

Motion on migration and the economic crisis

The current crisis of the economic model is affecting everybody, creating higher unemployment and reinforcing the precarious working and living conditions we have already experienced. However, three population groups are particularly affected by the crisis: women, young people and migrants.

Migrants are faced with three main consequences of the crisis: Firstly, the raise of the unemployment rate to desperate levels; secondly, the aggravation of conditions of survival in all spheres, from housing to food; and thirdly, the diffusion of xenophobic and racist attitudes against them. Moreover, the crisis is also affecting, in a very deep dimension, the poor economies of the countries where the migrants come from, moving their population to join the migrant flows towards Europe. Due to all this, they often fall in the hands of mafia organisations and become victims of human trafficking.

The European Left demands a new European approach to the situation of the migrant population in Europe. We strongly criticise the way the European Commission is dealing with migrants. Instead of looking at them as human beings, they simply consider their economic dimension as far as to affirm that without migrants our pension system would not be sustainable.

We, the European Left, demand:

1) Human rights for all people living in Europe

Full citizen rights for all people living in Europe must be guaranteed. Among these rights, the right to vote must be included. Human rights have to be applied to all, and not be linked to nationality. Europe must implement migration policies that guarantee equal human rights for all. This implies the issue of papers to migrants. We are against expelling migrants to their home countries or to third countries. We are against the Return Directive (the Directive of “Shame”). We condemn the current way of dealing with migrants who are treated as if they were “criminals”. We are against the centres of forced detention. We are also against the directive that penalises entrepreneurs who use so-called “not legal” migrant workers, and that imposes to these entrepreneurs a fine in order to pay the return air tickets. Europe shall become a land of asylum and hope for all workers. There is no reason to link the application of human rights to the fact of being employed.

2) A Europe of solidarity and against neo-colonialism

We demand an urgent repayment of the “historical debt” that we, the former countries invading the Third World under colonisation, have with them as we contributed to their impoverishment. This debt should be paid through the instruments of international organisations, such as UNCTAD. We are against selling arms to countries that suffer from dictatorship or violate human rights. We are against the European policy of “externalising” the border control to centres of detention outside Europe. We are against

the FRONTEX system and its focus on the border control, while the majority of migrants enter the EU with tourist visa. We also oppose the policy of sending people back to their home countries or to countries where human rights are not guaranteed. The right of every country to its own development cannot be conditioned by the agreement on expelling workers when signing the Partnership Agreement with the EU. We are also against European protectionism versus Third World countries. Europe needs another socio-economical model because the actual neoliberal one is not compatible neither with the human rights demands inside Europe nor within the development framework of third countries. Instead of the Free Zone Agreements we need Joint Development Agreements reversing unequal trade and fostering job creation in these countries.

3) Tools for improvement and transformation

All European political, social and non governmental organisations that place themselves in the area of progressive forces, or directly to the left, must collaborate in an active way in order to draw the attention of the public opinion to the issues of migration. The European Left is in favour of a basic income for all people in need, including those who do not have the EU nationality and political rights. We are in favour of a European policy towards migrants with a specific budget at all levels, from the European to the local level.

EL Executive Board
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