

PARTY OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT



ADOPTED

MOTIONS

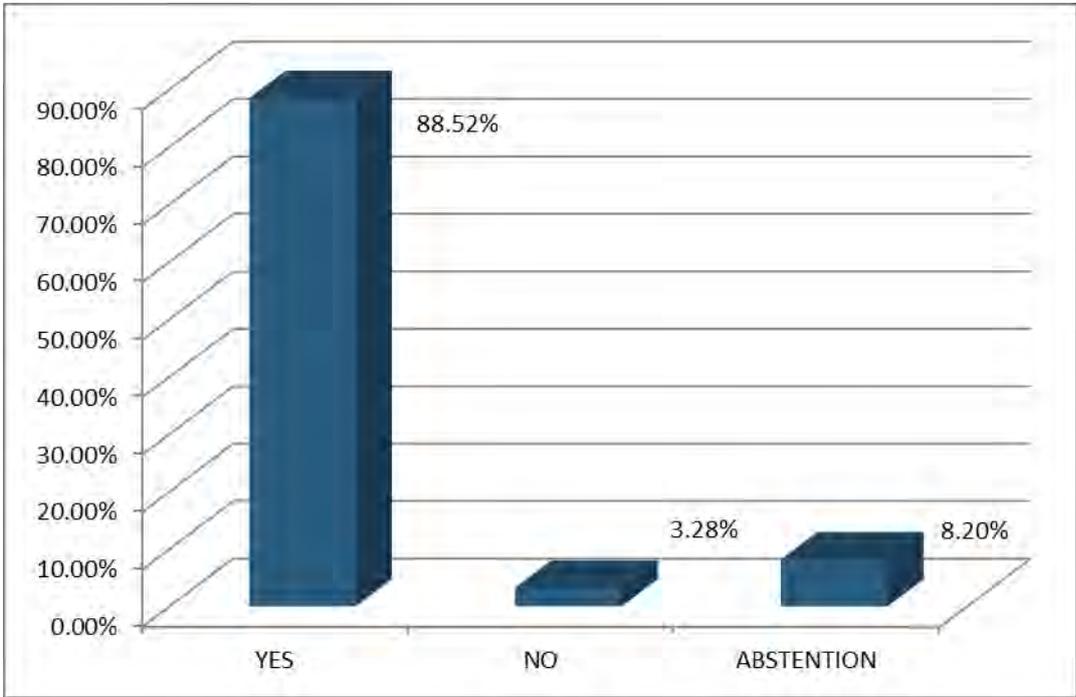
EL 5th CONGRESS

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Motions voted as a bloc

Voting result:



For a new EL Working Group « United States/Canada »

Assessment

Considering the ongoing shift and crisis of political landscape in the U.S.A. that is deepening and radicalizing persistently, the emergence of new political subjects now seems more inevitable than ever before. The failure of the bipartisan elites in their very attempt to communicate to the people, to connect and to offer real political perspectives and solutions in these troubled and divided times, is a radical failure of democracy. Alternative, counter-political or counter-establishment movements are constantly appearing in a move to reorganize the way politics is done and communicated. These new political bodies demand change: new political and social agenda, sharp and immediate measures against inequalities, social injustice, the fraud economics of Wall street and the dictatorship of the banks, climate change, the constant state of war and the resulting politics of fear, supervision, exceptional authorities, escalating violence etc. Occupy Wall street, Black lives matter and Bernie Sanders are just a few of these new voices. The Donald Trump phenomenon on the other side is also a clear sign of a deepening political crisis, radicalization, a far-right upswing, bigotry, legitimization of a fascist language and economic policies that would see inequalities and social gaps grow dramatically. It is a situation that urgently demands the presence of the left. There has been a public debate in the recent years there about the need of a new political party, a debate that unfolded while witnessing the emergence of a series of the so-called grass roots movements in the U.S.

It is a political and historical duty of the European Left in this unprecedented situation to hold out hand, start communicating and building an alliance with the American leftist parties, movements and organizations. That is a crucial point of the global struggle and the globalization of resistance. The American political scenery is changing in this very moment, gaining a momentum of unseen dynamics. There is a huge variety and abundance of left organizations and parties there, as well as a new public and media interest and support for radical left policies.

Proposal

On all these grounds, we suggest that we start a working group responsible for communication and cooperation with our American and Canadian partners.

Indigenous Rights

The ILO 169 convention is the most important operative international law guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples.

European left states that in many parts of the world indigenous people are unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights to the same degree as the rest of the population of the States within which they live, and that their laws, values, customs and perspectives are often been oppressed.

EL finds it highly important that the Saami people living in the Northern part of Europe in Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway must have their rights for language, culture and land as stated in the ILO 169 convention.

EL proposes to its member parties to stand on the side of the Saami people in their just struggle for their rights. EL supports its member parties' campaigns aiming Finnish Government to ratify the ILO 169 Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

For a Europe of peace and disarmament - How to develop a new great European peace movement

Over time, the struggle for peace has been identified with the Left, part of its DNA. The 20th century, a century that saw two world wars and our entrance into the nuclear age, was also a century in which major anti-war and peace movements developed. The organized peace movement, however, existed even before the two world wars.

When we of the Left say peace, we must not mean solely the absence of war. We are called upon to promote the affirmative and multi-dimensional concept for peace associated closely with democracy, human rights, sustainable development and security through disarmament, which, in the final analysis, must be common security, not just national security.

This approach to the development of the peace movement focuses on the critical issue of monitoring and reducing global military spending, which for years now has greatly exceeded Cold War levels and has now reached the level on average of about 5 billion dollars per day. What this means for the global economy, and much more so for societies, is easily understood.

The planet, and in particular Europe, known a situation potentially dangerous for peace because the militarization of the international relations have become the standard and not the exception. In its willingness to move towards peace, the EL rejects any form of support to governments integrating open parties to Neo-Nazis, as in Ukraine. The EL rejects any kind of warmonger logic from imperialist and nationalist forces, exacerbating international tensions and driving the peoples into war, poverty and exile.

Following the EU-wide "refugee crisis", the referendum on UK's withdrawal from the EU and the demand of the newly elected US president Trump for a higher defense contribution of the other NATO member states, leading representatives of EU-bodies and governments of EU member states have emphasized the need for closer security and defense cooperation.

Ever more open the EU articulates that it wants to enlarge its toolbox for the implementation of geopolitical and economic interests by military instruments. A stronger military cooperation and an integration of armed forces of EU member states as a way to save the European integration is promoted.

The Party of the European Left strongly reject militarization of the EU whatever form it takes - for example: an enhanced EU-NATO cooperation, the increase in member states' military budgets to 2% of the gross domestic product (GDP), the further expansion of the European Union armaments industry, including an EU research program in the field of defense, the establishment of a European Defense Fund, the transformation of the EU into a "European Defense Union" with joint forces and EU headquarters, as well as the renewed extension of the existing sanctions against Russia, are brought to the fore.

The Party of the European Left (EL) firmly rejects these demands and initiatives. We don't need more, but less armament. Lower armament and military spending will help finance social improvements and the urgently needed increase in funding for global development cooperation. We don't need an expansion of sanction policy but a policy of détente, equal cooperation and peace. The EU must not be transformed into a military alliance with common forces and headquarters. It has to serve peace, social solidarity and economic cooperation. The opportunities of the United Nations (UN) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) should be exploited and expanded democratically. We stand for a new peace and security system, including Russia, based on the OSCE, for the dissolution of NATO, the exit from the military structures of NATO and for the end of any military bloc. Threats and sanctions only lead to further tensions and respective counter-reactions, but not to more easing and peace. Especially in view of the already existing military conflicts worldwide and the danger of greater armed conflicts, our goal remains: a European Union of disarmament and peace!

In order to anchor this objective democratically in all areas of the EU, it is suggested that the EL and its member parties in the year ahead, 2017, promote and organize campaigns together with initiatives of the peace movement against the further militarization of the EU and for the implementation of our political aims. Especially:

- for the immediate end of the war in Syria, today's top priority, in conjunction with the refugee and migrant issues

- for the drastic reduction of global military spending and refusal of the increases demanded by NATO from its member states

- for promoting the anti-fascist and anti-militarist dimension of the peace movement that unites various trends, such as the movements of feminism, ecology and human rights, and main inspire the young generation in particular

- for actions in the field of Education, Culture and Sports to promote a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, by utilizing the relevant programs of UNESCO and the international anti-militarist heritage left to humankind.

The counter-protests to the NATO summit in 2017 in Brussels, where the EL is actively involved, will be in the focus. In addition, the establishment of a working group on "peace" within the EL is being pursued.

Support for the peace agreement in Colombia – a chance for social and political dialogue

With the agreement reached in Havana between the Colombian Government and the guerrilla organisation FARC-EP, the two sides are close to finally ending the internal armed conflict which started nearly half a century ago. Some of the reasons for this protracted and violent dispute were unequal land rights and the lack of state-sponsored social security systems, education and healthcare for all citizens regardless of income and social origin. People have been and still are at risk of being killed for protesting against this situation.

The Party of the European Left (EL) welcomes the political maturity shown by both negotiating parties after the agreement was rejected in the referendum of 2 October 2016, and their confirmation of the desire to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the peace talks which began in October 2012, brokered by guarantor states Cuba and Norway and supported by Venezuela and Chile.

We emphasize the central importance placed in the negotiations on redress for the victims of the conflict. These include over 6.5 million Colombians who were forcibly displaced and had more than seven million hectares of their land seized, but also the 200 000 who were killed, the 45 000 and more who disappeared and the thousands of fighters who also lost their lives.

The EL pay tribute to the efforts of the negotiators who, when the agreement was rejected in a referendum on 2 October, returned to the table less than six weeks later with over 400 additional proposals. Following the successful signing of the new peace agreement by the negotiating partners on 24 November 2016 we welcome their joint moves to implement it with the assistance of the Colombian Congress and the international UN mission in Colombia.

The EL is highly gratified to see that broad areas of civil society are strongly committed to the peace process in Colombia. We regard it as a matter of urgent need that peace talks take place between the Colombian State and the second-largest rebel organization, the ELN, and we hope that the official phase of talks will precede without interruption so that an agreement can be concluded in the course of 2017.

We welcome the valuable work being done to prepare these talks by the governments of Cuba, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil and Chile together with the numerous initiatives by Colombian society which is geared up to play its part in building the peace.

We urge the Government of the Republic of Colombia to take measures to safeguard the right to life and physical integrity, freedom of expression and freedom of association as principles fundamental to a peaceful democracy. These principles include combatting paramilitary structures in politics, the economy and the military in a systematic fashion.

As EL, we affirm our solidarity with all who are committed to social justice and peace in Colombia and who aspire, through political dialogue, to establish a political, economic and cultural system for Colombia that ensures a decent existence for all.

Together for global justice - against the G20 summit on 7./8. July 2017 in Hamburg, Germany

The government leaders of the 20 richest and most powerful states of the world will meet in Hamburg on the 7th and 8th July 2017. It will be a meeting of despots, dictators, neoliberals, right-wing populists and anti-feminists. It will be a meeting of the biggest environmental and climate sinners and the biggest weapons manufacturers and weapons exporters of the world.

The most powerful imperialist states of the G20 are following an economic and trade policy built on the dependence of the global South by the global North. Neo-colonial structures let the global North to win 10€ for every euro it spends to the global South through international free trade agreements, by arming countries in the Mediterranean or black-mailing others through development cooperation.

We must resist that. The Left must defend the right of an independent development of the South. The German federal government and the government of Hamburg want this G20 summit to take place in the centre of Hamburg, guarded by 10.000 police officers behind barbed wires and fences. But a broad resistance in Hamburg, in Germany and Europe is being formed.

That's why the G20 summit is a good occasion to fight for more global justice, and against the ruling neoliberal policy, for open borders and against the murderous foreclosure of the rich countries, for another global order and against the neoliberal free trade agreements. We want a policy of fairness towards the South.

Through a big and colourful demonstration by an alliance at the end of the summit, an counter-summit as well as civil disobedience actions we are sending a clear signal to the self-proclaimed elites of the global capitalism that their global order is not ours.

The Party of the European Left (EL) supports the protests against the G20 summit and calls on its members and friends to take part in the anti-summit protests in Hamburg in summer 2017.

A great campaign to end trafficking in women

Trafficking in human beings involves 2.5 million human beings around the world, mostly women. If its most widespread form is sexual exploitation, it is also forced labor or begging, servitude for debts, and illegal removal of organs. In Europe, 120,000 women and girls, generally for economic reasons, are caught in human traffickers' nets, and two thirds of them come from European Union countries.

The abolition of trafficking is a priority objective of the progressive struggle in Europe. These traffics break the lives of victims and is a threat to all others. These traffics are an important financial resource for organized criminal networks. They set up, at the heart of our societies, the negation of all the principles of justice, equality and hope. They tend to normalize violence, abuse, marchandization of human beings and their bodies in the world market.

That is why the EL is launching a major campaign to end trafficking in women. In each country and throughout Europe, the aim is to win recognition and support for victims, the implementation of new financial and legislative means, as well as a European cooperation to dismantle the networks. This campaign will take as its starting point the most favorable national laws against trafficking, the strongest against the networks and giving the best guarantees for the victims.

The EL decides to create a working team to prepare and animate the campaign, in cooperation with EL FEM. This working group will ensure the development of the campaign, both in terms of the status of the situation and the program plan. It will also be in permanent contact with the various parties of the EL. The "network of cities free of traffic", initiated in Spain, deserves to spread everywhere.

Stop Erdogan! Free all political prisoners in Turkey! Solidarity with HDP and DBP!

Yesterday, through the destruction of HDP offices, and for months, progressive forces are targeted by the Erdogan regime. Since the coup attempt on July the 15th, the attacks in Istanbul in December 2016, that clearly has to be condemned, a civil coup led by president Erdogan and the AKP-government is taking place. Once again more than 900 politicians and officials from HDP and DBP have been imprisoned. Once again the Erdogan-regime (ab)uses the terrible attacks to enforce repression. Turkey is on a path from an authoritarian regime into a dictatorship. More than 115.000 people lost their job, among them more than 6.300 academics, more than 79.400 got detained, 38.900 arrested, media outlets and NGOs were shut down, to silence any opposition, 145 journalist are arrested, 43 mayors, and more than 5.300 members of HDP and DBP and other democratic and progressive organizations. Since summer 2015 Turkish security forces wage war against Kurdish citizens, killing civilians, and demolishing whole quarters and cities to rubble and dust. Turkey's military intervention in Syria and Iraq is a threat to the whole region, especially to the attempt of self-determined organization of people in Rojava.

Erdogan and AKP are prosecuting who ever opposes to the new Islamist regime plans, namely their traditional foes of Kurds, Alawites, secularist and socialists. We strongly condemn the arrests of journalist, trade unionists, judges and academics as well as HDP parliamentarians, mayors of HDP and DBP and other party members. We demand that they are released immediately and that the Turkish government starts respecting fundamental human rights.

A democratic referendum cannot be held under the state of emergency and ruled by decree. European institutions must react to the oppression in Turkey. We call the EU and its Member States to take firm positions and act in order to oblige Erdogan to stop with this violent circle, including by the suspension of the agreement about refugees and different cooperation EU-Turkey as long as democracy is not respected. We strongly reject islamophobic argumentation concerning the EU membership debate. Cooperation on the level of the military and secret service have to stop as well as any arms delivery from European countries to Turkey.

The EU and its member States, as well as mobilizations and solidarity movements, should help to reach a peace and national dialogue solution in Turkey, between the regime, the Kurdish movement and all the political and cultural components of the country. Giving the freedom to Öcalan and removing the PKK from the EU terrorist list could be a first step towards peace.

We declare our solidarity with our comrades from HDP and DBP! Freedom for Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yüksekdag, co-Chairs of the HDP! For an end of violence in the Kurdish region! Turkey has to draw back from Syria and Iraq!

Student Assessment: a radical change is necessary

The orientation and objectives of European educational systems are shared by other international organizations, from the World Bank to the OECD and this is influencing the pupils' evaluation too.

With the introduction of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) a drastic turn has been taken in the teaching. PISA is a very efficient tool for student assessment that seems positive but it hides, behind a scientific approach, the objective of a school tailored for national and multinational firms. Educational systems are subjected to standardized criteria aimed at execution rapidity and efficiency without taking into consideration local and national cultures.

This implies also moving an educational system from teaching to training.

PISA assessment does not suit us while:

- it denies the teacher's personality and work;
- it does not take into account the child's evolution, nor his health' problems, the eventual family s problem;
- it does not take into consideration physically or mentally handicapped children;
- it valorises speed and is based on memory;
- it is limited to written work and ignores cooperation, creativity and research;
- it is stigmatizing students with difficulties;
- it classifies, with no consideration, students, teachers and schools;
- it stresses the pupils, teachers, their schools and their parents;
- it despises the quality of human relationship;
- it does not doesn't consider any remediation;
- it judges without appeal and closes all the doors definitively;
- it selects on particular criteria to accede to secondary school;
- it suits what the employers are immediately and directly interested in.

As a consequence:

- the media and enemies of the public school take it to drill the children, to establish statistics, to judge teaching and thus implicitly on the importance of the budgets;
- the teaching institutions are made to compete.

Needs

It is essential to discuss again the exams objectives so that they become an opportunity for discussion, learning, auto evaluation, i.e. a formative evaluation for pupils, and teachers.

Proposals

We propose:

- to ask the comrades responsible for education in the member parties for their advice to build a common file;
- then to work with all the actors in education and start a constructive dialogue with GUE-NGL MPs.

50 years of Israeli occupation - for a just peace - solidarity with the Palestinian people

In June 2017 it is 50 years since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza during the Six-Day War, which also led to an unending colonization by Israel of these areas. Even the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 did not end Israeli control over the access from Gaza to the outside world as well as the access of the outside world - even with medical supplies, food etc - to Gaza. Gaza has been exposed to several military attacks and war by Israel since then. There were attacks from Gaza in this time too.

As a result of this, the Palestinian people has experienced a sharp decline in their living conditions with oppression, military aggression and repression of their rights, but they have as well been met with Palestinian popular resistance. The outcome of this development has been heightened tension and destabilization of the whole area.

UN resolutions call for an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories

Today over 760,000 Israeli settlers are living in the occupied West Bank and in East Jerusalem - thus violating the rules of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibiting an occupational power to transfer its population to an occupied territory. The UN General Assembly has adopted resolutions (i.e. 242 and 338) denouncing the Israeli occupation, declaring it to be illegal and calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Again in 2004 a UN General Assembly resolution underlined the right of the Palestinian people to their territory. The occupation of the West Bank is furthermore referred to as illegal by the International Court in the Hague. In 2012 the UN recognized Palestine as an observer state of the UN.

These days the present Israeli government is quite explicitly outlining its plans for continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, thus undermining even further any chance of a peace settlement with the Palestinians, which is made increasingly unviable by Israeli policies. A recent UN report from 2013 called this policy of expansion a violation of international law.

In 2011 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe granted the Palestinian National Council a partner for democracy status. Also it reiterated the support for a two state solution and an end of the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.

This development is detrimental not only to the Palestinian people but also to ordinary Israeli citizens, who can all anticipate a never-ending conflict and war for many years to come, including renewed war with neighbouring countries, as Israel moves to extend its interests beyond Israeli borders, as we see today in Syria.

This development would not have been possible without the tacit support of Israel by the Western imperialist powers such as the US and the EU, which have not only an important

historical responsibility for the present situation in the area. They are the ones who have the power to exert pressure on Israeli governments, which they have not done sufficiently in order to protect their ally Israel, as their most important strategic partner in the Middle East and the Arab world.

On the contrary Israel has been rewarded by the Western powers with an upgrading of its ties with the NATO military alliance, opening a permanent mission to its headquarter in Brussels.

A just peace settlement must build on the UN resolutions

In accordance with UN resolutions the European Left supports the demand of the Palestinian people for a just peace: establishing a viable Palestinian state in the West Bank on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return of Palestinian refugees alongside with Israel as a viable state as stipulated by the UN General Assembly resolution 194. The recognition of the Palestinian state by as many countries and institutions as possible is an important step in that direction.

Likewise the European Left supports increasing the political pressure on the Israeli government to stop and reverse the settlement policy and for a total withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories. The EL denounces the strategies which criminalize peace and solidarity activists.

In spite of many international resolutions settlements have continued to be established on Palestinian lands. To obtain a total withdrawal from the occupied territories the European Left recommends:

- suspension of EU association agreement with Israel, including the preferential trade agreement;
- a stop of special Israeli relation to NATO, including a closure of the permanent mission at NATO headquarters;
- banning of goods from the occupied areas;
- end the criminalization of BDS-activists.

A just solution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict is a key to begin dismantling the conflicts in the Middle East and Arab region, a hot spot area where there is a severe risk of spreading and intensifying conflict and war, as long as the future is determined by imperialist, chauvinist and religious interests.

The EL greets warmly the left and peace forces of Israel fighting against Israeli occupation of Palestine and demanding a free and independent Palestinian State.

Resolution on the Self-Determination of the Western Sahara

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Río de Oro (POLISARIO) has been active since 1973 struggling for the self-determination of the Western Saharan people. The United Nations have ratified several times that the Western Sahara is an occupied territory, the last country of Africa to be de-colonized. Morocco, the occupying force, and Spain, which is still the legal administrator of this territory, are the main responsible forces, but the silence of the international community continues despite the fact that the UN demanded the self-determination of this territory for the first time in 1965. In 1991, the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara was established in order to monitor the ceasefire with Morocco and celebrate a referendum of self-determination among the Saharawi people, but the Moroccan authorities have prevented its celebration in every possible way. Today, there are still more 150,000 refugees living in extremely harsh conditions in the camps of Tindouf (Southern Algeria) and the violence and repression against Saharawi activists in the Occupied Territories does not cease to grow, with increasing number of political prisoners. The current situation in the Sahel region is of great instability, which makes it more necessary than ever to find a solution which grants the Saharawi people the rights and freedoms they have according to international law, as different UN resolutions have stated in the last decades, especially the referendum which was agreed on by the different parts but has been paralyzed for the last 25 years.

For all these reasons we agree to:

- Send our condolences for the death of President Mohammed Abdelaziz last May and express our hopes for the best in this new period under the presidency of Brahim Ghali.
- Work together for the full recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.
- Promote all the necessary political initiative to achieve the self-determination of the Saharawi people in order to complete their de-colonization process.
- Demand the immediate liberation of all the political prisoners held by the Kingdom of Morocco, as well as the annulment of the ongoing trials against Sahrawi activists.
- Promote and intensify our relations with the Saharawi people in the refugee camps and in the Occupied Territories, as well as with the Polisario Front, the legitimate political representative of the Saharawi people.
- Denounce the exploitation of Saharawi resources by Moroccan and European companies, as well as Trade and Fishery agreements with Morocco which are currently being implemented in the Occupied Territories, going against international law. Denounce all the Kingdom of Morocco's attempts to whitewash the occupation by promoting its international image.
- Call for European parliaments to urge companies and the public sector not to trade with Moroccan occupied Western Sahara.

- Urge parliaments to support and act on giving the UN peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara, MINURSO, a mandate to monitor and protect human rights in Western Sahara.

Building feminist alliances - a feminist caravan throughout Europe!

The general idea of the project of the feminist caravan is a visible and action-orientated feminist critique of the neoliberal austerity-policy. With this project we are pursuing the following goals for the European Left: deeper understanding, visibility, common actions within the EL and the European feminist movements, qualifying and educating ourselves and starting the European Election Campaign 2019.

It is a project, self-organized under the umbrella of EL-fem, which connects with other EL bodies, working-groups and networks, with feminist, peace and social movements and organisations, and main events of the EL, like the summer-university. Women from different countries together will make up one caravan that moves to some of the European countries. The EL ensures the organisation, implementation and documentation (homepage, photos, videos, reports) by providing financial resources.

The proposed caravan should start in three thematic blocks as main topics of women in Europe:

"Militarisation" is a thematic focus of the feminist caravan.

In a global, societal large-scale project, in the most powerful industrialized countries capital is breaking free from its shackles and with it patriarchy is reaching its full potential. This duality is about to complete the domination over human beings and nature by destroying them. Their work is the crisis of monetary and finance system, production, reproduction and distribution, democracy and politics.

The preservation and constant restoration of nature, society and human life are profoundly disturbed; it is questionable if our planet will survive this. Arms production wars and military are the climate killers and killing machines number one. If the billions for armament and wars were civilly spent, poverty and hunger, hopelessness and degradation would have long been overcome and therewith the main cause of terror, many wars, mass misery in flight and expulsion.

"Family policy / sexual self-determination and diversity" is a thematic focus of the feminist caravan.

The frontal attack on the welfare state is total. Public services of general interest in education, culture, health care and public transport, care and assistance for young and older and people

with handicaps are destabilized and privatized in a double sense: subordinated to the law of profitability and at the same time handed over to the private, into the responsibility of the family and thus mainly to the women.

The traditional and thought to have been overcome family and with it the allocation of roles of women as housewife or as extra money earner is experiencing a renaissance. The legal and fiscal regulations restrict a self-determined life, free of interdependence of all people.

Left family policy, on the contrary, means creating the conditions for all people to be able to take responsibility for each other, regardless of life in a marriage, the sexual orientation and the form in which they want to live together.

“Women work / (un)employment” is a thematic focus of the feminist caravan.

The driving force behind capitalist development is the production of goods, financial products and services to obtain profit. In its greed for profit protection and profit maximization, it expropriates most people in many ways, not least of meaningful employment, securing one's livelihood. Unemployment, minor employment and low wages are the causes of poverty and social exclusion. The divide between poor and rich is getting wider and wider. In the EU, more than 118 million people live in poverty or are at risk of poverty - mostly young people and women. Worldwide, the number of hours of unpaid work done in re-production is far greater than that of paid working hours in production. Women are less employed than men; however, they do two-thirds of the sustentative work, to a large extent free of charge. This economy of re-production is incorporated only in capitalism in a contradictory process of profit production: It is used, but it is not considered productive, it does not have its own or little value.

At the same time, migration to metropolitan areas leads to a global redistribution of care work and so-called transnational chains of care: Middle-class women leave the care work to the migrant women. Care works are always done by poorer in wealthy households, shifted from poor to rich countries. Thereby, the caring economy is weekend in the country of origin and a gap in care produced in the households of migrants. In doing so, both the gender-specific division of labor and low valuation of care work remains intact.

Youth Politics - is it needed and why should we care?

1) Introduction

The year 2016 has been especially turbulent and branded by some major events. Only if the youth had more to say in the political world - the outcome might have been different. If only young people voted, there would be no President Trump.

But let's not hold ourselves up with fantasies: because the political power of the youth is very real.

At the moment young people between the ages of 15 and 29 make up about 17,5% of the population in the EU - that is over 90 Million people , not even considering the people below the age of 15 (Eurostat, 2015). That makes the youth a very powerful political force that is not to be underestimated.

Yet this political power is often not used : Since 2011 the participation of young people in politics has decreased; more and more young people are not voting. (Flash Eurobarometer 375, 2013). And active participation is also lacking: Only five percent are participating in any political organisation or in a political party (Flash Eurobarometer 375, 2013)

Why is that ? The main reasons are, that they feel like their vote will not change anything, don't think that European politics are dealing with issues concerning them , they don't feel informed enough or simply lack interest in european politics (Flash Eurobarometer 375, 2013).

And this is exactly what we need to change!

So to activate this force we have to address issues that are considering the youth especially for example strengthening the rights of young people and children by giving them more opportunities to participate and voice their opinions. One should also take into consideration, that participation in the political process from an early age on may create a lifelong habit and lead to the youth finally representing themselves.

Although some ministers and politicians are trying to improve the future of our generation and of generations-to-be - their experience of being a young person is often a bit outdated, which is why we need to endorse young candidates. But not only can the politicians change a lot for the youth - the youth opens up a whole new spectrum of opinions, perspectives and ideas that have the potential of opening and moving the political world forward not as a benefit for society but as a necessity for society .

In this motion, we are trying to illustrate a few reasons why Youth politics is so important . But in reality there are over 90 million reasons why it's so meaningful.

2) Labour/Unemployment/economical situation

We can't be content with half equality, with the stage of LGBTQIA+ rights in the European Union remaining uneven, with great disparity between countries. We understand that the growth of the far-right across Europe, directly connected with conservatism is a strong barrier to our goals, which is why we must be much more effective and efficient in the fight for justice and equality, in times to come. Beyond law-making, it is vital that our organizations retain their ties and relationship with the national and international movements and associations that make a difference on a daily basis and that know, better than anyone, the reality of the situation and the lives of those affected by violence and discrimination. It must be our responsibility to promote open debate with the whole of society as well as to support and participate in moments of protest such as the usual pride parades taking place across Europe.

We believe that the system we fight to transform - Capitalism – is maintained through various relationships of power and oppression - Be it labor exploitation, white and male privilege or, in this case, discrimination or invisibility of LGBTQIA+ people - which overlap and create various levels of discrimination and social exclusion. Thus, it is our responsibility, as a progressive organization, to tackle these issues and struggles by intersecting them, putting them in perspective and understanding that all conditions of oppression are mutually aggravating. Finally, the European Left must reflect, in its internal behavior, the same amount of respect and inclusion we fight for in our countries and in our continent.

3) Democracy

After the fall of the Soviet Union the relate of capitalism as the sole way to achieve democracy (at least liberal democracy) became hegemonic. Moderate economic growth and social peace, achieved through the indebtedness of the working class, reinforced this idea. Nevertheless once the financial crisis exploded and this fictitious welfare fall like a stack of cards, it became evident that capitalism and democracy were at odds.

Technocracy became fully legitimised since according to the troika there was only one solution for the economic crisis: "Austerity". Democracy and thus, other alternatives to solve this crisis became effaced for the sake of macroeconomics. The outcome of this process is known: Imposition of constitutional reforms, technocratic governments and massive privatisations (again), and the jeopardise of social and labour rights.

Young people's future has been stolen, so it's up to us to put democracy back on track. Democracy should be the mean and the goal for the recovery of this future. A radical

reinterpretation is necessary, introducing participative and direct democracy mechanisms, and citizen control tools to push politicians to obey the people, not big societies. Our common good should prevail over capitalists interests, so economy should be put again in people's hands. The empowerment of the people and the achievement of a critical and free (in the republican sense) citizenship is an essential condition for this enterprise.

We usually hear that we are the most prepared but lost generation. Let's show that we can build our own present and future.

4) Participation of the youth in politics and decision making

Unfortunately the European Union has been undermining democracy and ignoring the demands of the social movements across Europe. The biggest casualty of this procedure is the growing distance between young people and politics. The political crisis has affected most of all young people, leaving them outside political parties, trade unions and local decision making structures. The Youth needs to take actual part in the agenda of the Left. Currently, although there are institutions, summits and NGOs that young people can participate and express opinions, but the left still has almost no influence on them.

The youth should be participating in the public debate, it should be organised on European level in order to be able to take part in the decision-making and direct democracy procedures and place its demands. It should establish an institutional role, not in the base of lobbying, bringing key matters like stable, insured and equally paid employment for young people and equal education opportunities. But more than that, the Youth should also have its role in the movements. In order to find the solutions to those challenges, we call the European Left to support us as a part of them and promote also the importance of our institutional establishment in the processes of decision making and democratic politics.

5) Protests

Since today we live in a time, where we see the rise of right wing demagogues and the strict regime of the billionaire elites, protest is more legitimate than ever.

But there are many ways to protest, and we have to change our way to look at protests. To protest is not just going on strike, especially young people often don't have the possibility to do that. So it has to be our goal, as strong left alternative, to join young people in schools or universities if they fight for their basic rights. Furthermore it has to be a long time goal to establish the possibility to go on strike for students too.

Many do not understand, that protesting against something is not our most important task. That shows exactly where we are as a movement: Currently the Left is only in defense mode. It has to be our aim to change that. Protesting against fascism and austerity is important, but

for some it might seem we don't have things to fight for. We have to go on the offensive. We have to protest for our demands and fight, especially as a youth movement, for a different society.

We have to unify all workers and students struggle in one strong movement that does not only challenge the symptoms of capitalism, but fights for a future to believe in.

The ruling classes of Europe have sought to overcome the crisis of 2008, through their main political agenda, austerity, and its implementation via the machinery of the memoranda. Their basic goals have been to devalue labor and reduce its cost, which would ensure the necessary profit margins for the capital, so that it moves past the crisis unharmed. The changes taking place in the field of labor conditions are spread over 5 basic pillars: the degrading of full and stable employment, in favor of flexible forms of employment, the deregulation of collective wage agreements, making work hours more flexible, making dismissals easier and, finally, the creation of a similar frame of working conditions for the private and the public sector, through the degrading of both.

This political choice on behalf of the European capital and its political representatives creates a huge gap between social classes, by constantly expanding social inequality and proving that, as long as there poverty and insecurity increase on one side, wealth is amassed on the other.

The increase in flexible and precarious forms of employment became a reality through a series of laws that deregulated the field, thus creating practices such as the "renting of workers", the renewal of temporary employment contracts and part time jobs. Employer arbitrage, mass dismissals and undocumented employment are part of today's reality, as well as part of the future that Europe's capital want to impose.

Based on this analysis it is essential to recognize that the clash is not between states, but rather cuts through national divides and involves the all of the European peoples, who must aim at two fronts. One relates to the clash with the capital and neoliberalism in each country separately. The second relates to the unification of all forces that oppose austerity and the creation of a solid front of workers and youth that will fight on a European level.

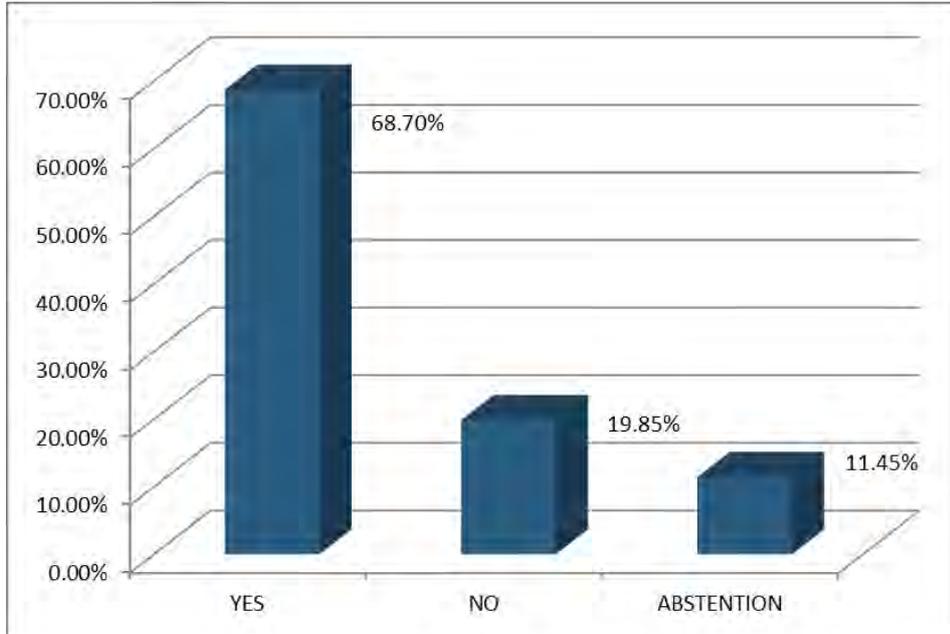
In conclusion, we need a workers' movement that would reclaim hegemony among workers, bring back to center stage the term "work" in its full meaning, and seek to agitate the social class conflict by uniting the working people under the banner of their common needs.

Capitalist growth knows no borders, but it also has no limit to the intensity with which it attacks the working class. Thus, we will enter the fight, aware that organizing, collectivity, class bias and international solidarity are our weapons.

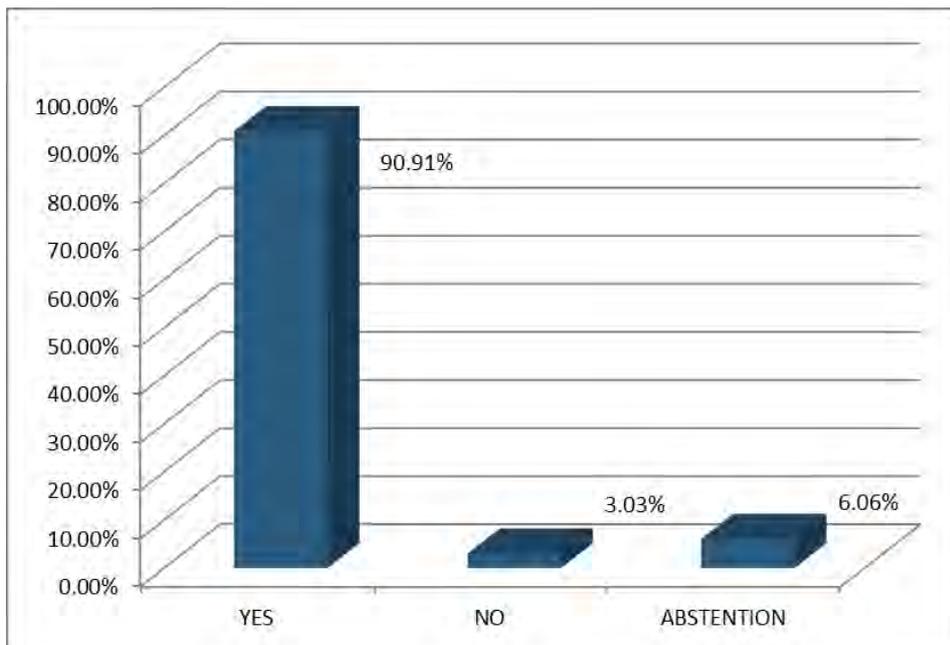
Motions voted separately

Voting result:

- Motion on the 2017- elections in Germany and France



- Motion Promote peace in the Basque Country



Motion on the 2017-elections in Germany and in France

In 2017, national political elections will take place in Germany and in France. Their results will have important implications for the future of the European Union and of Europe.

In Germany, the objective of Die Linke is to reinforce the opposition against the neoliberal politics of the German government. The reinforcement of the left in Germany, the changing of the German policy and the replacement of Merkel's government, that would be a very important contribution to change European politics as well and to put an end to austerity policies.

The EL supports Die Linke in order to permit these changes in Germany which are do indispensable for all Europe.

In France, the renunciation of François Hollande shows the failure of a five year mandate where the socialist governments have betrayed the hope of a left policy, through submitted since 2012, contrary to made promises, to the European Fiscal Compact.

Facing the dangers by the menace of a victory of right and extreme right wing forces, the Party of the European Left supports the collection of left forces who propose the construction of a popular majority as a social and ecological alternative to austerity, the only way to ward off these dangers.

In the presidential elections, with Jean-Luc Mélenchon ; and in the legislative elections with left candidates, bearers of of proposals which are conform to the objectives of the Party of the European Left: the hope can come from all those who are bearing a perspective of rupture, in France as well as in Europe, with the failure of liberal policies. The EL puts forward its support to the member parties of the Party of the European Left who act in this sense.

Motion sur les élections de 2017 en Allemagne et en France

En 2017, des élections politiques nationales auront lieu en Allemagne et en France. Leurs résultats auront des implications importantes pour l'avenir de l'Union Européenne et de l'Europe.

En Allemagne l'objectif de Die Linke est de renforcer l'opposition contre la politique néolibérale du gouvernement allemand. Le renforcement de la gauche en Allemagne, le changement de la politique allemande y le remplacement du gouvernement Merkel, ce serait une contribution très importante pour changer aussi la politique en Europe et de mettre fin à la politique d'austérité.

Le PGE soutient Die Linke pour permettre ces changements en Allemagne, si indispensable pour toute l'Europe.

En France, le renoncement de François Hollande signe la faillite d'un quinquennat où les Gouvernements socialistes ont trahi l'espoir d'une politique de Gauche, en endossant dès 2012, contrairement aux promesses faites, les exigences du Pacte Budgétaire Européen.

Face aux dangers qui menacent d'une victoire des forces de droite et d'extrême droite, le Parti de la Gauche Européenne appuie le rassemblement des forces de gauche qui proposent la construction d'une majorité populaire alternative à l'austérité, sociale et écologique, seule à même de conjurer ces dangers.

Dans l'élection présidentielle, avec Jean-Luc Mélenchon ; et dans les élections législatives avec les candidats de gauche porteurs de propositions conformes aux objectifs du Parti de la Gauche Européenne : l'espoir peut venir de toutes celles et ceux qui portent une perspective de rupture, en France comme en Europe, avec l'échec des politiques libérales. Le PGE apporte son soutien aux Partis Français membres du Parti de la Gauche Européenne qui agissent en ce sens.

Promote peace in the Basque Country

The Party of the European Left supports and works on building Peace and Solidarity within Europe.

This is why we strongly denounce the recent arrest of 5 well known and respected members of the Basque and French civil society while facilitating the disarmament process of ETA.

We support all efforts to promote peace in the Basque Country as well as in other conflict areas in Europe and in the world.

