

**Hollande points out that the control of politics over markets, the fight against inequity, the defense of education and the commitment to energy transition to sources of renewable energy are the four particularities that distinguish progressives from conservatives**

**The socialist candidate to the French Presidency notes the “key” role of Rubalcaba and Zapatero “in the fight against ETA, which is now coming to an end”**

**The Secretary General of the Portuguese Socialist Party, Antonio José Seguro, and the National Secretary of the Italian Democratic Party, Pier Luigi Bersani, claim the transfer of the EU’s sovereignty and advocate for policies that combine intelligent austerity with the sustained growth of the economies**

**The Secretary General of the Norwegian Labor Party affirms that the “success of my country is due to the women because they are integrated into the labor market” while the Hungarian and Romanian leaders warn against the rise of populists parties if the left does not reconnect with the people**

**The leader of the Dutch Labor Party, Lilianne Ploumen, claim a “moral regeneration” of politics and the Secretary General of the Senegalese Socialist Party urges progressives “to count Africa in the agenda”**

Madrid, October 19, 2011

The candidate of the French Socialist Party to the presidency of the Republic, François Hollande, noted today in Madrid, at the III Global Progress Conference that there are “four particularities that clearly distinguish progressive policies from the conservatives: that is politics must dominate the markets and the rating agencies, fight inequities at al

levels, firmly defend training and education and a commitment to reduce the energy transfer to renewable sources”.

Hollande anticipated that his campaign will focus on the “youth, but not as an electoral target but because I truly believe training is the only way to avoid social exclusion of a high percentage of young people.”

In his speech during the plenary on “Prospects of progress: new leadership”, the socialist candidate to the French Presidency was hopeful about his “success. I have six months and the surveys are favorable” although he warned on the “volatility of surveys.”

However, Hollande noted that “if we win the elections, I am aware that there is a need for a global answer, a coherent European solution to defeat speculation” and added that “neither the French Government nor any other will be successful if there isn’t a European and global government. We need each other and we need a common vision.”

Finally, he had some words for the candidate of the PSOE to the Spanish Presidency, Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba, “whose role, he said, was essential to do away with ETA and in France, we are aware, aware that Zapatero and Rubalcaba have fought a lot against a terrorism that is now coming to a end.”

## TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY AND INTELLIGENT AUSTERITY

Along with Hollande, Antonio José Seguro, Secretary General of the Socialist Party of Portugal, Pier Luigi Bersani, Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Italy, Victor Ponta, President of the Social democratic Party of Romania, Raymond Johansen, Secretary General of the Labor Party of Norway, Attila Mesterházy, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Secretary General of the Socialist Party of Senegal, and Lilianne Ploumen, President of the Labor Party of Holland, also took part in the panel

Seguro affirmed that the relation between politics and citizens “is broken” and this, in his opinion, is “the main challenge facing the left in the coming years.” In this sense, Seguro noted that “I understand very

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well those who are indignant, because nowadays, citizens do not find in the traditional political parties, specific answers to their problems.”

After this, the Secretary General of the Portuguese Socialist Party referred to the conservative government of his country noting that “its only policy is austerity, an austerity to solve the problems of public accounts. I think that is not enough because we must take action at two levels. If austerity causes recession, like in Greece, then it is nonsense. We must balance the accounts, but guaranteeing a sustainable growth.”

Finally, he called on a Europe “that takes action and anticipates the problems, cause now it rather reacts instead of taking action.” Therefore, he explained, “it is time for the “implementation of real European economic governance that lives up to the expectations of the founders of the EU. We need Eurobonds, a global European agenda and a federal budget.”

As regards Pier Luigi Bersani, National Secretary of the Italian Democratic Party, he went further to claim “a real progressive platform. States must accept to minimize their sovereignty, to contribute to a more democratic Europe, which is more citizen-focused.”

In his opinion, the cause of the crisis “lies in the imbalances, the bad politics, and the inequitable distribution of income, which have created a huge private debt which the financial sector has inflated and transferred to public debt.”

Ponta affirmed that Romanians “hate the conservative Government” but agreed that “this only is not enough, because people do not believe we have solutions to the pressing social and economic problems”. In this aspect, he agreed on the Hungarian Mesterházy, who warned that “social democrats we must give a practical answer to the problems of unemployment and inequity,” because, on the contrary, “populist parties that promise an easy life and bring into question issues that have been set aside like the gypsy question, will continue to emerge like in the case of Hungary”.

For Johansen the Norwegian, the success of his country, which does not belong to the EU, lies in redistribution, which has been possible

“thanks to investment in education, in nurseries and social welfare. And all this has made it possible for women to get very much involved in the job market. The success of Norway is the success of the women.”

The Senegalese Tanor Dieng urged the Global Progress platform to “place Africa on the agenda. We have great natural, water and all kinds of resources but we need skilled labor for which we need the help and experience of progressives worldwide.”

Finally, the Dutch Ploumen urged political parties “and especially left wing parties to be ruthless with corruption”, while he claimed a “moral regeneration of politics.” She also claimed the foundation of “a new multilateralism at global level, which does not restrict to taking our seed to China or Latin America, but allows the construction of a more flexible multilateralism in line with the speed of changes we are experiencing.”

#### PODESTA AND VALENCIANO STAND UP FOR COMMON STRATEGIES

Before the plenary, the President of the Center for American Progress, John Podesta, and the Secretary for International Politics and coordinator of the PSOE’s election campaign, Elena Valenciano also took the floor.

Podesta was satisfied because the Global Progress Alliance “is growing. Worldwide progressives we are faced with similar challenges. The solutions cannot be transferred from one country to the other, but the experience of this interchange is positive.” In his opinion, “we are equally affected by global forces which are obstacles we can only overcome with a global answer.”

As regards Valenciano, she called on worldwide progressives to “recover the discourse and story of politics to address the present and future challenges and shape up partnerships and joint strategies.”