its members, Social Platform played an active role in ringing alarm bells on the crisis at European level, regularly informing EU leaders of the sharp increase in demand for social services as people turned to the not-for-profit sector for support.

At the same time, we emphasised that there was 'a crisis before the crisis'. We made sure decision makers did not forget that 78 million Europeans were already living below the poverty line prior to the financial crash, and underlined that these people should not be further marginalised.

We focused on recovery plans and the growing public deficits, concerned that after the considerable bail-out given to banks and industry to save the system and jobs, there would be few funds left to invest in social protection or to show solidarity with EU countries most affected by the crisis. We consistently fought against the 'business as usual' attitude that followed the financial collapse, and stressed the vital role played by social protection as an automatic stabiliser. Together with ETUC, EEB and Concord, we launched the Spring Alliance to challenge the economic paradigm of the EU and excessive deregulation, helping to enable a massive civil society mobilisation to influence the EU's overarching strategy for the next ten years.

2009 was also dedicated to building and maintaining pressure around two essential directives to improve people's lives in Europe: on anti-discrimination and maternity leave. We organised two study visits ahead of the Spanish and Belgian presidencies, to build bridges between civil society organisations of new and older member states. Finally, we adopted important common positions during the year that will form the basis of our future advocacy efforts, like a set of recommendations to improve the open method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion, and a framework for enhancing the dialogue between decision makers and civil society.

In 2010 we'll focus on building fresh alliances between civil society and the new decision makers in the EU institutions, to advance our agenda and strengthen Social Platform. We'll be working hard to ensure that the common European project remains just that - common to all member states - and that the words and commitments of EU leaders translate into real social progress for the people of Europe.



Yours,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink, one for Conny Reuter and one for Roshan Di Puppo.

Conny Reuter, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink for Roshan Di Puppo.

Roshan Di Puppo, Director



Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 42 pan-European networks of NGOs, Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

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