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Simpol's "new way to vote" builds support for global justice in EU Parliament

The Simultaneous Policy (Simpol) campaign, a global association of citizens who use their votes in a new way to drive governments to solve problems like climate change, out-of-control financial markets, and social injustice, significantly increased its support during last week's European parliamentary elections. Simpól is now supported by 5 Members of the European Parliament, adding to the 25 UK MPs and parliamentarians from other countries who already support it.

Demonstrating Simpól's cross-party appeal, pledged candidates came from the ALDE, Greens/EFA and S&D groupings, as well as from smaller parties. In all, 27 candidates from six EU countries signed the Pledge, a declaration of support, in principle, for a process leading to the simultaneous, global implementation of a range of policies to solve world problems.

Campaign supporters wrote to all the candidates in their constituency announcing they would be giving strong voting preference to politicians who pledged to support the campaign, to the exclusion of those who chose not to. "With many parliamentary seats and even entire national elections being won or lost on fine margins," said Simpól's founder, John Bunzl, "the number of supporters needed to drive politicians towards global cooperation may be fewer than we think".

Citizens who have become disillusioned with politics are seeing Simpól as an effective means of joining with others across the world to form a powerful voting bloc, re-engaging with electoral politics in a way that heightens competition between parties and candidates and drives them to support the campaign.

Further information: www.simpol.org Contact: +44 (0)20 8639 0121 info@simpol.org

Note to Editors:

- A full list of Simpól-pledged MPs and candidates can be found at www.simpol.org/index.php?id=90
- Simpól's multi-issue policy package is to be determined by citizens, once sufficient worldwide support is secured from politicians. The policy package, once finalised, would be implemented by nations *simultaneously*, only when all or sufficient nation's had pledged to do so. Simultaneous implementation ensures that no nation's economy would suffer a competitive disadvantage, so removing one of the key obstacles to global cooperation.
- In contrast to present UN summits which deal only with one global issue at a time, Simpól's inclusion of multiple issues would allow nations that might lose on one issue to gain on another, so enhancing the chances of meaningful cooperation.
- Simpól is most advanced in the UK but active campaigns are now underway in Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Norway, and elsewhere. The campaign presently has supporters in over 100 countries.
- Simpól is supported by many global thought leaders, including the prominent U.S. philosopher, Ken Wilber.
- For John Bunzl's Huffington Post article on the Euro Elections, go to http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/john-bunzl/european-elections_b_5397029.html

International Simultaneous Policy Organisation PO Box 26547, London, SE3 7YT, UK