

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Capitulation in Brussels, Courage in Madrid: two paths for Europe

by Walter Baier, President of the EL

On 10 February, the majority of the European Parliament (the right and the radical right) added another brick to the wall surrounding Fortress Europe. The adoption of the regulation on "safe third countries" and "safe countries of origin" is a further blow to the right to asylum and to the individual examination of asylum applications. For the right-wing majority in the EP, the problem is not the tens of thousands of people who drown in the Mediterranean due to a lack of safe routes of escape, but those who survive the expensive and dangerous journey and arrive on the European mainland. This approach is not about receiving those who arrive in a humane manner and integrating them into European societies, but about finding legal loopholes to get rid of them as quickly and in as large numbers as possible. Either to so-called safe countries of origin, i.e. the countries from which they fled, or to safe third countries with which the EU has made questionable agreements to accept refugees. What a damning indictment of the EU, which has made respect for human rights its guiding principle.

Two weeks before this shameful capitulation by the European Parliament to the radical right, Spain's progressive government sent a different message by legalising the residence of 500,000 migrants. As MEP (Sumar) Estrella Galán explained at a press conference, "These are our friends, comrades, neighbours and colleagues who live among us without rights."

The Spanish government's decision was prompted by a popular initiative organised by migrant organisations, trade unions and civil society.

The regularisation of migrants is not only a question of international solidarity and humanism, but also of economic common sense, as it means bringing people into regular employment, where they can help to stabilise the welfare state through their taxes and social security contributions.

This victory for solidarity shows that the demagoguery of the radical right can be countered through solidarity and civil society mobilisation - in every single country and across Europe.

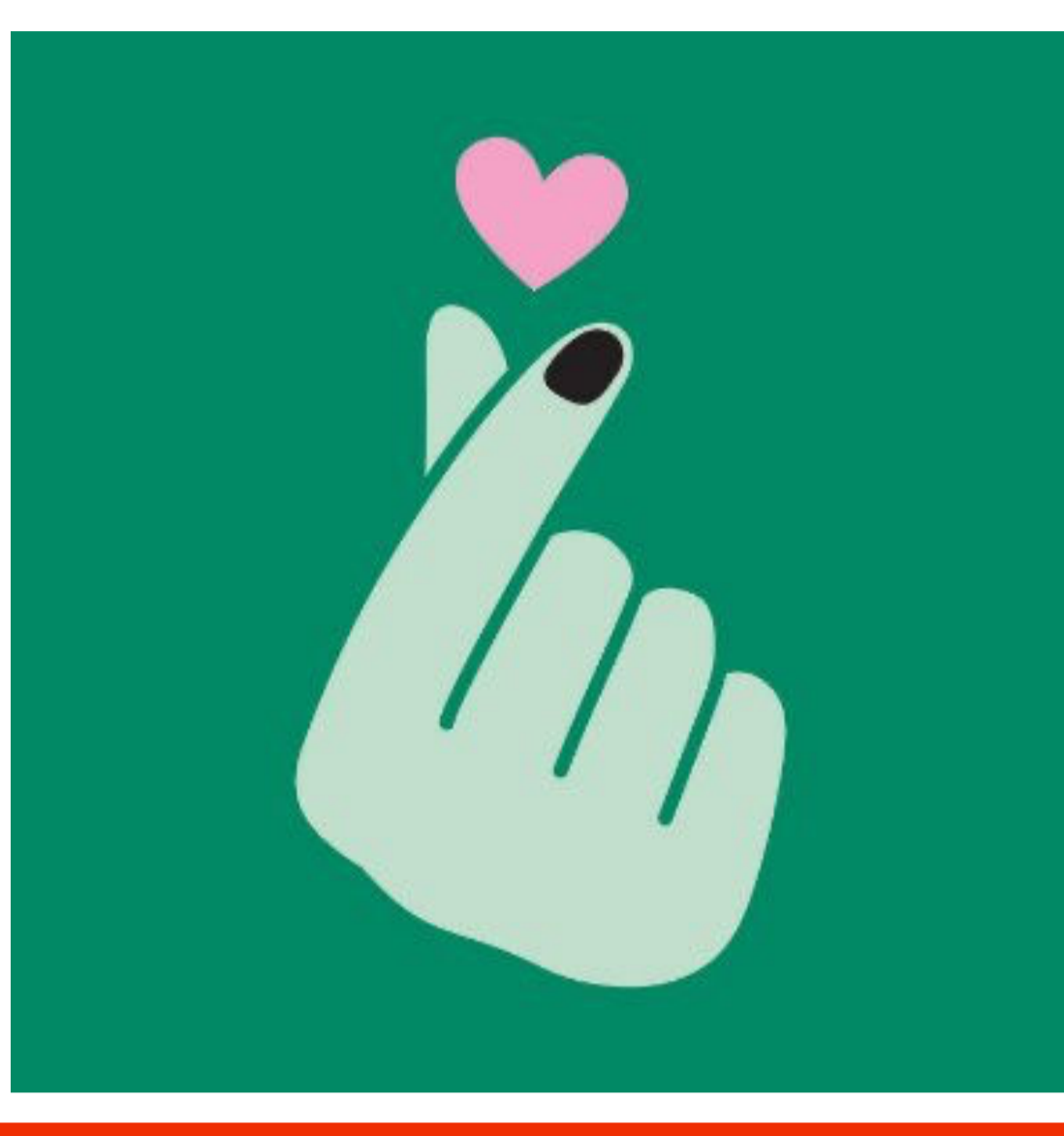


FEATURED ARTICLE

We defend My Voice My Choice!

By Anna Camposampiero, Partito della Rifondazione Comunista (PRC), member of the EL Executive Board

My Voice, My Choice is one of the most significant European Citizens' Initiatives, but it has faced symbolic opposition, such as the anti-abortion banner in the European Parliament. This reflects a broader backlash across Europe, where conservative forces seek to undermine reproductive rights and women's self-determination. [Read more](#)



EU AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

EYES ON EUROPE Recap of the last European Parliament plenary

We closely followed the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg (10–13 February 2026), monitoring key votes and debates.

Here is our short recap, highlighting major developments on migration, trade, competitiveness, and climate policy. [Read more](#)



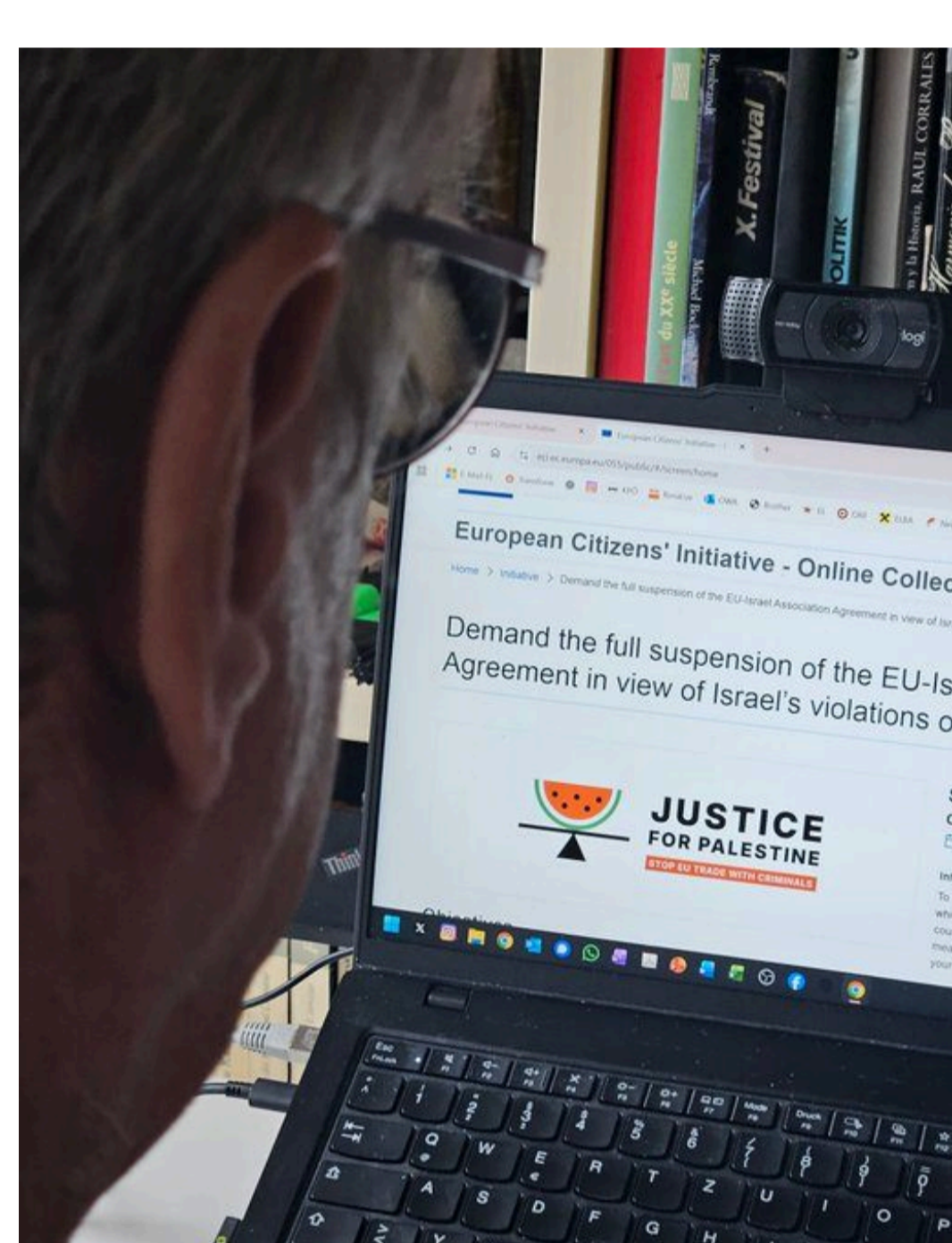
Iran: Against the repression by the regime – against foreign intervention

In a meeting on 16 February 2026 in Paris the Tudeh Party of Iran and the French Communist Party condemned the repression in Iran and called for the release of political prisoners. They opposed foreign intervention, supported the sovereignty of the Iranian people. We are publishing the full statement below.



Support the ECI for a full suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement

President Walter Baier has signed the European Citizen Initiative calling for the full suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement in light of human rights violations. Support the initiative by signing [here](#) before 13 January 2027. With nearly one million signatures needed, it is already close to halfway there.



STATEMENTS & ARTICLES

STATEMENT USA, Stop strangling Cuba!

by the European Left

The Party of the European Left expressed its rejection of the United States' attempt to impose trade tariffs on companies that supply fuel to Cuba, condemning the island to an even more brutal blockade than the one it already suffers. [Read more](#)



STATEMENT ELYN declares: Hands off Venezuela!

by the European Left Youth Network (ELYN)

After thirty-five years, the US bombed a Latin American country, Venezuela. An act of imperial aggression based on the Monroe Doctrine and against the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people, the International Law and the UN Charter. [Read more](#)



Nuestra America: a united stand against coercion

At the end of January, Bogotá, Colombia, became the meeting point for a renewed hemispheric project. Ninety delegates from twenty countries gathered for the emergency convening Nuestra América, initiated by Progressive International, and adopted the San Carlos Declaration, a collective pledge to coordinated action against coercion in the Americas. Read [here](#) the full declaration and the intervention of President Walter Baier.



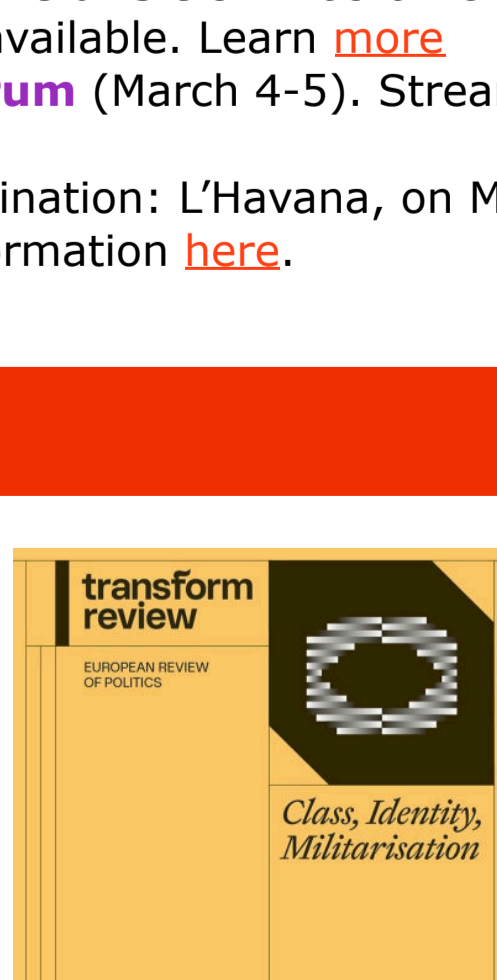
CAMPAIGNS/INITIATIVES/NEXT EVENTS



- **#My5Percent** is the feminist campaign of the European Forum's Feminist Assembly, opposing militarization and cuts to public services while promoting international solidarity. Supported and co-organised by the EL Feminist Working Group, [learn more](#) and stay tuned in the lead-up to 8 March for an interactive campaign where your voice counts.
- Event of **The Left in the EP Menopausal transition**: It's time for an EU Strategic plan (March 3). Streaming available. [Learn more](#)
- Event of **The Left in the EP Feminist Forum** (March 4-5). Streaming available. [Learn more](#)
- **Nuestra America** Convoy to Cuba. Destination: L'Havana, on March 21. Join, support, get involved! More information [here](#).

RECOMMENDED READ

- **transform! europe**
- **Review** *Class, Identity, Militarization*. Available [here](#)
- **Article** by Sebastian Werhahn *The rise of AfD*. Available [here](#)
- **Article** by Tatiana Moutinho *Portuguese Presidential Elections: In Defence of Democracy*. Available [here](#)
- **Article** by Danaï Koltzida *Fighting the Far Right: Experiences from Greece* Available [here](#)



Fundacja "Naprzód" Publication *The Economics of war Military Spending in Poland and Europe*. Find our more [here](#), and download in EN and PL [here](#).

ETUC Press release *Quality jobs offer real solution to Europe's economic challenges*. Available [here](#)

for more news visit our Website

