

Motion of Solidarity with the people of Cyprus

The participants of the 6th Congress of the Party of the European Left held in Benalmadena, Malaga (Spain) on 13-15 December 2019:

Regret that the illegal occupation by Turkey of 37% of Cyprus territory is ongoing and that the Cyprus problem remains unresolved,

Welcome the fact that the tripartite meeting in Berlin between the UN Secretary-General and the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities (a) reconfirmed that the basis for the negotiation and solution of the Cyprus problem is the bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, as prescribed in the relevant UNSC resolutions; and (b) determined that the Joint Declaration of 11th February 2014, the convergences that have been achieved so far and the Framework of the UN Secretary-General of June 30th, 2017 constitute the terms of reference for the resumption of the negotiations,

Stress the need for the international community to face decisively Turkey's illegal actions in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus as well as its illegal plans to settle Varosha further to the continuing illegal settlement of the northern part of Cyprus and changing the demographic structure of the northern part of Cyprus,

Call for the early resumption of substantive talks to arrive at a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem that will reunite Cyprus and its people under a bizonal bicomunal Federation, with a single sovereignty, single international personality, single citizenship, in accordance with international law and the *European acquis*, terminate the illegal presence of Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus and the anachronistic regime of any foreign guarantees and alleged rights of unilateral intervention, and safeguard the human rights of all Cypriots and the future prosperity of the two communities,

Express their solidarity with and support to the struggle of all Cypriot people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, for the reunification of its country, and consider that the peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem will contribute positively to the building of peace and prosperity for all peoples in the troubled region of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The EL greets the bicomunal peace initiatives of the Cypriots which promote the spirit of co-existence and equal rights against divisive and nationalist practices.

Building a womxn network

The congress decides:

The 6th congress of the European Left recommends the Executive Board of the European Left to organize a networking process of female* activists from left parties. The aim is a seminar where womxn can exchange their experiences within their parties due to the patriarchal constitution of our societies and thus our parties. The exchange shall focus on the barriers womxn are facing as well as solutions that can be applied within the parties. The establishment of a working group to organize this process should be taken into consideration. The preparatory meeting / the first working group meeting could be scheduled around the summer university or the European Forum. The question whether this process is exclusive to EL member parties or if it is opened up to activist from left parties around the world shall be decided upon by the preparatory meeting/the working group in cooperation with the board.

It is explicitly wished for opening the process to activists that share those or similar barriers due to their gender identity, particularly trans and gender non-conforming activists.

The future of working society

1. Parallel to the crisis in Europe and beyond, lively debates are taking place on the European left as to how the capitalist value creation process, and thus the process of exploitation, can either be poured back into a social form and / or be overcome immediately or in a transformation process.
 2. For necessary re-regulations and the complete reorganization of the financial sector, there are sometimes more, sometimes less well-founded, proposals on the table. The founding mistakes and the constitution of Europe are well debated and criticized.
 3. Deficits exist, however, when it comes to a holistic model of a future political and economic governance of a Europe which, according to unanimous opinion on the left side of the political spectrum, should be organized at least socially, employment-oriented, sustainable and democratic.
 4. Long-term integrated growth and development perspectives are indispensable for a progressive concept for Europe. What is needed is the development of an integrated concept of democratically controlled, ecologically sustainable economic development for Europe, including, building upon and substantially complementing existing elements of industrial and service policies as well as structural and cohesion policies.
 5. If the European left wants to permanently move away from a competition Europe to a Europe of solidarity, additional elements of strong economic policy coordination and governance are necessary, which primarily should create social justice, good work and equal living conditions, and develop a transformative character in the sense of a newly to be developed social coexistence. In Particular, digitalisation and automation pose completely new challenges for our society with all its possibilities and dangers. These elements, this holistic approach has - so far - been a "missing link" in the European debate.
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- A. Following this, the Congress of the European Left recommends the Executive Board to appoint a working group of delegates of our member parties to develop such a holistic approach to the "future of the working society".
 - B. Within the next three years, the working group will define ways of working out such a common concept and take the first steps.
 - C. The aim of the process is to be present at the next European elections with a more common vision of cooperation in Europe.

Rejection of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF)

„PESCO“ – this abbreviation will in a few years possibly symbolically stand for such a deeply misguided policy of the European Union as the prevailing „FRONTEX“ EU border protection agency. Frontex currently represents a brutal policy of isolation, and PESCO is the cornerstone of a „European Defence Union“ that is currently being established.

PESCO is the English abbreviation for „Permanent Structured Cooperation“, and this mechanism has existed since December 2017. The ruling hierarchy links great expectations to it: German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke of a „giant step“ with regard to the activation of PESCO with which it will be possible to close a „historical gap“ in the EU structure.

As part of this the goal of establishing the European Union as a major military power is openly and blatantly expounded. The new President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen summed it up some time ago in the following words: “It is about a Europe that can also throw more weight into the scales militarily. Building skills and structures is one thing. The other is the common will to actually use this military might when circumstances require it.” (Speech by Ursula von der Leyen at the Munich Security Conference on 16 February 2018)

The media, however, unfortunately reports hardly at all about how fundamentally the previous rules of the game of EU military policy have been thrown overboard by PESCO. While unanimity and voluntarism used to be the hallmarks of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), completely different standards now prevail: armament constraints and threats of sanctions are the focus.

Participation in PESCO has its price: all 25 countries that currently take part had to agree to comply with 20 armaments criteria in the future (see 2.1 PESCO criteria: a tightly laced arms corset) ranging from regular increases in arms expenditure and the provision of troops to participation in major strategic armament projects. Fulfilment of these criteria is monitored regularly. Since the consensus principle has also been softened at central points it is now also possible to throw countries with a qualified majority out of PESCO if they „misbehave“. This in turn increases the pressure on the participants.

In truth, PESCO serves a European military and armaments complex, dominated by Germany and France, which is to be promoted. In order to give momentum to the entire development, PESCO projects will in future also be preferably financed via a „European Defence Fund“ (EDF) which has a billionscale budget and is currently being set up. This Defence Fund is another instrument that is currently being established which, however, in principle, contradicts the Lisbon Treaties (Article 41.2. TEU).

The first 47 PESCO projects have already been launched. The most important of them so far has been the construction of an armed Eurodrone.

Whether everything will progress as Berlin and Paris envisage has not yet been finally decided at this point in time: both the USA as well as many small and mid-sized EU countries are sceptical about PESCO; they would like to continue to focus on NATO in view of their own political considerations.

Unfortunately it seems relatively certain that the anchoring of PESCO will have high priority, especially under Ursula von der Leyen, the new President of the European Commission – the reason being that Mrs. von der Leyen had previously strongly pushed these developments and the establishment of PESCO in her position as former German Defence Minister.

She played a leading role as German Defence Minister in advancing the expansion of the EU military apparatus at a dizzying pace within a period of just a few years. She also played a significant role in the activation of PESCO, as she states in a central speech: „You’ve awakened PESCO from its deep sleep. [...] This

is what the arms cooperation, mainly with France, stands for, to develop the fighter aircraft and tanks of the future. It is also what entry into the European Defence Union stands for.”

The proposal of von der Leyen to subordinate a Directorate of Defence (DG Defence) to the French Commissioner-designate (who held the post of French Defence Minister before her appointment) for the European domestic market underpins this assessment.

We know that times of rearmament and aspirations to great-power status have never led to more security for the various populations. Such eras were always times when insecurity grew and the danger of war raised its ugly head.

Therefore the European Left Party rejects the implementation of both, the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

We believe that one's security depends on everybody's security. The time has come to reset the European conception of international relations and defence by setting up a new common framework of cooperation and collective security that should include all the European countries also beyond the EU and that would work closely with all its neighbouring countries.

Solidarity with Cuba, for democracy and against neoliberalism

Once again on 7 November 2019 the United Nations voted with an overwhelmingly majority to end the US-blockade against Cuba (187 states). Only the US itself, Israel and Brazil voted against. So far, the US government has ignored this unanimous view and continues to act against it. The nearly sixty-year-old unilateral blockade violates international and human rights and is, according to the Charter of the United Nations, a "warlike act". In recent months, the blockade has been further tightened by the Trump administration in order to disrupt Cuba's self-determined development as well as to finally achieve a regime change.

The measures include:

- Application of the Blockade Act (Helms-Burton Act), which now also enables lawsuits to be brought before US courts relating to US property expropriated after the revolution. This is intended to hold back investors in Cuba who face lengthy processes
- Preventing tourism to Cuba by prohibiting cruise ships from entering the country, the almost ban on travel for US-citizens to Cuba, the ban on flights from the United States to other cities in Cuba other than Havana, preventing contractual agreements with numerous Cuban state-owned companies such as hotels
- Preventing, in particular, oil deliveries and other important goods and raw materials, as well as preventing and hindering the purchase or leasing of aircraft
- Obstruction of financial flows, which means that Cuba can hardly meet its needs internationally
- US policy of fear and threats: The aim is the uncertainty of many existing and potential contractors
- Limiting bank transfers from Cubans abroad, making it difficult to issue visas by closing the consulate in Cuba
- Media campaigns that spread Cuba fake news and negative clichés.

As reason for the reinforced activities against Cuba for months, the Trump administration states that Cuba maintains its friendly relations with Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Bolivia and supports them against the sanctions and subversions of the US.

All of these US activities exert extraterritorial effects, eg. third countries are being harmed because the US government is taking the liberty of "punishing" normal relations between third countries and Cuba with multi-million sanctions. For example, the French bank BNP Paribas paid almost US \$ 9 billion to the US Treasury in 2014, because they had carried out transactions with Cuba. This behavior by the US government is a violation of the sovereignty of all these states.

Although, in 1996, the European Commission adopted Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 on 'Protection against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country'. However, no government of the EU member states has applied this regulation so far - they leave their institutions and organizations subject to the discretion of the US-administration.

In 2016, the EU-Cuba political dialogue and cooperation agreement was concluded and has so far worked well in terms of dialogue. However, it is repeatedly attacked by the most conservative forces in the EU. Now it is important to fill the cooperation with life.

The consequences of the US blockade on the Cuban people and the country's development are devastating. In October, an oil supply crisis occurred, which paralyzed the entire public and economic life. The medical field is particularly hard hit: Devices, medicines, consumables can hardly be procured or only at extremely high costs, what actually affects medical care. Nevertheless, Cuba tries to achieve its development policy goals and can rely on the widespread unity and insight of its people.

The Party of the European Left (EL) strongly condemns the US government's imperial action and

- Calls on all progressive forces worldwide to protest against the blockade. The EL and its member parties have a high responsibility as far as the European area is concerned. Via parliamentary initiatives against the blockade we have to increase the pressure in the EU Parliament and in the national parliaments.
- Will take part in the global week of action at the end of May 2020 under the motto "No to imperialism, yes to life" and the meeting of European Cuba solidarity groups in Russia from July 16-19, 2020 and calls on its member parties to announce these dates and to get involved.
- Calls on governments and the EU to take concrete steps against the US blockade, in particular effective measures against the extraterritorial effects in Europe, as well as the end of the financial blockade, which is illegal under EU- law, but where European banks bow to US pressure
- Urges the European Commission to lodge a complaint with the WTO against the ongoing violations of international trade law by the US blockade and sanctions against Cuba and Venezuela
- Demands the European Commission to fully implement the agreement on political dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Cuba
- Protests against any measure that violates the sovereignty of states in the Latin American region, aiming against the right of peoples to self-determination, including coercive economic measures, particularly affecting the population
- Strongly criticizes the unilateral partisanship of governments in the EU and the European Commission in the conflicts of Latin American countries, which is controlled by their own neoliberal interests in raw materials and influence.
- Calls all the progressive forces to enlarge the solidarity movement with Cuba and organize concrete solidarity and help for Cuba and the Cuban people.

A better world is possible! Viva Cuba socialista!

Respect for international law and human rights conventions!

The established international system of international law and conventions aimed at protecting human rights is under attack from governments around the Globe, including, sadly, European governments.

The UN Refugee Convention is being undermined and circumvented by the concerted efforts of European governments and the European Union to prevent asylum seekers from reaching European soil. Instead refugees are left in countries such as Libya or Turkey where refugee rights are not even recognized on paper.

The EL commits to eliminate all European regulations that allow detention centers for repatriation of migrants with the objective to close all of these places in the member states.

International maritime conventions are broken by countries like Italy that refuse SAR vessels access to their ports, thus prolonging the suffering of children, women and men who have managed to escape war and persecution in their home countries.

The European Left considers this an extremely dangerous development. In an era with more than 70 million refugees and internally displaced persons globally we should strengthen, rather than weaken, the instruments and our commitment to protect human rights and refugee rights.

The European Left urges all European governments to ratify and respect all relevant UN and CoE human rights conventions and to implement and incorporate them into their national legislation. Furthermore the control mechanisms such as the ECtHR and the UN committees should be given adequate resources and enjoy respect and recognition by national governments and lawmakers.

The EU has committed to join the European Convention on Human rights in its founding treaties. Relevant progress in this regard cannot be seen. Therefore the EL urges that the accession will finally be arranged.

Motion on the situation in Catalunya

The European Left expresses its solidarity with the people of Catalonia who live in these days legitimate social mobilizations to respond to the harsh and unjust sentence against the political and social leaders of the Procés, which has given them alleged prison sentences for more than 99 years.

Beyond the political assessment made of the Procés, one cannot be neutral in the face of the violation of constant rights, the degradation to unthinkable limits of the so-called “rule of law” and the will of the State to employ all repressive means (both police as judicial) to deny Catalonia the right to freely decide its future.

This is the response of the '78 Regime to popular mobilization. And it is that after a political trial, based on violence that never existed, the sentence seeks to scare and stop the popular movement.

We denounce the international media operation that has been carried out to make this sentence appear by sedition and embezzlement as a mild and moderate conviction. It is neither soft, nor moderate, and should shake any Democrat, regardless of their position on the Spanish territorial conflict.

We also condemn police violence and detentions in response to popular protests against the sentence that has been abusive, just as we remember that the sovereignist popular movement is peaceful, although there may be pockets of violence, which we condemn, and we remember that it is not the solution for the resolution of conflicts in a democratic way.

Our republican commitment, based on the values of freedom, equality and fraternity, places us without complexes with those who want to exercise the right to decide and are retaliated, tried or sentenced to prison with sentences that would be unthinkable in most countries democratic.

We express the need to cease the lawfare and call for dialogue and conflict resolution, which necessarily involves the recognition of self-determination, freedom for political prisoners and the celebration of an agreed referendum.

Vučjak: a journey without and end

Snow has fallen over a large part of Europe. Winter has officially begun. For most of us, the month of December means a time for socializing, partying, and good food. Meanwhile, a group of 600 refugees are trying to warm their freezing hands and bodies by the fire near Bosnian forests; and at the same time asking themselves whether they will even live to see the end of winter.

The town of Bihać is situated in the north west of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is one of many places which police officers push refugees back to from the Croatian border. Croatian police officers are notorious for their violent behaviour, from smashing cell phones to beating refugees and stripping them of clothing. After Bihać's residents started complaining that there was no suitable accommodation for refugees left in their town, a provisional camp named Vučjak was erected in the forest in June.

In October, first warnings emerged that the weather conditions would soon drastically worsen and that the refugees were in dire need of a new shelter. No one has responded to this day. Therefore, the tents are soaking wet and demolished, and the people wearing inappropriate clothing and shoes are exposed to hypothermia. There are drinking water and electricity shortages in the camp. The forest surrounding the camp is full of mines from Yugoslavian wars. These people must be transferred into a more humane environment immediately.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has become an outpost for refugees; an outpost that allows no way forward. Hungary and Slovenia have enclosed their southern borders with security fences and have thus closed the door to the European Union for uninvited guests. Both Slovenian and Croatian police forces do not follow international law and push refugees back without individual proceedings. Croatian police officers treat refugees in an especially brutal way and literally throw them back into Bosnian forests.

Refugees should spend the festive period just as everyone else – in a warm and safe environment, surrounded by their families and friends. However, as they were born in countries devastated by misery and war, they were forced to leave the comfort of their homes and risk their lives on the path to freedom.

The responsibility for the current situation lies mainly in us, in the West. Our military, political and economic structures produce crisis hotspots and spread global inequality. The wall that we have built on the border protects us from our conscience only.

The Party of the European Left therefore urges the European Union and the European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič to start solving the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia immediately. On the doorstep of the European Union, in inhumane conditions, people are freezing to death.

Against the EP declaration on Communism and Nazism

On September 19, the European Parliament passed a resolution that criminalized communism and equated it with Nazism.

The resolution was an initiative of a group of conservative, popular, liberal and socialist deputies and carried out a terrible exercise of historical revisionism.

The Party of the European Left is clear that without antifascism there is neither democratic nor future memory of rights and freedoms in the EU and with this declaration could threaten the democratic project in Europe

For all the above:

- The EL condemns this European Parliament resolution because it is a historical misrepresentation.
- The EL does not accept the equation of Communism and Nazism that makes the resolution of the EP because it could mean an increase in the discourse of the extreme right in Europe.
- The EL calls for supporting initiatives developed by EU countries to defend the heritage of anti-fascist struggles and to face any democratic setback that could be imposed from the EU with this resolution.

The EL supports the social movement in France

The current social movement in France against policies led by Emmanuel Macron's government concerns Europe as a whole. At the heart of the movement against pension cuts arises the issue of the use of money. The French government will block resources devoted to redistributed pensions at 14% of GDP. Nevertheless, another choice is possible: by making financial income subject to social security contributions, by increasing wages, by making pay for women and men equal, by leading ambitious policies for employment and ecological transition, it's possible to finance a fair pension system for all.

Around this movement, other movements are on-going: students, for defending public hospitals, amongst teachers... These movements are supported by a majority of the population. After the "yellow vests" movements, it shows French people resist against Emmanuel Macron's project to align the French society to the standards of the capitalist globalization.

Everywhere in Europe the ruling classes want to ruin pension systems and social security.

The EL supports the social movement in France and the political forces and trade unions involved in it. Aligning at the highest level welfare protections, pensions and wages is possible!

Statement of Solidarity with the Iraqi People

We, the representatives of the parties attending the 6th Congress of the Party of the European Left (EL) in Malaga, Spain (13-15 December 2019), express our solidarity with the struggle of the Iraqi people and support for the legitimate demands of their ongoing popular uprising against the sectarian power-sharing quota system and corruption, for a civil democratic state and social justice.

We strongly condemn the bloody repression of the peaceful demonstrations that began on 1st October 2019 in Baghdad and other provinces, with participants mainly young people protesting against corruption, poverty and unemployment. More than 500 people have been killed, 20,000 injured and thousands detained.

We call for an immediate halt to the killings of peaceful demonstrators, the release of all detainees and an end to the campaign of abductions and assassinations targeting activists. Those responsible for killing tens of young people must be brought to justice. An independent inquiry must be set up to investigate these crimes. All restrictions on the media must be lifted and the constitutional right to assembly and freedom of expression must be respected.

We reiterate our support for the Iraqi people's struggle for a civil democratic state and social justice, which is fundamental to ensuring Iraq's national sovereignty and true independence.

We need to draw a map together

Capitalist production develops technology and combines it together to various social and economic processes in order to make profit. This is causing most of the ecological problems we have at the moment.

Search of profit becomes a search of the weakest and less protected, such as environment and workers of developing countries. This has led to an ongoing climate crisis, which is part of a broader ecological crisis, and to over consumption of natural resources. We in the left demand that well-being of the nature and humans should always come before the profits of the capital.

Grass root movements and young people all over the world are highly alert with the problems that capitalism is generating and they are not only waiting for answers from governments, parliaments, parties and establishment. They are demanding actions, not just more promises.

We, as parties of left should have clear answer for the next generation. They want to know what could be the system that allows to solve the basic problems of exploitation of nature, climate change, poverty, and they are ready to fight for it. For our common future.

Let's create that path to progress.

We propose that the working group of European left should organize a series of international and local debates about limits of the capitalist system and the way out of this crisis towards more socialist models.

Materials of these debates should then be collected together and presented as a road map to a sustainable and just use of natural resources, which is also a key of solution for climate crisis.

This work should be done together with Transform! Europe and member parties of European Left.

Taking shorter working time as a political struggle issue

In working life today is faced many chronic problems that reveal how the wage work system hasn't changed in any way in a long time. Declining wellbeing at work, occupational stress and exhaustion are unfortunately still growing phenomena in working life. The situation is a result of tries implemented at workplaces around Europe in purpose to cut and minimize staff expenses and costs. Exhaustion at work and burnout cases will just increase the amount of people suffering mental problems, industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

Moreover, as described above together with a lengthening of the retirement age and inadequate investments in workplace safety, produces a dramatic increase in preventable work-related deaths.

The direction is totally wrong.

The solution to this situation is definitely not to increase the working time that has been implemented in many European countries last years. Instead one of the main means to solve this situation should be reducing working time for equal pay.

Benefits of shortening working time can be sorted to financial and productivity benefits and benefits that promote society's development. In many experiments of shorter working time that has been implemented around the world, it has been detected clear signs about the need of shorter working time. Reducing personal working hours cause positive effects when wellbeing and coping at work gets better and that means decreased amount of sickness leave and health care expenses.

Today many workers get their income from more than just one job that can be part-time jobs and temporary and gig jobs. Many work as self-employers for example via platform economy, too. Those forms of work have their own benefits when work is done with conditions of work that worker have determined. However, at the moment for the most part of those people who work in many jobs, their choice has not been voluntary. Amount of permanent and full-time jobs with wages that enable a reasonable standard of living has decreased.

Moreover, women are the majority of part-time workers in the EU, with 34.9% of women working part-time against only 8.6% of men. This has a negative impact on career progression, training opportunities, pension rights and unemployment benefits, all of which affect the gender pay gap.

Shortening working time means also an improve to this situation because through sharing work opens a possibility to create new full-time workplaces.

Through shortening working time it's also possible to increase work efficiency and productivity because increased free time and more adequate recovery means better coping at work, concentration and motivation. That decrease risks and mistakes at work. Benefits of shorter working time can be seen clearly and in concrete way when the issue is researched from the capitalistic frame of reference.

Shortening working time has also an important role in development towards freeing workers from capitalistic qualifier of work. Development means needed break with old structures and obsessional thought patterns that keep telling that wage work is the subject that defines human or dignity. The growth of working efficiency and productivity is also possible to canalize for the good of working class when benefits can be guided to build and strengthen more high-quality and workable public sector and services.

For all this we experience that shortening working time can be seen as the clear working life development and the step of progress towards society where people work according to their abilities and possibilities for each other for common good.

European Left has all possibilities to act as a forerunner building the changes of working life where people are seen as the most important and valuable resource and where that respect sees as fair conditions of work and safe working environments. As a part of this change it's important to view also working time again and to

take shortening working time as a common goal. How shortening working time for equal pay will be implemented in each area will be determined individually with each area and in that discussion the workers themselves have to be heard in the first instance.

We propose that the Trade Union Network of European Left takes shortening working time for equal pay as one of the concrete political goals in next three-year term and aims to get done concrete acts and wide united front in Europe through and for this initiative.

The Youth as a protagonist of the modern struggles!

Europe today is at a crossroads, faced with a multidimensional and unprecedented crisis, which includes economic, refugees and climate crisis. The persistence of neo-liberal European elites in austerity programs in the EU Member States are constantly pushing the rights of the world of labour and at the same time, far right and racist political groups or parties, functioning as an immediate aftermath of the authoritarian and neoliberal regime, gain excessive power and try to implement racist policies against migrants and refugees.

The progressive forces united, have the duty to form their own strategy and common front against the neoliberals and fascists. The left movements, parties and collectivities see the European level as another level of the intensified class struggle, the level where the workers and the lower classes can unite together and demand their rights.

It is the duty of the Youth to be in the forefront of the struggle for social liberation, climate protection and social justice. Instead, in order to have a winning prospect, this struggle needs the co-operation of forces from all over Europe. Forces that either consciously fight for another society without exploitation, or take steps and draw incisions in that direction. We are not an ignorant generation, who does not get involved in politics and social affairs. We represent the poor, the workers, the people who have no voice to demand their fundamental rights all over Europe. We represent the minorities, the refugees, the migrants, all these people who struggle for a better life on a national and a European level. Our initiative shall include anyone who shares the same values with us. We are inspired by the youth anti-neoliberal movements of the last decades, such as the anti-globalization movement or the European Social Forum. We are a young generation that aims to change Europe from its very roots, so as we can truly dream for a better future. We claim that Europe is not concentrated on markets, but on peoples' needs and environmental protection instead. We fight for public education and health, solidarity, peace, enhancement of democracy, development which respects the environment, we fight for the rights of minorities, of LGBTQI+, of disabled people, of feminists. We fight for a progressive alliance in Europe against neoliberalism, fascism and racism. We call the youth all over Europe to join our forces and form a common struggle and strategy to demand and defend youth rights around Europe. We call the Youth working group of the Party of the European Left to invigorate the common work between the youth organizations that participate in it and take initiatives for action within the next months.

Solidarity with the peoples of Africa, cooperation with African democratic and left forces

Considering that Africa is at the crossroads of world imperialism and a victim of free trade imposed on a compulsory basis and that the famous Economic Partnership Agreements put in place by the European Union will increasingly weaken local economies, leaving free rein to the law of the strongest.

Considering that the neoliberal chaos destroys African societies, imposing an extroverted economic and cultural model, of plundering the soil and subsoil, of resource predation and human exploitation; that it favors the inequalities, the precariousness of life and amplifies the evils that we know here, and which in Africa are even more multiplied, with the destruction of the ecosystems, the biodiversity, and the levels of pollution never reached. From now on, according to statistics of the WHO, on the African continent more people are dying of the consequences of air pollution than of hunger.

Considering that reactionary and far-right forces throughout Europe are playing on manipulations and fears about migrants. The case of the African continent is enlightening on this subject. The main causes that push families or young people on the roads of exile are known: conflicts, dictatorships, unemployment and lack of perspective. Migration affects less than 3% of the continent's population. And the vast majority, more than 90% of African migrants stay in Africa!

Considering that the liberal chaos comes to feed a breeding ground favourable to the conflicts and the destabilizations; that it is the playground of the multiple entrepreneurs of the violence which spread, from the Central African Republic to the DRC, from Libya to the Gulf of Guinea. The Sahel is the most obvious symptom. After the destructive war against Libya, military intervention as the only response to Mali and the subregion is failing.

Considering that Africa, in its diversity, by its history, has many assets on the cultural, economic, and social levels, to resist the neo-liberal policies and to build prospects of harmonious development, of Peace, of answers to human needs, of rights and solidarity.

Considering that it is necessary in Africa and all over the world to secure life, to set up solidary social protection systems and adapted pensions, to initiate a new agricultural model, to develop public services, industries that benefit from the transfer of technologies. In order for African countries and peoples to have the concrete means to achieve these objectives, here and there it is necessary to step up the fight against tax evasion and fiscal dumping, just as it will be necessary to implement logics of cooperation that are radically different from those in force today.

Considering that progressive African forces fighting on the continent through political parties, trade unions, grassroots associations for the building of a free, peaceful, just and democratic African society need solidarity and concrete support European leftist forces.

the EL Congress

Denounces the technocratic blackmail practices of the European Union on African countries. It calls for an end to this unfair agreement aimed at subjecting the economies of African countries to the interests of transnational corporations. The EL calls for the opening of negotiations with the ACP, with a view to finding agreements based on solidarity and taking into account the well-understood interests of the people.

Calls for understanding the issue of population growth as an asset - and not as a danger as instrumentalized by liberals and populists. Solidary policies of health, education and the improvement of living conditions are the corollary of demographic control over a sparsely populated continent.

Calls for solidarity in order to create the conditions for an economic development that is respectful of the environment and which makes it possible to fight effectively against the inequalities and poverty engendered by the neo-liberal policies imposed by the IMF and the World Bank.

Expresses its solidarity with the progressive forces that are fighting on the continent through political parties, trade unions, feminist organisations, grassroots associations for the construction of a free, peaceful, just and democratic African society.

Greets the almost one year long popular uprising in Sudan led by the SPA and actively supported by the Left, especially by the Sudanese CP, which succeeded to bringing down the 30-year military dictatorship of General Omar Al Bashir, opening a difficult democratic process, including peace in Darfur.

Demands that the European Union honours its obligations in terms of development objectives. To this end, it must put an end to its incentive policies for land grabbing and support the right to food of all peoples.

Calls for an articulation between freedom of movement, asylum policy, individual and collective responsibility and the right for everyone to live and return home with dignity. Such a policy of promoting human rights would take into account the reality of the country of origin, the country of arrival and the migrants themselves.

Asks the new Executive Board to consider establishing a framework for consultation, dialogue, cooperation and action with progressive African forces. Proposes that, to this end, the Africa Working Group should meet in February-March 2020 for the adoption of a road map.

Asks the new Executive Board to consider organising an EL tour in West Africa (Senegal, Burkina Faso and Ghana) in the first quarter of 2020 for meetings with democratic and leftist forces.

Asks the new Executive Board to consider supporting the organization of the 6th Dakar Conference at the end of 2020. This international conference in Dakar brings together for several days at Cheikh Anta Diop University hundreds of participants including guests from several African countries, researchers, activists of human rights or political, trade union, student and citizen organizations. This conference is the fruit of the collaboration between the Gabriel Péri Foundation and the West Africa regional office of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, the Independence and Labour Party (PIT-Senegal) and the University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar.

For a secular School

Premise

Religion is a personal and important choice in the individual culture.

While considering its role in the history of the countries, in the architecture as in the painting, it is important to underline that the religions influence the society, enter our lives, thus having an impact on our daily life.

In our countries, religious authorities are present in education, in public services, in recreation. Their footprint on the formation of the youth's personality cannot be ignored. If there is fundamentalism and authoritarianism, the consequences on several levels and according to different realities are attacks on fundamental rights and especially on the freedom and self-determination of women. This strengthens the patriarchal society. The impact on women's bodies takes the form of guilt, control, limitation and advocates obedience, social control.

Secularism is a civic value.

The secularism of public institutions is the best way to guarantee a pluralistic and egalitarian coexistence, a society without privilege. The freedom of conscience and the neutrality of the State in religious matters are the main components of secularism.

Secularism at school

The school institution is a place where we meet citizens of all ages and socio-economic conditions. It has the duty to make people aware of the plurality of the convictions of each other and not to fight them, the plurality not being a threat. The secular school educates to civil peace and respect for the beliefs of all, to individual freedom and to freedom of conscience, without discrimination, and also educates to equality before the law. It practices inclusive social relations without touching cultural roots and promotes a feminist pedagogy.

The rights of the child, the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child deny religious indoctrination and proselytism at school. Religion, as one belief among others, must be transmitted in the private sphere and not in school.

Religious education

In the secular school, religious education is not a school subject or a subject of choice or optional; it cannot have evaluation and should not appear in the planning of weekly hours.

The commitment of the EL for a secular School

We synthesize our work for a true secular school in our European Union countries in these five commitments of the Party of the European Left. We will concretize them by combining institutional initiatives, mobilizations on the streets and in the unions, and associative demands.

We will work with educational community to achieve these goals:

1. the promotion of a secular school throughout Europe;
2. the realization of a secular school that teaches peace and social justice and respect for each other's beliefs, without discrimination, as well as equality before the law;

3. the practice of feminist pedagogy that erases any stereotype supported by religious education;
4. the realization of schools free of any religious sign;
5. the struggle for public money to be allocated to public schools.

The Education Working Group is engaged in the reflection and proposal of actions on secular and feminist pedagogy.

Organising to defeat the far right

This Congress notes the continued development and strengthening of far right parties and movements globally and recognizes the threat that this poses to our communities, to diversity, to equality and social justice. Organising to defeat the far right and assert the values and vision of our Party of the European Left, in conjunction with other like-minded forces, is of paramount importance.

In this context, Congress welcomes the establishment of the 'Fighting the Far Right Working Group'. This initiative arose from the successful No Pasaran conference held in London in March 2019, initiated by Left Unity and Transform UK and supported by the Party of the European Left and Transform Europe. The conference brought together several hundred activists from across Europe, to discuss and plan how the left and progressive forces can confront the rise of the far-right, across Europe and beyond.

Many parties joined together for the working group's first meeting in September, sharing experience and analysis, organising a successful workshop at the recent Brussels European Forum and proposing a further European-wide, politically inclusive No Pasaran conference during 2020, to further develop the European Left's commitment to, and activity in, this crucial struggle.

This Congress supports the proposal for a further No Pasaran conference, which will discuss and plan strategically for shared analysis, support and action, and adopts it as a priority initiative.

The human hecatomb and the exploitation of refugees and migrants has to stop

The EL is extremely preoccupied by the escalation of human losses due to the indifference, the cynicism and the strategic choices of the political elites, that are victimizing vast populations all over the world and are leaving them no choice than to abandon their homeland.

Unprotected people are losing their lives during their desperate effort to find a minimum of security and hope, far from home.

It's a shocking yet established fact that the established international system of international law and conventions aimed at protecting human rights is under attack from governments around the Globe, including, sadly, European governments.

The UN Refugee Convention is being undermined and circumvented by the concerted efforts of European governments and the European Union to prevent asylum seekers from reaching European soil.

International maritime conventions are broken, thus prolonging the suffering of children, women and men who have managed to escape war and persecution in their home countries.

The respect for family life and the right to family reunification enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is also put into question

The European Left considers this an extremely dangerous development. In an era with more than 70 million refugees and internally displaced persons globally we should strengthen, rather than weaken, the instruments and our commitment to protect human rights and refugee rights and urges all European governments to ratify and respect all relevant UN and CoE human rights conventions and to implement and incorporate them into their national legislation.

Therefore, the EL strongly demands and stands for:

- The repeal of the Dublin Regulation.
- The existence of humanitarian corridors for those fleeing from war or crisis.
- Legal entry channels in Europe for those in danger in their own country. It is urgent to stop individual and collective repatriation, especially of vulnerable people and in countries where they risk inhuman and degrading treatment.
- The abolition of administrative detention centres in Europe for migrants and refugees and implementation of harmonized regularization policies for people in Europe.
- The respect of the labour rights of migrant workers through the ratification of the UN Convention for the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families issued 20 years ago.
- Cooperation plans supporting human rights enshrined in the Geneva Convention.
- Sanctions against the governments of European or non-European countries that refuse to accept, confine migrants, are responsible for inhuman and degrading treatment.

This massive crime cannot be tolerated anymore!

For a European policy on water

Water is the lifeblood of humanity and the environment.

But quality and access to water are threatened. Sanitation, taxes, inadequate or degraded infrastructure, groundwater pollution, and privatization represent a threat to a fundamental right for children, women and men in our countries.

Supply in agriculture is also problematic.

All of this can have consequences for the health of each and every one of us.

The commodification of water and its management, either in the public-private partnership or in the private sector, provoke competition between them and at the local, national and even international level.

Water is a human right.

Like health, transport, energy supply, and new forms of communication, water is a public service and therefore a common good.

Management can only be democratic.

The Public Services Working Group is committed to:

a) deepen the subject of water so that:

- the management of any infrastructure relating to water is only public;
- access to water is guaranteed to everyone;
- the water price policy is defined democratically;
- the control of water quality is a public obligation

b) organize, in the first semester of 2020, a symposium/debate on water, if possible in a place where there are problems on this subject or, on the contrary, in a place that has developed solutions.

The Working Group also supports the steps taken to set up a European Observatory of Public Services.

Solidarity with the Labour Party and Jeremy Corbyn

This congress of the European Left sends a warm greeting of solidarity to Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the British Labor Party.

Since your election as leader of the party in 2015, we have closely followed the evolution in the Labor Party. We have felt inspired by your courage, especially by how you have worked to recover policies in the interest of the people and to eradicate austerity policies.

Your motto "For the many not the few" is a powerful message we share.

The result that the Labor party has obtained is not what we the progressive and socialist forces of Europe, wanted. But we know that the enormous power of capital forces, have been responsible for this results.

Today we are with you and declare that the struggle for social equality and justice continues.

We will fight until victory.