

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**
2ND CONGRESS OF THE  **EuropeanLEFT**
PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 23-25, 2007

ADOPTED MOTION

European Left and the Latin-American Left.

For quite a few years now, we have been witnessing in Latin America a political spring of the Left, embodied by the success of left and central-left government experiences in the vast majority of the subcontinent. These experiences are of different nature, but they are all working at the construction of a way out on the left to the disasters brought about by the neo-liberal policies. The issue of constructing a “socialism in the of XXIst century” finds new propulsions in the Latin-American experiences, after being forgotten for so many years.

This experience is looking not only for economic forms of integration, but also for socially qualified one, such as ALBA, forms of ransom for decades and centuries of subordinated to the imperial power of the North-American giant. In Latin America it has been possible to reject the ALCA and to question the strongholds of the dominant neo-liberal model, through the re-appropriation of the national resources from the theft of the multinationals – such as in Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia; through the emancipation from the instruments of the financial dominion and from the recipes of the IMF and of the World Bank. The creation of a Bank of the South is an alternative example not only to the model of the World Bank, but to the European Central Bank as well.

The main characters of this revival have not only been the governments, but also the peoples and the social movements. Just think about the issues and reclaims of the indigenous people and the election of Evo Morales, about the experiences of non-governmental or civil and social mass-movements such as the Sem Terra (Brazil) and the Social Forums. Alternatively, think about the issue of the environmental, social and illegal debt, being claimed by social movements and by many Latin-American governments not only as a simple demand, but also as a political practice and as a tool to open alternative political and economic spaces.

Therefore, the European Left will have to face the topic of Europe responsibility towards the new process of economic, political and social transformation in Latin America. Especially taking into account the danger inevitably caused by the EU economic and commercial policies in Latin America and in the rest of the world. Currently the European Union is negotiating three bi-regional association agreements, UE-MERCOSUR, EU-Central America and EU-Andean Communities, and the possibility of a future agreement with Brazil. Given the existing asymmetries among the different partners, we must avoid that these Association agreements are limited to free trade, which aggravates even more those asymmetries and the inequalities among Central American countries. We must fight, then, to avoid that the European Union

MOTION

propose the negotiation of treaties similar to the CAFTA. It is essential to base the Association agreements on mutual interests derived from a political and economic association with the region and its different countries; these agreements must take into account the existing asymmetries and inequalities among both regions and within the different Central American countries. Agreements, therefore, that must be based on three pillars: political dialogue, a trade which takes into account the asymmetries and development cooperation. The EU is pushing these countries to sign free trade agreements without waiting for the conclusion of the round of the WTO negotiations. In doing so, it reveals its actual plans. It is enough to read the "Conclusions and recommendations to open the negotiation with the ASEAN countries, India and South Korea", approved by the General Affairs Council on 23rd April 2007. The Council of the European Union strongly endorses the need to start a negotiation with the Andean Community and Central America, in order to conclude a series of agreements going even beyond WTO. The aim of these agreements will be the increase of competitiveness and growth both in Europe and on a global level and to support the integration of the partner countries into the global market system. It is a broad strategy, linked to the one theorized by Mandelson in his document called "A competitive Europe in a globalized economy", where he proposed an aggressive agenda of free market. According to this theory, some issue left open within the WTO – as to say the so-called "Singapore issues": investments, competitiveness, and services liberalization – are to be included in the negotiations. In this way, the free trade agreements are reshaping the actual priorities of the EU, starting with the promotion of the access of the European companies to the natural resources

Regarding the relations to the Republic of Cuba, the Party of the European Left requires the fulfillment of the different resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, which ask for the ending of the economic blockade of the USA on Cuba.

In the same way, the Party of the European Left considers, that even though the proposal of "integral and open political dialogue with the Cuban authorities on reciprocal bases and mutual interest", declared in the conclusions of the UE Council of last June, is a necessary correction in the UE policy towards Cuba, however, it is also needed to finish definitively with the Common Position of 1996 so as with the sanctions of 2003.

The ELP asks also for the freedom of the 5 Cuban prisoners, strugglers against terrorism, who have been unfairly put in USA prisons, violating the basic justice principles and under the most atrocious conditions, including isolation. North American administration shows its double face: while they maintain the 5 Cuban prisoners, they keep giving shelter to the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, denying the request for extradition made by the Government of Venezuela.

The EL supports the Bolivian democratic revolution, focusing upon the objectives of regaining the identity and sovereignty as a nation. We are against all seditious and separatist activities, which aim to reach the disintegration and fragmentation of Bolivia.

MOTION

Therefore, the EL should reinforce its commitment for building a common political project together with the progressive political forces and social movements in Latin America and with the social movements on the continent; thus contrasting the plan according to which the Commission is at the service of the European companies and of their progressive penetration in Latin America, to the detriment of the choices taken by many governments to implement the social justice and overcoming capitalism. Such a project will be made possible on the political level by strengthening the relations of cooperation and common work with the Sao Paulo Forum, a common space built by the Latin-American forces in the 1990s.

The EL wants to intensify its relations both with the Sao Paulo Forum and with other forces of the political and social Left in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the occasion of the next EU - Latin America Summit we have to take the good experience of Vienna May 2006 up, promoting joint initiatives in the counter-summit, prepared jointly by EL working group "Latin America" and S-P-Forum working group and having a joint political meeting of EL Executive Board representatives and the Forum working group.