

Brussels, September 18<sup>th</sup>



Observer member of the  
Party of European Socialists

To the Secretary General of the  
Partido Socialista (PS)

José SÓCRATES  
Prime Minister of Portugal

Dear Prime Minister,

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Assembly of the Republic will discuss two bills proposed by the *Bloco de Esquerda* and *Os Verdes*, designed to open civil marriage to same-sex couples. The most simple of the two proposals would also give equal parenthood rights to married same-sex couples.

Rainbow Rose acknowledges the will of the Portuguese Socialist Party to debate on these issues in the next legislature, after the parliamentary election of 2009. We recognize that such a debate has already started inside the party, since the Juventude Socialista drafted its own bill proposal opening marriage to same-sex couples.

Rainbow Rose is aware that your Party has, in the past years, proposed and approved important reforms against discriminations. The law n°7/2001 of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, recognized same-sex unions outside marriage, granting them rights that are equal to those of other unmarried couples. In 2004, the Socialist Party supported the introduction in Article 13 of the Portuguese Constitution of the principle of non-discrimination of the grounds of sexual orientation.

The arguments raised by the proposal of the Juventude Socialista also mention Article 36 of the Portuguese Constitution, and the recognition of the equal and universal right of all citizens to marry and to build a family.

Rainbow Rose is confident that the Socialist Party will be further committed to the promotion of equality and diversity, conform also to the European Parliament resolution of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994, that called on the member States and the European Commission to end all discriminations on the ground of sexual orientation, providing an equal access to the conjugal rights and duties defined by marriage. Various resolutions have reminded this call, the latest on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007. All of them have been approved by the European Parliament with the support of the Portuguese Socialist Delegation.

Rainbow Rose thus asks the Socialist Party and its parliamentary group to act in the continuity of their commitments and actions, by making clear they won't oppose the bills proposed to the Assembly next month.

The Party of European Socialists can be proud of the courageous reforms adopted by many member parties in the last years, granting equal rights to lesbian and gay citizens and their families. We believe the Socialist Portuguese will share these fights, and send you our best socialist wishes.

On behalf of Rainbow Rose,  
Joël Le Deroff

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JL", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Delegate to relations with the PES

*Rainbow Rose brings together the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender socialist, social-democratic and labour groups and activists throughout Europe. Rainbow Rose is an observer member of the Party of European Socialists (PES).*