

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

ADOPTED MOTION

EU-Africa Strategy - For the Millennium Goals !

1. The organization of the Summit between the EU and Africa, to be held next December in Lisbon, has been surrounded in the European side by intense polemics.

The European Left denounces the attitude of the backsliding governments. The excuse for their absences is the presence of Robert Mugabe in Lisbon. As a matter of fact, the truly reason is not any concern about Human Rights: Gordon Brown doesn't want that the African continent become a European priority and tries to depreciate African leaderships in the eyes of our public opinions.

It's important that the Summit will achieve ambitious and verifiable goals and compromises in order to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), approved in 2000 by the United Nations.

2. The European Left is concerned about Human Rights. Therefore we criticize the EU starting point for this Summit, as the opening of the African markets is a main goal for the EU similarly as for the other economic powers, that all have considerably intensified trade and investment in the continent.

The EU chosen instruments to fulfill this goal are the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA's), based on the grounds of reciprocity of treatment. Along with innumerable African movements and non-governmental development organizations, the European Left strongly condemns this strategy and joins the contestations against it. EPA's counteract the trends towards regional integration of African economies and favor the stronger side – the European – against the weakest one: Africa. Regional agreements such as the Economic Partnership Agreements – EPAs – with ACP-countries must be devised and negotiated as development agreements as much as trade agreements, which means that they must be based on the principles of asymmetry in favor of the less developed regions, support for regional integration and the establishment and consolidation of regional markets.

To Brussels, trade is equivalent to development.

To the European Left, development is a condition for a fair and equitable trade.

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3. Cooperation for Development – fighting diseases such as HIV-AIDS, hunger and extreme poverty – must be the priority of this Summit.

Although Europe represents 60% of foreign public development assistance and is by far the largest global donor, it is also far behind the objective of 0,7% of the GDP from each of our countries to which it committed itself. In several countries, the weight of aid to development is even decreasing, due to the Stability Pact policies. And worse: Brussels is registering external debts forgiveness as aid to development and is preparing to enlarge this “creative accountancy” to partnerships in the field of Climate Change.

To Brussels, aid is a supplement for free trade.

To the European Left, cooperation is the key for a strategy of Sustainable Development, focused on local communities and supporting the regional integration of African economies.

4. In this Summit, Brussels wishes also to guarantee the African States contribution to repress the “illegal immigration” and favor the “selection of skilled immigration” coming from sub-Saharan Africa. The first policy, which transformed the Mediterranean Sea into a wall, is responsible for thousands of deaths and daily violates the most essential Human Rights. The second policy, if well succeeded, will deprive the African continent from the majority of its best skilled workers, mortgaging the future viability of development strategies.

The European Left rejects all the agreements that the EU might settle with the countries of origin or passage of immigrants, leading to facilitate swift extraditions and the establishment of joint or “outsourcing” control systems, transferring to the African States the missions, as well as border and police equipment, which are an exclusive competency of the European countries.

The European Left considers that there are no “illegal human beings” and that Europe must have a common policy for migratory flows management – bidirectional as well as circular – in service of cooperation and Development. The 2nd Congress of ELP expresses its active solidarity with the people from the region of the Sahara desert. We demand both, on one side from the Spanish government, to exercise the responsibility for the process of decolonization, and on the others side from the Moroccan Kingdom, to follow the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and realize the referendum on self-determination of the Sahrawi people.

5. Moreover, Brussels wants to assure it brings African military apparatus under control in service of the European aims in conflict management.

To the European Left, wars and military conflicts in Africa constitute a curse which has to be stopped by political means. Twenty three conflicts in the last 15 years represent not only many thousands of lost lives, but also millions of refugees with no hope in life and an economic and social cost of at least 300.000 million dollars. In several of these conflicts, this represents as much as the foreign public aid to development during the same time spanning.

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Furthermore, there were European countries intervening as interested parties in several of these conflicts, meaning that Europe gives with a hand what recovers with the other.

The European Left considers crucial that the Summit declares its support to the treaties that foresee the limitation of light weapons trade and are currently halted at the United Nations level. We also consider that priority should be given to the political processes that might be able to sort out a solution for the several armed conflicts taking place in the Horn of Africa.

The European Left opposes to Euro-African military interventions. On the contrary, we are in favor of Peace keeping forces, provided they are decided by the United Nations and arising from an agreement between all belligerent parties.