



5th of May 2010 - building a European Solidarity Front!
**No to the oppression of the people by financial markets, governments
and the EU!**
Yes to a fundamental change of EU policy!

The European Left Party stands in solidarity with the popular mobilization in Greece, with the general strike in the public and private sectors. While there are peculiarities in Greece, the current acute crisis is also symptomatic of the public debt crisis. This is general and is on the rise everywhere. If markets win against Greece, they will turn, further encouraged, to other countries. The strength of the Greek people is an opportunity for everyone since it is in all countries and at European level that the fight against the blackmail of the financial markets, the policies of austerity and for the development of alternatives must continue.

Banks, governments, the EU and the IMF want to impose drastic cuts to public spending, public services, wages, pensions and social protection on the Greek people. They are implementing a policy that will provoke depression, unemployment, declining revenues and increased needs for welfare. With imposed austerity, deadlock is certain and failure guaranteed. What a disaster for ordinary people! And what a mess. Not just Greece but all Europe will suffer for many years to come.

States are ordered to provide guarantees to financial markets by slavishly submitting to their demands as opposed to those of the people. The European Central Bank can find tens of billions to rescue banks but not to rescue a state! What is now called "aid to Greece" is in fact designed as an aid to creditors, and is an unacceptable strain on the Greek people, their social situation, dignity and sovereignty.

Growth previsions show how the Lisbon strategy is a failure: 1.3% growth forecast for the EU and OECD, against 3.4% for the United States and over 6% for emerging countries. This shows that the crisis in Europe is not only a consequence of the global crisis, but also due to the nature of the European construction; a monetarist design where free competition is the principal objective. Indeed, in this jungle, the weakest pay while the strongest reap the benefits. Instead of offsetting inequality, states have reduced public revenues, and sanctioned capital's seizing of a growing proportion of the wealth produced.

The people must not pay for the crisis. Governments must change policies in Europe. For this, they must stop listening to experts linked to markets and they must resuscitate democracy.

1 - It is urgent to stop the wave of speculation: instead of wasting the money on paying interest to banks, we must revive the socially and environmentally use-

ful economy. The ECB must be able to lend to states to lower rates. This would reduce the power of banks and private insurance. In each country, a public bank subject to supervision by the state and society must be created so that credit does not turn to speculation, but acts for the common good. We demand the creation of a European public ratings agency.

2 - We must stop privatization, develop the public sector and develop measures to counter the volatility of shareholders' investments in companies. Stopping the privatization of pensions, one of the engines of the financialisation of the economy, is a key issue. The EU must decide on the control and taxation of finance and investment flows.

3 - The euro should not be a tool for competition based on the Stability Pact and designed to reduce social spending in the name of competitiveness. A pact of cooperation and solidarity that has common goals among European countries for production, research and socially and environmentally useful services, for equal pay between women and men, for upward harmonization of wages and social safeguards is the surest way out of the crisis.

4 - A real European budget is needed to reduce disparities, coordinate policies in favour of a new type of development, establishing a unified taxation on capital to counter the placing of workers and countries in competition.

5 - Military expenditure envisaged in the Treaty of Lisbon must be greatly reduced, especially in Greece.

6 - And more urgently, to reduce public debt while meeting the needs of the Greek people:

- Rope in the banks who have speculated on the backs of the people for years, requiring banks to waive certain claims and unfairly high rates. A moratorium on certain debts for 3 or 5 years would allow time to revive economies in crisis, and thereby increase government revenue.
- If the IMF wants to make itself useful, it could instead use special funds to help finance public spending in Greece.

We are at a turning point in the class struggle in Europe. Capital is no longer hiding its true colours: its representatives are joining forces against the people. The violence of the methods used by this capitalist front shows its determination. Against them, we need a dynamic social and political front to build a united European alternative instrument for the development of answers to human and environmental needs. The European Left Party seeks involvement in the construction of this front. The survival of all European peoples is in question.

Member Parties of the European Left: *Communist Party of Austria, Belarusian Party of the Left "Fair World", Communist Party Belgium, Communist Party (Flanders), Party of Democratic Socialism (Czech Republic), Estonian United Left Party, Communist Party of Finland, Left Alliance (Finland), French Communist Party, The Left (Germany), Coalition of Left, of Movements and Ecology (Greece), Workers' Party of Hungary 2006, Communist Refoundation Party (Italy), The Left (Luxemburg), Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova, Left Bloc (Portugal), Socialist Alliance Party (Romania), Communist Refoundation of San Marino, Communist Party of Spain, United Left (Spain), United and Alternative Left (Catalunya), Labour Party of Switzerland, Freedom and Solidarity Party (Turkey)*