

Party Conference resolution

Moving Norway forward

The Programme of the Norwegian Labour Party
2013-2017

Contents

Contents.....	3
1) Moving Norway forward.....	Feil! Bokmerke er ikke definert.
2) Our ideas.....	7
Trust and unity	8
3) Safe economic management	12
Safe economic management	13
Economic uncertainty in the countries around us.....	13
A respectable and productive working life	15
Equality between the genders	18
Management for a new era	19
Living democracy.....	20
4) The knowledge society.....	22
We are building the Knowledge Norway of the future.....	23
Safe and good start for all	23
Labour Party has ambitions on behalf of all children	24
More upper secondary education graduates.....	27
More and even better teachers.....	28
Higher education.....	30
Lifelong learning.....	30
Research and development	31
Active economic development policy.....	32
Norway as an energy country	36
Oil and gas.....	38
Joint climate commitments for the future	39
An offensive national climate policy.....	41
Environment, outdoor recreation and nature conservation	43
Sustainable agriculture	44
Our coast as a driving force	46
ICT: Availability, knowledge and creation of economic value	48
5) Welfare society	51
We must be good at sharing and ensuring participation	52
Work programme	52
Children and families.....	54
Child welfare.....	55
A safe and free adolescence	56
Consumers	57
Accessibility and participation.....	57
Pensions and benefits.....	58
Active senior citizen life	59
Care, security and freedom.....	59
A mobilization for public health and prevention	62
Recruitment to the health and care sector.....	64
The best treatment when you are ill.....	65
Rehabilitation.....	67
Right help at the right time: mental health	68
Drug and alcohol abuse – prevention and treatment	69
6) Continuing to build our country	72
Linking our country together and continuing to build Norway	73
New housing construction initiative.....	74
A diverse country	76
Svalbard	78
The good life in cities	78
More security – less crime.....	79
Present and strong police force.....	80

Civil protection and emergency planning	81
Courts of justice and criminal administration system	82
Voluntary community	83
Culture: experiences and participation	85
Joy from sports and activities for all.....	86
Diversity of faiths and life philosophies	87
Indigenous people and national minorities	88
Diversity and opportunities.....	89
7) Norway in the world	91
The world and us	92
Values and rights	92
Global governance	93
Northern areas	94
Our relationship to Europe	95
Development policy: a question of creating and sharing.....	96
Security and peace.....	98
Armed Forces.....	99
Refugee and asylum policy	100

1) Moving Norway forward

Norway is a good country to live in, and it is a country with enormous opportunities. Our task is to manage development so that opportunities are available to everyone; so that the wealth we build up benefits the entire community and so that we preserve our unity, trust and the desire to make a contribution. These things make Norwegian society a good society.

Everything we do is based on a desire for freedom and the need for security. We must ensure safety in our society, so that individuals can live free and good lives. Everyone has a responsibility to contribute to the community. Everyone has something to contribute.

On 19 March 2012 we surpassed a population of 5 million in Norway. In just 17 years, in 2029, Norway's population will be 6 million. The next four years will essentially focus on continuing to build up the country, so that we can create jobs and safe homes, infrastructure and good welfare services for all of our citizens.

During the period from 2013 to 2017, the Labour Party will particularly prioritize five major tasks:

1. **Employment for all**

We must provide safe economic management in order to ensure employment for everyone. We must create the workplaces of tomorrow through an active economic development policy in which we dare to invest in the areas in which Norway has natural advantages. We will continue the simplification process for business and industry. At a time of major international competition and repeated attacks against the rights of the workers, the Labour Party will fight to preserve Norwegian working life as we know it, and prevent social dumping and brutalization.

2. **Knowledge**

People are our most important resource, and therefore we must invest in knowledge. The best way to accomplish this is through good common public schools. To continue our efforts to improve the schools, we will focus on teachers through, for example, increasing continuing and further education and reducing the level of everyday bureaucracy in the schools. We need more individuals who excel in math and science, and therefore we will establish a programme to boost math in the schools. Today it takes too long before those who need extra help receive it. That is why we offer a pledge of reading, writing and arithmetic assistance.

3. **Health**

The most important thing we can do in our health policy is to ensure that fewer people become ill. Therefore we must promote good public health. Through better interaction and increased specialization, our hospitals shall become even better at curing the most serious diseases and more people should receive help close to home whenever possible. Through new technology and new solutions, we can make provisions for increased freedom and safety for those who are in need of care and assistance, and ensure that more individuals can live at home longer. The public authorities must actively seek to recruit enough employees in the health and care sector in the coming years.

4. **Everyone should contribute**

Everyone has something to contribute. Therefore our welfare policy is based on our work programme. We need everyone. The same applies to our system of taxation. We do not want to have any tax freeloaders, and we want to preserve the wealth tax and make sure that those who have a lot can contribute more to the community than those who have less. We would like to see a change of pace for cooperation between the public and

voluntary sectors. With a growing population, we also need more people who can make a contribution. Volunteerism is a cornerstone of our society.

5. Continuing to build the country

We will continue to build our country. We will continue the greatest transport infrastructure boost ever, and ensure that Norway has good roads and reliable railway systems. Everyone should have the opportunity to have a good home, and therefore we need a new and active housing policy. To keep up with a growing Norway, we must simplify the planning processes and implement comprehensive measures. Public services should be simpler and more accessible.

We will bring Norway into the future – together with all of those who make an enormous contribution to our country every day, and all of those who share our vision for the Norway of tomorrow.

2) Our ideas

Trust and unity

The Labour Party's vision is of a fair and just world, at peace and without poverty, in which people are free, equal and able to influence their own lives. All people are unique, irreplaceable and of equal worth. All of us should have the opportunity to live a good life, in small and large communities. We will have a society based on freedom, solidarity and equal opportunities for all.

The Norwegian welfare model is based on a high rate of participation in the labour force; good cooperation between the authorities, trade unions and employer federations; a broadly developed welfare society for all and a broad tax base. A high degree of trust and willingness for unity is an important explanation for the development of the qualities of the Norwegian welfare society – one with small differences in living conditions, a universal welfare state and high participation in the labour force and civil society. Strong social capital is one of the characteristics of the Norwegian model.

Trust and unity between people creates a sense of belonging and good communities. A sense of belonging and good communities contribute in turn to trust and unity in the society.

If this trust weakens, it will take a lot to build it up again. We must have a high degree of awareness of how the choice of a political direction affects trust and solidarity. We must fight against a policy that weakens solidarity, leads to greater differences and undermines the universal public welfare system.

Freedom

Social democracy is a freedom project. Our goal is a fair and just society that ensures freedom, employment, security, a sense of belonging, and equal opportunities for all people. Freedom requires certain fundamental rights for all. Without voting rights, freedom of expression and law and order, there is no freedom.

Giving everyone equal opportunities is a necessary prerequisite for freedom for all. Freedom is about the opportunity to live life as one wishes, so that one's potential can be realized. Inequality, great differences and injustice results in oppression.

Freedom also means allowing others access and giving others freedom. Therefore responsibilities and obligations accompany rights. All people have a responsibility for themselves, for others and for the community. Solidarity and trust are reinforced through allowing others access to and taking responsibility for each other and the community. Society becomes safer. And safety engenders freedom.

The policy must provide an opportunity for employment and participation for everyone, as well as progress and motivation for those who are already participating. Every individual is responsible for forming their own life. The community should form a society that makes this possible.

Community

Social democracy's historical project has been to create as much freedom as possible for individuals. This is best achieved through the community. The community gives the individual more freedom and greater security than can be created by one individual. Freedom requires that everyone has equal opportunities. We can only achieve this through strong communities. Everyone is given equal access to basic welfare services, financed by the community through everyone paying tax according to their ability.

We live and develop together with others, not alone. The sum total of our joint efforts is greater than what each one of us can contribute. Strong communities have intrinsic value. Belonging to small and large communities contributes to both security and freedom.

Creating and sharing

Work is an important source of creative input and expression, for self-development and for community with others. Through work, we obtain an income and economic security. People's work is the most important source of value creation in Norway. Low unemployment and job security strengthen the creation of economic value. An active trade union movement that has been given influence and taken responsibility has played an essential role in the creation of value in Norway. Workers who have secure jobs and participate in the development of companies are more creative, flexible and committed. They create more. The creativity and innovation that is unleashed among employees when they participate in shaping their own work day is one of our most important competitive advantages.

Value must be created, and it must be shared fairly. Creating and sharing are mutually reinforcing and internally dependent: We must create something to have something to share. A fair distribution of good welfare services will at the same time contribute to increased productivity. The most developed welfare societies are therefore among the most productive. Private business actors should encounter an efficient public sector and have a predictable and good regulatory framework. We desire interaction between business and industry, trade unions and employer federations and the central government in order to create more.

It is of intrinsic value that we have local settlements, various types of commercial activities and different distinctive features in all sections of the country. This is part of our national identity. Safeguarding this is a social responsibility.

Diversity

Freedom requires tolerance for differences and diversity. The Labour Party views diversity as a strength for creativity, the exchange of experience and contact with other countries and cultures. It is a strength for us as individuals, and for business and industry. It is a resource for the creation of economic value and for cultural development. If we are successful with integration, we will stand stronger in the age of globalization.

Everyone should be met with expectations and given the opportunity to contribute to society and participate in the community. We must be successful with integration. This is a responsibility that the minority and majority populations must share. This responsibility is founded on a consensus on everyone having equal duties and rights. Language is the key to our integration policy. For most individuals, education and work are the gateway to the Norwegian community.

When the society becomes more diversified, its foundation must be clear. Our foundation is based on common values that have developed over a long period of time: democracy, human rights, constitutional government and equality. Diversity can develop within this framework. The quality of a society can be measured by the participation of minorities in the community.

Solidarity

No one can manage completely alone. Even the strongest individuals may need help. Solidarity is willingness for unity and the expression of a feeling of responsibility. This is a prerequisite for freedom.

A society based on solidarity supports and takes care of those who need help. Solidarity is displayed in the manner in which the major problems are solved. In a modern society solidarity is expressed through good community solutions that safeguard the security and freedom of all.

Giving priority to tax cuts rather than to welfare weakens community solutions. If fundamental welfare services are made dependent on the market, this may weaken support for the welfare society, because it can undermine the common interest of the people to jointly support the community. We believe that cooperation is a more important prerequisite for development than competition. Welfare essentially revolves around human relations. We do not want to allow the market to determine human relations.

An active and developed civil society

There is a close relationship between high social capital and an active and developed civil society. Civil society plays an important role in solving the tasks that the public authorities cannot or should not solve alone. Volunteerism develops in the local community, close to where people live. It solves important tasks in the void between the various public and private offerings.

Voluntary organizations and social entrepreneurship may counteract loneliness and social exclusion by means that are better than what the public authorities can provide.

Social democracy knows no boundaries

The Labour Party's fundamental values of freedom, solidarity and equal opportunities do not stop at national borders. We desire a global welfare society founded on active governments in which everyone has social security, employment and an opportunity to provide for oneself and one's family. Democratic rights, freedom of association and law and order should apply to everyone. Together with sister parties and supporters throughout the world, we will seek to create an international society that is characterized by these ideas. We will help ensure that Europe is at the forefront of this work.

The Labour Party desires supranational solutions for supranational challenges. We want to have an international society that is dynamic and international rules that apply to all countries. When people are exposed to abuse, it is not an internal affair for the central government. We want to build on international law, and we want the UN to manage international cooperation based on legal principles and representative, efficient institutions. Such a system must have options for sanctions, so that there is force behind its demands.

A society in ecological balance

Solidarity with coming generations entails that we do not inflict social, economic or environmental problems on those who succeed us. The Labour Party does not want to pass on a society that is debt ridden, unfair, polluted, or where nature is scarce. A precautionary approach is therefore fundamental to the Labour Party.

Man-made climate change combined with poverty is the most important challenge of our time. It is a global challenge that requires global solutions through international organizations such as the UN and the EU. Norway should play an active role in this work. We must at the same time act on a national and on a local basis. Climate challenges require social democratic community solutions. They will really test our solidarity – the poor countries and population groups in the world will be the most seriously affected.

A social democracy for the future

Modern social democracy is based on a foundation of solidarity, democracy, humanism, and social critique. It has given us a society characterized by strong unity and with a high degree of trust between people and between the people and the authorities. Trust and unity are important pillars in a social contract in which everyone participates in, contributes to and benefits well from the community, where everyone does their duty and can claim their rights. If we manage to maintain the strength of this trust and unity, it will provide each and every one of us greater security, and give more freedom to more people.

Trust and unity are important qualities for meeting changing and challenging times. Social democratic solutions are therefore good for the solving of the challenges of the future. High social capital, that is to say mutual security, is a key element when we are to shape the future of Norway.

Bringing Norway into the future

The modern history of Norway is closely linked to the history of the Norwegian Labour Party. Norway is now a completely different society than it was when the labour movement started. However, our values remain the same. A strong trade union and political movement has provided democratic reforms and fairer distribution. We have a lot to be proud of in Norway. However, we are not satisfied. Social democracy is always an ongoing project.

Employment for everyone is our most important issue. We create value for individuals and the community through work. This results in individual freedom. Therefore our goal is to give more individuals an opportunity to contribute. Facilitating participation has contributed to bringing an increasing number of people into working life.

The Labour Party is a socially critical party. Our goal is always to improve society. We will at the same time preserve and develop the strong trust and unity of Norwegian society. This requires a willingness for political management and the certainty that the community is still the best tool for allowing all people to take part in a safe and fair development of society.

3) Safe economic management

Safe economic management

Norway has a terrific starting point. We have a well-run society, with highly educated people, good welfare systems, a stable regulatory framework for business and industry, and we are rich in natural resources. Most of us are satisfied with our way of creating, sharing and living. We have a lot to be proud of in Norway. We currently have record low unemployment – both historically, and compared with other countries. In addition, we have record high employment.

Security in daily life is about having a job to go to, having a salary you can live from of and access to good welfare services. The Labour Party will pursue an economic policy that ensures low unemployment, high employment and facilitates the competitiveness of business and industry, so that we can maintain our creation of economic value in the long term.

This programme contains long-term targets and specific goals for the next four years. The extent to which we implement these goals is dependent on the development of the economy and the composition of the Norwegian Parliament after the election.

Economic uncertainty in the countries around us

The world has been greatly affected by economic unrest in recent years. The level of unemployment has remained at a very high level – particularly among young people. There is a risk of increased social unrest and a lack of sustainability for the welfare systems in many countries. International economic unrest will affect Europe for a long time to come.

So far Norway has managed well. However, we are a small country with close economic ties to the world around us. Two-thirds of everything we produce is exported to Europe. The EEA Agreement enables Norwegian enterprises to compete on par with European enterprises. A reduction in international trade affects Norwegian business and industry. A strong Norwegian krone can exacerbate this problem and jobs can be put at risk. Safe economic management is essential in order to secure Norwegian jobs, and competitive business and industry.

The international financial crisis has confirmed that the market cannot manage itself. The Labour Party believes it is necessary to have political management of the financial markets through regulations that can prevent crises and safeguard trust, democratic access and consumer interests. Norway must actively support the regulatory work that is taking place internationally.

Illegal capital flight is a major problem for many countries. Transparency and access are decisive in order to limit illegal capital flight, expose tax evasion and other crime.

Norway should promote ongoing international efforts to ensure greater transparency and the exchange of information. Countries that facilitate illegal capital flight should be blacklisted and subjected to international sanctions.

Oil and gas resources give us incredible income directly to the community, and create jobs and economic value throughout the entire country. We are ensuring that this temporary income will become perpetual wealth for us and the coming generations through the Government Pension Fund Global and the 4 per cent fiscal rule. Those of us who are living today must satisfy our needs without destroying the opportunity for coming generations to satisfy theirs. The Labour Party believes that the 4 per cent fiscal rule – and the fact that changing governments have chosen to observe this rule over time – is the most important contribution to safe economic management in Norway. Petroleum revenues are no guarantee that things cannot go wrong in the Norwegian economy. Many countries have experienced that it is challenging to manage revenues from natural resources without destroying the economy and long-term capacity for growth.

The Labour Party believes that management of the pension fund should still take place with a view to achieving the highest possible return at a moderate risk in order to safeguard

people's pensions. The Labour Party wants the Government Pension Fund Global to be among the leading funds in the world in the campaign for human rights and a better climate. Continue to develop the investment strategy of the Government Pension Fund Global to ensure a good return at a moderate risk. The Fund should also be a responsible investor and build on internationally recognised principles for responsible investment activities, such as the UN Global Compact, the OECD principles for corporate governance and international law. We will ensure that adequate resources are provided for work on responsible investments.

Our welfare society is a community that shares expenses. The Labour Party wants to have a system of taxation and fees that provides stable revenue for the community, promotes employment, ensures a fair distribution and a better environment, and which can also contribute to maintaining jobs and settlements in rural Norway. We must have a level of taxation that enables us to finance good welfare services, while being perceived to be reasonable and fair.

Good distribution is not just about fairness, it also highly important for economic development, growth and stability. A well-known feature of economic development in the Nordic countries is the fact that they have managed to combine economic growth and a high level of income with an even distribution of incomes. This is part of the core of the Norwegian model. Good distribution is important for the economy, because it means that more people seek education, are employed and earn money, and thus contributing to higher tax revenues and purchasing power.

The overall tax level has not increased relative to 2004, but a redistribution has taken place, so that those who have received large dividends and have a great deal of wealth pay more, while those who have little pay less tax. The Labour Party will seek to maintain a broad and fair basis for taxation. We want to have a system of taxation that is as fair and predictable as possible, and regularly consider changes that can contribute to a fairer distribution. The tax system is also a key policy instrument for environmental and climate policy. The Labour Party will ensure that necessary appropriations are made to strengthen control of black market activity and major economic crime.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure market access through the EEA Agreement and actively work with EU agencies and to safeguard the opportunity of Norwegian enterprises to compete on equal terms in the European market.
- Implement the measures that are necessary to ensure a stable and functioning financial market.
- Observe the 4 per cent fiscal rule to ensure responsible use of oil revenues.
- Continue to develop the investment strategy of the Government Pension Fund Global to ensure a good return at a moderate risk. The Fund should be a responsible investor.
- Use money so that it contributes to evening out fluctuations in the economy.
- Keep overall taxes and fees at the same level as today.
- Maintain the wealth tax, but continue to work on changes that can contribute to a fairer distribution and better regulatory framework for Norwegian business and industry.
- Ensure stable and competitive tax regulations for business and industry.
- Develop and strengthen the use of climate change and environmental taxes.
- Reinforce efforts to prevent a black market economy and to prevent tax evasion, both nationally and internationally.
- Actively seek to prevent tax competition internationally.
- Maintain the local power of taxation.

A respectable and productive working life

Employment for all is our most important job. It provides individual freedom, economic security and the opportunity to make use of personal abilities. Our most important project is therefore to protect existing jobs and to create new jobs. It must be easier to enter the labour force and more difficult to be excluded. There must be room for anyone who can make a contribution in working life.

Employment is also a type of community. Participation and a sense of belonging create trust between people, and between people and society. We need a respectable working life to maintain security. Strong organizations on the employee and employer sides provide good protection against unserious undertakings and social dumping in working life. An organized working life contributes to greater creation of value, productivity and innovation, which makes the Norwegian Labour market very competitive in spite of its high cost level. Strong and responsible organizations in working life represent an important basis for high employment. Many countries in Europe are experiencing that fewer people are joining trade unions. We are also experiencing this to some extent in Norway. The Labour Party wants to stimulate people to join trade unions by raising the tax deduction for trade union dues.

Good relations between employees and employers, and a main role for the coordinating central organizations is an important basis for the creation of value, distribution of goods, and social stability. The Norwegian model for cooperation and wage bargaining is currently an integral part of the authorities' policy for broad areas of society, and it contributes to the parties at both the central and local levels finding good solutions with a low level of disputes. As part of building the infrastructure for cooperation between parties, it is important to develop institutions such as the Labour Court, the Contact Committee, the Norwegian Technical Calculation Committee for Wage Settlements, the Tariff Committee and the National Conciliation Institute.

The Norwegian Labour Party will protect the rights of workers. We will safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the workers. This is a fundamental aspect of our social model and contributes to the creation of value, growth and innovation.

The Norwegian Labour Party wants it to be easy for workers to come to Norway and use their skills here. It must be quick and easy for both employers and employees to receive the necessary permits so that competent manpower can be recruited. After the expansion of the EU, the number of labour immigrants has increased significantly. The Labour Party approves of this, but there are also challenges.

Increased labour immigration has given us important manpower, however, in some segments of working life it has also resulted in problems associated with social dumping. Large-scale movement of manpower across national borders, combined with outsourcing tasks, is placing increasing pressure on the Norwegian working life model. The EEA Agreement is positive for Norway and has contributed to strengthening the rights of many workers in Europe and Norway. The Labour Party will actively exploit the opportunities that lie within the agreement, to ensure that Norway will continue to have good regulation of working life. For the Labour Party, it is important to safeguard the wage and working conditions for everyone who works in Norway. We will seek to ensure that the new EU rules do not create obstacles to measures that Norway has introduced or plans to introduce, such as the plans of action against social dumping. It is particularly important to safeguard wage earners and workers who participate in cross-border establishments and services and to protect their collective rights including the right to strike.

The purpose of the au pair scheme is to provide an opportunity for cultural exchange between various countries for young people. People who are in reality employed as domestic servants

must have decent wage and working conditions, and they cannot stay in Norway on an au pair permit.

Social dumping means that foreign workers are subjected to violations of the health, safety and environmental regulations, or offered wages that unacceptably low. Making collective wage agreements universally applicable is an important tool to combat social dumping. We will facilitate making such agreements universally applicable. Joint and several liability that makes the principal responsible for paying wages to subcontractors, the shop stewards' right of access and the principal's duty to control are all important elements of the system and must be maintained. An assessment must be made as to whether principals who are not consumers should also be encompassed by the joint and several liability for the failure to pay wages etc.

The Labour Party will continue to seek schemes that safeguard workers in matters related to wages and working conditions. In order to direct special efforts toward sectors that are particularly exposed to unserious undertakings and social dumping, the Labour Party will, for example, further develop three-part industry programmes as an instrument.

Contractual relationships with long supplier chains increase worker exploitation and social dumping. Experience from limiting the number of links in contract chains must be applied in more public agencies and municipalities in order to combat unserious undertakings and social dumping.

The number of serious work-related accidents is still high in Norwegian working life. Labour immigrants and young people have a 50% higher risk of serious accidents due to language barriers and less experience than other employees, and they require therefore a greater effort and more attention.

In line with changes in society, there are changes in work life. New technology and an increasingly more interactive daily life means that more people are available to employers almost around the clock. More people are working in the evening, at night and on weekends. It is important that there are both statutory and contractual frameworks that safeguard the rights of workers. The rules must be such that it is still possible to make a distinction between work and time off. The organization of working life is also changing. Some corporations are organized in such a manner that the employees do not have the same protections from the HSE regulations, and lack the right of co-determination in the enterprise. The Labour Party will seek to ensure that it is not possible to circumvent rules which are important for safeguarding employee wages and working condition. The Labour Party will therefore ensure that industrial democracy is also safeguarded in franchise chains.

Employees who work at points of sale are not currently encompassed by the provisions concerning night and weekend work in the Working Environment Act. Thus they do not have the same statutory protection as other workers, and less influence over their own working hours.

The Labour Party will take the initiative to review this with a view to comprehensive regulation that safeguards the workers need for protection, participation and fundamental principles of industrial democracy in various ownership configurations. The opening hour provisions will be reviewed parallel to this, with a view to modernization. In accordance with the Norwegian model, this will be carried out in cooperation with trade unions and employer federations.

The main purpose of this is to ensure that individuals enjoy economic security and to make it possible to combine work and pensions, or work and National Insurance benefits. Pensions can represent a significant cost difference when public services are exposed to competition. Over time we have seen that the pension terms for employees come under pressure when public services are exposed to competitive tendering. Such a development may result in competition at the expense of employee wages and working conditions. The Labour Party

will review how the use of competitive tendering in the public sector may weaken employee pension terms.

New technological systems contribute to greater efficiency, but they can also be used to monitor the employees, so that the right of privacy may be compromised. The Labour Party will seek stronger regulations that set clear limits for what type of monitoring will be permitted in working life.

Together with trade unions and employer federations, the Labour Party will promote a full-time culture in Norwegian working life, and seek to combat involuntary part-time work. Employees who have worked more than the agreed working hours over a period of time should be entitled to a higher position percentage, corresponding to their actual working hours.

It must be ensured that the preferential rights of part-time employees in the Working Environment Act (Section 14-3) are genuine.

Part-time employees who are qualified and desire to do so should be able to have their position expanded, instead of a new employee being hired. An improvement in municipal finances will provide an opportunity to increase the number of man-years in the health and care professions, and thus also increase the number of full-time positions.

Entering the labour force must be easier, and the risk of exclusion must be reduced. Therefore it is important that we have an effective Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service. Early efforts, tailor-made arrangements, and a focus on the individual's competence with respect to future jobs are important when the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service encounters the users.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Maintain the employee rights in the sick pay scheme.
- Reinforce practical follow-up of the More Inclusive Working Life Agreement
- Increase the efforts to combat work-related accidents and work in accordance with a zero vision for serious accidents in working life in the same manner as we work in accordance with a zero vision for fatal traffic accidents.
- Ensure that responsibility for HSE is clearly defined and safeguarded in long contract chains with unclear responsibility, see also the Construction Client Regulations.
- Place demands on employers related to adequate language training and facilitating the comprehension of Norwegian regulations and working culture among labour immigrants.
- Strengthen work to prevent social dumping and promote new measures in a third plan of action.
- Reinforce the Director of Labour Inspection and the Petroleum Safety Authority of Norway through better policy instruments and effective enforcement of regulations.
- Ensure the right to file a group action suit for trade unions in connection with leasing manpower.
- Ensure, in cooperation with the trade unions and the employers' federations, that we have a well-functioning system for making measures against social dumping universally applicable.
- Ensure more equality in Norway and amend the Working Environment Act so that it establishes by law the right to an expanded position for part-time employees, preferential rights for part-time employees and the introduction of a duty of discussion with employee representatives in connection with the use of part-time positions.
- Ensure that employees who have worked more than the agreed working hours over a period of time have entitlement to an expanded position.
- Ensure that permanent and direct employment is still the general rule in Norwegian working life and that the use of leasing is limited to the greatest possible extent to genuine temporary help and seasonal peaks.
- Ensure compliance with the principle of equal treatment connection with the leasing of manpower. Manpower that is leased shall have wages and working conditions that are at least as good as the manpower that is employed directly by the lessor.

- Ensure that employees and their organizations have good opportunities for participation when inconvenient working hours, such as night work, are scheduled.
- Ensure the rights of employees in connection with business transfers, competitive tendering and when enterprises are organized as franchises.
- Consider expanded HSE responsibility for corporations and franchises.
- Make it easier for foreign employees to make use of their skills in Norwegian working life.
- Actively exploit the opportunities in the EEA agreement to safeguard the rights of employees.
- Raise the deduction for trade union dues and develop three-part cooperation between the authorities, employees and employer organizations.

Equality between the genders

Equality means that your opportunities and rights in society are not determined by your gender. The Labour Party is proud that Norway has a top ranking in the world with regard to equality, and that Norwegian women can combine employment with a relatively high birth rate in the European context. Nevertheless, there are still tasks remaining in order to ensure equality.

The participation of women in working life is of decisive importance for the capacity for growth of the Norwegian economy. The increased participation of women in the labour force provided the foundation for the incredible development in welfare we have seen since the end of the 1960s. Norway currently has high labour force participation among women. More than 73 per cent of Norwegian women aged 15–64 were employed in 2010 – more than 16 percentage points above the OECD average.

Up to the present we have achieved many of the family policy goals which we know contribute to greater equality. Now we must focus on the major equality policy challenges that still exist in working life today. Important challenges in the future include ensuring equal pay and making provisions so that more women can work on a full-time basis. In addition, work to prevent violence in close relationships must always have priority.

Equality is about equal opportunities for both genders. The greatest challenges for equality in the future apply to women, but men can also experience challenges in equality, when, for example, they have less contact with their children than mothers after a breakup, more boys than girls leave upper secondary school without finishing, and men have a shorter life expectancy and rank higher in crime statistics. We have not accomplished our goals for equality until men and women have the same freedom of choices and opportunities.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Cooperate with trade unions and employer federations with regard to developmental work and measures that can promote equality in the workplace.
- Increase our knowledge of the reason for women's absence due to illness.
- Work together with the trade unions and employer federations to ensure equal pay and that more women can work on a full-time basis.
- Set a target of 40 per cent for executives at the highest levels in the central government to be women.
- Ensure that government-owned companies have recruitment strategies to increase the number of women in management in order to reach the target of at least 40 per cent of both genders in management.
- Use the additional point scheme for educational programmes in favour of the underrepresented gender in a focused manner, in combination with other recruitment

measures, including use of the scheme for more programmes in which there are few boys.

Management for a new era

The public sector exists for the citizens. It should provide all of us with services, options and co-determination. A strong and good public sector is a prerequisite for equalization and equal conditions for everyone. For us it is important to renew and reorganize the public sector so that it becomes more efficient and better for its users. Our employees are our most important resource in order to achieve this.

Our goal is to provide the best services possible to the entire population, regardless of who you are, your background, where you live, or the size of your wallet. A strong and modern public sector that offers good, efficient services, is the most important instrument in order to achieve this goal. Resources the community uses on welfare should be used for the best possible quality of services. Quality is affected by working conditions for employees, for example. The Labour Party does not want to have competitive tendering in which there is competition for the wages and working conditions of the employees. In core areas such as health, education, and care for the elderly, there must be good public services that encompass everyone. How we organize these offerings depends on what is best for the population. Basic welfare services must not be privatized or commercialized.

Non-profit organizations and other private welfare providers are a useful supplement to the public offerings. A variety of methods, innovation and new solutions may contribute to further development of the service offerings. Many non-profit organizations have long experience, a high level of competence and a great deal of commitment, and they can contribute with both new solutions and driving the development of public offerings. Social entrepreneurs may bring experience and perspectives with them that will supplement and renew the public offerings.

The Norwegian administration functions well and ranks among the best in the world. The Labour Party will always contribute to improving and reinforcing services that are available to all. The Labour Party wants the users and services to be in focus, and it will critically review the reporting requirements, rules and routines that contribute to any unnecessary bureaucratization and detailed control that may have a detrimental effect on quality. The Labour Party is very concerned about reducing the scope of temporary employment and the use of consultants, since this can weaken employee rights, co-determination, and opportunities for public authorities to develop the competence of their own employees.

Executives at all levels of the administration must systematically seek to strengthen their own attitudes and the attitudes of the organization, as well as the culture related to risk acknowledgement, execution capacity, interaction, ICT exploitation and results-oriented management. This is work that will take time and require a willingness to change at all levels. Better interaction will be required, as well as more efficient management and leadership willing to listen and learn from first-line employees who know the weaknesses and strengths.

The Labour Party will improve and reinforce public services, so that they are easily accessible to all. Good incentives are important in order to ensure that we use community resources in a good and efficient manner, in which contributions from employees, and competent, inclusive management are of key importance. Trust between resourceful employees and management is essential in order to improve the administration of and offerings to the public. Control and reporting routines must be appropriate in order to promote efficiency and improve solutions, avoid misuse of community resources and fight corruption. The use of market principles in the public sector must be based on the desire to strengthen the service offerings for the good of all and not weaken the rights of the employees.

The Labour Party wants people to have a good experience in their encounter with public services. We want to simplify daily life for those who receive services and for those who work with services in the public sector. The administration shall make use of digital services. Norwegians are very quick to start using such services. Thus the public sector can not lag behind.

The administration should be open and accessible, and it should communicate in a clear and comprehensible manner. Digitalization of the public sector provides better, more coordinated and faster services. Concurrently, community resources are freed up, so that more can be used for care and welfare. By offering self-service solutions, resources that are freed can be used to provide better personal follow-up when required. Accessibility is also about individuals being able to understand the content of the service they are using. It is a matter of most people understanding public information and forms, purely from a language perspective, among other things.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Work toward a public sector that is concerned about service, and meets each citizen individually.
- Ensure that online services be the general rule for the administration's communication with people.
- Simplify the regulations that ordinary people, organizations and businessmen often encounter, with a view to saving them from any unnecessary use of time and expense, through three-part cooperation, for example.
- Ensure that the control and reporting regime of public administration is simplified.
- Have more comprehensive and clear formulation of goals in order to reduce the degree of detailed control in the letters of assignment, for example.
- Develop a better culture for the involvement of employees.
- Establish better routines for disseminating knowledge of "best practices" in all parts of the public sector.
- Develop strategies for the purchase and use of consulting services in the public sector. For the purchase and use of consulting services for enterprises in the public sector, the transfer of competence to the public enterprise should as be included as a rule when a major consulting agreement is signed.
- Exploit public resources better through coordination of public procurements.
- Simplify the procurement regulations and have flexible rules for the procurements of health and social services.
- Ensure that central and municipal government controlled enterprises stipulate requirements for apprenticeships in any relevant disciplines.
- Have a good ongoing dialogue with the non-profit organization sector with a view to developing good welfare services for the future.
- Ensure that non-profit organizations are a supplement to the public offerings. They should have a predictable regulatory framework, and the length of contracts must ensure that the users receive quality and that the organizations have an opportunity to invest.

Living democracy

The Labour Party believes that individuals should be able to determine their own daily life. It is about participating in democracy through voting and elections, but also about having an influence in the workplace, in the local community, in school and in encounters with the public authorities. Freedom of choice and co-determination must be a fundamental goal. Employee opportunities for co-determination must be strengthened, so that industrial democracy and statutory and contractual co-determination genuinely exist.

A low voter turnout is a challenge for democracy. The Labour Party believes that increasing the voter turnout is an important political goal. Local democracy must therefore be perceived as something important, and local elected officials must have influence on and responsibility for the issues that mean something in people's everyday life. It must also be easy to vote in an election.

Democracy also safeguards the interests of the minority. Consultation rounds, impact assessments and other processes ensure that various opinions and interests are made known. They also contribute to the fact that decisions take time. The Labour Party wants to simplify and shorten planning processes, while also safeguarding the opportunity for various interests to express their opinions.

Transparency, access to information, and freedom of expression are key elements of a democracy. Media professionals with integrity, broad ethical principles and competent journalists are essential to ensure that the media manage to carry out their important role in society.

The media scene is undergoing extreme changes today. The Internet and the digital scene are changing people's media habits, the competition situation in the market and the manner in which the media companies produce and distribute their products. The Labour Party believes that media policy must contribute to ensuring the diversity of the media and quality journalism. With a rapidly changing situation, however, we must also continuously evaluate media policy instruments as to whether they are functioning properly and ensuring the important role of the media in society and the goals of the media policy.

The digital revolution provides new opportunities for fast, inexpensive communication and the reuse of text and images. In this situation it is important that contracts and regulations are established that ensure the rights to one's own intellectual property, and proper usage agreements for journalists and photographers.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Implement measures that increase the influence of students in school, and of the users of public services.
- Review the Representation of the People Act with a view to giving the parties a greater opportunity locally to select how many candidates they want to cumulate in advance.
- Encourage the municipalities to carry out two-day elections.
- Facilitate the testing of electronic voting.
- Continue trial of voting rights for 16-year-olds in local elections.
- Define overarching national interests more clearly, make sure that government entities are better coordinated in the planning processes and have as a goal to limit the use of objections in local and regional planning.
- Ensure an adequate degree of transparency, access, and that the rights of minorities are safeguarded in municipalities that introduce a parliamentary system of government.
- Continue to strengthen NRK and TV2 as public broadcasters and maintain licence financing. TV2 must remain in Bergen, even after the next licence.
- Continue and develop the press subsidy scheme.
- Pursue a media policy that ensures diversity at the local level as well. It is also a goal to maintain at least two editorially independent newspapers wherever relevant.
- Pursue a media policy that facilitates the public having access to quality journalism on their desired platforms.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis whether media policy instruments are up-to-date in relation to an industry that is changing rapidly, so that they contribute to ensuring a free, democratic press and media diversity.
- Have legislation that contributes to ensuring broad ownership of the media.

4) The knowledge society

We are building the Knowledge Norway of the future

Norway's most important resource is the people who live here. Knowledge, creativity and the need to create something are what enable us to solve the problems of tomorrow. For this reason the Labour Party has major ambitions for Knowledge Norway.

Equal rights to education are fundamental for reducing social inequalities, and for giving everyone the opportunity to use their abilities. All of our reforms in the area of knowledge have been about ensuring that people have access to a good, high quality, free education. We have ambitions on behalf of all children. A person's background should not determine what opportunities they have in life.

We do not know everything about the future, but we do know that knowledge and competence will determine whether Norway will continue to succeed. There will always be countries that can offer goods and services at a lower cost than Norway. Our competitive advantages must therefore lie elsewhere. We must be best with regard to knowledge, innovation, change and technology. This will enable Norway to continue to be more successful than other countries.

The Labour Party wants to have a knowledge policy in which we do what we know works, and which is based on leading national and international research. Strengthening quality and increasing diversity are key goals throughout all of Knowledge Norway. We therefore need a more uniform and coherent knowledge policy, in which the different parts of the education system are well adapted to each other. Then building upon and moving between the various educational programs will be easier and more flexible.

We must succeed in creating the work places of tomorrow. Norwegian schools should use the best new technology in order to promote knowledge, pedagogy and adapted learning. We will ensure a better sharing of experience between schools and educational institutions, and emphasize "best practice" examples. Therefore we will strengthen entrepreneurial competence throughout the entire cycle of education, through binding cooperation between the educational institutions and working life, for example.

Safe and good start for all

With our policy, we have achieved the historic goal of day care for all. We have introduced a maximum price that has made day care significantly less expensive. Providing safe day care means that children can experience play, socialization, and mastery of tasks with others the same age, while Norwegian families have obtained greater opportunities to combine work and family.

Day care should be a safe and tailored service that develops the children's inherent curiosity and need to explore. In order to follow up each child in a satisfactory manner, it is important that there are enough adults in the day care centre, and that as many of them as possible have relevant training. We will make provisions so that day care centre employees can increase their formal qualifications and improve the opportunities so that employees can complete a pre-school teacher education programme while they are working. We will ensure this quality by having more trained teachers, and more child and youth workers in the day care centres. We also want to have more social care expertise at day care centres. We will contribute to ensuring that our youngest receive the best possible basis for continued learning through better cooperation between day care centres and schools.

We know that differences arise early. Day care centres are therefore important in order to provide early support to those who need it, and to ensure that all children have a good

starting point. In the day care centres, children learn that we are all different, and how to handle these differences. All day care centres must have an active anti-bullying program, and ensure that children learn to socialize with adults and each other in a good way.

We will continue to develop day care centres. In the years towards 2020, the Labour Party will improve the quality of day care centres, and also gradually seek to ensure that children who are born after 1 September are also offered a place in a day care centre from the age of one.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Continue our work to improve the quality of day care centres by increasing the competence of the employees and increasing the number of trained personnel in the centres. We want to have more trained teachers and eliminate the possibility of permanent dispensation from the training requirement for managers and teaching supervisors.
- Introduce a staffing standard that will ensure an adequate number of adults in the day care centres by 2020. This standard must be formulated in close cooperation with the municipal sector, so that the adult-to-child ratio in the day care centres is maintained at approximately the current level.
- Continue to increase the number of day care centres so that the right to a place in a day care centre for one-year-olds can gradually be expanded. A requirement for a minimum of two admission rounds a year during the Storting period should be introduced at day care centres. .
- Defend the maximum price scheme and the sibling discount requirement.
- Treat public and private day care centres equally, and ensure that both public grants and payments from parents benefit the children. When full equal treatment has been achieved, the same requirements should apply as a rule to the day care centres, with regard to the admission criteria, for example.
- Offer free half-day places at day care centres in a number of areas with challenging living conditions and expand this to cover more three-year olds.
- Develop an online quality portal that can give the parents information on quality work in the day care centres.
- Protect the physical and psychosocial environment for children in the day care centres.
- Ensure that day care centres have safe and stimulating outdoor areas for play and socialization.
- Give the parents greater influence and genuine participation in the day care centres.
- Recruit more men to the day care centres, and ensure equality based on the fact that all children should have equal opportunities, regardless of their gender.
- Discontinue cash benefits during the next Storting period. Families who have applied for a place at a day care centre may receive cash benefits from the end of their parental leave until a place at the day care centre is offered.

Labour Party has ambitions on behalf of all children

Knowledge and quality should govern school policy. In order to achieve the Labour Party goal of equal opportunities for all, nothing is more important than a good school that sees and follows up each individual student. The common public school should give all children and young people an opportunity to succeed through early efforts, clear learning goals and more adapted learning. There are still too great social and geographic differences. An effort must be made to ensure a genuine common public school, with equal opportunities for all.

All people are unique. We have different talents, and we learn in different ways. Students must be met with clear expectations, and the schools must ensure that each individual is given something to strive for. Therefore the Labour Party will develop a more active, varied

and adapted school day for learning and coping. The Labour Party has a broad view of knowledge, and it will safeguard the broad social mandate of schools.

Children and young people meet others from different social groups in the common public school. The social community and cooperation that arise in the common public school help prepare students for active, democratic participation in an ever more diverse social and working life. It is a strength that Norwegian schools contribute to counteracting differences and contrasts in society. Therefore the Labour Party will prevent the privatization of schools and defend, reinforce and renew the common public school. In accordance with the private school settlement between the Labour Party, Christian Democratic Party, Socialist Left Party and Centre Party, the Labour Party would like to point out that consideration should be shown to the public school sector, the need for the school and how serious the applicant is when applications for the establishment of private schools are considered.

International surveys confirm that Norwegian students have improved their reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Nevertheless, we must be better at ensuring that all students leave the primary and lower secondary school with good basic skills. It is essential that the students experience safety and mastering, particularly during the first years of school. This is how a basis is established for good work habits, further education and conscious choices. The students must have an opportunity to express themselves in various ways, including the theoretical, practical, physical and aesthetic.

In Norway, we have invested heavily in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), but we have not made a corresponding investment in the development and procurement of digital teaching aids. With smart digital teaching aids, it will be much easier to adapt teaching and education to the academic learning level of the individual student. Teaching at the level of each individual student will make the school beneficial for all, including those who are either beyond or behind the rest of the class. In addition this will give the teachers more time for teaching.

Lower secondary school

Research shows that the student motivation is at the lowest at the lower secondary level. The introduction of optional subjects and a more practical school is welcomed by both students and teachers. The Labour Party will continue to focus on the lower secondary level, through more optional subjects, increased cooperation with working life, and better transitions to upper secondary training, for example. We will give the students a greater opportunity to study subjects in greater detail according to their own interests and prerequisites. We will give lower secondary schools a greater opportunity to develop their own profile, as theme schools, for example. With such a profile, research centres and key enterprises in the local community can contribute interesting learning arenas, exciting challenges for the students, and provide new competence for the classroom. We will modernize the lower secondary level by phasing in new technology for knowledge, pedagogical development and adapted learning.

Boost in mathematics skills

In order to meet future needs for competence, we will establish a programme to boost mathematics skills. There will be a great need for engineers and other professions with a scientific education in the years to come. The foundation for encouraging more students to choose these education programmes is laid through good math teaching. We must ensure that there are more teachers with higher competence to cover the need for good teaching, and develop better and more motivating teaching methods, so that more students become involved and interested in mathematics. We will increase the number of hours for mathematics in the lower secondary school, and ensure that each county makes provisions so that the students can specialize in scientific subjects at an advanced level.

Digital skills

Digital skills are one of the five basic skills of the Curriculum Plan. Digital competence is the ability to relate to and use digital tools and social media in a safe, critical and creative manner. This is a matter of knowledge, skills and attitudes, and the ability to perform practical tasks, communicate, and collect and process information. The Labour Party wants to further boost digital competence, and define competence targets for digital skills in the primary and lower secondary school. Teachers and day care centre personnel must have the competence necessary to use ICT in their teaching and dissemination of digital competence.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that students are met with clear expectations. We will therefore develop clearer, national learning targets and make provisions so that the students and parents are aware of these curriculum targets.
- Intensify basic skills training and ensure that students learn what they need to learn to be successful in further education and participation in society.
- Ensure early efforts through the establishment of a reading, writing and arithmetic pledge, so that students with basic skills far below the expected level will automatically receive extra intensive training.
- Say no to commercial private schools and ensure a predictable regulatory framework for alternative, non-profit schools.
- Ensure a 5-day school week for all students throughout Norway through legislation.
- Study how the establishment of private schools will affect integration and consider the introduction of requirements in the curriculum concerning integration and an association with the local environment for these schools.
- Strengthen management and academic competence at all levels schools.
- Follow-up students with respect to the Working Environment Act, provide public support for the improvement of school buildings through the interest compensation scheme and close schools that are not in a satisfactory condition.
- Work to introduce daily physical activity.
- Implement a zero tolerance policy for bullying by making adults responsible, strengthen knowledge of the regulations and appeal rights among the students and parents, establish municipal emergency response teams and introduce sanctions against schools that do not resolve their bullying issues.
- Strengthen student councils and facilitate student involvement in all important decisions at the school, in addition to starting a trial of student councils from the first grade.
- Strengthen work on teaching supportive evaluation and student participation in the planning, execution and evaluation of teaching.
- Review the entire quality development system to ensure that it contributes to more and better learning, instead of promoting an achievement culture based on competition and the ranking of schools. National testing, the student survey, international surveys, survey testing etc. should be useful tools for the promotion of learning and use in specific improvement work.
- Modernize schools through a national strategy for ICT in the schools, and through the development of modern digital teaching aids as tools for adapted learning and skill training.
- Ensure that the schools have access to high-speed Internet.
- Establish a uniform ICT architecture for schools.
- Facilitate the development of smart digital teaching aids.
- Assign the task of recommending and assuring the quality of digital teaching aids to the Centre for ICT in Education.
- Introduce a national quality assessment of printed and digital teaching aids.
- Strengthen education in foreign languages and seek to offer more foreign languages in the upper secondary school, such as Chinese, Russian and Arabic.
- Give especially motivated students an opportunity to follow classes at a higher level.

- Develop homework help schemes to be an integral part of the school day, so that the students can finish most of their work before they get home.
- Review special education, reduce the documentation requirements and introduce administrative time limits for the school psychologist service.
- Link the schools and afterschool programmes more closely with the cultural school, sports and voluntary activities, so that students experience comprehensive and varied activity offerings.
- Strengthen cooperation between home and school, introduce parenting courses and establish more direct contact between class teachers and parents or care takers at both the primary and lower secondary levels.

Lower secondary level

- Ensure that more lower secondary schools can develop their own profile as theme schools and make provisions so that students at the lower secondary level can study selected subjects greater detail.
- Make provisions so that lower secondary schools can offer student enterprises and work experience placement.
- Strengthen practical and aesthetic subjects, and allow students to explore knowledge in new ways.
- Strengthen ongoing assessment and conduct a trial of alternative examination forms.
- Give more motivated students the opportunity to complete the lower secondary level with faster progression and take subjects at the upper secondary school level.
- Strengthen the school counselling service at the lower and upper secondary school levels through supplementary training and improved cooperation with higher education institutions and working life.
- Give priority to the lower secondary level for the introduction of modern, digital teaching aids.
- Develop homework help schemes for the lower secondary level as well.

Boost in math skills

- Strengthen the teaching of mathematics, ensure that all students learn the four fundamental operations, and place more emphasis on mathematical comprehension and problem solving.
- Introduce two new weekly class hours for mathematics at the lower secondary level.
- Ensure that the competence of teachers and competence requirements are raised, and develop better teaching methods to strengthen the teaching of mathematics.
- Ensure that all counties make provisions so that the students can specialize in scientific subjects at an advanced level.

Digital skills

- Ensure that Norway has a basic education programme that guarantees society good recruitment for advanced ICT competence in the long run.
- Strengthen teacher training with a view to the use of technology in teaching, and ensure that new teachers are able to integrate technology into their teaching.

More upper secondary education graduates

The right to an upper secondary education has resulted in Norway having one of the most educated populations in the world. Forecasts show that the need for unskilled labour will be reduced considerably in the years to come. Therefore it is of decisive importance to ensure that as many individuals as possible pass and complete an upper secondary education. This requires that efforts be made throughout the entire life cycle of education.

The Labour Party wants to have a system of education which is flexible, in which individuals can build on their competence throughout their entire lives. More individuals must complete a vocational training programme and qualify for trade certificates in order to satisfy future competence needs. We will then need more apprenticeships, and a way to ensure that everyone who starts a vocational training programme is given an opportunity to complete it, even if it is not possible to get an apprenticeship. We will also expand the opportunities to continue on to a relevant higher education for those who have qualified for a trade certificate.

The Labour Party would like to make provisions for more counties to establish new offerings for students who select a programme for specialization in general studies, in which the program of study is linked more closely to working life. This could result in practical, varied and relevant educational programmes linked to the local competence environment through emphasizing entrepreneurship, use of the workplace as a learning arena, and a project-based form of work. Folk High Schools are an important contribution to the education of many individuals.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Offer intensive education programmes between the lower secondary and upper secondary schools to students with weak basic skills.
- Establish a programme to boost vocational training.
- Have vocational and practical training in common core subjects in the vocational branches of study, without reducing knowledge requirements.
- Make vocational training programmes more flexible, in cooperation with the trade councils, through exchange models that combine practical and theoretical training.
- Stimulate the establishment of more apprenticeships in the private and public sectors through establishment grants, increasing apprenticeship grants, a national exchange service and a more conscious procurement policy. We will prioritize the areas with the greatest need for more apprenticeships.
- Follow-up the social contract for additional apprenticeships with a target of a 20 per cent increase by the year 2015.
- Provide an opportunity to complete a training programme by offering a two-year practical training programme in schools for students who do not obtain an ordinary apprenticeship, with the goal of qualifying for a trade certificate.
- A scheme will be introduced whereby students with an approved trade certificate are given opportunities to pursue higher education by certifying them as qualified for general university and college admission. Provisions should be made for the relevant preparatory courses based on the Y path model. How credits are to be calculated and admission to higher education carried out should be considered.
- Review the equipment situation in upper secondary education, and establish schemes in cooperation with business and industry, for example, which can contribute to school teaching materials following developments in working life.
- Defend free teaching aid schemes, and ensure that the equipment grant covers actual education expenses for students.
- Introduce a requirement that students must be present in class in order to receive a grade.
- Expand the opportunities for people over the age of 21 to complete an upper secondary education program.

More and even better teachers

We must have good teachers to ensure high quality in our schools. The Labour Party will therefore contribute to municipalities employing more and better teachers. We will facilitate updating in professional life – and through a boost in status contribute to the recruitment of capable and motivated young people to the teaching profession.

Municipalities and county authorities have employer responsibility for teachers. A prerequisite for a better teacher to student ratio, and more continuing and further education, is therefore that the municipalities have a good economic resources. National priorities do not help much if the municipalities and counties authorities do not have the money to carry them out.. The municipalities must therefore be enabled to fulfil their employer responsibilities, and ensure that their teachers have the right competence at all times. A high teacher to student ratio is the most important for students with the greatest need for follow-up. The municipalities must have the freedom to channel resources to the schools who need it most.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Give teachers the trust and support to be clear leaders and professionals.
- Continue to increase the number of teachers in the schools.
- Make provisions for better career paths and the systematic development of competence, in order to ensure that capable teachers remain in the schools, for example.
- Introduce more five-year teacher training programmes.
- Conduct a trial of having admission interviews and security assessments for teacher training programmes.
- Require a mandatory preparatory course for teaching students who have a grade of four or lower in Norwegian and mathematics from the upper secondary school.
- Introduce mentor programmes to improve follow-up of newly qualified teachers.
- Introduce competence requirements for teachers in all the core subjects from the first grade.
- Increase the number of continuing and further education places, and introduce a right and duty to take regular continuing and further education courses for teachers.
- Establish a special programme to boost competence for unskilled teachers who have worked in a school for at least three years.
- Introduce teacher and teaching evaluations as part of school quality development work.
- Reduce the amount of bureaucracy in the school day, and strengthen the overall teaching environment through employing additional professionals who can cooperate with teachers.
- Limit the number of periods at school without teachers to the greatest possible extent, and recruit additional professionals, through two-teacher schemes and a more flexible one-year teacher training programme for candidates with a vocational or general academic educational background.
- Establish exchange programs, in which teachers and school administrators can obtain useful experience and competence from other parts of working life.
- Introduce additional "Teach First" projects, in which engineers, mathematicians, researchers and others with a high level of competence can teach in schools and contribute to strengthening the school's academic environment.
- Contribute to stronger school administrator competence, and allow especially motivated candidates to complete their teacher training in combination with a job.
- Use ICT actively to reduce the degree of bureaucracy in schools.

Higher education

Higher education and research are essential to building the Knowledge Norway of the future. We will increase the number of students who complete their studies through raising quality and better follow-up. Our goal should be that Norwegian universities and colleges should have world-class programmes in priority areas. Therefore there is a need to improve the division of labour and specialization within higher education.

The role played by the universities and colleges in the development and education of the professional occupations is very important. This also applies to research close to its practical application, especially in the central welfare area.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Implement a national knowledge and structural reform programme to improve the division of work, academic concentrations, and cooperation among the universities and colleges in Norway.
- Review the entire financing model for the university and college sector, both the basic component and the performance-based component.
- Increase the number of students in strategic fields for Norwegian work and society.
- Improve the completion rate for higher education through good teaching, good teaching materials, quality, and follow-up.
- Contribute to greater internationalization of Norwegian universities and colleges.
- Contribute to stronger management within the educational institutions.
- Make universities and colleges a more attractive career path, by reviewing the use of temporary appointments and ensuring good working conditions, for example.
- Contribute to more Norwegian students completing their entire education abroad, through, for example, the introduction of aid for the first year in more countries, such as the USA.
- Ensure that students who take a Bachelor's or Master's Degree are given the offer of a period abroad as part of their degree if they so desire.
- Escalate the building of student housing with the goal of 3000 new housing units a year. The Labour Party will increase the cost budget for student housing and increase the contribution for student housing to 50%.
- Increase financial aid through the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund, and distribute the payments over 11 months.
- Ensure the existence of student democracy, and ensure support for student welfare and other student organizations.
- Facilitate increased knowledge immigration through more efficient administrative processes for the approval of key competence.
- Make it easier to adapt formal competence from abroad to Norwegian requirements.

Lifelong learning

We are educating people today to solve challenges that we do not yet know exist. Globalization entails increasingly rapid changes in working life, and future technology will place great demands on reorganization and further education. Therefore we need to acquire knowledge throughout our entire lives. The Labour Party will therefore ensure that there are opportunities for lifelong learning and more competence development in all parts of work and society. New knowledge will build the country of the future.

Vocational schools comprise an important option for education, as formulated in close contact with the employers. The scope and content of vocational school programmes must be dimensioned based on actual need, and the financing scheme must be reviewed.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Develop a national strategy for lifelong learning and establish options for lifelong career guidance.
- Invite the trade unions and employer federations to participate in three-part cooperation in order to contribute to the development of more new flexible continuing and further education programmes that make it possible to combine work and education.
- Further develop the competence representative scheme into a permanent scheme.
- Reinforce the national qualification framework, and make it easier to illustrate various forms of competence.
- Establish a greater number of relevant continuing education entities, in close cooperation with colleges, educational associations and local working life.
- Prepare a national plan for vocational schools, and make provisions so that these offers can be a more integral part of the education system.
- Strengthen the Basic Competence in Working Life (BKA) programme and other basic competence training programmes in working life.
- Stimulate enterprises to offer continuing and further education to their employees.
- Strengthen the writing and reading programme for adults. The content and quality of local language training programmes must be ensured.

Research and development

Norway's most important resource is our own population. It is the knowledge, and creativity of the people, and their need to create something, that enable us to solve the problems of tomorrow. Society advances as a result of research and development. New knowledge contributes to a better life for individuals and new opportunities for existing and future enterprises. Research is essential in order to solve new tasks, and extensive development of technology and knowledge is essential in order to ensure sustainable development and a society that can meet the basic needs of people. As a resourceful, stable country with a highly education population, Norway is responsible for contributing to technological breakthroughs in the areas where we have an opportunity to do so.

The research universities and colleges are the most important institutions for research and higher education in Norway. Norway should be a leading force in the development of knowledge, and realise the goal of having world-class expertise in the fields in which we have particular advantages. Access to first-class scientific equipment is of essential importance in order for Norway to maintain its position as a leading knowledge nation.

Research communities and companies related to the maritime sector, oil/gas, and fisheries/aquaculture, have made Norway one of the foremost knowledge nations in the field of ocean space technology. Our advantages in this area must be developed with a future-oriented infrastructure and laboratories to ensure the future creation of value and growth related to Norway's enormous marine resources, and also to contribute to the development of knowledge and technology in order to solve the challenges of the world related to food, climate and energy.

In some areas we conduct research in order to solve certain problems, while in other areas we want to understand the world around us. Combined, this can result in innovation that will advance society. The Labour Party will therefore strengthen both applied and basic research, and make provisions so that the research institutions can cooperate more closely with non-profit foundations and business and industry, as well as funding and research. Norway is completely dependent on participating in the international development of knowledge. We need internationally visible and strong knowledge institutions. In a country

with many small companies, it is important to have communities for applied research that can supply high quality research to all sectors of business and industry.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Maintain the 3 per cent target for research policy.
- Improve the coordination of sector research among the ministries, directorates, organizations and industries.
- Strengthen the research institutes, and stimulate better cooperation, division of tasks, concentration and internationalization.
- Facilitate increased applications of research results.
- Present a long-term ten-year plan for research that establishes guidelines for how we organise investments in educational buildings, research infrastructure, research fellowships and student places.
- Introduce a new donation reinforcement scheme for research that ensures that public grants linked to the donation contribute to financing scientific equipment, infrastructure or research fellowships.
- Focus in particular on strategic areas in which Norway has research communities of the highest international standards linked to the business clusters in these areas.
- Contribute actively to ensuring future-oriented infrastructure and laboratories for advanced, applied research and development in ocean space technology and other fields in which Norway has special advantages.
- Strengthen and focus Norway's participation in international research programmes.
- Contribute to greater internationalization of Norwegian research institutes, universities and colleges.
- Make research a more attractive career path, also for women.
- Contribute to better practical arrangements for foreign researchers in Norway.
- In order to raise the quality of research and achieve greater cooperation, division of work, and concentration in higher education, development agreements should be introduced with institutions in the university and college sector.
- Maintain and strengthen the focus on prominent research environments through the Research Council of Norway's key focus areas: Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF), Centres for Research-based Innovation (SFI), Centres for Environmentally Friendly Energy Research (FME) and Norwegian Centres of Expertise (NCE).
- Facilitate innovative public procurement.
- Contribute to stronger coordination between the research policy and economic development policy.
- Increase research efforts in the areas of civil protection and emergency planning.
- Strengthen the User-Driven Research-Based Innovation Arena (BIA) in order to increase the research share of the enterprises.
- Develop the SkatteFUNN tax deduction scheme to increase investments in research and development by business and industry
- Make provisions for increased use of industrial and public research and development contracts (IR&D/PR&D)
- Make provisions for additional regional science centres and Newton Rooms where children and young people can experience research in practice.

Active economic development policy

Employment for all is the most important goal of the Labour Party.. The creation of economic value is the foundation for welfare. Therefore the Labour Party will pursue an active economic development policy that facilitates innovative, knowledge-based and environmentally friendly business and industry. Norwegian business and industry are

meeting increasing international competition. Norway will not meet this competition by having lower wages and pressure on the rights of employees. We must meet this competition by focusing on knowledge and competence, so that we can create new and better products, and better organize production.

As a small country with an open economy, we cannot be best at everything, but if we focus, we can be best in some areas. Norway must focus strategically on the areas in which we have special preconditions for success, where we have special competence, or where we have strong business clusters to build upon – such as to be leading in seafood, maritime activities, petroleum, energy, environmental technology, travel and tourism, etc.

We are seeing a clear tendency now towards a division of the economy, in which the level of activity on the Norwegian continental shelf is high while the traditional export companies are struggling with low demand, a strong Norwegian krone and a high cost level. There is also a clear geographic division of Norwegian business and industry, in which a strong geographic imbalance with respect to the growth capacity of Norwegian business and industry is developing. The Labour Party is concerned that some regions are lagging behind in the development of strong business and industry. An economic development policy and a clear willingness to focus on the growth opportunities in various regions will be decisive, and how we handle these challenges will be of great importance to Norway future economic development. The Labour Party will have its own domestic strategy to meet the challenges that this sectoral and geographic division of the Norwegian economy entails.

Future-oriented business and industry lay the foundation for tomorrow's jobs. We will support and develop the strong business and competence environments that we have throughout Norway. A goal is also to attract more foreign investors. We will develop arenas such as business clusters, business parks, and incubators to facilitate national and international cooperation in business and industry.

The Norwegian population is highly educated. Focusing on education, business-oriented research, and competence development are important elements in the Labour Party's economic development policy. The labour force represents over 70 per cent of Norway's national wealth. Investments in the competence of the workforce provide major benefits, both for individuals and for society.

A highly competent, organized and respectable working life is a competitive advantage that make Norwegian employees among those who create the most per working hour in the entire world. The Norwegian social model, with strong and responsible trade unions, organized employers and a committed government, is important for Norwegian growth. Negotiated solutions, security and small differences make Norway a good country in which to engage in business. The Labour Party wants to protect this.

Innovation and entrepreneurial activities will create many of the jobs of the future. The Labour Party believes that the public authorities must make provisions so that people who have good ideas for new enterprises or concepts can have them realized.

The Labour Party will actively seek to simplify daily life for small and medium-sized enterprises. The goal is for Norway to be one of the world's simplest countries in which to start up and run one's own business. We will continue to set new simplification goals to reduce the administrative burdens of business and industry, and we will have a systematic follow-up programme in order to achieve these goals. An important part of this simplification work is the continued focus on electronic solutions to assist enterprises and individuals.

The Labour Party will have a targeted focus on the public policy system, such as Innovation Norway (IN), the Industrial Development Corporation of Norway and the Research Council of Norway, so that the system will function in a uniform and accurate manner and be better and

simpler to use than today. The Labour Party will continue its work to simplify application procedures and increase the user-friendliness of the public policy system. The Labour Party will make provisions for early phase establishments that will include grants, loans, mentor programs, networks, etc.

Long-term and professional ownership of business and industry are important. The Labour Party believes that the central government should be a major owner in strategically important sectors of business and industry in Norway. As an owner, the central government will be active, long-term, professional and predictable. The Labour Party wants government ownership to help ensure that important enterprises and competencies are retained and developed in Norway. In strategically important companies, it is essential that the head office remain in Norway. The Labour Party will secure public ownership of our common energy resources and petroleum deposits. Companies that are owned by the central government should have a leading position with respect to corporate social responsibility, both in Norway and abroad.

The Labour Party believes that public capital should facilitate both innovation and new businesses. We will continuously assess the need for capital in the government investment companies Investinor and Argentum. Therefore the Labour Party wants to strengthen central government ownership.

Extensive state ownership is an important contribution to the good economic development in Norway. State ownership should be managed in an active, dynamic and professional manner, in which a long-term perspective, predictability and social responsibility are the hallmarks of a strategy for greater value creation, industrial development and secure jobs. We will contribute capital to state-owned companies when it is prudent based on value creation and future-oriented jobs. In strategically important companies, it is essential that the head office remain in Norway. The Labour Party will maintain the level of state ownership at approximately the current level. The state must contribute to strategic ownership in a future-oriented industry. Government capital should not be a last resort for enterprises that have not been able to restructure, or are not competitive.

The enterprises of the future will come from existing business and industry. Competence in the maritime sector was a prerequisite for the success of the oil and gas industry. Today the exports of technology, knowledge and products in the supplier industry have grown to be greater than for the market in Norway. By investing in areas in which we excel, we are concurrently establishing a foundation for spin-offs and innovation in related industries. Some traditional industries, such as the mineral industry, are in the process of finding new market opportunities. At the same time we must also focus on new areas, such as nanotechnology and marine bioprospecting.

The service sector represents a large and growing part of the economy. The Labour Party wants to contribute to strengthening this sector by means of innovation and quality development. The trade industry, for example, is on its way to a leap in innovation, in which the development of technology will be decisive for further development of the industry.

Industrial production has been and is an important precondition for Norway to be a leader in innovation, and thus the creation of value. Modern industry has high creation of value. Norway has good prerequisites for high technology industry, with major investments, a high level of competence, and active product development and marketing. A goal for the Labour Party is to ensure that Norwegian raw materials are processed in Norway. We will contribute to increasing knowledge and the capacity for restructuring. The Labour Party will facilitate Norwegian industrial competence being used to a greater extent to test out new technology, and we believe that many of our traditional industrial areas will have special prerequisites for exploiting such opportunities.

Power-intensive industry is located in rural Norway and has developed thanks to good access to environmentally friendly energy. This industry has always excelled at change, and environmental and technological development. The Labour Party wants to further develop the enterprises which are world leaders with respect to competence, the work environment, innovation, climate and energy-efficient production. The CO₂- compensation scheme will be continued.

Norway is the world's fifth largest shipping nation, and we have one of the world's most comprehensive maritime business clusters. The Labour Party wants Norway to be the world's leading nation in maritime competence and innovation. We will therefore develop the maritime sector so that it can supply the most innovative and environmentally-friendly solutions. The Labour Party wants to establish a higher education programme for technical and administrative subjects which will provide world-class maritime competence. This will require the development of some very strong academic entities.

The Labour Party believes that Norway must take initiative to establish a global agreement to eliminate special tax relief for shipping. Until agreement is reached on such an plan, the Norwegian shipping industry's leading position and the jobs of Norwegian seamen must be secured through a regulatory framework that is equivalent to that of competitors. The Labour Party will maintain and strengthen the net wage scheme for seamen.

Norway is a country rich in mineral resources that have not yet been adequately surveyed. There are great opportunities for increased value creation in the mineral industry. The goal must be for as much as possible of Norwegian mineral resources to be refined here in Norway.

Travel and tourism is one of the world's fastest-growing industries, and Norway has the best natural conditions for sharing in this international growth. The Labour Party's vision is that by offering valuable experiences, we will be creating value for visitors, companies, local communities, and Norway as a whole. Travel and tourism is an important regional industry that has great potential for further value creation. The industry must make the transition from producing traditional tourism products to collaborating in order to create products of comprehensive experience, including culture, food, history, nature and activities, in addition to transport and accommodation.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Pursue an active economic development policy that facilitates and strengthens the competitiveness of Norwegian business and industry.
- Focus on the areas in which we have special preconditions to excel, such as petroleum, energy and the environment, travel and tourism and the marine and maritime sector, by focusing on research and development, among other things.
- Establish a strategy for land-based industry
- Say no to the sale of strategically important ownership interests in enterprises such as Statoil, and no to the partial privatization or sale of Statkraft or Statnett.
- Continue the CO₂ compensation scheme for energy prices for industry.
- Ensure that enterprises that are owned by the central government show corporate social responsibility locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Ensure access to capital through appropriations for seed capital and start-up grants for entrepreneurs.
- Evaluate whether the central government can contribute long-term equity in certain cases.
- Ensure that the public policy system meets the needs of enterprises, and focuses in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Simplify the reporting requirements for business and industry through continuous simplification work.

- Simplify and stimulate the opportunity of small enterprises to participate in competitive tendering processes by the preparation of a number of standard contracts.
- Seek to ensure that more women establish and develop enterprises through follow-up of the plan of action for greater entrepreneurship among women.
- Facilitate research and innovation in industries with major employment, such as transport, distributive trades, and building and construction.
- Ensure that the public policy system actively contribute to investments in new tourist attractions and the development of new destinations.
- Develop the travel and tourism industry with a focus on quality and the marketing of Norway abroad.
- Stimulate business development in the intersection between culture and business.
- Develop the maritime industry with a focus on research and innovation aimed at the development of more environmentally-friendly solutions.
- Ensure a competitive net wage scheme by raising the ceiling of the scheme, and enacting the current scheme into law.
- Facilitate the future creation of value through greater development and use of Norwegian environmental technology.
- Develop a future-oriented mineral industry with emphasis on surveying and competence development.
- Ensure that the rules for alcohol advertising treat all actors equally. A generic discussion and images of products containing alcohol should be allowed on the manufacturer and supplier websites, with information on the characteristics of the various types of products and on what types of drinks are suitable for different types of food.
- Maintain a comprehensive, actor and media neutral ban on alcohol advertising. Consider within this framework the opportunity to also allow for factual product information directly from the manufacturers to consumers, on information platforms that the consumers must actively seek out.

Norway as an energy country

Norway is an energy nation. The natural resources we possess have given us unique opportunities, and we have administered them in such a way that the community has derived income from them and still retains a high degree of ownership. We have a higher proportion of renewable energy than most countries in the world, and our production of oil and gas takes place according to the strictest HSE and environmental requirements in the world. We would like to use our energy competence to develop the jobs of tomorrow.

Energy is both an input to industry, and an important industry in itself. Energy policy should contribute to facilitating greater value creation in the production of energy and in power intensive industries.

Energy and business development are closely linked. The Labour Party will continue to work to ensure the reliability of the power supply in Norway, through focusing on the production of new, renewable energy, and on the development of the power grid – both in Norway, and between Norway and other countries. The Labour Party will ensure faster administrative processing for grid and production matters. Public ownership of the hydropower resources must be secured.

The terms and conditions of the old hydropower licences must be revised, so that the overall environmental impact from Norwegian power production is reduced. Local environmental interests must be safeguarded just as well in the new hydropower licences as they are today. The Labour Party is open to a cautious upgrading and development of hydropower in cases

where it does not result in a major encroachment on nature and the loss of nature diversity in accordance with the current regulations.

Norway is a major producer of renewable energy. There may also be great potential for further increasing production. We will increase our emphasis on new renewable energy sources, and strengthen our research efforts in this area. We will use our unique energy competence to create the solutions of the future.

Energy conservation is good climate policy, good energy policy and good economic development policy. The Labour Party will, for example, follow up the Climate Report so that construction requirements and technical regulations will be at the passive building level by 2015 and practically a zero energy level by 2020. The Labour Party would like to facilitate energy-positive buildings. The Labour Party will continue to use Enova as a tool for increasing energy efficiency.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Maintain the reversion institution and continue to ensure strong public ownership of hydropower resources, by requiring public ownership of at least two thirds, and by granting new licences only to companies with at least two-thirds public ownership.
- Further increase the administrative capacity and rate of administrative action at the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) and Ministry of Petroleum and Energy.
- Review both the grid and production in connection with licence applications, and ensure that applications for grid and production projects in the same area are reviewed in relation to each other.
- Seek to ensure that the price of energy is as uniform as possible throughout the entire country, given the Energy Act, production and grid developments.
- Continue to upgrade the power grid in Norway.
- Ensure a sensible distribution of costs for investments in the grid, and consider whether an appropriate procedure exists for the introduction of investment contributions in intermeshed grids.
- Build economically profitable transmission lines between Norway and abroad.
- Make use of the opportunities provided by surplus power to contribute to balancing the production of wind power and other variable energy sources in Europe.
- Ensure that the Norwegian hydropower tradition continues by giving part of the tax revenues to local communities that make their natural resources available for hydropower production. Any encroachment on the natural environment should be made with the understanding and acceptance of the affected local community, and such that portions of the revenues pass to the local communities, even when the technology for the exploitation of hydropower changes.
- Ensure that consideration for both the environment and power production are taken into account when previously granted hydropower licences are revised.
- Do more research on the development of renewable energy.
- Support major demonstration projects for renewable energy, within the framework of the new climate and technology fund.
- Offer assistance schemes to stimulate the efficient use of energy in public and private buildings and in households.
- Continue to strengthen Enova as a tool in the efforts to improve energy efficiency and restructure energy use.
- Continue the efforts to increase energy efficiency in industry.
- Have as a goal to increase the use of power from land on the Norwegian continental shelf, wherever it is economically feasible and an adequate amount of electricity is available.

- Maintain the focus on the capture and storage of CO². All the licences granted for energy from gas will remain in force. New licences should be based on CO₂ recycling.

Oil and gas

The Labour Party petroleum policy is based on the fact that oil and gas resources belong to the community, and that the economic rent (the extra profitability in the industry) shall be returned to the community. The Labour Party wants Norwegian petroleum activities to be based on the best knowledge, experience and technology available at any given time, as well as on the world's strictest environmental requirements.

The management of the maritime zones shall take place on the basis of a comprehensive and ecosystem-based approach. A great deal of importance will be attached to the interests of fisheries.

The Labour Party will facilitate a continued high level of activity and value creation from petroleum activities through increased recovery from currently producing fields, and through putting new and older fields into production. We will stimulate exploration activities through licence allocations in numbered rounds, and annual allocations in mature areas (APA). Together with the opening of new areas for petroleum activities, these strategies will reduce the decline in oil and gas production, ensure that competence is retained, and that we will enjoy long-term value creation and income from our petroleum resources.

The Labour Party will facilitate the development of petroleum activities in northern areas and allow exploration activities in the areas close to the new border with Russia which were previously contested, provided that the impact assessment for the area supports it.

The Labour Party supports the preparation of an impact assessment for petroleum activities in unopened parts of Nordland 6 and the fields Nordland 7 and Troms 2.

Yes to an impact assessment does not entail that the areas will be opened to such activities. The question of a possible opening of the areas should be considered at the party conference in 2015. Importance should be attached to environmental considerations in an assessment of a possible opening of the areas.

As the industry is gradually developed in new areas, these areas must also be included in supplier activities, so that the industry will provide new local ripple effects when it moves northwards. The ripple effects are just as much about what we demand from the oil companies as about how we prepare a region for creating and benefiting from these effects when the industry arrives.

The Labour Party will focus on the development of competence in the new activity areas, and implement measures to increase the supply of personnel. We will seek to ensure that the industry develops forms of contracts that make provisions so that local tenderers have a stronger standing in the competition for contracts.

The Norwegian supplier industry has built itself up over 40 years to become a competitive, international leader in the area of offshore oil and gas activities. This development has been stimulated by politically appropriated schemes, such as a national content requirement during initial years, and support for research and development. The Labour Party will continue to promote research and development schemes and other economic development policy instruments which contribute to maintenance of the technological lead and competitiveness of this entire industry.

The Labour Party will make provisions to ensure the modern physical infrastructure that is necessary for the development of petroleum activities in northern areas through upgrades and new construction. The Labour Party will also contribute to ensuring that the industry develop production-related infrastructure, such as transport pipelines and LNG plants, in a profitable manner, so that it also enhances local ripple effects.

Within current environmental and climate policy, and within the framework of economic profitability, the Labour Party will facilitate increased value creation by making greater use of gas domestically – also in connection with other industrial activities. The use of gas in Norway will take place within our international climate commitments.

The Labour Party will intensify its efforts to develop environmental technology in petroleum activities and to ensure that the competence developed in the petroleum sector will also be of benefit for developments in other industries. Norway has major opportunities in the development of technology for offshore wind power with our maritime background, and we will focus on this.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Make provisions for the start of production for new and old finds, and increased recovery from producing fields, when it is profitable for society
- Stimulate exploration activity both in mature and in promising new areas through licence allocations.
- Open new areas for petroleum activities.
- Ensure that necessary consideration of the environment and of fisheries activities is made concerning petroleum activities.
- Ensure that provisions are made so that gas from the Norwegian continental shelf is used to a greater extent for industrial value creation.
- Seek to strengthen Petoro.
- Facilitate local and regional ripple effects when petroleum activities are developed in the northern areas through, for example, the development of local competence and the use of forms of contract that allow local tenderers to have a stronger standing in the competition for contracts.
- Promote research and development schemes and other economic development policy instruments that can contribute to maintenance of the technological lead and competitiveness of the petroleum-oriented supplier industry.
- Promote further internationalization and exports from the petroleum-oriented supplier industry.

Joint climate commitments for the future

The Labour Party's climate policy is based on the targets to which we have committed ourselves in the Climate Report and the climate settlement between the parties in the Storting. The goal of the Labour Party's climate policy is to ensure that global emissions are reduced, so that the increase in temperature on earth does not exceed 2°C. According to the UN Climate Panel, any temperature increase beyond this would result in major, irreversible negative consequences, also in Norway.

Together with fighting hunger and poverty, the climate problem is among the greatest problems the world is facing today. The Labour Party policies are based on everyone having equal rights and opportunities – both nationally and globally. Our climate policy must also be based on this principle. A long-term goal of the Labour Party therefore that every person on earth should be entitled to emit the same amount of CO₂. The climate problem can only be solved through broad, long-term international cooperation. At the same time, most of the concrete climate policy is determined nationally.

The most important prerequisite for solving climate problems is a strong set of international agreements, which encompass as many countries as possible and contribute to a fair distribution of burdens and emission reductions. The Labour Party will seek to ensure that the UN-led climate negotiations result in a broad climate treaty that can ensure development in accordance with the 2°C target. Such development requires that total greenhouse gas emissions in the world are reduced by 50 to 85 per cent before the year 2050. This will only be possible if the emissions are reduced in industrial countries, emerging economies and developing countries.

At the climate conference in Durban in 2011, a decision was made to seek to negotiate a broad international climate treaty by the end of 2015. The Labour Party believes that Norway must make an active and constructive contribution to this negotiation process, with a view to achieving consensus on a binding agreement that is as comprehensive as possible.

A new broad climate treaty will not enter into force until 2020. At the climate conference in Doha in 2012, consensus was reached to extend the Kyoto treaty until 2020. This second commitment period in the Kyoto treaty only encompasses around 10 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the world. Global emissions are increasing greatly at the same time. Comprehensive global climate measures are therefore essential in this decade if the world is to achieve its climate targets.

In accordance with the climate settlement, Norwegian climate policy focuses on the following main targets.

- In the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period, Norway has surpassed its Kyoto commitment by 10 percentage points.
- For the period until 2020, Norway has undertaken to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases corresponding to 30 per cent of Norway's emissions in 1990.
- Norway should be carbon neutral in 2050.
- As part of an ambitious global climate treaty in which other industrialized countries also undertake major commitments, Norway is to have a binding target of carbon neutrality no later than 2030. This means that Norway must reduce emissions corresponding to the Norwegian emissions in 2030.

In addition, it follows from the Government's political platform, Soria Moria II, that the government will intensify Norway's climate targets so that they correspond to emission reductions of 40 per cent by 2020 relative to the 1990 level, provided that it can contribute to consensus on an ambitious climate treaty in which the major emission countries undertake specific emission commitments.

The Labour Party wants Norway to focus more attention on the so-called short-lived climate forcers, such as black carbon and methane. The reduction of such emissions will have a faster positive effect on climate. These climate forcers also have a particularly major effect on ice melting. Norway must make use of its position in Arctic cooperation to promote measures against short-lived climate forcers.

In recent years Norway has been a pioneering country in the fight against increased greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. These efforts have contributed to the fact that a number of developing countries are now limiting deforestation. Norway is thus contributing to triggering major and quicker reductions in emissions. The Labour Party will consider strengthening these efforts if it is proven that they also represent positive policy instruments for the future.

An important part of international climate work will be to facilitate private business sector investments in renewable energy in poor countries and emerging economies. There are about 1.3 billion people today who do not have access to electricity, and about 2.6 billion people who do not have access to clean conditions for food making preparation. Investments

in renewable energy and infrastructure contribute to reduced emissions, climate friendly economic development, and a reduction in poverty.

The climate problem is, to a great extent, the result of unregulated market forces and the fact that climate-damaging behaviour takes place at low or no cost to those who are responsible. Market forces can also be used to promote the development of climate-friendly technology and climate-friendly economic growth. The most important prerequisite for climate-friendly economic development is the fact that the emission of CO₂ should cost something. Currently fossil energy is widely subsidized. To contribute to a greater proportion of the world's energy production coming from renewable sources, the Labour Party will seek the elimination of subsidies for fossil energy, and will seek the establishment of more and better systems for pricing greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon pricing makes investments in renewable energy, energy conservation, and the development of technology more profitable. Pricing emissions from international air traffic and shipping, for example, can contribute to a reduction in emissions and finance climate measures.

The Labour Party will seek extensive robust international mechanisms for the financing of climate measures in poor countries. International climate efforts in the coming years must be escalated and coordinated to a greater extent through common international regulations and common channels, such as the Green Climate Fund. In the absence of a broad treaty, we must strengthen our efforts to reduce Norwegian emissions at the same time as we also strengthen our efforts to reduce emissions and promote climate-friendly economic development in other countries.

An offensive national climate policy

Norway is part of the European quota system. Overall emissions in the quota system can only be reduced through reducing the overall quota volume. The Labour Party will seek to ensure that the EU quota system is as effective as possible as a policy instrument, by reducing the ceiling for the overall emissions, for example.

The aim of climate policy must be to result in the greatest possible reduction in emissions for the effort made, and result in emission reductions in both Norway and abroad. Norway has pursued an active national climate policy for a long time. In addition to the fact that around 80 per cent of Norwegian emissions have a price because they are subject to the mandatory quota or CO₂ tax, Norway makes use of active regulations and provides financial support for renewable energy and the development of climate-friendly technology.

This policy has also yielded good results. This is expressed, for example, by the fact that emissions per produced unit (carbon intensity) in the Norwegian economy have fallen by around 36 per cent during the last 20 years, when including the oil sector. The emission intensity of the mainland economy has been reduced by almost half during the same period of time. The CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars have fallen by more than 25 per cent in recent years. Norway has the highest percentage of electric and hybrid vehicles in the world. Nevertheless, the national climate policy must be intensified in the years to come. The Labour Party goal for national climate policy is to ensure the long-term restructuring of Norway into a low emission society.

The Labour Party wants the petroleum sector to continue to be subject to strong economic policy instruments in the form of taxes and quotas. The national climate policy can and must be formulated so that it is also good economic development policy. Policy instruments should contribute to developing and restructuring Norwegian business and industry in a climate-friendly direction. The development of technology is of key importance here.

It takes time to develop and implement new, climate-friendly solutions. The most important driver of technology development in business and industry is the pricing of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the Labour Party will maintain the national focus on climate technology, through Enova and the fund for climate change mitigation, renewable energy and energy conversion.

Norway is among the countries with the highest proportion of clean, renewable energy. As a result of this, our power intensive industry is among those of the world with the least environmental impact. It would have a negative effect if Norwegian power intensive industry were to move to a country with a greater proportion of fossil energy.

The Labour Party's goal is to ensure that growth in passenger traffic in major urban areas takes place by means of public transport, bicycles and walking. This will require coordinated land use and transport planning, which puts a higher priority on public transport and cycling in and around the largest cities. At the same time, more freight must be transported by sea and rail. The role of rail traffic in the transport system must be strengthened, especially around the major cities. The Labour Party will continue to pursue a policy that contributes to the phasing in of new and environmentally friendly vehicle technology and fuels.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Promote work to ensure a comprehensive and binding international climate treaty in 2015.
- Strengthen our international commitments further if it can contribute to consensus on an ambitious climate treaty in which the major emission countries undertake specific emission commitments.
- Seek to eliminate the subsidization of fossil energy and to ensure that a greater proportion of global emissions become subject to a price and are included in a carbon market.
- Seek comprehensive and robust mechanisms for the financing of climate measures in poor countries through common international regulations and common channels, such as the Green Climate Fund.
- Seek to ensure that the greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, as well as emissions from international shipping and aviation, are included in a future global climate regime.
- Further develop the climate and forestry initiative, and consider increasing Norway's effort if positive development continues.
- Strengthen the international work to combat short-lived climate forcers.
- Focus on the development of renewable energy in developing countries.
- Focus on the development of technology for the capture and storage of CO₂ and maintain the requirement that all new gas power licences must be based on the capture and storage of CO₂.
- Strengthen climate research, and step up efforts so that the industry can develop and implement new climate-friendly technology.
- Have as a goal that growth in passenger traffic in major urban areas will take place by means of public transport, bicycles and walking. This will require coordinated land use and transport planning and giving greater priority to public transport and cycling in and around the largest cities.
- Continue to use changes in the motor vehicle taxes to reduce emissions from the transport sector.
- Maintain our focus on Transnova
- Strengthen avalanche and landslide forecasting and protection, and emphasize the fact that central and local Government planning processes take possible effects of climate change into account to a greater extent.

Environment, outdoor recreation and nature conservation

The Labour Party wants Norway to be a pioneering country for environmental policy. We are known for our beautiful nature and our good environment, and we must safeguard this. Outdoor life is of great value in itself to individuals, and it results in good public health. We must therefore make provisions so that as many people as possible can enjoy our nature, whether it is an outing in the mountains, by the sea, or in green areas in the city. We will require comprehensive international cooperation, and national and local environmental efforts in order to solve our environmental problems. Responsibility must be taken by business and industry, organizations, and each individual.

We will manage our nature in a manner that will provide both current and future generations opportunities for nature experiences. Preservation of ecological diversity is not just a national concern, but an area in which Norway has clear international commitments.

The Labour Party wants to have viable predator populations in Norway, and it wants to have goal-oriented predator management, so as to reduce the level of conflict. This twofold goal is the point of departure for our predator policy; we will pursue a policy that enables both viable predator populations and agriculture. The predator settlement from 2011 will be followed up.

The national parks are an important part of our natural and cultural heritage, and it is important that the protection of our national parks is strengthened. Provisions should be made for greater value creation in our national parks, through tourism for example. Local commitment and ownership are important for the Labour Party in protection matters. We will actively protect threatened species and safeguard biodiversity, nature types, and cultural landscapes. We will place greater emphasis on flexible policy instruments, active management and voluntary forest protection, instead of area protection. When the national park plan is completed, any new large protected areas will as a rule be based on local initiatives.

It is important to ensure an adequate level of environmental competence in Norwegian municipalities, so that the municipalities can take responsibility in the environmental area, and so that nature conservation and environmental commitments can find the best possible locally-adapted solutions.

Classical conservation of nature is about protecting natural areas for future generations, preventing environmental destruction and environmental crime and ensuring the availability of outdoor areas to all. Access to areas for outdoor recreation and low threshold physical activity is an important issue for the entire country, whether it is in the mountains or near the sea.

We have presented a new Outdoor Recreation Act that strengthens the public right of access. The integrated health care reform focuses on public health in the new legislation. All the municipalities must now prepare a public health plan. The Labour Party believes that the outdoor recreation organizations can play an important role in the municipalities' preventive health work.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure public access to mountains, fjords and the sea, and continue the procurement scheme for shoreline property.
- Make provisions so that everyone can enjoy nature experiences.
- Stop the loss of biodiversity.
- Intensify the fight against alien species.
- Follow up the predator settlement and continue the twofold goal of the predator policy.
- Strengthen local management and value creation programmes in protected areas.

- Study the harmful effects of the use of lead outside of wetland areas and shooting ranges, and accordingly take a stand on whether the use of lead pellets should be allowed outside of wetland areas and shooting ranges.

Sustainable agriculture

The main goals for agriculture policy include food safety, the existence of agriculture throughout the entire country, increased value creation, and sustainable agriculture.

The task of agriculture is to produce safe and varied food of good quality. Population growth and climate change make this an important task, both nationally and internationally. The Labour Party wants to, within the given trade policy framework, facilitate increased production of agricultural products for which there are natural prerequisites and demand from the market, so that the degree of self-sufficiency can be maintained at about the current level. The population is increasing, and Statistics Norway estimates that there will be 20 per cent more people in Norway by the year 2030. Demand from an increasing population will provide grounds for increased production of agricultural products. The agricultural industry is itself responsible for maintaining the relationship between production and demand. Agricultural production must take place in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Agricultural policy must aim for the production of food throughout the entire country, and there must be a greater focus on fjord and mountain agriculture and Arctic agriculture in this connection. In addition to making use of natural resources for food production, regional agriculture provides employment and settlement, as well as a basis for other business activities. This will also ensure that ownership of agricultural real estate and natural resources remains in local hands to a greater extent.

The overall profitability of the industry must be improved in the years to come. Farmers are independent businessmen who are responsible for their own income. Regulatory frameworks must be formulated through the agricultural policy, such that those who are engaged in agriculture are ensured of an income development and social conditions on par with other groups. The Labour Party wants therefore to develop the income and welfare policy for agriculture based on the agricultural policy that has been followed since 2005. Access to capital in the agriculture industry needs to be strengthened in order to be able to make the necessary investments in production buildings and equipment in the years to come.

It is essential that market schemes for agriculture are continued, and that the role of the cooperative as a market regulator is ensured. We must seek to maintain strong import protection for agricultural products. In the event of a new WTO treaty, we will exploit all the means permitted by the treaty to safeguard Norwegian agricultural production and the Norwegian food industry. Compensation must be provided for the loss of income in the event of such a treaty.

In order to get young people interested in agriculture, it will be necessary to ensure opportunities for the development of broad competence, and strengthen the welfare schemes in addition to ensuring the economic policy instruments. There is a need to assess whether the current legislation and practice is adapted to the current situation in the industry and society. This applies to the Land Act, Concession Act and Allodial Rights Act, as well as problems related to leased land. The adaptations must make provisions so that there will be room in the industry for interested young people or persons.

Lumbering and the entire forestry industry compete internationally. Forests are our "green gold" and an environmentally friendly source of energy for the future. Forests cover around

40 per cent of our country and represent an important part of our landscape. The primary goal for the development of policies and instruments for forestry must be to increase the creation of value in forestry, and to promote the development of a more robust wood-based industry. We will at the same time safeguard the importance of forests as recreational areas for the population, and their role with regard to biodiversity and climate.

Forestry is an industry for the future. It is an important raw material source for bioenergy, and it may play an important role in the transition to a low emission society. Wood fibre can replace a number of oil-based products and has a broad range of possible uses. Ensure comprehensive and active forest management at all levels that support forests as an important renewable resource that should be exploited through active use and increased logging.

The Labour Party believes that the forestry industry must be a strategic national focus area for the development of comprehensive industrial and value chains in Norway. All the available policy instruments must be used in order to contribute to a strong and competitive forestry and wood processing industry.

The government must contribute to the development of strategic ownership in a future-oriented Norwegian forestry industry by expanding Investinor's mandate, so that it can invest in a profitable and future-oriented wood processing industry. Investinor will be ensured of adequate investment capital, and the funds are earmarked a special budget for investments in the forestry industry. The investments should be in accordance with the ordinary return requirements and within the state aid regulations.

Agriculture in Norway has highly varying framework conditions, due to our geography and our climate, and this must be taken into consideration.

The Labour Party will develop the reindeer husbandry policy based on a threefold goal of ecological, economic and cultural sustainability, among which the economic sustainability is of particular importance. We will seek a stronger focus on the industry as a producer of exclusive food and cultural experiences. Reindeer meat is an Arctic delicacy that has a market potential that must be exploited to a greater extent than at present.

Reindeer husbandry must be ensured of the necessary land areas, and the number of reindeer must be adapted to the grazing basis.

The Reindeer Husbandry Act must be evaluated in particular with a view to providing greater protection for smaller entities in processes in which the total number of reindeer must be reduced. The economic development aspects of policy instruments for reindeer husbandry must be reinforced.

Agricultural policy must contribute to finding a balance between the exploitation and the protection of our natural resources. This applies to predator management, reservation of land and implementation of encroachment-free zones in forestry.

The Labour Party wants to have viable grazing industries and predator populations in Norway, and exercise active and goal-oriented predator management in accordance with the adopted population targets, so as to reduce the level of conflict in agriculture, for example by emphasizing local knowledge in management. The Labour Party believes that it must be possible to use uncultivated land resources for grazing, and that this must be taken into consideration in predator management. We must have good compensation schemes.

With the limited amount of land available for food production, in which cultivated and arable land comprises 3 per cent of the country's total area, strong protection of farmland is necessary.

The Labour Party supports a controlled dissolution of the fur farming industry. Restructuring funds for the establishment of new agricultural activity based on farming resources will be made available during the dissolution period.

The food industry is very important to Norway, with total employment of around 42,000 throughout the entire country. Norwegian agriculture and the food industry are mutually dependent on each other. We want to have active agriculture throughout the country, which can supply raw materials of high quality to the food industry. It is important to strengthen and develop the Norwegian food industry in the future as well.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Maintain varied agriculture throughout the entire country based on local resources, which will include farming, forestry, grazing, cultural landscape and reindeer husbandry.
- Maintain our degree of self-sufficiency at about the current level, through continuation of the Norwegian model of strong import protection.
- Maintain cooperative-based market regulators and buyers of Norwegian commodities from the entire country.
- Maintain the current geographic distribution of production.
- Provide framework conditions that ensure agriculture throughout Norway with a varied farming structure.
- Ensure that those who are engaged in agriculture have an income development and social conditions on par with other groups.
- Strengthen the access to capital and policy instruments through Innovation Norway.
- Increase the focus on recruitment, equal opportunities and competence, innovation and research at all levels of the value chain.
- Develop the value creation programme for food, wood, reindeer husbandry and bioenergy.
- Stimulate greater use of wood in new construction.
- Ensure that all the available policy instruments are used in order to contribute to a strong and competitive forestry and wood processing industry.
- Animals must be handled with care and with respect for the distinctive character of the animal.
- Animals have intrinsic value, and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority must be reinforced to give priority to the supervision of animal welfare.
- Ensure that the conditions for the transport of animals to the slaughterhouse are acceptable.
- Develop and strengthen the Norwegian food industry and make provisions for a continued supply of raw materials from Norwegian agriculture.
- Conduct a review of the regulations for joint operations.
- Grants for trenching must be an element in future agricultural agreements.
- Exercise an active and goal-oriented predator management, so as to reduce the level of conflict in agriculture.

Our coast as a driving force

Our long coastline provides a unique proximity to the sea and the resources therein, and it has characterized the people and activities of our country for ages. The situation also varies in different parts of the country. The small coastal communities in our northernmost county have lost about half their population since the end of the 1960s, while many coastal communities in Western Norway have experienced booming growth after the development of oil and gas activities. The Labour Party wants to continue to focus on the natural advantages that are provided by a long coastline.

Norway's maritime zone is seven times larger than the mainland. Being a maritime nation entails both opportunities and responsibility. The opportunities are of being able to exploit the rich resources provided by the sea. The responsibility consists of managing the maritime zones in a sustainable manner, so that subsequent generations can also benefit from the riches that the sea provides. The sea is vulnerable to climate change. We still do not know enough about how a higher sea temperature will affect life in the sea. Knowledge of climate change is important in order to manage our maritime resources, and in order to make provisions for any changes in the business activities along the coast.

The Labour Party wants to make Norway the world's foremost seafood nation. This means that we must be at the forefront of knowledge regarding the maritime environment, sustainable resource management, aquaculture, fishing, production, product development and marketing. The fisheries resources and other wild marine resources and associated genetic material are the property of the community.

In order to fulfil the goal of being the world's foremost seafood nation, research, technological development and innovation must be implemented in the seafood sector to an even greater degree. For Norway it is an advantage that we have strong marine and maritime clusters. The Labour Party wants to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among marine and maritime clusters and knowledge environments, so that these industries can draw on common experience to a greater degree for future growth and development. The Labour Party wants to have a varied fleet and a fair distribution of the fisheries resources that contribute to employment and settlement along the coast. The Labour Party is concerned that the fleet should be profitable enough to attract both manpower and capital. The creation of value from our common fisheries resources must benefit the coastal communities that are dependent on the fisheries to the greatest possible extent. The fisheries authorities must continuously assess the need for the allocation of new fishing rights to ensure the recruitment of young fisherman, or to safeguard particular economic development or regional policy considerations.

Schemes must not be introduced that give an individual entity a permanent percentage of the national catch quota. The national authorities should allocate up to 10 per cent of the national catch quota annually for landing and processing in particularly vulnerable regions, in order to ensure employment in the industry. Fish raw material that is caught off the coast should as a rule be processed at onshore facilities. The fisheries resources must be managed with a view to the highest possible long-term exploitation of resources within sustainable limits, and with a view to annual exploitation that is as stable as possible.

The Labour Party believes that the Norwegian seafood industry should be developed through a strategic focus that builds on our advantages from having access to fresh raw material of high quality. The Labour Party wants to make provisions so that as much fish as possible can be processed in Norway. The processing industry must be ensured of a stable supply of raw material throughout the year.

Ensuring the recruitment of young people who have educations from relevant fields, and providing continuing and further education for those who are already working in the industry, will be important for the development of opportunities in the industry in the future. The Labour Party therefore wants to establish a programme to boost education for the seafood industry.

Norway has a long coastline with cold water and ample space. This provides us with a good natural conditions for aquaculture. In the 40 years that the aquaculture industry has existed in Norway, it has developed into a major industry that produces good, healthy seafood and creates jobs and value for Norway.

The Labour Party views increased aquaculture production as an important contribution to the future of the seafood industry, and it would like to facilitate greater growth in the industry, within environmentally sustainable limits. We are at the same time concerned that the challenges currently facing the industry, primarily salmon lice and the escape of fish, must be solved. The Labour Party will also make provisions for increased processing.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure a sustainable management of the fisheries resources, strengthen control of the resources significantly and combat illegal fishing.
- Preserve the Participation Act and the Raw Fish Act.
- Stimulate an increased supply of fresh fish through quota bonuses and a fresh fish strategy.
- Make provisions for a varied, profitable fleet that contributes to ensuring employment along the coast.
- Ensure that vessels that have been granted a licence for fishing subject to an obligation to deliver to specific regions, fulfil the conditions of their licence.
- Remain firm that the installation of processing plants on board vessels that do not already have such a plant will not be permitted, and make the regulations for production on board as identical as possible to the regulations for production on land.
- Develop good arenas for interaction between the maritime and marine industries and strengthen the efforts within research, and the development of technology and innovation in fisheries and in the aquaculture sector.
- Promote growth in the aquaculture industry, within environmentally sustainable limits.
- Contribute to local communities receiving compensation for making areas available to the aquaculture industry by a share of the payments from new licences passing to the municipalities.
- Establish a programme to boost education in the seafood industry.
- Make provisions for industrial development by ensuring, for example, a predictable supply of raw materials throughout the year for processing companies and the industry.

ICT: Availability, knowledge and creation of economic value

As a result of the Internet and use of ICT, we are in the middle of the greatest technological and social revolution since the Industrial Revolution. ICT is making up an ever greater part of our daily life. The Labour Party wants to ensure that everyone in society has the required digital competence, so that new social distinctions do not arise between those who possess and those who do not possess such competence.

Digital solutions are developing rapidly; they are often less expensive than traditional solutions; and new solutions are being established now in areas such as health, education, the media and in the public sector. The Labour Party wants to exploit the opportunities this provides to create better services, value creation and greater knowledge throughout the population.

Access to good and stable Internet solutions is an important part of our infrastructure. It is important for individual participation in society, and for business and industry. Today over 96 per cent of Norway's population has access to the Internet at home, and, compared with other countries, there are many of us who participate in the digital community. This is important now that ICT has become a core function and is not just a support function. For trade and industry, this is a competitive advantage that the Labour Party must contribute to developing further. For individuals, enterprises, and the public sector, access to the Internet has become a necessity just as with other infrastructure.

The security and robustness of the network are important to the population's confidence in the use of online services. The network must be openly available to everyone, and each individual must be able to determine what content is to be received. The Labour Party will make provisions so that Norway has world-class broadband services.

The Labour Party will focus on new industries. ICT and the Internet contribute to the creation of value in many areas. It provides an opportunity for every individual enterprise to operate more efficiently, and provides access to a global market. ICT gives Norwegian enterprises a competitive advantage when entering foreign markets. Knowledge, ideas and services are distributed faster and to more places. While the ICT industry contributes to the development of many industries, it also creates products on its own. Enterprises that exploit these opportunities and create products that correspond to customer expectations will be the enterprises of the future. Norwegian enterprises deliver world-class products based on ICT solutions.

The ICT markets are undergoing continuous development. The Labour Party will ensure that public authorities facilitate this industry, while also being cautious about interfering in markets in a manner that could inhibit innovation. The development of apps is becoming a new industry, and many products are developed based on public registers that are made available as datasets. Norway is a small market, and it is therefore important that we base ourselves on international standards in order to give Norwegian entities access to export markets.

Large volumes of data are stored in the world today, and this requires a lot of storage space. The Labour Party will focus on green data centres that use less energy and fewer resources than other data centres, because synergies are realised through the power supply, broadband access, cooling and more efficient utilization of surplus heat from the machines. The Norwegian climate, combined with a good supply of electric power and well-developed privacy legislation, make Norway well-suited for the establishment of such activities.

The Labour Party will strengthen Norway's competitiveness through education, competence, and research in ICT. We must therefore have adequate competence, also at a high level of education. It is important that research that is being conducted at both basic and higher levels is of relevance to the industry.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that the principle of net neutrality is maintained.
- Ensure that we have an open and non-discriminatory Internet.
- Use public policy instruments to ensure access wherever market-based solutions are not established.
- Ensure that the population is offered secure and robust fixed and mobile broadband networks of good quality.
- Ensure that data sets that are collected by the public authorities are made available, so that new products can be developed based on such raw data.
- Ensure that Norway is an active player in international standardization work, and actively supports open standards.
- Ensure that Norway is one of the foremost markets for ICT-based services.
- Contribute so that the ICT sector can continue to be an important growth industry in Norway.
- Actively use Norway's competitive advantages in order to establish green data centres.
- Ensure that the population has digital competence, and uses digital services in a safe and secure manner.
- Focus on personal privacy and a high level of security, so that the population has confidence in and makes use of digital services.

- Ensure that the basic digital competence of adults outside of working life is strengthened.
- Have ICT research communities that maintain high international standards.
- Strengthen the cooperation and dialogue between educational institutions and business and industry.

5) Welfare society

We must be good at sharing and ensuring participation

A sense of community provides security and strength. Small differences yield unity and trust. This makes Norway better. Each individual is responsible for shaping his own life, however, collectively we shape a community that makes this possible. This mutual obligation forms the basis for our common welfare, and for the fact that all of us, regardless of our background, should have equal opportunities to develop and live a good life.

The community builds on obligations and rights that encompass everyone. Employment is the basis for welfare – and is part of welfare. Employment is a benefit – and it creates benefits. A community with equal opportunities is a community in which more people can succeed. The fact that more people can succeed is better for everyone. Social security and the creation of value are prerequisites for the continued progress of our country. Secure people create more, because they dare to do more.

By being more preventive, there will be less to repair. This will give many individuals a better life. It will make our society stronger. The Labour Party will further develop good, modern, and efficient welfare services, and make them even better. The Norwegian welfare state should not provide minimal welfare; it should provide security that is there the day you get sick, need help, or find yourself on the outside.

Work programme

Our goal is to ensure that everyone can stand on their own two feet. Every individual should have the opportunity to feel the joy of being independent, developing and becoming a part of a greater fellowship in a local community or workplace. The Labour Party believes in the power and willingness of people to take responsibility. Our point of departure is that everyone is different, but everyone has something to contribute to society that is valuable and useful. That is why everyone should contribute.

Three principles should be a recurrent theme in our policy to ensure increased participation:

We will make demands. Everyone can contribute. Everyone has abilities, skills, and possibilities that are valuable. However, not everyone has been given an opportunity to make use of these, because they have not been challenged, or met with recognition or expectations. We will make demands regarding participation, and increase the use of the activity obligation in connection with public assistance.

We will be there. Some individuals may require rehabilitation, skill acquisition, or adaptations. This must be tailored to the individual. Employers may require guidance on how to make adaptations for employees who require them, such as for a disability or other reduced functional ability, for example. We want to have a service-oriented Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service that will provide support and guidance when needed. Those who are unable to work should rest assured that they will receive the support they require, and be ensured of access to arenas that will provide fellowship.

We will unite all the good forces. Volunteerism plays a particularly important role as a supplement to the public welfare and service offerings. Associations, non-profit organizations and social entrepreneurs can reach target groups that do not traditionally make use of the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service or public assistance, or who may experience that the threshold is too high. We will facilitate contributions from all good forces.

Our welfare schemes should provide security and prevent abuse. This requires cooperation between the various agencies, and that we have a regulatory framework and ICT systems

that facilitate the secure exchange of information, within the framework of basic privacy protection.

We will have welfare schemes that ensure welfare. Persons who earn National Insurance benefits in Norway may be eligible to take these benefits with them when they relocate to another country. With today's relocation flows, it is necessary to take a closer look at whether the regulations are in step with the new reality. In the development of our welfare society, we put more emphasis on services rather than cash transfers. We would like to link obligations to benefits.

Social security is an important prerequisite for the participation of everyone. Good public welfare services are then required. Employment for all is the most important public policy instrument for combating poverty. A weak economy also weakens the opportunity to participate in common arenas that cost money, such as cultural and sports activities. This may affect children in particular. The Labour Party will give priority to an economic policy that will ensure that differences will be small, and ensure measures that can counteract social inequality, especially among children and young people.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that graduated benefits, and opportunities to work part-time in the event of illness or disability, are active policy instruments for health and participation.
- Ensure that requirements for active job seeking, skill qualification, or rehabilitation are actively in use for public assistance, so that recipients can stand on their own two feet as quickly as possible.
- Ensure that treatment for physical or mental health problems is combined with work participation or work-oriented training, to the extent justifiable.
- Ensure that individuals with drug and alcohol problems receive close follow-up in the form of a combination of help to master their drug and alcohol problems, and work training. Follow-up shall be offered in the form of an individual programme based on the model used for the skill qualification programme.
- Provide for young people under the age of 25 who become unemployed goal-oriented measures to return them to employment or education, or offer them a tailored activity plan of work-oriented measures.
- Ensure that more people are given employment by means of time-limited or long-term wage subsidies.
- Develop more trainee programmes, new trial jobs and trainee positions, with emphasis on groups that are currently excluded from working life, particularly persons with mental disorders and persons with reduced functional abilities.
- Strengthen diversity among those who work in public enterprises, with regard to minority backgrounds and reduced functional abilities, among other things. Public enterprises should set a good example by retaining capable senior citizen employees.
- Civil society should be involved in the efforts to get more people participating in the work force. Initiatives under the auspices of non-profit organizations may help reach target groups that do not traditionally make use of the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service or other public services.
- Ensure good individual follow-up for those who require rehabilitation. Rehabilitation enterprises represent an important rehabilitation service, and they should be guaranteed predictable framework conditions.
- Strengthen the efforts to combat National Insurance abuse through collecting public information, such as information on employment, tax payments, information from the National Population Register, and the payment of National Insurance benefits.
- Implement clear sanctions, including the loss of rights for a period of time, in connection with the abuse of the sickness benefit scheme.
- Ensure that Norwegian foreign missions, in cooperation with the tax authorities and the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service, contribute to identifying and stopping the abuse of National Insurance benefits.

- Shift the contributions from cash transfers to services whenever possible, and link obligations to cash transfers to a greater extent, so that they cannot be exported.
- Evaluate a purchasing power adjustment for exportable National Insurance benefits, with the exception of disability benefits and old-age pensions.
- Review the membership provisions for National Insurance to prevent the abuse of National Insurance benefits.
- Link a residential requirement to cash benefits.
- Ensure that public benefits and child maintenance benefits are withheld from the abductor in connection with international child abductions.
- Strengthen county governor supervision of social services, so that responsible maintenance and equivalent services can be ensured throughout the entire country.
- Increase the social housing grants, and ensure that a greater share of these grants are used in residential areas that are not under stress.
- Strengthen the provision of debt and financial advice at the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service offices, and ensure that this is included as part of the follow-up of individual plans.
- Ensure that schemes are established to ensure that children in families living on social welfare benefits have opportunities to participate in recreational activities.

Children and families

Families represent the closest fellowship in society. The Labour Party wants to have a policy that will facilitate the combination of a good family life with working life. Families should have a good framework in which children can grow up. Families who experience difficulties, for whatever reason, should receive the help they need.

It should be easy to combine having children and having a career. Fathers and mothers are equivalent care takers for their children. The Labour Party has promoted the introduction and expansion of the period for which parental benefits can be received, and the paternal quota. This has been important for the opportunity for both parents to care for their children. The Labour Party wants to make it easier for students to become parents.

Most people want to have children, but they also experience difficulties in having the children they really want. The Labour Party believes that it is of great benefit to society and the individual that children are born, and it desires to facilitate this to the greatest possible extent. Therefore we will increase the number of assisted fertilization attempts in the public health service, and provide better support to those who wish to adopt better.

New advances in technology and medical science have given us a growing number of opportunities for realization of the desire for a child. The Labour Party acknowledges that this also raises a number of challenging ethical questions. The Labour Party does not desire any commercialization in this field, and we would say no to a development in which parents could choose the qualities of their children.

The concept of a family is not static, and children are growing up in various family constellations. Step-parent adoptions in homosexual families should be faster and simpler.

The Labour Party will not allow surrogate births in Norwegian law. There are at the same time many children born abroad who experience a lack of rights when they arrive in Norway. The Labour Party will place the interests of the child first in such cases.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Introduce a 12-month financial aid benefit for students with children and increase the family grant for those with the lowest income.

- Work actively against any proposals to restrict women's rights to self-determined abortion
- Provide more medical assistance, including additional assisted fertilization attempts.
- Make provisions for a shorter waiting period during adoption processes through assistance and encouraging the adoption societies to cooperate with more countries.
- Influence partner countries to accept homosexual adoption parents
- Ensure the availability of competence to provide guidance and assistance for adoptive parents that experience special challenges.
- Make it possible to be on a waiting list for assisted fertilization and adoption at the same time, but make sure that situations do not occur where one could get a child by both means at the same time.
- Allow egg donation.
- Replace transitional benefits for single providers with activity-oriented measures and day care, after the child reaches the age of one.
- Seek to ensure that children can maintain good contact with both parents after a breakup.
- Strengthen the family care centres so that the mediation scheme for breakups can be improved and contribute to a reduction in the level of conflict.
- Look into whether there should be a limit to how often child custody cases can be brought to court, and evaluate whether the right to free legal aid functions according to its intention in order to reduce the number of conflict cases.

Child welfare

The child welfare authorities in Norway should ensure the right help at the right time. If there is a need for help, the child welfare authorities should intervene as early as possible. The child welfare authorities must have close contact with health clinics, day care centres, schools and other agencies that are close to children in order to identify challenges early on, and to give children needing follow-up the best possible follow-up. It is the best interests of the child that should govern the intervention. Measures that are implemented, in or outside the home, must be justified professionally, and the child welfare authorities must regularly evaluate whether the measures that have been implemented are working according to their intention. The voice of the child must be heard before decisions are made, in order to ensure proper assistance. The Labour Party wants to have a knowledge-based child welfare service. The child welfare authorities must have the competence to help children in multicultural families.

The Labour Party does not want child welfare authorities that are controlled by the market. We will not expose public institutions belonging to the child welfare authorities to competition. We will give priority to non-profit organisations over commercial organisations in connection with the public procurement of child welfare services. Quality shall be given priority as the most important criterion in connection with such procurements. Non-profit organisations that provide welfare services to the public authorities should have a long-term cooperation framework.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that the best interests of the child take precedence over the biological principle.
- Introduce a general provision in the Child Welfare Act that strengthens the input of the child in matters that concern them.
- Review the confidentiality provisions to ensure that they do not prevent information that is in the best interests of the child from being forwarded to the proper authority.
- Raise the multicultural competence of the child welfare authorities, so that it can be easier to identify negligent care in families with an immigrant background.

- Stimulate additional foster home options, including among families with a multicultural background.
- Ensure that institutions are only used in exceptional cases as a permanent solution for a child. In the instances where they must nevertheless be used, the institutions should be differentiated. The institutional needs should be adapted to the needs of the individual.
- Ensure that children and young people for whom the child welfare authorities are responsible, have the same right and obligation to education as other children. If they do not attend an ordinary school, there must be a decision to this effect, and they shall be offered adapted schooling.
- Strengthen the aftercare for children who have been under the care of the child welfare authorities.
- Ensure that the child welfare authorities benefit from the experience, competence, and capacity of former child welfare children, social entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations.
- Ensure that the competence and personnel in municipal child welfare services are still prioritized, and that all the municipalities ensure that the head of the child welfare service is surrounded by a professional environment.
- Ensure that the reporting duty of schools, day care centres and health personnel is observed when there is a suspicion of seriously negligent care or abuse of children.

A safe and free adolescence

During adolescence a number of choices are made that are important in shaping one's future. The Labour Party believes therefore that a good youth policy must ensure that young people feel secure enough to make good choices. Secure enough to dare to make untraditional choices. Secure enough to withstand pressure from others. Secure enough to be free. Being free is being able to choose exactly what suits you, regardless of where you live, your financial or cultural background, and regardless of your gender, religion, or sexual orientation.

To ensure freedom and security, young people must be ensured of co-determination in matters that concern them. The Labour Party also believes that young people must have good opportunities to influence and participate in daily life at school, and in the local community. In order to start adult life well, we must not allow young people to start their careers with unemployment. The youth guarantee must therefore be further developed. Today young people have major challenges in trying to enter the housing market. An offensive housing policy must be particularly aimed at young people being able to find a place to live.

Adolescence is also a vulnerable period of life. Easy access to a health service that is forthcoming and can advise and help in a beneficial manner with questions concerning identity and sexuality, and that has good mental health competence, is necessary. Efforts to prevent young people being exposed to bullying and violence must be improved, to ensure security during their adolescent years. Teachers and health and care workers should have greater knowledge of LGBT people and the challenges facing LGBT youth in general, and in immigrant communities in particular. The county authorities must enter into agreements with the municipalities that ensure that the upper secondary schools have good school health services available.

In order to prevent mental disorders related to body image, it is important to seek to ensure that young people in a vulnerable phase are not exposed to unrealistic body images. The Labour Party will therefore consider stricter regulations and guidelines for the marketing of

products aimed particularly at young people and that depict and promote unhealthy body images.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Establish a programme to boost public health clinics for young people, so that this becomes a genuine and equivalent service throughout the entire country.
- Give all school students, from year 8 to Upper Secondary Level 3, access to a public health nurse, and ensure that more men are recruited to the profession.
- Increase public funding for the health services at student welfare organizations.
- Ensure that efforts to promote good mental health will be supported and focused on.
- Evaluate a new permanent scheme for the use of graduated sickness benefits for students.
- Expand the trial of a free contraceptive scheme by including additional areas and ages.
- Improve sex education, and make provisions for additional information projects on sexuality.
- Establish a resource page about rape in close relationships, and about boyfriend/girlfriend violence.
- Ensure that knowledge of sexual abuse and rape is part of the sex education in schools.
- Ensure that all municipalities have suitable, reasonable, practice and recreational premises available
- Expand the culture card scheme for young people.
- Ensure that all municipalities offer a culture card to young people at a reasonable price.
- Encourage municipalities to offer "home for NOK 50" schemes.
- Encourage county authorities to offer discounted tickets for children and young people up to the age of 18 on public transportation.
- Ensure that all apprentices are included in the student discount scheme.

Consumers

Consumers shall be ensured the opportunity to make informed choices. An increasing amount of information can be made available through the use of technology, and digital tools provide new opportunities for sorting this information. Consumers should be protected from harmful chemicals and environmental toxins. Buying their own home is the largest investment that consumers make. The Labour Party believes that Norwegian homebuyers must be better protected from faults and defects in homes.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that openly available price and merchandise information is also made available electronically.
- Implement a plan of action to ensure a toxin-free daily life for consumers.
- Strengthen consumer entitlement to information in connection with buying a home, and better protect buyers from faults and defects in homes.
- Introduce stricter requirements for the marketing of consumer loans

Accessibility and participation

Increased physical and practical accessibility is not just important for individuals with a permanently reduced functional ability: Many people experience reduced mobility or a loss of

senses during portions of their life. In order to allow everybody to participate, we must eliminate the barriers to participation. Often the barriers that make participation difficult are created by people. Products, buildings and outdoor areas should be designed whenever possible such that they can be used by everyone, without any special adaptations or aids. Universal design has been incorporated into all the relevant laws.

The opportunities for active participation are also about access to goods, services and information. General information must be available to all. This means, for example, that information must be available as a sound file, in addition to an electronic form.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Eliminate barriers and ensure universal design and accessibility so that everyone can participate in society.
- Contribute to raising the competence in universal design of those who are responsible for public planning, development and procurement.
- Ensure that new public transport shelters that are constructed, and transport equipment that is procured, are universally accessible.
- Ensure that digital solutions are universally designed.
- Ensure that technical aids centre services are available throughout the country. Everyone should be ensured access to the necessary technical aids.
- Ensure that all school pupils and students with a documented adaptation need for examinations, receive the proper adaptation.
- Strengthen the functional assistance scheme in schools and working life.
- Ensure good transport arrangements between schools, workplaces and home for those who are not able to use public transport or drive themselves.
- Develop the user-controlled personal assistance service.
- Ensure that people with disabilities are offered a coping course.
- Strengthen the interpreting services
- School buildings should be given priority with respect to universal design efforts

Pensions and benefits

National Insurance provides security for individuals in the community in the form of income in old age, in the event of a disability or when a provider passes away. The pension settlement for old-age pensions and new disability benefits ensures a predictable and stable pension system for the future. The main purpose is to ensure that individuals enjoy economic security, and to make it possible to combine work and pensions, or work and National Insurance benefits.

The segmentation and differences in occupational pension schemes prevent restructuring and mobility in working life. In recent years, we have seen a development in the private sector whereby good defined benefit schemes have been replaced by defined contribution schemes. These are both less expensive and more predictable for enterprises, but generally provide poorer benefits for the employees. In order to secure an old-age pension for all employees in the private sector, in addition to National Insurance benefits, the Mandatory Occupational Pension Act was introduced in 2006. Nevertheless, this has not ensured an acceptable pension level for all employees. In order to create the basis for a broad, collective pension system in the private sector as well, and which is adapted to the new National Insurance scheme, the Labour Party supports the preparation of legislation that can enable such contractual schemes. Such schemes will also make it easier to change employers in the private sector without losing any pension benefits.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure good public benefits for individuals who cannot participate in the work force.

- Implement the pension reform, and introduce new disability benefits starting in 2015.
- Ensure the continuation of a good pension, and ensure that it can be combined with employment.
- Ensure the framework conditions for contractual early retirement (AFP) in the private sector.
- Evaluate age limits in relation to the development of working life, and adapt these limits to pension reform work.
- Provide stimulation to ensure that senior citizens also work after they reach the age of 70.

Active senior citizen life

Senior citizens represent a large and growing segment of the population. Most of them are active and have good opportunities to blossom and enjoy life. More senior citizens should be drawn into organizations and the voluntary community. Social gatherings and common activities can also delay the onset of old-age diseases. Providing good places for senior citizens to meet in the form of welfare service centres and activity centres for the elderly is therefore an important aspect of prevention.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Stimulate the link between voluntary organizations, cultural and senior citizen measures, as well as contact with local environments, so that we can facilitate an active old age with a high degree of participation.
- Involve voluntary organizations, libraries and welfare service centres for the elderly in the effort to provide senior citizens the opportunity to learn how to use ICT.
- Make active use of Councils for Senior Citizens.
- Develop programmes for senior citizen training as positive forums with academic content for pensioners in various parts of the country.
- Ensure that new pensioners are provided with a list of the voluntary services in their municipality, and are encouraged to participate actively in the local community.

Care, security and freedom

Recruitment of an adequate number of qualified employees in the nursing and care services is one of the greatest challenges facing us in order to ensure good welfare services in the years to come.

Those who require nursing and care are entitled to services that are based on the employees possessing a high level of knowledge and competence, and on the opportunity to live a rich life even though they require help in their daily life. This means that it is important to continue to strengthen municipal economies and care services that are adapted to the needs of the individuals.

Care Plan for 2020

The Labour Party believes that the future of health and care services must be characterized by sufficient personnel, a high level of competence and innovation, and ongoing development. We must be creative and future-oriented with regard to professions and methods, organization, technology and cooperation with volunteers and the next of kin.

The elderly are the major consumers of health and care services in the municipalities. The number of elderly will begin to increase from 2020. We have used the period since 2005 to rehabilitate and build residential care facilities, to strengthen the competence of personnel, and to increase the number of man-years in the sector. We must continue and reinforce

these efforts during the period up until 2020. We must also use this period to prepare for changing demographics, and develop new and future-oriented health and care services for the elderly, as well as for others who require good services in the municipalities.

Everyone who needs a place in an institution or a residential facility with full-time care must receive it. The municipalities must enough have space in institutions for those who need them, and enough that long-term residents in an institution be given a private room if they so desire.

The Labour Party will replace the Care Plan for 2015 with a new and reinforced Care Plan for 2020.

During the period from 2015 to 2020, the Labour Party will:

- Enable the municipalities to increase staffing by an additional 10,000 man-years in the health care sector up until 2020, while planning will be done for further growth after 2020.
- Have as a goal to increase the percentage of employees with formal competence in the health care sector, so that three-quarters possess such competence.
- Increase the number of health profession workers, nurses, occupational therapists and physical therapists in the sector.
- Ensure that the municipalities prepare development plans that illustrate the need for rehabilitation and construction of residential care institutions. The central government will continue a grant scheme to support such developments.

Quality and content

Very many of those who are currently living in nursing homes suffer from dementia. The places that are being constructed and rehabilitated must therefore be adapted to the needs of dementia patients, and the nursing homes must ensure that the residents experience security and care. Those who suffer from dementia should experience meaning and content in their daily life, even though they are ill. Joy of life certification is a means of improving the quality of nursing homes and residential care institutions. Such concepts should be further developed and disseminated. Culture is an important contribution to providing good experiences for residents.

Daily activity programmes must be developed further. Dementia patients living at home must be ensured of a daily activity programme, and the goal is for all the municipalities to provide such a programme. The Labour Party will continue to give grants for the creation of care places, and its goal is to make the daily activity programme a statutory requirement when the programme has been further developed. Both the employees and the next of kin must increase their knowledge of dementia. The next of kin school should provide support, guidance and knowledge to the next of kin.

Innovation in care

The future programme to boost competence must be aimed at the competence requirements of new and future-oriented health and care services.

Everyone should be able to live securely and freely in their own homes, even those who need help to manage in their daily lives. Several public tasks in the future will be solved differently and smarter than they have been. Innovation in care and the use of welfare technology can contribute to more people receiving help, and also to this help being better. With proper use, this can provide greater closeness between people, more security in daily life, and opportunities for a more social and active life. This means that individuals can also live at home longer. For employees in the health and care sector, new technology can result in time savings and in work being less physically demanding.

We want to have a care service that ensures the elderly of a dignified life, respect, choices and privacy.

By focusing on prevention, more people will postpone or avoid the development of serious diseases, and those in need of help will receive better follow-up. The home care service must be further developed, and individuals who receive medical treatment and practical assistance at home must be able to expect coordination, fixed appointments and as few people as possible to deal with.

New technology can contribute to the development of sheltered housing, and thus make it possible for more people to live at home longer. Combined with a 24-hour reception service and common rooms for social gatherings, this can contribute to a good and secure old age for many people.

The integrated health care reform means that people should avoid having to be in hospital when they do not need to be there. This is good for individual, and it is good for society. The municipalities have a clear responsibility for prevention, and can prevent hospital admissions through good preventive measures. Care for the elderly in the future must build on the ideas and principles of the integrated healthcare reform.

The needs of those in the final phase of life must be safeguarded. Better provisions should be made for those who desire to die at home. In the final phase of life, it is extra important that the next of kin receive adequate information, so that they can make the necessary decisions. This must also be viewed in the context of the right to a leave of absence to provide care in the event of responsibility for care of a close family member.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Enable the municipalities to increase staffing by an additional 10,000 man-years in the health care sector up until 2020, while also planning for further growth after 2020.
- Have as a goal to increase the percentage of employees with formal competence in the health care sector, so that three-quarters possess such competence.
- Increase the number of health profession workers, nurses, occupational therapists and physical therapists in the sector.
- Ensure that the municipalities prepare development plans that illustrate the need for rehabilitation and construction of residential care institutions. The central government will continue a grant scheme to support such developments, and it will evaluate the use of policy instruments to ensure that municipalities receive adequate support relative to the needs of the population.
- Ensure that those who cannot manage with follow-up from health and care personnel at home, are given access to housing with 24-hour care or are admitted to a nursing home.
- Make the municipal duty to provide a day programme for dementia patients a statutory requirement.
- Continue the efforts to develop the quality and content in nursing homes, and develop national certification for nursing homes and residential care institutions.
- Develop better cooperation with the next of kin and open nursing homes and assisted-living housing for the local community.
- Strengthen research on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other neurological diseases, in order to make better provisions for early intervention and prevention and to develop suitable and adapted services.
- Prepare a plan of action for modern next of kin policy, which ensures that the next of kin can manage to take part in demanding care tasks.
- Ensure that those who receive home care services have a permanent contact person, influence over who cares for them in their home, and a say in what is to take place.
- Ensure that the elderly who are institutionalized have greater freedom of choice and influence over their daily lives.

- Ensure that the elderly receive an offer of guidance on coping with daily life and rehabilitation, as well as preventive home visits to ensure greater coping skills, activity and satisfaction, for example through trial outreach teams with qualified personnel.
- Develop new professional approaches and work methods in the care services.
- Increase health and care research.
- Stimulate increased innovation in health and care services, and prepare national and local plans for innovation and the use of welfare technology in the municipalities.
- Take the needs of users as the starting point, and make use of the employees' competence, when provisions are made for innovation and the development of welfare technology.
- Develop models for the development and introduction of welfare technology
- Eliminate legislative obstacles to the use of welfare technology, while ensuring the necessary respect for personal privacy and integrity.
- Mobilise interpersonal care by cooperating with the voluntary sector, and supporting and taking care of the resource that the next of kin represent.
- Prepare a volunteerism strategy to ensure that volunteers and the local community are maintained as a resource.
- Provide grants for the construction of sheltered housing that meets the needs for adapted housing, and provides 24 hour reception services and a common canteen/areas for social events, among other things
- Increase the focus on good and proper nutrition for those dependent on nursing care
- Strengthen the regional research and development structure for the care services
- Strengthen research at the national level
- Strengthen the research, innovation and development efforts in the municipalities
- Focus more on the development and use of welfare technology, and ensure in particular that GPS becomes a publicly approved aid
- Strengthen efforts to increase the capacity and competence of palliative treatment and care in the final stage of life, including when this stage of life is spent at home.
- Ensure good follow-up in the final stage of life for institutional residents, and for those who wish to die at home.

A mobilization for public health and prevention

Good physical and mental health is of decisive importance to the life quality of individuals and the ability of society to create and share. Public health work has been of central importance to the Labour Party throughout its history. The labour movement has taken a stand for better working environments, higher standards of housing and proper sanitary conditions. Higher life expectancy, reduced differences in health and a better life for the individual during the last century was primarily achieved as a result of better public health. For the Labour Party, solid public health work is the foundation of its health policy. We must have a broad mobilization for public health once again.

Everyone is responsible for their own health. However, the community is also responsible for everyone's health. Norway is a country of small economic differences. Nevertheless, we find the clearest social differences in the area of health. Good distribution policy is good public health policy.

We are facing an increase in non-communicable lifestyle diseases that the World Health Organization is calling an epidemic; these diseases include heart disease, diabetes, cancer, lung diseases and mental disorders. 80 per cent of all deaths in Norway are now attributed to these non-communicable diseases, and there are clear social differences.

We have knowledge and policy instruments to meet these new public health challenges. It is well documented that prevention, and community-oriented measures in particular, is what provides the most health for the money and the greatest welfare benefit. To succeed in preventing and turning this epidemic of lifestyle diseases around, mobilization for public health will be required. It is a matter of preventing physical and mental problems, about people's opportunity to live a full life, and about making use of available human and economic resources.

Physical activity is a source of health and quality of life, and it is necessary for the normal growth and development of children and young people. Physical activity as a health-promoting factor is "fresh produce" that must be maintained through daily movement and active use of our bodies. We humans can exercise throughout our entire lives. At the same time we know that too little physical activity is a risk factor for the development of a number of health problems and diseases, such as being overweight and obesity, type II diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, several types of cancer and musculoskeletal diseases.

As a consequence of higher life expectancy and new lifestyle challenges, we know that many people will be living with disease. To ensure the security and freedom of individuals, the Labour Party believes that this makes it even more important to prioritize fundamental and long-term public health work and health prevention. The best possible provisions must also be made so that individuals can manage to take responsibility for the prevention of poor health, and provide good care for themselves.

The Labour Party's health policy is rooted in a solid focus on early intervention and in the important public health work being done in all sectors of society. Everyone must have equal access to necessary health services of high quality, regardless of where they live or their personal finances.

Public health measures in many areas have ensured that the majority of the population has good dental health, and thus relatively low expenses for continuing prevention and treatment. Good dental health is closely associated with the rest of public health, and provisions must therefore be made for good contact between dentists and the rest of the national health service.

The Labour Party will protect everyone from major expenses. The Labour Party will introduce a co-payment ceiling for necessary dental treatment and 75% coverage for excess expenses.

The Labour Party will continue its efforts to ensure everyone of good dental health. Good prevention and access to dental health services through the country are important. Regular dental health check-ups are an effective preventive measure. It is important to stimulate young people to go to the dentist in order to establish a good foundation. The Labour Party will therefore expand the discount scheme for young people to additional birth cohorts. The Labour Party will introduce shielding schemes for dental health expenses for persons with weak finances and poor dental health. We will evaluate whether benefits for a co-payment ceiling will meet this need best. The dental status and need for treatment will be defined based on clearly defined criteria defined by the authorities. The Labour Party will continue to improve the refund scheme through National Insurance for special diagnoses.

The Labour Party will increase the fee rates for groups with rare medical conditions, including after the age of 20, for persons with diabetes and persons with cancer diagnoses or undergoing cancer treatment affecting dental health.

The Labour Party will change from a refund rate to a fee rate for persons with dry mouth and will ensure that they receive treatment earlier than today.

Violence in close relationships is a public health problem that entails large personal as well as social costs. The health service must become better at preventing and identifying violence and abuse. The competence of the health service and the follow-up of victims of violence in close relationships must be improved.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Follow up and strengthen the focus on public health in the integrated health care reform and the follow-up of the new Public Health Act.
- Strengthen local efforts to improve public health, for example by making provisions for access to public health advisers in the municipalities, and ensuring that preventive health work is given a natural place in municipal plans.
- Strengthen the grant scheme for healthy life centres and learning and coping centres.
- Make provisions for a national focus on physical activity and cycling through the construction of paths, trails and walking and cycling routes, and through activity campaigns aimed at various target groups.
- Ensure that individuals with chronic diseases learn to cope with the situation and prevent further development of the disease. Increase the dissemination of knowledge about common diseases by means of peer work, and together with consumer organisations.
- Encourage the municipalities to enter into framework agreements with non-profit organizations for preventive health work.
- Strengthen the school health service so that it is equipped for preventive work, especially for better mental health and measures to combat obesity.
- Ensure better prevention and public health by increasing the number of public health nurses.
- Make provisions so that daily physical activity and healthy food contribute to ensuring a good learning environment in the schools.
- Offer early ultrasound in the national health service as well.
- Expand the authority of midwives to prescribe contraception.
- Review improvements in the care benefit scheme for greater predictability in the allocation and calculation of benefits.
- Maintain the state-owned wine and spirits monopoly scheme, and ensure the legitimacy of the scheme by amending the Act, so that the state-owned wine and spirits monopoly can remain open on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, Easter Eve, the day before Whitsunday and election day.
- Ensure that all transgender persons and persons who experience gender identity challenges receive a equivalent treatment offers. Transgender persons should be given an opportunity to change their legal gender without sterilization being required.
- Further develop preventive efforts to ensure good public dental health.

Recruitment to the health and care sector

In the years to come the need for health and care services will increase, and there will be a great need for manpower in this sector. The needs for competence will also change. Recruitment to the health and care sector must therefore be broader than it is today, and public authorities must have a greater focus on facilitating and motivating more people to enter these professions.

Good working conditions, workplaces based on full-time positions, and a better balance between the genders may have an effect on recruitments. The perception of the health and care sector as a career path with opportunities for development and new challenges may have the same effect.

More full-time positions in the health and care sector provide greater predictability and quality for the users, and make the work day more predictable for the employees. The long-term goal is to ensure that full-time positions will be the main rule in the health sector.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Learn from the efforts that have been made to include women in traditionally male-dominated education programmes and occupations, and implement the changes that are necessary to broaden recruitment.
- Give gender points to boys who choose traditionally female-dominated education programmes in the health and care field.
- Ensure that there are more men in the care professions and establish a national project for the recruitment of more men.
- Work systematically and in a knowledge-based manner to prevent dropouts from health care education programmes.
- Provide training in the use of welfare technology in the health and care education programmes. Provide the foundation for innovation in welfare technology through the educational paths and in working life.
- Focus on continuing and further education programmes for employees in the nursing and care sector.
- Together with trade unions and employer federations promote a full-time culture in the care sector. The long-term goal is to make full-time positions the rule in the health sector.

The best treatment when you are ill

The Labour Party wants the public authorities to be responsible for the funding and prioritization of the health and care services. This will ensure fair access to offerings and services and the proper use of community resources. We do not want any privatization or commercialization of the health and care services that reduce the public offerings.

The goal of the Labour Party is to ensure that if you should become ill in Norway, you can be secure in the knowledge that one of the world's best health services will be ready to help you. The Norwegian health service will still be a public responsibility, and co-payments for health services should be low so that no one is excluded due to their finances. The services should be organized so that they have the best possible quality.

Our goal is for the treatment provided to give the best possible result, and that it should be provided in a manner that takes the patient's wishes and life situation into consideration. As a result of changes that have taken place in recent years, we have concentrated advanced treatment at fewer hospitals. This has resulted, for example, in an increase in the survival rates for heart attacks, traffic injuries and cancer. This development must continue. Most less complicated treatments can, however, be administered at smaller units. This means that we must seek to ensure that as many people as possible can receive help at home or close to home whenever possible without diminishing quality.

The Norwegian health service is not good enough at involving the patients. We believe that patients must receive better information and have greater influence over their own treatment. The level of service can be further raised by increasing telephone availability, reducing wait times, and systematically requesting patient feedback.

Primary care doctors, casualty clinics and emergency medical services in Norway are generally of high quality. This chain of available competent medical treatment, which does

not require any referral, is an important pillar of the health service. Competence and availability contribute to a secure health service when we need it. A well-functioning primary care doctor system relieves the casualty clinics. Functional casualty clinics relieve the emergency medical services. These services must be further developed, and cooperation and exchange of information between them must be strengthened. A good municipal economy and good municipal solutions for care are important prerequisites for the integrated health care reform. The Labour Party believes that good political administration is required in order to achieve the best results in the health service and hospitals. Therefore the Labour Party wants the central government to own the hospitals, and this should be combined with regional and local participation. The local affiliation of the regional health authorities can be further improved through an enhanced dialogue between health regions and local authorities, for example. The Labour Party will develop the Norwegian hospital model further and maintain the regional level. We will ensure government ownership and clear political management and prioritization. The Labour Party will consider adjustments to the current model within this framework.

When the reorganisation and coordination in the Oslo area and at the Oslo University Hospital have been carried out, we will consider the organisation of the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, including the opportunity to divide the region to strengthen the regional foundation of the hospital model.

The main features of health policy should be anchored in the Storting through the annual budget documents, the national health and care plan, and Storting white papers on relevant subjects.

The wait time for hospital treatment should be reduced through increasing capacity, better organization, better interaction with the municipalities and better prevention. Even though we can achieve the most through prevention, it will be necessary to increase appropriations to the hospitals in the years to come as well, in order to ensure that we can make use of technological developments in the best interests of the patients, and be equipped for the change in the age composition of the population.

The development of technology and the constant development of new medicines continue to give us new opportunities to cure disease. At the same time, this leads to difficult discussions on priorities and the use of resources for new and uncertain forms of treatment. We want the selection of methods and medications to be based on professional assessments, so that we can help as many people as possible with the resources that are available.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that hospitals, municipal health services and primary care doctors cooperate organizationally and professionally, so that inhabitants receive the best and fastest treatment possible.
- Increase patient security through openness and learning in both hospitals and the municipal health services.
- Ensure interaction and the flow of information in all parts of the health service for comprehensive and coordinated patient care, also electronically.
- Ensure that outpatient specialist health services are available to the people, with the shortest possible waiting period and travel distance. The hospitals must organize this as a separate activity and through agreements with private and contract specialists.
- Ensure that everyone who needs it can receive an appointment with or home visit from their primary care doctor, with the shortest possible waiting period.
- Strengthen health preparedness.
- Measure and follow up quality to a greater degree than today. Simplify and automate reporting in order to increase the amount of time employees have to be with patients.
- Ensure that everyone has access to specific quality targets, as well as to the experiences of patients and employees from the various hospitals.

- Ensure that everyone has online access to their own patient records, and that an effort is made to ensure the goal of "one person – one record"
- Simplify and strengthen patient rights, so that everyone who is referred to a hospital and requires medical treatment is given a binding deadline for treatment and automatic follow-up.
- Ensure that all patients receive a date for when they are to be admitted to the hospital, within 10 working days after a referral is made.
- Ensure that the financing scheme for the hospitals emphasizes quality.
- Increase the flexibility of public hospitals with regard to recruiting additional specialists and increasing the number of treatments within their financial budgets.
- Change the legislation, so that patient record information follows the patient and not the individual institution.
- Ensure continued central government ownership, with local and regional participation in the management of hospital services.
- Contribute to new hospital investments based on predictable hospital finances and central government bonds.
- Increase the use of quality registers. These registers should be based on the automated retrieval of information.
- Strengthen research, innovation and the use of new technology.
- Promote knowledge-based decisions for the prioritization and evaluation of new medicines and treatments methods.
- Encourage interaction and cooperation with non-profit and private organizations, in order to contribute to a good comprehensive health service. Predictable agreements are important for the non-profit sector.

Rehabilitation

One of the pillars of a good health service is habilitation and rehabilitation. Good habilitation and rehabilitation services are a prerequisite for participation in society for many people, and it is an important part of the integrated health care reform. We want there to be greater prioritization of rehabilitation in hospitals and in the municipalities.

The goal of these services is to provide assistance so that people can achieve the best possible coping skills, independence and inclusion in society. By making the users as self-sufficient as possible, as early as possible, quality of life is increased, and admission to a hospital or institution can in some cases be avoided.

Rehabilitation takes place throughout the entire treatment chain. However there has recently been an increased focus on rehabilitation at home. We want new cooperation arenas to be developed in which municipalities and hospitals join forces to create good rehabilitation offerings in various areas of the health and care services. Good rehabilitation services require that they are rooted in management and cooperation across the professions. Many municipalities are now developing new services and ways of working. This is a welcome development that the Labour Party supports and will contribute to the continuation of.

Those who coordinate rehabilitation in the regional health authorities should be given a strong role in the coordination and development of rehabilitation. A free choice of rehabilitation should be introduced in the specialist health service. The Labour Party wants there to be a rehabilitation forum in the municipal sector, hospital regions, rehabilitation institutions and user organisations that discusses developments in the field and develops a national rehabilitation hub.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that a rehabilitation effort is made as early as possible.

- Promote a rehabilitation service that ensures a more interdisciplinary approach, that is better anchored in management, and has a greater focus on rehabilitation at home.
- Improve competence in the field, and contribute to strengthening occupational therapy, nursing and physical therapy in the municipalities.
- Ensure that the municipalities test out models for early intervention and daily rehabilitation.
- Develop the field in cooperation with non-profit organizations that work in the field.
- Focus on the users, and ensure that specific individual plans for rehabilitation are developed that ensure seamless cooperation between professions and various levels.
- Expand the right to a free choice of hospital to encompass private training and rehabilitation institutions that have an agreement with regional health authorities.
- Strengthen the interaction and coordination surrounding the individual users through an increased focus on or individuals or an individual plan
- A review of the policies and policy instruments for work-related rehabilitation in light of experience from the work with an inclusive working life with a view to improved and better adapted services.
- Ensure that the municipalities have better professional support in the rehabilitation area
- Contribute to the development and strengthening of rehabilitation offerings based on peer experience
- Conduct a survey of all the needs of the user groups for specialized rehabilitation with the aim to improve the various offerings for the user groups
- Carry out professional and economic adaptation for the development of training institutions into modern rehabilitation centres
- Ensure that disabled people's organisations are involved in the development and operation of public and private rehabilitation offerings,
- Strengthen the education of health personnel in the area rehabilitation
- Strengthen the grant scheme for healthy life centres and learning and coping centres.

Right help at the right time: mental health

Many people will experience a mental disorder during their lifetime. Being open about mental health and disorders is one of the most important contributions that we as a society can make to those who are afflicted. Many mental disorders can be prevented, others can be cured quickly with early treatment. Due to the scope of mental disorders in the population, we can safely say that this is a significant public health problem. Increased knowledge of the mental health of the elderly is important in order to make the proper diagnosis and offer the right help

The foundation for good mental health is established early. A society that is characterized by good communal solutions and the inclusion of all creates the frameworks for good lives and can prevent future mental disorders. Early intervention and participation in working life, as well as work-oriented measures, may shorten the course of the disorder. The prevention of mental problems takes place in good common arenas and through good health services that identify those who fall outside. New ways of working are key, such as a group approach, quick help for those with minor mental disorders and more permanent psychologists in the municipalities.

We have ensured that most children attend day care centres through the day care centre reform. This has positive effects on mental health. High quality day care centres are the most important instrument that a society has to promote the mental health of children. The Labour

Party will consider improved regulation of the physical and psychosocial environment in day care centres.

To ensure continuity in the treatment of young people, the Labour Party proposes that patients in Children's and Young People's Psychiatric Outpatient Clinics (BUP) should be able to keep their regular therapist for up to five years after they have attained the age of 18.

The Labour Party wants there to be more permanent psychologists in the municipalities. The psychologists must work in a preventive and interdisciplinary manner, both on an individual and group-oriented basis and with early intervention for children, young people and adults.

Mental health is encompassed by the integrated health care reform. This means focusing on prevention, good cooperation between the municipalities and hospitals, and a continued shift from long-term institutionalization to locally adapted measures, supplemented by treatment in the specialist health service as necessary. The Labour Party wants there to be more permanent psychologists in the municipalities. The goal of the Labour Party is to ensure that the financial policy instruments for mental health care in the integrated health care reform comes into place as quickly as practically possible.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure early intervention for anxiety and depression through good professional low threshold offerings.
- Increase the focus on individuals with mental disorders, through greater use of low-threshold programmes, shorter wait times, and closer follow-up of the patients over time.
- Ensure that research focuses more on the causes of mental illness than is the case today.
- Improve help for people in a mental health crisis
- Improve mental health help for children and young people
- Strengthen the preventive work of the school health service to improve mental health.
- Introduce requirements for work-oriented rehabilitation, and a meaningful daily life, in the day programme for the mentally ill.
- Ensure that individuals who have both a mental disorder and a drug or alcohol problem are met and treated based on both conditions.
- Ensure that in psychiatric health care it should be possible to change the therapist or treatment method, both at district psychiatric centres and contract practices.
- Increase knowledge of mental health in the population and ensure knowledge of mental health among health personnel. Public health clinics and the school health service should be given priority in the programme to boost knowledge.
- Ensure that day care centres prevent both physical and mental health problems.
- The Labour Party wants there to be more research to improve the prevention of people committing suicide.

Drug and alcohol abuse – prevention and treatment

The Norwegian Labour Party wants a drug and alcohol policy that provides good help and treatment for those who develop a dependency. The Labour Party will therefore pursue a policy that limits access to drugs and alcohol, in which good national solutions like the state-owned wine and spirits monopoly, a good liquor licence policy, and clear restrictions against the legalization of narcotics are important pillars. We will fight drug and alcohol dependency without fighting the individual who is dependent. The Labour Party is concerned that people with drug and alcohol problems should be met with dignity and respect. Assistance must be offered without requiring abstinence, but abstinence must at the same time be the goal for most of those who are dependent. There must be a greater focus on the children of

individuals who are drug or alcohol dependent and the next of kin. Programmes to provide assistance and possible treatment for the next of kin who need it must be strengthened.

The majority of injuries caused by intoxication are attributed to the use of alcohol. The Labour Party wants to increase the focus on the negative aspects of alcohol abuse, especially the negative consequences that affect the next of kin and other third parties.

The Labour Party wants there to be greater openness concerning alcohol abuse, and eliminate any shame that results in people who need help being too embarrassed to ask for it.

Drug and alcohol treatment is part of the integrated health care reform, and the Labour Party will actively use the cooperation agreements between the municipalities and health trusts, so that the course of treatment for individuals who are dependent on drugs or alcohol is planned and implemented in cooperation between the health trusts and municipalities. This will of course be important for the aftercare. The goal of the Labour Party is to ensure that the financial policy instruments for the care of drug and alcohol abusers in the integrated health care reform comes into place as quickly as practically possible.

The Labour Party wants to have a knowledge-based drug and alcohol abuse care programme, in which what does not work is changed and what does work is strengthened.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Seek to ensure that the municipalities have drug and alcohol-free recreational programmes/clubs for young people.
- Seek to ensure that the services for individuals dependent on drugs or alcohol become more accessible and outwardly visible, and thus better adapted to the needs of this group.
- Develop low-threshold programmes for drug or alcohol abusers, in which the abusers are followed up by health and social services.
- Ensure that individuals with drug or alcohol problems are followed up closely and individually before, during and after treatment by the specialist health service.
- Reduce the wait time for detoxification, treatment and follow-up services, and ensure continuity in the course of treatment.
- Ensure that services are comprehensive, in accordance with the integrated health care reform. Ensure that the course of treatment in the specialist health service is developed in a binding cooperation with the municipality. Ensure a well-developed programme of follow-up after treatment.
- Ensure that emergency drug and alcohol centres are established in the largest cities.
- Follow up the measures from the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report with regard to doping.
- Ensure dental treatment for former drug or alcohol abusers.
- Ensure that the individual plan for users is specific and has genuine content, and that a coordinator is obtained for users who require complex services.
- Strengthen cooperation with non-profit organizations in the field of drug and alcohol abuse care, and with organizations for users and their next of kin.
- Strengthen research on drug and alcohol dependency and the effectiveness of treatment.
- Assume a zero vision for overdoses and have mobile overdose teams in all the major cities.
- Establish a trial project for Naloxone (nose spray, antidote) in the major cities.
- Strengthen the offerings to those who need the most help, and ensure that users with both mental disorders and alcohol or drug dependency are followed up closely over time.
- Strengthen the rehabilitation side of medication-assisted treatment.

- Ensure that there are good routines and competencies throughout the entire support apparatus, such that individuals with alcohol or drug problems and their next of kin can be more easily drawn into the system..

6) Continuing to build our country

Linking our country together and continuing to build Norway

The Labour Party wants to have good communication and transport infrastructure throughout the entire country. Roads, railways, harbours and airports contribute to linking the country together, and are essential to economic development and so that people can live throughout the entire country. The needs of both the rural districts and of the cities must be safeguarded. The Labour Party's transport and communication policy will be based on greater accessibility, improved safety and environmental considerations.

We are currently implementing the greatest boost to transport ever, with record high development of roads, railways and harbours. This major improvement programme must be continued in the years to come. In order to facilitate the creation of economic value throughout the entire country, the transport corridors must be prioritized. The transport needs are increasing, especially due to expected high population growth. This will require a major development of public transportation and provisions for cycling and walking, especially in and around the major urban areas. Growth in passenger transport in the major urban areas must be accommodated through public transport, cycling and walking. The municipalities and the county authorities must still be responsible for local and regional public transport. The major increase in the transport needs nevertheless means that the central government, as a party to a mutual agreement with municipalities and counties authorities, must contribute to the financing of public transport to a greater extent than at present. Such agreements must include comprehensive land use and transport planning, and effective policy instruments to shift the means of transport from private cars to public transport.

More freight must be transferred from road transport to sea and rail transport, and the Labour Party wants a local shipping strategy to be prepared in order to achieve this goal. Essential elements of this local shipping strategy must be renewal of the fleet, simplification of administrative routines, improved competitive conditions for sea transport relative to road transport, and the development of harbours as logistical hubs. We will continue to focus on the development of harbours and fairways and of good freight transfer points. It is necessary to develop a harbour structure that will contribute to efficient unloading and loading. More harbours should cooperate at the same time.

Good air services are essential to economic development and settlement throughout the entire country. The scheme whereby profitable airports pay for the unprofitable airports should be continued.

The high development rate for both roads and railways in the years to come will require substantial planning resources in the municipalities and in central government agencies, good forms of contracts, and flexible organization to ensure that good progress is made in the projects. The planning processes at both the municipal and central government levels must be reviewed, so that the time required for planning can be shortened.

Successful traffic safety initiatives, such as building roads without oncoming traffic, installation of landslide protection, and prioritizing speed limitation and control, must continue so that the decline in the number of severe injuries and mortalities in Norwegian roads will continue.

Encouraging more people to use bicycles is good for the environment, for public health, and for reducing congestion on the roads. The Labour Party has ambitions to focus on cycling, and it will therefore make provisions so that cycling is a genuine alternative for travel to and from work and school, and for recreational purposes.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Implement a national programme to boost investments, operations, and maintenance of roads, railways and sea routes.
- Ensure that growth in passenger traffic in the largest urban areas is accomplished through the use of buses, trams, trains, bicycles and walking. We will therefore implement a national programme to boost public transport in the largest urban areas. We will do so through mutual agreements between the central government, county authorities and municipalities.
- Prioritize the transport corridors and the main road network.
- Ensure predictable project financing of the most important transport projects as separate budget items.
- Make provisions so that major and comprehensive transport projects can be organized as separate projects, so as to ensure efficient progress and sensible forms of contract.
- Evaluate the planning system, including criteria for the use of central government plans, with a view to reducing the planning period for major infrastructure projects.
- Ensure the economic resources of the counties, so that the county authorities can fulfil their responsibilities for road maintenance and their responsibilities for local and regional public transport.
- Prioritize development of railways in the intercity triangle in Eastern Norway, and in other major urban areas in which rail transport can satisfy a major portion of the increased transport needs.
- Ensure that a plan is prepared for the development of the intercity connection in the central area of Eastern Norway, stipulating a date for the completion of the various stretches.
- Ensure that a plan of action for public transport is prepared as a follow-up to the National Transport Plan.
- Make the national cycling strategy and focus on cycling and walking a natural part of the National Transport Plan.
- Ensure that a comprehensive freight strategy is prepared, in which, for example, provisions are made for the shift of freight transport from road transport to sea and rail transport, and for efficient use of sea routes.
- Develop a local shipping strategy to transfer more freight from road to sea transport.
- Take the initiative to modernize the pilotage service and renewal of the pilot exemption certificate scheme.
- Contributes to establishing a comprehensive cycling road network, establish express routes for cycling on selected stretches, and improve the opportunity for parking bicycles at public transport hubs.
- Study ambulance transport and taxi services, and possibly other transport services in rural districts, in a combined context to ensure good services.
- Ensure the presence of taxis in a comprehensive public transport system

New housing construction initiative

Housing is - after employment, education and health care - the most important factor for the welfare of the people. Most people in Norway have a decent place to live, and own their own home. The Norwegian housing policy has been successful. In the early 1900s, we lived in close quarters under poor conditions. Today we have the world's highest housing standard. The Labour Party is interested in continuing to build on what works well. In addition, there is a need to implement new measures, because the situation in the housing market has changed. Ensuring that people have a good and safe place to live at an affordable price has been and continues to be an important goal of the Labour Party. In 2009, we experienced a substantial slowdown in housing construction as a result of the international financial crisis. Combined with strong growth in the population, this has resulted in an imbalance between

the supply and demand. Higher housing prices have made it more difficult for many people – especially young people – to buy their first home. This has also resulted in a high level of debt among Norwegian households.

The Labour Party believes that it is a key political task to facilitate the construction of a sufficient quantity of housing. The central government must ensure a good regulatory framework for housing construction. The municipalities must secure and zone enough land for housing purposes, ensure prompt processing of building applications, and build municipal housing units for rental. The Labour Party wants municipalities with an offensive and future-oriented housing policy to encounter a constructive and coordinated central government.

The Labour Party will continue to fight for those who currently lease land for their homes or recreational homes to be able to own the land. The Labour Party will therefore review current legislation with a view to considering the opportunities to strengthen the redemption right of the lessees. The Labour Party will also seek to ensure that rent for the land is maintained at a reasonable level, which safeguards the social housing considerations on which the current legislation is based.

Social housing efforts have been strengthened in recent years. The Government has simplified and reinforced housing benefits, never before have so many people received a first-time buyer loan from the Norwegian National Housing Bank, and there are now more than 100,000 municipal rental units in Norway. The social housing efforts must continue. The Labour party will equate residential purposes with other considerations in densely populated areas. In general, greater importance should be attached to residential housing construction relative to other considerations. The county governors must attach greater importance to the need for adequate residential housing construction in central districts when municipal plans are considered. Review the Planning and Building Act to eliminate unnecessary obstacles to increased housing construction, limit the right of appeal for building applications when construction is in accordance with the adopted area development plan, and develop IT solutions that make electronic planning and building application processing possible in all the municipalities, so that the application processes can be simplified and streamlined.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Set clear targets for housing construction. Establish public models for estimating future housing needs, in which an estimate is made of what must be constructed in various regions in order to keep up with the population growth in the coming years. Strengthen central government coordination of housing policy.
- Strengthen the Norwegian National Housing Bank's role as the central government's main administrative body and public policy instrument for housing construction by, for example, increasing the lending limits of the Norwegian National Housing Bank.
- Strengthen the first-time buyer scheme so that more young people can obtain a loan to buy their own home.
- Require that the municipalities prepare residential housing plans for long-term and comprehensive land-use planning, housing construction, and the development of infrastructure and transport based on the expected development of the population and the municipalities' accessible land. We must make better use of the land in cities. The plans must also discuss the opportunities for condensing and renewing existing housing.
- Avoid conflicts of goals between the various public agencies. The municipalities should encounter a central government that has coordinated priorities. We will review how the government objection institution is practised, and look into whether there is any need for new rules.
- Consider opening up the possibility of more variants of "from renting to owning" for the general public.

- Establish cooperation with various levels of authority (county governor, municipalities and county authorities) for identifying areas in which there are essentially no construction restrictions, and approve these areas for faster development (Vestfold Model).
- Ensure that the municipalities prepare adequate site areas, including sites owned by the municipalities.
- Review the influence of municipalities on residential housing construction in cases where agricultural, nature or recreational areas are rezoned for residential housing purposes.
- Ensure that the municipalities in the areas of highest demand can regulate large housing projects to also enable the establishment of housing for young people.
- Consider the introduction of a government lending scheme or other tools to facilitate strategic site acquisitions by municipalities. The municipalities' debt level will, for example, be included in this assessment.
- Promote increased development of non-commercial rental units, through housing cooperatives for example, and develop models in which young people gradually can purchase a rental unit.
- Escalate the building of student housing with the goal of 3000 new housing units a year. The Labour Party will increase the cost budget for student housing and increase the contribution for student housing to 50%.
- Areas where student housing is in great demand will be given priority.
- Review the quality requirements for student housing
- Ensure that municipalities can enter into partnership with local co-operative building societies and other serious actors in order to contribute to the realisation of non-commercial rental units
- Evaluate the overall effects of the quality requirements that have been stipulated for housing construction at all levels, and evaluate geographically differentiated requirements in the Planning and Building Regulations.
- Contribute to greater efficiency in the construction industry by promoting innovation, the use of public construction (BIM) models, and greater use of apprentices through intensified requirements for competitive tendering, procurement and contracting when public authorities are party to the agreement.
- Prepare financing schemes for remodelling homes to prepare for good life in old age in one's own home.
- Ensure that the Norwegian National Housing Bank has the means to finance residential housing in sparsely populated areas. Consider measures to limit price-driving asset placement.

A diverse country

Norway is a diverse country. The Labour Party believes that it must be a paramount goal for all national policy to preserve this national identity, this enriching diversity, and utilize the resources and opportunities in all parts of the country. The Labour Party wants everyone to be able to settle where they want to, and wants living conditions to be equal in all parts of the country. It is also important to ensure the main features of our settlement in order to safeguard our national interests.

Access to skilled workplaces is essential for the development of attractive residential environments. Rural and regional policy must therefore to a greater extent be directed toward the establishment of skilled workplaces in rural districts, based on both the need for competence and on development opportunities in traditional industries, in new industries, and in welfare services. The location of new government skilled workplaces must support vigorous regions. The Labour Party's strategic focus on the northern areas also contributes to reinforced efforts in the northernmost areas.

The Labour Party believes that further development of individual districts must take place on the basis of efforts focused on the development of the opportunities that exist in the individual regions. This must be accomplished through general measures, and a policy that is adapted to the special characteristics of each individual region. Regional advantages are essentially also national advantages. The enhancement of competence must support the development opportunities that exist in individual regions by focusing educational and research efforts on regional advantages, for example.

In areas that have temporary restructuring needs, or special or enduring challenges, special efforts must be made.

In addition to employment, access to good welfare services, and broad service and cultural offers are important in order to provide attractive residential environments throughout the entire country. In order to ensure this, we must look at the offerings in the individual regions as a whole. The Labour Party believes therefore that it is necessary to develop vigorous daily commuter regions with strong regional centres in order to provide such central functions. For us there is no contrast between strong cities and strong rural districts – they are both mutually dependent on each other. Development of the transport infrastructure must support such regional enlargement.

The Labour Party wants to maintain equal postal services at the same price throughout the entire country. Postal services are an important part of the infrastructure in Norway, and a prerequisite for settlement and economic development throughout the whole country. We must have postal delivery six days a week in the rural districts.

The Labour Party wants a living democracy, both locally and regionally. The municipalities play a decisive role in welfare services and economic development, and they are important in order to assure a living local democracy. The Labour Party believes that there is a need for publicly elected administrations at the national, regional and local levels. The county authorities should be responsible for pursuing a policy for the development of their own region, so that we can exploit opportunities in all parts of our country. The municipal structure must ensure functional, good and equivalent welfare services throughout the entire country.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Secure the main features of our settlement, facilitate development, and ensure equivalent living conditions in all parts of our country.
- Develop vigorous daily commuter regions in which there is access to varied and specialized employment, retail trade, services, welfare measures and cultural offerings.
- Develop powerful regional centres in all parts of the country.
- Contribute to grant schemes for local educational centres in order to ensure access to lifelong learning throughout the country.
- Maintain graduated payroll taxes and investment contributions.
- Develop policy instruments such that the authorities for counties - in which several or all of the municipalities are outside of the scope of regional policy measures - will have a basis for engaging in regional development work throughout the entire county.
- Ensure that new central government activities are as a rule established outside of Oslo, and contribute to achieving our rural district and regional policy goals. There should not be any extensive relocation of existing central government activities.
- Maintain equal postal services at the same price throughout the entire country.
- The point in time when new residents are counted in growth municipalities must be moved whenever possible so that the growth municipalities receive financial resources based on the actual number of residents.

Svalbard

Svalbard is an important part of our strategy for the northern areas. A continued focus on Svalbard will contribute to Norway marking its presence in the northern areas. Located far to the north, with permanent settlement and good opportunities for business, industry and tourism through interaction with the environment, Svalbard is a rich and exciting area. The Svalbard community will continue to be based on research, coal mining and tourism. In addition, we want the harbour operations to provide a basis for future activity.

The Labour Party wants to ensure employment on Svalbard, and to ensure that Longyearbyen will continue to be a family society and a good place to live. We can create new jobs through the use of new and innovative technology and new solutions, at the same time safeguarding environmental considerations.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Develop Longyearbyen by contributing to increased employment.
- Start work on a new harbour that will facilitate the future development of Svalbard.
- Continue the coal mining operations on Svalbard.
- Ensure that the rescue and emergency response capacity is adapted to the needs in the area.

The good life in cities

Strong cities and urban regional centres that cooperate closely with research, business and working life are powerful locomotives for their regions and for the country. These are roles that the Labour Party will strengthen with an offensive policy for major urban areas, which will make provisions for infrastructure, reduce pressure on the housing market and ensure competence for jobs in business and industry, culture and public tasks.

Population growth in cities and areas close to cities creates traffic problems and congestion. The Labour Party desires therefore to shift as much of the growth in passenger traffic as possible to buses, trams, trains and bicycles. People should be able to travel efficiently and in an environment-friendly way to work, school, or recreation. Emissions from road traffic affect both the quality of life and the environment. By focusing more on public transport, we can lay the foundation for greener cities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. We will accomplish this through binding cooperation between the central government, counties, municipalities and cities.

Too few homes are being built in the major urban areas having the highest demand. Many people strive to find a place to live, whether they want to purchase or to rent. The Labour Party will pursue an active housing policy in order to meet the housing needs. We will build more housing, build more closely together if it is compatible with a good residential environment, and ensure that housing policy is adapted to the various phases of life. However, cities also need green lungs and social meeting places, sanctuaries that allow people to experience nature and encourage recreation or activities.

The largest cities face special challenges related to crime. The Labour Party wants to create safe urban environments, and work with prevention by reducing economic and social inequalities, and fighting poverty and alcohol and drug abuse. We will at the same time maintain a police force that is present and active.

The Norwegian Labour Party views diversity as a strength for creativity, through the exchange of experiences and contacts with other countries and cultures. The experience that young people acquire from growing up in a more diverse Norway makes us better equipped

to meet an increasingly global community. Mastering the Norwegian language and cultural codes is the key to succeeding in the Norwegian community at large. It is also important to create and use common meeting places where we can participate in a social community. Varied cultural and sports offerings are a good foundation for such a community.

Challenges with respect to living conditions, environment, and integration are issues that have different dimensions in large cities than elsewhere. The Labour Party believes therefore that there is a need for a comprehensive focus on areas with special challenges. Experience from focusing on areas of Oslo has been positive. These measures must be continued and expanded. The Labour Party will transfer relevant experiences from Oslo to other cities in our country. There will be a focus on urban renewal and area development, in areas in which the housing standard is low and there is clear social inequality.

The Labour Party believes that there is a need for change in the municipal structure. Changes to the current municipal division are necessary in order to ensure equal welfare services for all citizens, in functional and sustainable municipalities. In cases where geographic and social considerations indicate a change in the municipal boundaries, or the merger of municipalities, the central government must stimulate this in a positive manner. Changes to the municipal structures should ordinarily build on the local wishes. The Labour Party believes that individual municipalities should not be able to stop change that is appropriate on the basis of regional considerations.

The current administrative division in the capital area makes comprehensive land use and transport planning difficult. The Labour Party will take the initiative to launch a special evaluation of the division in the capital area, and possibly other major urban areas as well.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Make provisions for increased housing construction in the cities.
- Ensure that growth in passenger traffic in the largest urban areas is accomplished through use of buses, trams, trains, bicycles and walking. We will therefore implement a national programme to boost public transport in the largest urban areas. We will accomplish this through binding cooperation among the central government, county authorities and municipalities.
- Ensure that growth grants are given to municipalities that experience strong population growth.
- Protect parks and green areas for common use by the public.
- Develop urban playgrounds into activity parks and meeting places for all.
- Implement a special focus on areas of the capital, and certain major cities, in which there are special challenges with regard to integration, language, or living conditions.
- Maintain and expand the focus on areas of the capital, and certain major cities, in which there are special challenges with regard to integration, language, or living conditions.
- Expand the free afterschool programme or activity school trial to include additional areas with challenging living conditions

More security – less crime

Secure people create a safe society. As a result of small differences and equal opportunities, there is strong trust between people, and between people and the authorities in Norway. A welfare policy that seeks common solutions, reduces inequality, and provides equal opportunities is therefore also a good policy for preventing and fighting crime. And if we have a good crime policy, which responds quickly and efficiently and rehabilitates, it is good welfare policy. The Labour Party believes that security is one of the most important values in a society. This is a public responsibility.

The most important task of the authorities is to protect the population of the country. The Labour Party bases its emergency response policy on fundamental principles such as responsibility, proximity, equality and cooperation. We consider security, law and order, and accessibility to be key values with respect to achieving the goals of our justice policy.

Present and strong police force

The police have the primary responsibility for fighting and preventing crime. The police should be efficient, professional and provide good services to citizens. We need a present and strong police force that is available for fighting and preventing crime.

In order to establish local security, the police must be visible and available locally. It is essential that the police act quickly and properly. Prevention must also be established locally. All the relevant public sectors must contribute. Schools, child protection services, the health sector and the police must work together to create security. Voluntary organizations and others play an important role in this work in many places.

More efficient utilization of these resources than today will be required in order to achieve these goals. Policemen must be used for police work, and their working hours must be used more efficiently. We must have a clear picture of crime and risk in our society, of our expectations as to what tasks the police should perform and how they can be equipped to perform these tasks.

In order for people to feel safe, the police must be visible and available. A strong local police force is important to prevent and fight crime. The rural police authority structure must be maintained in order to offer services where people live, to engage in effective prevention, and to secure law and order. This should not prevent changes that are desired locally to improve services for the population.

The police districts must be organised so that they are robust units. This must be based on geography, police tasks and the crime situation. The Labour Party wants to have strong and more competent investigation environments and ensure robust operation centres. This will require a reduction in the number of police districts.

The amount of bureaucracy in the police must be reduced, purely administrative positions must be freed up so that police can spend more time in the local communities, and the police must use new and more efficient technology so that the combined resources are utilised better.

The Labour Party will maintain the high admission rate to the Norwegian Police University College in order to continue to strengthen basic police staffing. The police force must reflect the population in order to have the trust of the population. In particular, the percentage of students with a minority background who are accepted at the Norwegian Police University College is too low.

In order for the police to be able to work more efficiently and be available to the public, good modern technology will be required. The key to the police force of the future does not lie in the technology itself, but in the ability of the police force to make use of it in order to perform their tasks. A new ICT platform must be established, and the current systems must be used better. It is also essential that the police have competence with regard to crime that takes place over the Internet. The police must be provided with the necessary equipment and competence to counter and prevent this threat.

Domestic violence is a violation of basic human rights, and public authorities have a responsibility to prevent and fight such violence. It is a very serious type of crime that has

particularly serious affects on the victim. We must be better at identifying, solving, and making more convictions for this type of crime.

The Labour Party will reinforce its efforts against violence, particularly violence that affects women and children. The police must prioritize these cases, our efforts must be intensified, and a greater level of competence must be achieved. Abuse is often detected in connection with contact with the authorities, and both the victim and any children may have a need for assistance from several service providers over a long period of time. Provisions must therefore be made for comprehensive and coordinated assistance. This means that the employees must have the necessary competence and plans of action, so that they know how such serious matters should be handled.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that the police are available throughout the entire country.
- Conduct research on policing in order to establish a good professional basis for the future organization of the police and rural police authority.
- Continue to increase the resources available to the police.
- Ensure a continued high admission rate to the Norwegian Police University College in order to fulfil police staffing goals.
- Ensure that the police make use of new technology in order to offer good and efficient services.
- Reinforce our efforts against violence in close relationships through better prevention and countering measures.
- Ensure that all the municipalities have plans of action against violence in close relationships.
- Increase research on violence in close relationships.
- Reduce the number of police districts.
- Implement investigation plans to ensure efficient processing and a high level of quality for the investigation of rape cases.
- The Labour Party will oppose a general arming of the police.

Civil protection and emergency planning

The Labour Party will prioritize civil protection work – also in a broader perspective than the justice sector. It is essential then that the relevant agencies cooperate well and closely. This applies both to preventive measures and to exercises and training. We need a comprehensive chain of action, from rescue work to pre-hospital services and finally to treatment in a hospital. Interdisciplinary efforts will also require interdisciplinary training. The Labour Party will ensure that a focused effort of high quality is made throughout the entire country.

The weapons legislation must be made stricter. The ban against semi-automatic weapons must be established by law, and the opportunities for exemptions must be stricter. It must also be considered whether the number of shots permitted in gun magazines and chambers should be limited. The conditions for acquiring, owning and possessing such weapons must be stronger. Inspection of weapons by the police must be strengthened.

The regular police are the most important and most basic resource related to immediate actions. Therefore police emergency response capacity must be strengthened. This will require planning and exercises, as well as cooperation and interaction. The capacity of the police must be better utilized. This must not take place at the expense of police ability and capacity to engage in preventive measures, investigate crime, and engage in work to establish contact and create a sense of security.

It is essential to our security that we have a security service that is well enough equipped to fulfil its societal duties. Security and intelligence services should have a good overview of the threat situation. The services should be well equipped, such that they have the prerequisites to be able to uncover and prevent as much as possible. Weighing the necessity of fighting crime against personal privacy considerations is a central problem in our efforts to secure a democratic society.

In the event of a crisis, we must have effective and robust systems for warning and mobilization among the districts. A national emergency response centre will be established in Oslo to strengthen the national emergency response resources.

It is important to obtain as much benefit as possible from our society's overall emergency response resources. Cooperation between the police and the Armed Forces will contribute to this. The police must have an opportunity to draw on resources and personnel from the Armed Forces in a crisis situation. The guidelines and limitations for assistance from the Armed Forces must be clear and communicated well.

The Labour Party will draw on the resources of voluntary organizations and civil society in its work on civil protection and emergency planning. We cannot afford not to use good and effective resources in this work. They are often the first ones present, and they can operate alone in the early phase. Proximity to local communities and local conditions, the knowledge and competence of the organizations, and the commitment of the volunteers make them a powerful resource that the Labour Party would like to involve more closely in civil protection and emergency planning work. Therefore we want the voluntary organizations to be included in the municipal contingency plans.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Continue its work on a nationwide emergency network.
- Strengthen the operation centres.
- Strengthen the coordination and utilization of all emergency response resources.
- Strengthen the Norwegian Police Security Service.
- Make provisions for better coordination and cooperation within the rescue service.
- Establish clear common procedures for rescue service actions.
- Ensure that voluntary organizations are included in the municipal contingency plans.
- Introduce SMS alerts to the emergency alert services.

Courts of justice and criminal administration system

It should not pay to commit a crime in Norway. Crime should be detected and solved. A quick response, which illustrates the seriousness of the criminal offence, is essential for law and order and for people's sense of justice. Punishment must be meted out quickly. This requires that the police, prosecuting authority, courts of justice and the criminal administration system have a good capacity.

The Labour Party will continue to increase the capacity of Norwegian prisons, in order to ensure adequate custodial capacity, reduce the waiting list for serving sentences, and make provisions to improve the content when a sentence is served. This means that we must also strengthen staffing, train more prison officers, and ensure that employees with actual competence are given an opportunity to establish formal competence.

An increasing percentage of the inmates are foreign citizens. This presents new challenges. In many places communication between the inmates and the employees is difficult because of language problems. The Labour Party will seek to ensure that more individuals can serve their sentence in their home country. We will also continue to implement alternative forms of serving sentences. This requires a reinforcement of the probation service.

The Labour Party will pursue a strict criminal policy against repeat offenders and organized crime, which can contribute to a quick and effective rehabilitation for those who desire to return to society. This requires employees with professional training and a high level of competence. Measures for first-time offenders are important. Very many inmates are drug or alcohol dependent, and require treatment in order to return to society and not become repeat offenders. Education, work training, and good follow-up after release are important measures for ensuring that inmates can quickly return to society. There are many places where voluntary organizations possess resources and significant competence that are important to this work. The criminal administration system must increase and improve its cooperation with other public agencies in order to ensure a successful return to society for individual inmates.

It is a goal that children and young people should not be imprisoned, and that alternative forms of serving sentences should be used. The youth punishment that has been adopted by the Storting must be implemented. This means that youth coordinators must be employed at all of the 22 conflict resolution boards in the country. The conflict resolution boards should be developed so that they can expand their scope further.

There is no security without law and order. Legislation must maintain the proper balance between personal privacy, freedom and security. The Labour Party wants the courts of justice to be efficient with a good capacity and high level of competence. They should have access to modern technology and the competence required to use it. The structure of the courts of justice must be adapted to these goals. In order to maintain law and order in society, everyone must have good access to legal assistance. The possibility of free legal aid to all is an important contribution to ensuring this. Conflicts should be resolved at the lowest possible level. Focusing on improved availability of legal assistance and conflict resolution methods outside the court, such as the conflict resolution boards, will contribute to this.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Increase the custodial capacity of Norwegian prisons and ensure that they have adequate inmate capacity.
- Ensure that there are more employees in Norwegian prisons, and that they have professional training.
- Contribute to more foreign inmates being able to serve their sentences in their home countries.
- Increase the use of alternative forms of serving sentences, including an expansion of the electronic control scheme, so that it covers the entire country.
- Implement special measures in relation to groups that are vulnerable to repeat offences, such as young people or individuals who are drug or alcohol dependent.
- Coordinate the follow-up of inmates in prison through the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service.
- Introduce youth coordinators at all the conflict resolution boards.
- Develop better imprisonment offers for women.
- Ensure that it is possible for women to serve sentences separately from men.
- Study the solution for the introduction of sound and video recording in the courts.

Voluntary community

We live and develop together with other people. Belonging to small and large communities contributes to both security and freedom. The Labour Party believes that common solutions are the very foundation of the Norwegian welfare society. They ensure everyone of equal opportunities. However, a society is somewhat more than this. We cannot – and should not – expect that the welfare state will solve and finance all of our welfare needs. We cannot – and should not – entrust the public sector with safeguarding all our care, consideration and

participation – that would quickly become a cold and insensitive society. Many people desire to contribute to a better daily life for their fellow human beings, to contribute to the development and well-being of their local communities, and to be active together with others in sports or cultural life. This is what a civil society is.

The voluntary sector should not take over the duties of the public sector, even though they often perform tasks on behalf of the public sector, as they have done for a long time with regard to the care of individuals dependent on drugs or alcohol, various health-related tasks, etc. However, the voluntary sector should unleash and stimulate a human commitment beyond that of the public sector. The voluntary sector can organize care that goes beyond what the public sector can provide. It can also organize sports and cultural life that enrich the lives of both those who participate in and those who otherwise take pleasure in the activities. Voluntary commitment has an intrinsic value and contributes to the good life for individuals, and the Labour Party wants the voluntary sector to complement the welfare state.

Norway has an active and well-developed voluntary sector. The Labour Party wants to reinforce the voluntary sector and promote interaction between the public and voluntary sectors, so that unity and community in society can be strengthened further. The Labour Party believes that the public sector must support this voluntary work in a manner that represents as little burden as possible on organizational life. We must be careful not to formalize what has an intrinsic value by being informal. At the same time we must of course have adequate assurance that public money is being used properly. The voluntary sector must also be safeguarded financially in the coming years.

There are over 10 million members in voluntary organizations in Norway, but participation is socially skewed. People with a high salary and high level of education participate to a greater extent than others. The Labour Party is concerned with lowering the threshold for participation, and would like good cooperation among the central government, municipalities and voluntary sector in order to facilitate this.

Voluntary activities are changing, due, for example, to a general individualization of society. This contributes to putting pressure on the voluntary sector. In order to maintain and develop an extensive voluntary sector in Norway, various measures are necessary to ensure the recruitment of active participants and elected officers. The policy for the voluntary sector must also be adapted to new forms of volunteerism and encourage commitment even when it assumes new forms.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Make provisions for closer cooperation between the public sector and the voluntary organizations, so that voluntary work can reinforce and complement public welfare services.
- Enter into more cooperation agreements between the central government and the voluntary sector in relevant areas, such as emergency planning and social inclusion.
- Coordinate and simplify public schemes for grants for voluntary work with regard to application deadlines, application forms, reporting routines, etc.
- Ensure that the Register of Non-Profit Organisations functions such that it contributes to improving and simplifying interaction between the voluntary sector and the public authorities, contributes to greater knowledge of the voluntary sector, and so that it is easy to use, even for associations and clubs in which the elected officers are young and inexperienced.
- Ensure that the VAT compensation scheme for voluntary organizations is scaled up to NOK 1.2 billion in 2014.
- Make provisions so that all children and young people are given an opportunity to participate in activities regardless of their parents' financial and social situation, by giving activity support to children of families living on social welfare.

- Contribute to cooperation between the voluntary sector and schools in order to offer recreational activities connected to the school day.
- Strengthen local voluntary cultural life by implementing the programme to boost culture, and by giving voluntary cultural life a greater share of the profit from Norsk Tipping (18 per cent) by the year 2015, through, for example, strengthening the Free Fund, which provides support so that children and young people throughout the country can experience broader and better local recreational activities.
- Continue support of voluntary associations and clubs through the grass roots percentage scheme of Norsk Tipping.
- Continue the establishment of additional volunteer centres in the municipalities.
- Make provisions so that voluntary organizations can readily obtain access to premises, meeting rooms and practice rooms.
- Facilitate the establishment of web portals that can bring organizations, tasks and people who desire to participate in voluntary work together.

Culture: experiences and participation

The Norwegian Labour Party will ensure that people have access to cultural experiences throughout the entire country through the programme to boost culture. We want to have a cultural life that is diverse, and where we have common meeting places. Where you can be both a consumer and practitioner of culture. We want to have a cultural life that appeals both to the masses and to special interests, a cultural life that includes both children and adults – in other words a cultural life for all! The Labour Party emphasizes the intrinsic value of culture.

It is the interaction between the various actors in cultural life that yields a comprehensive cultural policy. It is especially important to strengthen efforts in the counties that do not have any major cultural institutions, and thus receive a smaller portion of the central government support for culture. Art forms such as theatre, opera, dance, film and various styles of music should also have good conditions in all of Norway. Everyday culture is also important. Therefore we are concerned about strengthening the low threshold offerings, such as libraries.

Experiences are unevenly distributed. The cultural knapsack, and other schemes that give children access to art and culture are an important area of emphasis for the Labour Party. Good conditions for growing up are about more than everyday life; it is about having something to look forward to and participate in. Therefore we want to have closer cooperation between the child welfare authorities, sports and culture, and raise the possibility that a municipal focus on child welfare may also mean employing a cultural worker.

Culture is also about participation, being part of a community, whether it is in a band, a theatre group, or as an audience member. Voluntary efforts carry out a major portion of culture-Norway. It is important to support this and to establish strong links between volunteerism and culture.

Care for the elderly must, in the future be even more about the content of the care. Culture, participation and cooperation with the voluntary sector are important in order to achieve care for the elderly that also includes concern for the joy of life.

An active cultural policy contributes to strengthening economic development and creativity. It creates jobs and is good regional policy. Culture is also business. The Labour Party wants to focus on Norwegian art and design to a greater extent than at present. This is particularly important with a respect to an international market where there is significant interest in Norwegian art and design today.

In addition, focusing on culture contributes to a greater understanding between people, to social inclusion, and to integration. Being secure in one's own culture and language is an important prerequisite for being able to understand the culture and language of others. It is important that the multicultural perspective is made visible in all areas of cultural life. International cooperation is also important.

Our cultural monuments are also an important part of our cultural heritage. It is therefore important to preserve historical buildings and cultural sites, so that they can also be experienced in the future.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Prepare the programme Culture Boost III, to boost culture in consultation with cultural life. Programmes I and II have boosted Norway as a cultural nation. This work will continue.
- Maintain 1 per cent of the budget for cultural purposes after 2014 as well.
- Provide cultural offerings at school for all children who so desire – in cooperation with the afterschool programmes and in the afternoon, for example.
- Define the requirements for what the cultural school should include.
- Expand the cultural card scheme for young people.
- Ensure that libraries become even more important centres of cultural information, knowledge and culture than they currently are. Library services should be free.
- Strengthen support schemes for the international launch of Norwegian design, art and culture.
- Further develop the cultural school bag, the cultural packed lunch and the cultural walking stick with a view to reaching even more people.
- Pursue an active language policy to ensure that the Norwegian language is a satisfactory and functional language in all areas of society.
- Make use of central government policy instruments to stimulate diversity in the film industry.

Joy from sports and activities for all

The Labour Party will establish a programme to boost sport. Sport is Norway's largest popular movement. Through thousands of activities, children, young people and adults are offered personal development, interaction opportunities and social fellowship through training, competitions and voluntary work. Sport is an arena for the development of good attitudes, and it is of great social importance. The overall conditions in which to grow up, improved public health, positive integration and useful organizational experience are good examples of the importance of sports.

Recreational sports provide training, joy and fellowship for many people. Recreational sports also provide the foundation for our top-level athletics. The fact that Norway manages to do so well internationally is precisely because we have a sports movement that is concerned about broad-based recruitment, as well as cultivating talent. The Labour Party wants to stimulate further development of the culture of achievement, values, and diversity in top-level athletics, both within the sports associations, but also to stimulate cooperation across various development and achievement entities in the public sector and in business and industry. The Labour Party will seek to ensure that diversity is not lost through the fact of market forces alone supporting opportunities to excel for individual top-level athletic entities.

The Labour Party wants to give all people opportunities to participate in sports and be active, based on their own desires and ambitions. We want to have good conditions for sports at all levels, and in particular strengthen sports for children and young people. All children and young people should receive proper swimming lessons.

Good functional sports facilities, together with good schooling and leadership, are the most important contributions in sports for the creation of good activity offerings for children and young people, and for increasing the amount of physical activity in the population. The gap between the need for sports facilities and the available funding from betting has resulted in a lag on the facility site. Therefore the Labour Party has decided to change the distribution key for funding from betting, to provide more money for sports. There are particular challenges associated with a lack of facilities in major cities and in areas with a high rate of growth, and facilities with many users must be given priority.

The Norwegian sports model is based on voluntary efforts. Membership-based voluntary organizations make a great effort to create a living local environment, and are an important democratic resource in society at large. Voluntary sports and organizational life create activities and provide opportunities for participation. Many people invest a great deal of voluntary work in membership-based organizations. Voluntary work in sports is an important contribution to the solution of important social tasks, such as public health and social inclusion. The Labour Party will make provisions so that volunteers in sports receive support to develop their own competence and leadership qualities. The fact that many people participate in organizations, sports and other voluntary work helps create a society with a stronger sense of community and greater trust.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Implement a broad focus on public health and physical activity in cooperation with sports and the outdoor recreation organizations.
- Follow up the change in the distribution key for funding from betting, so that sports and local voluntary cultural entities receive a greater percentage of the profits from Norsk Tipping.
- Build more sports facilities, especially in areas with the highest demand, densely populated areas, and major cities.
- Seek to ensure that it is free to the greatest possible extent to borrow public facilities and schools for sports activities for children and young people under the age of 18.
- Make provisions so that volunteers in sports receive support to develop their own competence and leadership qualities.
- Support and encourage teams and organizations to include minorities.
- Support the development of diversity in top-level athletics, and counteract that only market forces govern the operational basis.
- Stimulate the further development of the achievement culture and values in top level athletics.

Diversity of faiths and life philosophies

Faith and life philosophy play an important role in Norwegian society, both for the community and for individuals. Everyone is entitled to practice their faith or life philosophy in accordance with freedom of religion and the rules of democracy. The diversity of faith and life philosophy communities is a common good that the public authorities should make provisions for and contribute to financially through an actively supportive faith and life philosophy policy. Faith and life philosophy communities represent a significant portion of the voluntary sector.

We want the public authorities to stimulate common measures and dialogue between the various religions and life philosophies, and between the various confessions within the various denominations. Dialogue and knowledge increase mutual understanding and thus strengthen the community. Religious diversity reflects itself today in a number of different areas in the public arena. We should be open-minded and tolerant of the fact that people have different religious affiliations, and different ways of living with their faith.

Both historically and culturally, the Church of Norway has a unique position in the Norway. In the constitutional amendments of 2012, it is stated that it should be the national church of Norway. Around 78 per cent of the population are members of this church, and the Labour Party goal is for the members to represent a democratic power that ensures a national church that is open and socially inclusive, with room for various religious needs.

It is important to further develop the election schemes for the governing bodies of the church, and the Labour Party believes that the election scheme must ensure that members at the local, regional, and central levels must be organized through direct elections that are held at the same time as and in premises in the immediate vicinity of local and county elections. For the Labour Party it is important that the step-by-step emancipation and democratization of the Church of Norway continue.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure the equal treatment of faith and life philosophy communities.
- Create a more comprehensive faith and life philosophy policy through dialogue with the faith and life philosophy communities.
- Continue work to establish more faith-neutral ceremony premises.
- Increase access to civil registrars.
- Contribute to ensuring that all citizens can have equivalent wedding and funeral ceremonies.
- Support the Church of Norway and its efforts to develop its election scheme further.
- Continue the faith education reform.
- Ensure that the next of kin receive adequate information on funerals, including that they receive a summary of the costs related to undertakers, and the scope of and entitlement to funeral benefits, so that everyone can contribute to a worthy ceremony for their loved ones.
- Section 16 of the Norwegian Marriage Act must be amended so that it is faith neutral and does not mention or regulate marriage in the Church of Norway in particular. Religious communities will adopt their own liturgy.

Indigenous people and national minorities

The Labour Party believes that society at large has a responsibility for ensuring good framework conditions for the Sami language, culture, business and social life, and for fighting against the discrimination of indigenous peoples and minorities.

The Labour Party has as its goal that the Sami should have a genuine opportunity to learn their own mother tongue, use it in everyday life, and hand it down to the next generation.

The Labour Party will therefore maintain the responsibility of public authorities to finance education in the Sami language, and strengthen the efforts to preserve and develop the Sami languages and the Sami identity.

In its Sami policy, the Labour Party will prioritize the use of financial and human resources in the upper secondary school, lower secondary school, primary school and day care centres, in language work and in the national health service.

In order for the Sami culture to develop in the future, it is important that the young people choose to settle in the core Sami areas. These areas today are generally characterized by a declining population. For the Labour Party, it is important to safeguard the traditional Sami industries, however, new, additional measures must be taken for economic development in these areas.

We must develop in order to preserve our society.

Many national minorities have a long-standing historical association with Norway. Jews, Kvens or Norwegian Finns, Gypsies, Romani people and Forest Finns are national minorities. The Labour Party will seek to ensure that these groups are able to develop their identity, cultural history and own language in Norway.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that there are adequate Sami teaching aids of satisfactory quality in the schools.
- Ensure that bilingual municipalities receive compensation for their extra expenses, and that bilingual funds are made more flexible.
- Ensure that it is possible for students in Sami areas to choose Sami instead of the second-choice form of Norwegian.
- Contribute to more international literature being translated into Sami, and prioritize literature for children and young people.
- Educate more Sami-speaking teachers, preschool teachers, and health and social workers.
- Increase the capacity of Sami day care centres.
- Increase the appropriations to Sami culture.

Diversity and opportunities

The Labour Party believes that diversity is fundamentally positive. With the recent immigration to Norway, we have a more complex population with different cultural backgrounds, different traditions and different religious affiliations. We view diversity as a strength for creativity, through the exchange of experience and contact with other countries and cultures. Diversity makes it possible for individuals to choose for themselves how they want to live their lives. The foundation for the Labour Party's integration policy can be found in the integration policy document, "Diversity and Opportunities", which was adopted at the party conference in 2011.

When society becomes more diversified, it must also be clear about its foundation. Over the course of many years, we have built up a set of rules, traditions, and values that are common to all of us and define our society. We must not alter these values. Democracy, a constitutional state, human rights, and equal status and opportunities are such values. Diversity can grow within the framework of this clear foundation.

The Labour Party views the community as one of the individual's most important resources, even when society becomes more diverse. We must be clear about the pillar of the Norwegian social contract, the fact that all people have obligations and rights.

The key to good integration is good Norwegian language skills. The Norwegian language is the ticket to greater participation in society, and the foundation for social mobility. Therefore the Labour Party will continuously evaluate measures that support this, through, for example, Norwegian language education in the arenas where immigrants participate, such as the orientation programmes, at schools and in working life. We want to have a good, relevant education in Norwegian that is practically oriented, and enables people to participate in various aspects of social life. The Labour Party requires that a test be passed after the completion of training, when an application is filed for Norwegian citizenship.

Language training starts already in day care centres. We will strengthen the language survey during the four-year check-up in order to identify whether the children need extra language stimulation in order to be prepared to master the start of school. Parents have the primary responsibility for ensuring that children are ready for the start of school. A more

comprehensive school day where everyone also receives an offer of help with homework would be more socially equalizing and inclusive. The Labour Party believes that it is of decisive importance that students are not divided into classes based on their language background. Norwegian should be the common language in schools, and the classes should be organized accordingly.

Work is the key to strong individuals, secure families, and a well-functioning society. One of the most important goals of integration policy is to ensure that immigrants can quickly enter the work force and become financially self-sufficient.

The general rule in Norwegian working life should be that individuals can dress and express their religious identity as they wish. Within certain public authority roles, it is nevertheless difficult to combine a neutral role with clothing and symbols that clearly indicate an identity or religious affiliation. This applies in particular to the police, prosecuting authority, and judges, who exercise power over civilians. The Labour Party will not permit that these individuals wear visible religious symbols.

In a labour market that is becoming more and more global, it will be a competitive advantage for Norway if we manage to include more individuals with a minority background in working life. We know that language is the most important barrier for many with regard to entering the work force. One important task will be to persuade immigrant women with a low level of competence to qualify themselves for participation in the work force.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that everyone who comes to Norway to live or work receives information on their obligations and rights in the Norwegian society.
- Implement an offer of a 300-hour course in Norwegian and Norwegian society for labour immigrants and their families from the EEA area, who will remain in Norway for more than six months.
- Ensure that everyone who has an obligation and right to a course in Norwegian and Norwegian society takes a final examination. This examination must be passed in order to receive Norwegian citizenship.
- Ensure that children are not used as interpreters in the public sector.
- Make Norwegian language education more differentiated and adapted to the needs of the individuals. Provisions must be made for alternative teaching methods for theory and blackboard teaching, especially for those who are illiterate or have had little previous schooling.
- Improve information to parents on the opportunities for education and employment in Norway.
- Continue and expand the "New Chance" qualification programme for immigrants who are still not employed after several years in Norway.
- Seek to ensure that public agencies reflect the composition of the population to the extent possible.
- Make it easier to adapt formal competence from abroad to the Norwegian requirements.

7) Norway in the world

The world and us

Just as with domestic policy, foreign policy is about political priorities. The Labour Party's foreign policy safeguards Norwegian interests and contributes to international solidarity in an era marked by increasing globalization, rapid shifts in knowledge and technology, and changing political conditions. The Labour Party's core values are founded on freedom, solidarity, equality, equal opportunities and popular co-determination, and provide direction for our policies at home and abroad. The fundamental ideals of the labour movement on creating and sharing guide our work. In a rapidly changing world, these fundamental principles act as the compass by which we navigate. At the same time, we have a system of government, an active state and a well-developed democracy with good schemes for consultation and cooperation from here at home. This provides valuable experience to share with others internationally.

Values and rights

Based on the history of the labour movement, and in recognition of the pillars of the Norwegian model, respect for human rights is particularly important to the Labour Party. Freedom of expression and the right to organize and negotiate are the foundations of democracy, the development of strong civil societies, and the fair distribution of wealth. Respect for human rights, including social, trade union rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, is an important premise of the labour movement's commitment. This should characterize our foreign policy.

It is a basic prerequisite of freedom and democracy that everyone should have the same opportunities, regardless of gender, ethnic background, functional level or sexual orientation. We are seeing a greater degree of extremism, and increased pressure on and discrimination of minorities, in many places. The Labour Party would like to contribute to attracting more attention to the fight against discrimination and for the protection of the rights of minorities. The fight against intolerance, hate speech, and extremism must be strengthened.

International efforts to protect human rights and the rights of children are important to Norway. We have acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and implemented it in Norwegian law. Norwegian courts observe the Convention on the Rights of the Child in their work. The third optional additional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes an advisory appellate body for the rights of children in the the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Labour Party wants to consider the benefits and disadvantages of ratifying the convention based on a study that will assess the political, judicial and legal consequences.

A fair world is also a world of equal opportunities. The active participation of women in society creates greater development and growth. The Labour Party believes that Norway should be an advocate of equal opportunities, children and the rights of women, both in contact with other countries and in international forums. Norway should take international responsibility for strengthening work against human trafficking, and for the fight against sexualized violence. Sexual violence continues to be an integral part of modern warfare, both through the strategic use of rape and as a method through the destruction of social norms. The Labour Party believes that Norway should continue to assume leadership responsibility for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in the areas where the UN has a presence. Women who are exposed to sexual violence or rape must be ensured of abortion services and follow-up also in war zones. The Labour Party will continue its work to reduce child and maternal mortality, and continue to strengthen its work to promote sexual and reproductive health rights.

As part of the international labour movement, we will continue to be in the forefront of promoting the right to proper work. Workers are exploited in many countries, and are the victims of child labour, forced labour, and deplorable working conditions. Recognition of the ILO core conventions will continue to be an important issue for the Labour Party.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Promote the defence and spread of universal human rights, and a world free of torture and capital punishment.
- Actively promote the right to proper working conditions within the ILO core conventions.
- Focus on equal opportunities in our foreign and development aid policies. We will seek to ensure that women are given more power and influence in society and in matters related to their own life and health.
- Rape in war zones is classified as a weapon/tactic in war in the Rome Statutes of the International Court of Crime (ICC)
- Norway is working on the abolishment of the political restrictions that currently exist with regard to access to abortion services.
- Fight against the discrimination of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBT).
- Seek to strengthen the rights of minorities in our foreign policy.
- Combat intolerance, hate speech, and extremism of all types and descriptions.

Global governance

The major challenges facing the global community transcend national borders, and must be met by stronger international cooperation. The climate crisis, the financial crisis, increasing inequality and social unrest, terrorist threats, and international crime can only be solved by means of a joint effort. Today's global institutions must become more representative and effective, and they must have better monitoring and sanction options. This requires reform which will reduce the opportunity of individual countries to exercise veto power.

The UN and the international rule of law is a basic pillar of Norwegian foreign policy. The UN must be reformed, made more effective, and become more representative. The UN Security Council must reflect the change in power relations in the world. The Labour Party would like to see a fundamental reform of the UN Security Council. A good form of governance and good results must be demanded from the UN and its special organizations. Coordination between the various UN organisations must improve at the country level, and they must cooperate more closely with the local civil societies in order to become more relevant and legitimate. The World Bank and the IMF must also become more open and democratic, so that developing countries are also given greater influence.

An open and regulated system of trade provides predictability for trading and enterprises, and is a prerequisite for fair trade. We will seek a development of the international trade system through the WTO, in a manner that also safeguards Norwegian interests. The aim of new global trade agreements must be to ensure that countries that are working their way out of poverty are also able to participate in international trade. Free trade agreements must safeguard environmental considerations and worker rights. The Labour Party will seek to strengthen the WTO in the face of increasing economic nationalism and protectionism.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Reform the UN so that the organization becomes more effective, democratic, and representative

- Support a fundamental reform of the UN Security Council, so that it better reflects the current global distribution of power. In addition, we would like a restriction of veto powers.
- Seek a new, development-oriented WTO agreement. The trade-distorting internal support in industrialized countries must be reduced.
- Eliminate the remaining Norwegian export subsidies, and seek a ban on export subsidies by the WTO. The Labour Party would like Norway to actively support programmes such as Aid for Trade, which enable developing countries to participate in world trade.
- Seek to ensure that a requirement for good working standards and proper work be included in a new WTO round.
- Expand the EFTA network of free trade agreements to new countries with growing markets, in Africa for example.
- Ensure that Norway requires that crisis programmes protect whenever possible those who are the weakest in the countries that are helped, and that the programmes do not weaken the opportunity to safeguard public welfare, and are not based on the principle of privatization of important collective goods.

Northern areas

The Norwegian Labour Party views the northern areas as the most important strategic area of focus for Norway's foreign policy. We have fundamental national interests and security policy challenges in these areas. We also encounter some of the clearest effects of climate change here. The northern areas have major petroleum resources, some of the world's richest fisheries resources, and unexploited mineral resources. When the ice melts and allows for new and shorter international shipping lanes, we are expecting new challenges and opportunities in the area.

Norway must exercise authority in the northern areas in a credible, consistent and predictable manner. We must be at the forefront of developing and exercising sustainable management of the environment and natural resources of the area, and we must manage the resources as a basis for the creation of value, employment and settlement. This means that we must be at the very forefront internationally with regard to the development of knowledge for, about and in the northern areas.

The Labour Party wants to strengthen cooperation in the north with Russia and with our Nordic neighbours through the Barents Cooperation, the Arctic Cooperation and the North Calotte Cooperation.

The focus on the northern areas is a national focus that should benefit the entire country. In combination with an active economic policy and an offensive regional policy, it should contribute to growth in the Northern Norway region. A policy to maintain the main features of the settlement pattern is important for strategic reasons, and in order to exploit and develop the natural resources in the area.

We will seek to make border crossings easier, have greater opportunities for labour immigration and have an economic and industrial cooperation zone in the north. Regional involvement, popular participation and cooperation across national borders in the north should be important parts of our focus in the northern areas. We will develop international cooperation from people-to-people through cultural exchange, educational cooperation and cooperation in economic development. We will safeguard the indigenous peoples base of existence, business activities and culture in the area.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure consistent enforcement of sovereignty in the northern areas, through the presence of the Norwegian Coast Guard and aircraft surveillance, for example.

- Make provisions so that Norway will be at the forefront of the development of knowledge on the environment, resources and economic development in the northern areas. A significant portion of this research and knowledge development must take place at the University and colleges in the north.
- Strengthen the transport connection between the northern and southern parts of the country, and across the borders to the east.
- Strengthen the surveillance and alert system for the maritime zones in the north and the preparedness for pollution at sea. Cooperation with other Arctic coastal states must also be strengthened.
- Facilitate the creation of new jobs in the north through exploitation of natural advantages for fisheries activities, petroleum, wind power, mining, and travel and tourism.
- Develop the Norwegian-Russian cultural cooperation and cooperation from people-to-people in the Barents region.
- Involve the relevant County authorities and Sameting in the formulation of policy for the northern areas.
- Increase the effort to ensure cooperation across borders that can also focus on social programs, equal opportunities and human rights in the policy for the northern areas.
- Allow students who live near the border to go to school for all or part of their education in Finland.
- Include Asia when thinking about strategy in the northern areas.

Our relationship to Europe

We find our closest partners in the Nordic region. Nordic cooperation is based on common values. In spite of various alliance links and forms of cooperation with Europe, Nordic cooperation has never been closer than it is now.

Europe is affected by a deep crisis, with serious economic and social consequences. It is not possible to unilaterally save one's way out of such a crisis by cutting public expenditure. Europe is up against a choice of political direction – for a social democratic policy in which the focus on growth, investment, innovation and the modern welfare state make it possible for everyone to contribute to the community and realize their dreams; or for a unilateral spending cut policy, which may entail that the crisis will worsen and that many people will risk permanent exclusion.

Our neighbouring European countries are the most important and largest export market for Norwegian goods and services. It is in Norway's interest to contribute to overcoming the crisis, as we have done through contributions to the IMF and through EEA funds that earmarked to reduce social inequalities in Europe and promote economic growth in recipient countries. The EEA agreement is Norway's most important international agreement, and it gives Norwegian business and industry access to a large export market. It ensures that Norwegian enterprises can compete on equal terms, within the same regulations, as competitors in the inner market. The EEA agreement secures equal treatment for both enterprises and individuals who seek employment or settlement in our neighbouring European countries.

Cooperation with the EU through the EEA agreement, the Schengen agreement and a number of other cooperation agreements means that Norway is strongly integrated in European cooperation. The Labour Party believes that this is important in order to safeguard Norwegian economic and security policy interests.

The Labour Party has not changed its view that EU membership would be beneficial for Norway. At the same time, the Labour Party is a party that can accommodate different views

on the EU issues. We believe that Norway must have the freedom to consider whether EU membership should be sought once again, based on stable popular support. Such an issue must be subject to a new review by the national conference of the Labour Party. We believe that a possible membership application should be treated in the same manner as before, and we will respect the outcome of a public referendum.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Pursue an active policy for Europe that safeguards Norwegian interests and contributes to achieving important goals for Europe.
- Exploit the opportunities inherent to the EEA Agreement through early engagement and implementation of regulations.
- Work toward common regulations in the inner market that respect the principles and rights that apply to our labour market.
- Strengthen cooperation with the EU in areas in which we have common interests, such as climate, the environment, research, and asylum and refugee policy.
- Strengthen cooperation with the European Parliament and Council of Europe.
- Make active use of our membership in the Party of European Socialists (PES) to promote our views.
- Enhance knowledge of EU cooperation and the EEA Agreement, and stimulate an ongoing debate about Europe.
- Further develop cooperation in the Nordic region and take the initiative to establish joint Nordic efforts in international forums.
- Ensure good cooperation on infrastructure between the Nordic countries.

Development policy: a question of creating and sharing

Economic development, power shifts, climate change, rapid population growth, pressure on natural resources, and major migration flows are changing the world and thus the framework for our development aid policy. A number of countries in the southern hemisphere now have higher economic growth rates than we find in the northern hemisphere. In many places, economic growth has lifted large groups of people out of poverty. These changes also have a gender perspective, and 70 per cent of the poorest people in the world are currently women. At the same time, inequality has increased internally in a number of these countries. Social unrest and demands for co-determination, social rights and fair distribution are spreading in a number of countries. If a successful effort is not made to create employment and good distribution policy during the next few decades, the possibilities that lie in a growing young and able-bodied population in many places will develop into social problems and political instability. Growth and distribution must go hand-in-hand as a basis for sustainable development. We also know that the prerequisite for such a development model is the existence of strong organizations that take responsibility for sustainable development in cooperation with the central government. A country cannot be developed from the outside through development aid alone, it is the recipient country itself that must be in the driver's seat. Long-term aid can contribute to giving the right incentives to continue to a country that pursues a reasonable policy to reduce poverty.

Distribution and the reduction of poverty are closely linked to the form of government and democracy. Respect for the rules of democracy, a free press, strong organizations and cooperation between the parties in working life facilitate a development model that manages to create and share at the same time. Our international efforts must increasingly be linked to a good form of government and a requirement for democracy in the recipient countries. Democratic rights, active citizens and strong organizations are the most important pillars of democracy and development. We want there to be a greater focus on party building and the

development of multiparty systems, which are important components of building a democracy.

In the past 10 to 15 years, several developing countries have experienced significant economic growth, which is in turn of great importance to reducing poverty and forming the foundation for fair distribution. Access to export markets is important for growth, as well as better access to national and regional markets. Many countries in the south lack capital for economic development, infrastructure, energy and competence. Respect for trade union rights and the participation of women in the labour force are essential for sustainable development.

Even though some former "developing countries" with a high rate of growth in recent years have managed to lift large groups of people out of poverty, they still have a large number of impoverished people. In addition, the differences between the poorest and the rich groups are increasing. As many as 70 per cent of the world's poor people now live in middle-income countries. Inequality has consequences for social capital, conflicts, stability, growth and development. A skewed distribution of the resources requires, moreover, a global economy and policy that redistributes.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Ensure that Norwegian development aid accounts for at least 1 per cent of the gross national income (GNI).
- Ensure that the responsibility of the recipient countries is prominent in our development aid policy.
- Ensure that our development aid policy clearly and consistently promotes democracy, human rights, equal opportunities, a fair distribution and job creation.
- Contribute to strengthening the development and role of civil society, the trade union movement and free press as pillars of the development of democracy.
- Ensure that Norway has a special focus on promoting the right to organize and the opportunity for organized groups to practice this right.
- Ensure that Norway promotes a distribution policy and shares its experience with regard to redistribution, equal opportunities and the participation of women in the labour force, three-part cooperation, tax policy, management of natural resources and democracy building.
- Make active use of the GSP scheme to give more countries duty- and quota-free market access to Norway for their goods.
- Ensure that bilateral cooperation with countries in the south promotes development, transfer of technology and local production of goods.
- Ensure that we measure the results of development aid on the basis of reduction of poverty and reduction of inequality.
- Ensure that national authorities are not forced to privatize or tax public welfare benefits.
- Continue to promote debt restructuring and new forms of financing for development, for example, by means of tax on financial transactions.
- Ensure that education and equal opportunities are given priority in development aid.
- Contribute to ensuring that all children are vaccinated and receive fundamental health services.
- Ensure that the Norwegian policy is consistent, which means that Norway must ensure that the Norwegian policy is mutually reinforcing in various areas and has an overall positive effect on the opportunities of developing countries.
- Have a continued strong focus on disaster prevention and climate adaptation.
- Actively promote the rights of disabled people, combat discrimination and seek to give disabled children access to education.

Security and peace

The Labour Party believes that Norwegian peace and security can best be safeguarded through a predictable international society based on international law and human rights. This is both an expression of international solidarity and of the need for international regulation of relationships between states. Norway will only use military force in a manner that is consistent with international law. This means in self-defence, or based on a mandate from the UN Security Council. Our security policy should be based on international law.

Due to our expansive land and sea areas and our geographic location, we nevertheless need a strong modern defence force that can enforce Norwegian sovereignty and contribute to stability in our area of the world.

The Labour Party views NATO as the anchor for Norwegian security policy, within the overarching framework of the UN. NATO membership has contributed to ensuring Norway's freedom and independence under changing international conditions ever since we participated in the establishment of the organization in 1949.

Nordic cooperation is becoming increasingly important for Norway's security. Challenges in the north, such as climate change, crime, migration, and resource management are increasing the need for Nordic cooperation. There is also a great deal to be gained in terms of defence from increased cooperation among the relatively small defence systems of the Nordic countries. A "smart defence" for Norway will in many cases mean Nordic coordination. The Nordic region should therefore continue to pursue more coordination, joint exercises and joint participation in international peacekeeping operations.

Contributions to international peace and security through the UN and by other means is important for a predictable international society and to ensure Norwegian peace and security. Few countries in the world are more dependent on global stability than small states with open economies like Norway. The Labour Party will cooperate with the UN, EU, NATO and others on civil and military efforts to promote human and state security. Multinational peacekeeping operations should be based on a clear and unambiguous UN mandate, or other recognized grounds based on international law, if Norway is to participate. The Labour Party would like a close dialogue between the Nordic countries and others on how UN work to maintain international peace and security can best be supported. The Labour Party wants to prioritize participation in UN-led peacekeeping operations.

The Labour Party wants Norway to have an active peace and reconciliation policy. We should be a supportive facilitator of peace and reconciliation processes, and we should also be present on a civil and military basis as required. Peace processes are a goal in and of themselves. They bind the parties and save human lives. It is important that Norway cooperate closely with the UN in this area.

We know that women are particularly vulnerable in war and conflicts. Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security points out that women are often victims of war, but that they are also important proponents of long-term peace. The Labour Party would like to strengthen the practical implementation of the resolution and would like the rights of women to be placed on the agenda in conflict situations and support NATO's efforts to reinforce SR 1325.

The Labour Party would like to contribute to having disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction being placed higher on the international agenda. Our goal is a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We will promote security at the lowest possible level of armament through internationally binding agreements. The Labour Party will strengthen the efforts of NATO to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in security policies. We will seek the elimination of weapons that can cause unacceptable

human suffering. The Labour Party wants Norway to seek alliances with like-minded countries and with civil society for this work, and take initiatives that could spur new negotiation processes.

Every year too many people lose their lives throughout the world as a result of inadequate controls of the export and sale of weapons. The Labour Party would like to see strict international rules to regulate the international weapons trade. The Labour Party wants to ban the use of conventional weapon types that have unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Strengthen cooperation between NATO and Russia and maintain the political dialogue with Russia.
- Seek further extension of Nordic cooperation.
- Actively seek to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the four subsequent resolutions SR 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960.
- Fight against sexualized violence and the use of rape in war.
- Seek a world free of nuclear weapons through mutually binding disarmament.
- Ensure that Norway seeks to revive international disarmament efforts, including the attachment of greater importance to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- Ensure that all countries take their nuclear weapons off high alert status.
- Fight against the storage of new nuclear weapons in Europe.
- Ensure that Norway maintains and develops strict regulations for Norwegian weapon exports.
- Actively seek to promote respect for humanitarian principles and access to humanitarian actors in conflict situations.
- Seek to strengthen protection of civilians affected by armed conflicts, including the protection of health personnel and health installations.
- The goal of the Labour Party is to introduce an end user declaration from all the countries, and seek that this becomes the norm in NATO.

Armed Forces

The basic function of the Norwegian Armed Forces is to protect and safeguard Norway's security, interests and assets. The Armed Forces are to exercise Norwegian authority and contribute to preventing and handling episodes and security policy crises. An important task of the Armed Forces must also be to contribute to multinational crisis management and to the maintenance of international peace and security. In particular, the Armed Forces must be capable of solving the challenges that Norway may face in the northern areas. The Armed Forces should be present in the northern areas with relevant contributions from all of the branches of military service, including the Norwegian Coast Guard, which plays an important role as state enforcer of authority in maritime zones.

Norway is exposed to threats on a daily basis in the digital arena. This represents a security policy challenge in a society that is increasingly making use of and becoming dependent on technology. Norway must strengthen its digital security so that it is in proportion to the threat.

The Armed Forces must also contribute to ensuring the security of society through assistance to civil society in peacetime. We have also provided for the maintenance of a decentralized Home Guard that covers the entire country. The Labour Party will continue to ensure that there is a balance between the finances, structure and tasks of the Armed Forces.

The Labour Party is concerned that the Armed Forces should be an integral part of Norwegian society. We support armed forces based on general conscription, and we believe that the organisation of general conscription and compulsory military service must be developed so that they are adapted as well as possible to the needs of the Armed Forces, society and the individual conscripts. For the Labour Party, it is the people in the Armed Forces that are the most important, and we want to ensure good general conditions and recognition for the employees of the Armed Forces. The goal is to ensure that the defence sector can better manage, attract and develop important military and civilian competence among its employees. The Labour Party will follow up and prioritize comprehensive efforts to strengthen society's recognition of and care for our veterans.

The Armed Forces must reflect the same diversity that characterizes the rest of society, whether with regard to ethnic background, equality between genders, or age distribution. Increased diversity provides new competence and broader experience, which will make the Armed Forces better equipped to meet the challenges both at home and abroad.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Follow up the Long-term Plan for the Armed Forces 2015–2016 and provide for good economic management in the Armed Forces, and a long-term balance between the tasks, structure and finances of the Armed Forces.
- Implement a competence reform programme in the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces should focus on their employees and their competence, and actively seek to recruit, retain and develop qualified personnel. The officer system (including the system for schemes for enlisted and civilian officers) should be evaluated and adapted to a modern rapid deployment force.
- Develop the branches of the Armed Forces so that Norway has a modern Air Defence, Naval Defence, a modern Army, and a decentralized Home Guard that is able to meet our security challenges.
- Ensure secure communication in the Armed Forces through further development of our Cyber Defence.
- Ensure good cooperation between the Armed Forces and the civil sector and ensure that the Armed Forces are an active contributor to the civil part of work to secure our society.
- Further develop the defence sector's overall efforts against threats from the digital arena.
- Increase the percentage of women in the Armed Forces. Support gender-neutral compulsory military service.
- Review the exemption and obligation grounds when the compulsory military service is changed.
- Strengthen the family policy of the Armed Forces.
- Continue to attach importance to the rights of veterans, including health-related and social follow-up, economic security and work with the next of kin.
- Ensure that major procurements by the Armed Forces contribute to the creation of value in Norway through good industrial agreements and cooperation between the Armed Forces and the defence industry.
- Attach more weight to multinational cooperation in defence policy, including the development of a "Smart Defence" and focus on our surrounding areas in NATO.
- Develop and strengthen Nordic defence cooperation through the procurement of equipment, participation in international operations, training, surveillance, emergency preparedness and crisis management and Arctic matters.

Refugee and asylum policy

Perhaps the greatest demographic change in society we have experienced in our time is the result of international migration – the fact that people are fleeing or migrating. An increasing number of people live in a country other than the country where they were born. The Labour

Party believes that immigration is fundamentally positive. The fact that more people are viewing Norway as a country of opportunities and have a desire to settle here is something we can be proud of. However, Norway cannot welcome everyone who desires to settle here. The Labour Party will pursue a comprehensive and consistent immigration policy. We will pursue a humane, fair and consistent refugee and asylum policy, based on the international agreements that Norway has committed to.

The administration of matters relating to immigration should be open and predictable. It is the goal of the Labour Party to ensure a user-friendly and efficient administration, with quick administrative processing. People who come to Norway are responsible for documenting their own identity and submitting the necessary documents.

Norway has a moral responsibility to accept people who are refugees of war or persecution. Refugees who require protection because they have been forced to leave their home country should be given the protection they are entitled to in Norway. Our policy should be based on human rights and the Refugee Convention. Recommendations from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees should be an important basis for our policies. The Labour Party will promote measures aimed toward the victims of human trafficking. Criminal offences in this context must be identified and punished, but we also require good preventive measures. We will protect and assist victims of human trafficking who are in Norway.

Those who have received a final rejection of their application for protection, after a thorough and reliable review, are required to leave the country. The Labour Party will pursue an active return policy that will ensure that many people can return on a voluntary basis and also make it possible to make use of compulsory means. This is important in order to maintain the legitimacy of the institution of asylum.

The quota refugee scheme is the most reliable and fairest scheme to ensure the reception of people who are to be given permanent protection. This contributes to reducing the number of refugees who risk their lives on often dangerous routes to Europe. Therefore it is a joint European responsibility to accept quota refugees. The number that can be received by Norway is affected by the number of asylum seekers that arrive in Norway. The Labour Party wishes to receive at least 1500 quota refugees annually. Our ambition is to increase this number if the situation so permits.

Children who have a need for protection, or a need to remain in Norway based on important humanitarian grounds, should be allowed to stay in Norway. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is of key importance for our work with children who seek protection. In particular, the right of the child to be heard, and an evaluation of what is best for the child, are important when the child's application for protection in Norway is reviewed.

The current legislation is a good point of departure for exercising a strict, fair and consistent asylum and immigration policy. It is also important to safeguard those who are most vulnerable in such situations. The Labour Party believes that consideration of the best interests of children must be a fundamental and key consideration as is the case in other areas of society. The Labour Party will therefore follow up the Storting report on fleeing children, which clarifies that greater importance should be attached to the best interests of the children and their association with the realm and ensure that the rules function according to their intention during evaluations. It is a prerequisite that the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and the Immigration Appeals Board report on their practice in matters involving long-staying children one year after the Storting report was published. After the report from the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and the Immigration Appeals Board is published, the Labour Party will evaluate whether the practice safeguards the best interests of the children as intended and whether an adjustment of the regulations is required in order to safeguard this.

All children in Norway are encompassed by the Child Welfare Act. Unaccompanied underage asylum seekers are a particularly vulnerable group. It is therefore particularly important that the child welfare authorities follow them up and ensure that the necessary assistance measures are provided to those who need them. All unaccompanied underage asylum seekers must be provided with a guardian from day one, and the duties of this guardian must be clear. Each year unaccompanied underage asylum seekers disappear from Norwegian reception centres, and more must be done to find out where these children go, and prevent that children are exploited in human trafficking.

The reception centres for asylum seekers should be simple and adapted to the applicant's needs and the phase of the asylum process that the applicant is in, and they should be located throughout the entire country. Stays at reception centres should be as short as possible. Settlement or return should take place as quickly as possible after the decision has been made. Reception centres should be managed whenever possible by the public sector or non-profit organizations. Regardless of operations management, there should be clear qualitative requirements for the operation of centres. An effort must be made to find measures which can strengthen the possibility for non-profit organizations to operate the centres.

It is important that refugees who are granted residence in Norway are offered a place to live as quickly as possible. This is completely necessary in order to start the integration process. Quick settlement is particularly important for children. The ambition of the Labour Party is to ensure that a settlement decision is made at the same time as a decision on residency. In order to stimulate increased and faster settlement, we will seek a better and more binding cooperation agreement between the authorities and the municipalities with regard to settlement. The municipalities play a key role with regard to the settlement of refugees. The offers made to those who are settled in the municipality should be satisfactory and available.

The Norwegian Labour Party will:

- Support the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to promote the rights of refugees.
- Increase the number of quota refugees that Norway receives to at least 1500.
- Strengthen return work further through additional return agreements, so that the authorities can quickly and efficiently return more individuals who have received a final rejection.
- Strengthen work on the clarification of identity.
- Strengthen cooperation with the municipalities for the establishment and operation of reception centres and strengthen the level of competence in the centres.
- Continue the efforts to reduce the administrative workload at the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and the Immigration Appeals Board.
- Give young asylum seekers the right to an upper secondary education.