

They want Private Monopolies

We demand People's Planning

11:45am to 13:00am; Room Dolores Ibárruri

Speakers:

- Walter Baier (Vienna)
- Martin Günther (Berlin)
- Nadia Garbellini (Milan)
- Juan Antonio González Ponte (Mires)

Moderator:

Roland Kulke (Brussels)

The Workshop had two goals:

- Discussing the current economic status of the EU after the EP elections and at the beginning of the new EU-cycle 2024-2029 – where are we, and what are the plans of the EU-COM and Council?
- Radical left alternatives to an unbearable status quo

Walter Baier:

We can assume that Von der Leyen will be re-elected next week. Already now we know a lot about the future direction of the coming next institutional cycle, in case Von der Leyen will be elected. The Strategic Agenda of the European Council and the Letta Report make the point for focusing on further militarization of the EU, stronger sealing of the borders, a focus on the so-called competitiveness of firms (with a return to austerity policies), and finally a total lack of awareness to the climate heating and biodiversity. In these times we need an in-depth debate with left economics on radical left alternatives. Therefore, this workshop organized by the Economic Advisory Board of the European Left Party is timely and needed.

In the workshop "Which accumulation model in the European Union?" various topics concerning the economic and political stability of the EU were discussed:

Martin Günther:

He addressed the instability caused by the renewed "Stability and Growth Pact," the future of the "Green Deal," and the "Strategic Agenda" of the Council for 2024-2029. Additionally, the rise of fascism and its socio-economic pressure were highlighted. Martin questioned what these developments mean for the stability of the EU and the lives of its citizens. Using the example of the German structural export surplus he argued that this economic model is not a viable and stable solution, neither for the neighboring countries, nor for the environment. He also discussed appropriate points of intervention such as housing, minimum income directives, and the electricity market.

Nadia Garbellini:

Nadia analyzed why workers are turning to the political right, as they seek radical solutions that the left does not provide. She argued that the green transition cannot be achieved through private initiatives or investments and called for public democratic economic planning. This planning should involve mechanisms for democratic participation by workers to meet social needs.

Juan Ponte:

Juan criticized the myth of the free market, explaining that capitalists do not want competition but rather state guarantees for monopolies. He illustrated that companies and states plan, but not for the common good.

The discussion on the economic policy direction for the European left revolved around balancing fundamental criticism with constructive interventions, as well as central questions of production and meeting social needs.

We used a quote from Juan's latest book, from Manuel Sacristán as a good summary of our event:

"The revolution is made by the human beings that exist, as they are. He who wants heavenly harmony, let him go to heaven".