

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**
2ND CONGRESS OF THE 
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ADOPTED MOTION

Solve the Kosovo Crisis in Accordance with International Law!

The Kosovo issues is a key-issue for stability in the Western Balkan

The NATO air strikes on Belgrade began in 1999. A war in contravention of international law was fought in Europe. War had returned to Europe. A decade of military engagements followed, with European countries fighting alongside the US in Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq. It is incorrect to say that the EU guarantees security and peace in Europe. On the contrary, the EU itself is becoming more military, and is involving itself in more and more conflicts around the world.

These significant events had their roots in the destruction of Yugoslavia: international and civil wars; the brutality of ethnic cleansing and displacement; hundreds of thousands becoming refugees; the war in Kosovo.

The UN attempted to resolve the Kosovo War with its Security Council Resolution 1244, which confirmed Kosovo's affiliation in international law to the Republic of Serbia and established an interim UN-administration. Despite the efforts of the UN-administration the situation remains precarious. The "standards before status" principle has not been applied. More than 200.000 refugees are still outside Kosovo and conditions for their return have not been created. Violence and displacement remain common. The majority of people in Kosovo are unemployed and without prospects. Kosovo has become a hub of criminality, including the trafficking of drugs and humans. No headway was made towards meaningful reconciliation with Serbia, and any drastic change in the situation could bring a new wave of mass violence to the region.

The UN Security Council wants to decide the future status of Kosovo on the 10th December 2007. UN negotiator Martti Ahtisaari's suggestion of allowing Kosovo to become a separate country failed, because it contravenes international law and because it has not provided the basis for a mutually accepted solution. A unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo could have a knock-on effect on other suspended conflicts in Europe and elsewhere. The prospect of a newly divided Europe looms, and new violence cannot be ruled out.

The opposing parties have conflicting views: Serbia is prepared to accept everything except the secession of Kosovo; the Kosovo administration is not prepared to accept anything which falls below the benchmark of independence. The already tense situation was exacerbated by the Kosovo administration's statement, in which they claimed the right to a unilateral declara-

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tion of independence, and by US President Bush, who said that the US would recognise Kosovo as an independent country. A number of other European countries could also take this view.

The Party of the European Left:

- Rejects any unilateral, violent alteration of the current borders in Europe recognised by international law. This holds true even if the countries affected cannot exercise their sovereign right in these areas.
- Calls for the continuation of negotiations aiming at a mutually agreed solution within the UN framework.
- Peace and stability in the Balkans require the promotion of interbalkan cooperation based on the inviolability of frontiers, development of democracy, common security, ecological protection, and full respect for human and minority rights. At the same time, the EL supports the EU enlargement in the Balkan, but opposes NATO expansion in the region.
- Calls for supporting all responsible political parties and forces, social and peace movements and representatives from the civil society to increase their interfering into and participation in policy-deciding structures and processes aimed on a democratic, political solution of the Kosovo- issue.
- Strongly criticizes the EU for promoting the independence of Kosovo.
- Calls upon on the EU and its member states to adhere to UN Resolution 1244. We stand against a unilateral declaration of independence for Kosovo and the recognition of such a declaration by European countries.

The European Left wants to build up and improve the level of cooperation with left-wing forces and social movements in the Balkans. That is the contribution we must and can to make towards the peaceful development of the Balkan region.