

Political statement from SAMAKs Annual Meeting 2017 at Voksenåsen, Oslo, Norway, January 16 and 17 2017. SAMAK is the cooperation committee of the Nordic social democratic parties and trade union LO's. SAMAKs current leader is Jonas Gahr Støre, leader of the Norwegian labour party (Arbeiderpartiet). See more information at www.samak.info.

Nordic social democratic parties and trade union LO's:

- Develope, not dismantle the Nordic model

We want to ensure employment and good living conditions for all, equalize differences, strengthen equality between women and men and safeguard a decent world of work in the Nordics.

More uncertain international outlook

The international situation has become more demanding. There is war along the external borders of Europe, the tension between east and west has increased, and we face a persistent threat of terrorism. In the proximity of Europe towards south we see problems connected to inter alia corruption, mismanagement and demography. This may trigger radicalization and conflict – and can force people to escape.

Brexit was an expression of a crisis of trust, a feeling of uncertainty and injustice. The political right wing in United Kingdom has from early in the 1980s succeeded to weaken the trade unions and reduce the collective responsibilities through privatizations.

The consequences of the US presidential election will be revealed over time. Also in the future the Nordic countries want close cooperation with the US, based on the fundamental values which this interaction builds upon.

We see challenges with right wing populism in several parts of Europe. The elections in France in May and Germany in September are among the uncertainties. It will be decisive for the future societal development in Europe that right wing populism does not gain ground.

The Nordics as well have a responsibility to contribute to a safe and positive development in Europe and globally. In light of the more uncertain times, we will strengthen our cooperation within SAMAK.

Confident about our political direction

Our future direction is clear. We will sustain and develop the Nordic model. The guiding light will be the ten principles of the Sørmarka Declaration “We Build the Nordics” from the SAMAK congress of 2014.

To safeguard the Nordics unique combination of equalization, effectiveness, gender equality and trust demands ever more of us. A continuous effort is needed to create businesses and jobs. It is urgent to do more on climate change.

The important meeting places locally, as kindergartens, schools and the voluntary efforts, have to be defended.

We assert that it is important to integrate vulnerable groups better into the world of work. Refugees and asylum seekers must rapidly take part in the labour market or in job-relevant education. Sufficient language competencies play a major role when it comes to integration into the world of work.

To succeed with the Nordic model’s efforts for jobs for all, equalization and codetermination is the most important we can do to secure safety and trust in the Nordic societies.

Strengthening the Nordic model – NordMod 2.0

The SAMAK NordMod2030-project pointed to organized work as the most exposed basic pillar in the Nordic model. Reduced union density and more precarious short-time work threaten many workers conditions and dignity, but are also undermining how we govern our societies. New technologies shall be utilized, but have to be regulated adequately.

The Nordic model is under pressure, and it is up to us to mobilize for continued success. This presupposes a strong union movement – and a strong social democracy. The employers’ organizations is an important element in the Nordic model, and genuine cooperation between the social partners is a valuable asset for our society. This is the best guarantee for a just distribution and equal rights for everybody.

In light of the recommendations in recent reports on social dumping, working life in the Nordics and integration in the world of work, SAMAK will commission the project NordMod 2.0 The Future World of Work. With this we

want to develop new, specific proposals for a well organized and decent labour market.

Nordic strategy for fair aviation

An example of an area marked by extensive liberalization, falling prices and larger supply is international aviation. This development has favoured consumers, but atypical hirings, uncertain labour law, unclear social insurance and complex business constructions now create major problems for employees in the aviation industry. That also means increased risks for passenger safety.

SAMAKs annual meeting seconds the Heunicke report's recommendation for a Nordic strategy for decent international aviation. The strategy will be followed up inter alia towards the EU.