



Solidarity with Hungarian Trade Unions

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At their meeting of 4th December, the Congress of the European Left and its member and observer parties expressed their solidarity with the Hungarian trade-unions who organised a demonstration in Budapest today. We express our deep concern about political events in Hungary. We know that the governing FIDESZ received a more than two-thirds majority in the elections of this year; however, this fact doesn't sanction the neglect of basic democratic rules. Trade-Unions are protesting rightfully against the disregard for their rights in the tripartite decision making process. Workers are subordinated to arbitrary acts of bosses, security is lacking in work and daily life, as shown in the tragic case of the red mud catastrophe.

The government enacts laws that defend the rich and increase poverty in the country. Flat rate income taxes gave more money to higher earners, while taxation of the minimum wage takes from workers. The burden of the economic crisis is put on the shoulders of middle and low income earners, unemployment and poverty are reaching extremely high levels. It is unacceptable to change the constitution to reduce social control over the administration to give a free hand to the government, reviving old nationalist ideas of the last century. Even a new constitution and a new system of pensions are already partially introduced and will be finally adopted without a broad social discussion and public vote. Therefore, the European Left supports trade-unions, civil movements and parties that are against austerity, social demagogies and those who fight for a social Hungary and a social Europe.