

1 *Political Action Program of the Party of the European Left 2011-2013*
2 *Motion of the EL-ExBoard to the EL 3rd Congress*
3 *Paris December 3-5, 2010*

4

5 **Agenda for a social Europe**

6

7 **Joint Action Platform for resistance and alternatives in** 8 **Europe**

9

10 The 3rd Congress of the European Left is taking place while more and more
11 unbearable sacrifices are imposed on European people. Indeed in the vast
12 majority of European countries programmes of public spending cuts, of super-
13 austerity, of privatisation of public services and the labour market are being
14 implemented. To generalise these policies, countries with the full complicity of
15 their governments are placed under guardianship by the European
16 Commission, the European Central Bank and other institutions such as the
17 IMF.

18

19 These policies are presented as a necessary response to the financial and
20 economic crisis. But this crisis is the crisis of the supremacy of the markets
21 and the big capital, the crisis of the current capitalism, globalised and
22 financial. This crisis also effects our environment, energy, food, cultural and
23 moral values. Therefore this crisis finds its expression at all political levels and
24 in all societies marked by the ruling capitalist mode of production and by that
25 also within the European construction with its recent orientations, neoliberal
26 policies and institutions.

27

28 The current debt crisis constitutes a new phase of the lingering crisis. It has its
29 roots in economic and political developments over the last 30 years.
30 Interlinking all the multiple causes of the crisis, it now affects more and more
31 the everyday lives of the people.

32

33 We, the Party of the European Left, together with other socialist, communist
34 and red-green parties and organisations – widely regarded as the current
35 plural European left, oppose these neoliberal policies and structures applied
36 to the EU via successive treaties right up to the Lisbon treaty.

37

38 The responsibility for these policies is of the great coalition formed by
39 European conservative, liberal and social-democratic parties that has ruled
40 Europe and the European countries in these years. We want to create a
41 political alternative to the neoliberal model. Given the widespread use of
42 austerity, new resistance is developing across Europe. The big challenge the

43 Left will have to cope with is to encourage this resistance, to trace out
44 possible alternatives, and to mould out of the protest a movement for an
45 alternative logic of civilisation committed to solidarity. We do this in the name
46 of a social, ecological and peaceful Europe.
47

48 Ever firmer adherence to the stability pact and the EU 2020 strategy,
49 modelled on IMF structural adjustment programmes, will not prepare the end
50 of the crisis: on the contrary, the prospect is an aggravation of distortions,
51 tensions, authoritarianism and social inequality. There is a risk of economic
52 collapse, massive exacerbation of poverty and precariousness, and the
53 destruction of the social model and European civilisation. There is a risk of
54 further depression within the Euro-zone, not to mention the insurmountable
55 problems imposed on other countries, such as the United Kingdom, Hungary,
56 Romania or the Baltic countries. There is a risk of incapacity in order to face
57 the challenges posed by the ecological question. There is a serious risk of
58 strangulation of democracy, of authoritarian "governance" of member states
59 led by the interests of the market, and the guidance of national economies by
60 the Commission, the ECB and the IMF.
61

62 There is already a substantial risk of the legitimacy crisis being enhanced in
63 the EU, loss of impetus to the democratic ideas of Europe and solidarity
64 among the scorned, crushed and denied people without willingness to enforce
65 their rights and freedom to decide their fate, and the ascent of
66 ultranationalists, xenophobic and racist notions advocated by the extreme
67 right.
68

69 There is a rising risk for people living together peacefully and for national
70 minorities in the European Union and its Member countries and as well with
71 serious effects hampering the possibility to achieve real equality between
72 women and men. This includes also a tendency of dramatic cut backs of
73 earlier and already achieved gender democracy and non-discrimination of all
74 minorities within the European Union and beyond.
75

76 It is not the European people, the working as well as the unemployed, the
77 learning and training youth, the elderly, woman and children, sick or disabled
78 persons, the poor and the middle class people who should pay for this crisis.
79 No, we stress: it is time for a radical policy change. This policy change must
80 guarantee that those who are responsible for the crisis must be forced to pay
81 the cost of the crises. A sustainable regulation has to be developed, taking the
82 bank and credit system under public control and re-orientating it towards
83 social and ecological aims. Concrete steps can and should be taken to
84 separate EU policies and governments from the grip of financial markets, to

85 turn the logic of profit into a new logic of human development based on social
86 justice and sustainable ecology.

87

88 That is the path of realism nowadays. That is an approach in the interests of
89 the European countries and its peoples. With the constructive will to formulate
90 alternatives with which we come into a broader dialogue with people – and to
91 organise a common struggle - we present the following proposals. Proposals
92 that are not simply to be taken or to be left, but which are intended to evolve
93 as steps on the path of these necessary efforts open for debate by all political
94 and social forces, and by European citizens.

95

96

97 **1. It is time for a radical democratisation of European politics**

98

99 This crisis is also a crisis of democracy. Too often crucial decisions are taken
100 without the working people. They believe that the EU is a far-off,
101 incomprehensible and interventionist construction that ignores their demands
102 and their hopes. Change the foreign, environmental, social, economic policies
103 of the EU and of the member states means to start a new democratic process
104 based on active participation by the people and the national and European
105 parliaments, by new intervention powers and rights for the workers. We stand
106 for democratic republics with electoral laws that respect proportional
107 representation. This democratic transformation process has to concern the
108 European institutions as well as the policies in the EU and all other European
109 countries. We are struggling for the democratic re-foundation of Europe and
110 the European Union.

111

112 Many people see growing social poverty and inequalities as a failure of the
113 European Union. If the European Union is not able to halt speculation, who
114 is? National or Eurocentric solutions in opposition to the interests of other
115 populations in Europe and globally don't result in social equality. Without
116 solidarity and cooperation across national boundaries, we will not get the
117 opportunity to design the policies of our future. We believe that social
118 responsibility comes about only through cooperation, not competition.

119

120 Demonstrations, strikes and other forms of protest by workers, students,
121 peasants and the retired all over Europe show that there is growing resistance
122 against the tough austerity measures as more and more people demand a
123 pro-people, pro jobs and pro-environment way out of the crisis in the direction
124 of social cohesion, full employment, decent wages and pensions, improved
125 education, health and other social services. However, the protests will not be
126 successful in the long term without Europe-wide political action, and deep
127 changes in the European policy and institutions – often formulated under the

128 slogan 'Another Europe is possible'. The European Left will act once more to
129 broaden the appeal of sensible alternatives for a social, democratic, ecologic
130 and peaceful Europe. Many people, including those outside Europe, see the
131 change to a new way of development, that is cooperative and based on
132 solidarity, ecological principles and gender equality, as a desirable, essential
133 and concrete alternative.

134

135 Humankind depends on using its way of production and the bounty of nature
136 carefully, instead of consuming, exploiting and destroying them. Clean water,
137 quality education, independence, decent work, healthcare, intercultural
138 dialogue, modern communication and mobility are not luxury commodities but
139 social rights which must be guaranteed. Despite this, many people are denied
140 access to the basic social and public services.

141

142 The Party of the European Left is campaigning for a democratic political
143 alternative, to change the situation at every level: local, national, European
144 and global. We are seeking partners in this quest: political forces, trade
145 unions and social movements, those who believe that another Europe is
146 possible. That means we want to create a political and social front against
147 neo-liberalism at national as well as at European level. We want to win over
148 the majority for this aim. For these reasons, the European Left participates in
149 mobilisations and engages in a dialogue together with political forces, trade
150 unionist, the peace movement, consumer associations, environmental groups,
151 activists fighting for equality and against racism, critical sciences and IT
152 experts, activists of the Social Forums, education and cultural associations.
153 Together with social actors engaged in industry, agriculture and the defence
154 of public services we work towards contributing to the realisation of all political
155 and social rights of people, determining the state of a Europe open to the
156 world. We work for the common rights of people regardless of their nationality,
157 colour, sex or language.

158

159 The export of a model of domination over humankind and nature that sees
160 every song and drop of water only as dollar signs has made this world neither
161 safer nor more humane. The freedom of the individual justifies neither the
162 rights of the strongest nor the limitless dictates of the market. The
163 misappropriation of the scientific and technological progress in a trend of
164 "innovation" in order to maximize the profits of financial market capitalism has
165 come to endanger the future of us all. The spirit of free competition,
166 privatisation and deregulation has become the political determining factor
167 since the collapse of the so-called "real socialism". The principles of the
168 European post war approaches like social, economic and political cooperation

169 and a seriously consensual peaceful foreign and security policy were further
170 repelled.

171 With the Single Market, the Maastricht Treaty and the Stability and Growth
172 Pact, the course for wage dumping and social dumping instead of reinforcing
173 public services was set from the late 1980s and in the 1990s.

174

175 Our public institutions are the backbone of democracy, be they for education,
176 healthcare, transport or culture, to grant credit to the regional economy or to
177 ensure the access to energy at the local level. At the same time – even with
178 the expansion of the European Union – the enormous problems of
179 employment, poverty, social inequality and of the European agricultural
180 economy remain unsolved.

181

182 Likewise, critical issues such as energy security, climate change, and free
183 access to communication and information networks remain problematic. It is
184 time to upgrade the role of the parliaments, European as well as national in
185 the legislative policy making and democratic control fields of the European
186 policies.

187

188 The crisis of capitalism, its neoliberal management, its imperialistic system,
189 militarisation and the ultra sectarian strategies accompanying it, profoundly
190 mark international relations and transform limits reached by a system of
191 exploitation, predation and domination which are calling for radical democratic
192 transformations on a large scale.

193

194 On the other hand, the multi-faceted crisis plays a catalytic role towards
195 changing the international balance of forces with the US hegemony being
196 more and more disputed while countries outside the so-called developed
197 world acquire a pivotal role (e.g. China, India, Brazil, etc). Independent from
198 the U.S., the European Union needs to become an international self-confident
199 actor in a world of mutual respect and cooperation.

200

201

202 **2. We are not paying for your crisis**

203

204 The international financial and economic crisis washed like a bow wave over
205 humanity's unsolved problems. In the last two years, the governments of the
206 dominating powers, headed by all those of the G 8, have kept the global
207 financial system alive with enormous sums of public money. They have taken
208 up their role as the rescuers of a collapsing global financial market. At the
209 same time, they remain indifferent to growing poverty and the challenges of
210 climate change. Public budget debts have reached record levels. The most
211 serious financial and economic crisis for decades is nowhere near defeated.

212 Those in government have questioned neither the international financial
213 markets, which have run out of control, nor the global economic order. There
214 are no effective regulations to prohibit speculation with currencies, foodstuffs
215 or essential goods. The undefeated financial and economic crisis is a growing
216 security risk: this is true for both daily life and the peaceful coexistence of
217 countries.

218 Europe and the European Union are mired in crisis too. Millions of jobs have
219 been lost or are under threat. On the other hand more people are forced to
220 take more than one job in order to be able to live. Precariousness and
221 flexicurity are more than ever bitter reality. Social problems are growing. The
222 European Union is yet to employ effective measures to make those who
223 caused the crisis financially accountable. The national governments are also
224 reluctant to fairly involve financial speculators in the solving of the crisis, via
225 the creaming off of capital gains yields. Thus, their answer is loud and clear.
226 The costs of the financial crisis should be borne by the taxpayer and the
227 population alone particularly those of the poorest Euro-zone countries.
228 However the causes of the dramatic national debts, particularly in Eastern and
229 Southern Europe, but also in Ireland, Great Britain, Iceland and the Baltic
230 countries can also be found in European policy. Now the countries are
231 supposed to bear the consequences alone. Moreover, they are forced to
232 forego urgently needed investment in education, health and social protection
233 and to make further cuts in their welfare services and in the public sector. The
234 renovation of public infrastructure will have to wait. This sows the seeds of
235 tomorrow's social problems. Thus a veil is drawn over the fact that
236 catastrophic wage dumping in the richer member states has, for years,
237 brought pressure and political errors in its wake. The failing policies of the
238 most vulnerable countries are a mirror image of the larger countries' exclusive
239 orientation towards relocation and export. Higher wages would also protect
240 the large countries from the maelstrom of financial instability and tomorrow's
241 national deficits; they are in essential condition to enforce anti-dumping social
242 clauses in the international trade. However the prevailing politics, and their
243 policy of low wages, continue to favour the dogma of competition based on
244 the decrease of social expenses.

245

246 Now, everybody is compelled to pay towards the aid measures for the banks;
247 but the influence of the people on other political courses of action remains
248 low, whereas those who caused the crisis are spared. The belief that
249 nationalisation of the banks is some kind of socialist profanity has been
250 shaken. The states have taken the finance houses under their wings, and
251 some of them are already trading again and making respectable profits.
252 However, government influence goes only so far as to rescue the banks, the
253 bankers and their incomes. An equitable redistribution of wealth is absent. On
254 the whole, current governments are "nationalising" without arranging further

255 steps to increase democratic influence and control. They are therefore only
256 nationalising the losses by increasing national debts, insufficient investment
257 and higher charges. Thus they are already responsible for all kinds of
258 unsolved social problems.

259

260 As previously, this “regulation” serves the interests of financial capital but not
261 the interests of the majority. The prevailing political line knows only one
262 answer to the crisis: plunder the public coffers and increase the exploitation of
263 the workers. It participates in this class struggle from above and does not shy
264 away from pitting low earners, against people reliant on social welfare
265 contributions and both against immigrants and refugees.

266

267 We are convinced that the majority of people can be won over to the
268 campaign for socially fair, ecologically sustainable, democratic and peaceful
269 European policies based on solidarity, and so we are publicising other
270 suggestions for how to conquer the financial crisis.

271

272

273 **2.1. Fight the crisis effectively – now!**

274

275 The European Union and European countries must move towards
276 cooperation, and contribute to the reform of the European and international
277 monetary systems. Important strategic sectors, like the banking system,
278 should be organised on the basis of social ownership and its democratic
279 control and public access. In the neo-liberal Europe we have seen a
280 generalised process of attack on the rights of workers and wages. The
281 European Left is fighting against social dumping. We want to support all
282 movements that are active against the strategy of playing poor against the
283 poor. We support the workers across Europe for the redistribution of income,
284 and the fight against mass unemployment and job insecurity. In order to
285 defend social and working class rights, we must restore our capacity to tackle
286 social and class conflict in Europe. Against social and fiscal dumping, a
287 European fiscal policy must be built based on the principle of progressive
288 taxes. We fight for the principle of equal pay for equal work at the same place
289 all over Europe.”

290

291 The European Left suggests the following measures to reduce the power and
292 the influence of the financial markets:

293

- 294 • Transformation of the mission of the European Central Bank: By cash
295 generation and based on social criteria, the ECB has to hand out
296 credits on a low interest rate to member states in order to finance

297 social development. Vis a vis banks the ECB has to introduce
298 selectivity of credits: their poundage must be more favourable if
299 investments are intended to create employment and on the contrary
300 they have to be even more dissuasive if financial operations are
301 concerned.

302 • Taxation of all speculative transactions. EU institutions and the
303 member-states should go ahead to change the finance market-
304 architecture world-wide.

305 • New public revenues can and must be generated by taxing the
306 incomes from financial assets and big capitals, by means of a socially
307 just tax reform aimed at stimulating the real economy. Domestic
308 economies have to be revitalised through structural policies and the
309 increase of mass income.

310 • Abolition of tax havens established inside and outside European
311 territory; banning – not only registration - of hedge funds and junk
312 bonds;

313 • Creation of a European public rating agency: countries can no longer
314 be hostages to private rating agencies, which serve speculative
315 interests;

316 • Issue of Eurobonds to allow the member states to borrow at
317 reasonable interest rates.

318

319 To fight wage and social dumping, and to strengthen social and ecological
320 demand, the following measures must be introduced or tested in all countries
321 in coordination:

322

323 • Political support for macroeconomic balance between states and a
324 strong internal market

325 • The introduction of standards which secure in all EU-countries – by law
326 or by collective agreements – minimum wages at the level of at least
327 60 % of the national average wage and always above the level of
328 poverty with a high quality of social security for all.

329 • Restrictive regulation of subcontracted labour and the limiting of the
330 number of short-term contracts, instead of increasing European
331 pressure towards liberalisation. New regulations that make it illegal to
332 employ foreign workers on a lower wage or worse conditions than
333 those existing in the country where the work is done. The so-called
334 Laval verdict and other rulings undermining the workers and trade
335 unions rights to strike and work for better wages and working
336 conditions must be annulled

- 337
- 338
- 339
- To strengthen generally binding collective agreements of working conditions and demanding a compliancy of the working conditions required also in the case of so-called 'sent labour'.
- 340
- In order to boost necessary modernisation of public services and infrastructure, we are working towards an investment programme whose key areas are education, health and social care, research, transport and environmental technology. This will guarantee millions of new jobs in the future, or directly promote their creation.
- 341
- 342
- 343
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345

346 We want to lead the campaign for a global tax on financial transactions, for
347 higher incomes, more protected and good jobs and humane working hours,
348 secure pensions and better public infrastructure. We will do this together with
349 trade unionists, social forums, women's, environment and youth movements,
350 migrant organisations and local authorities. We want to lead this campaign in
351 our countries, and at the European level. We assume that this campaign must
352 be carried through as a global demand.

353 Without immediate action, there will be no effective change in the measures
354 used against the crisis. A sustainable political change must go beyond this;
355 alternative political courses of action and a European action plan to fight
356 poverty must be agreed. Together with the trade unions, we will lead the
357 campaign for the establishment of a social clause in European primary law.
358 The consistent combination of the economic and monetary union with a social
359 and environmental policy is essential. To fight for a social clause in European
360 primary law and the orientation for a social and environmental policy is more
361 than an EU-concentrated political approach. These demands we find for
362 example in the Trade unions and so it is also a link to social movements.

363

364

365 **2.2. Action plan against unemployment, poverty and social**
366 **exclusion**

367

368 80 million people in Europe live below the poverty line. Almost the same
369 number again is acutely under threat of poverty. Galloping unemployment is a
370 major contributing factor. This affects more and more people in meagre and
371 insecure jobs, who are poor despite working. It is a political failure across the
372 board when, in one of the most productive economic areas in the world, the
373 EU's 27 countries, one in five children is threatened by poverty.

374

375 The consequences of marginalisation by poverty, disadvantages in education,
376 public and universal health, in living environments, the insufficient share of
377 social, cultural and financial services are seen as growing threats to social

378 peace. The majority of the population expects that politicians will introduce
379 effective steps against poverty, and on the other hand will limit the valueless
380 concentration of wealth in few hands. The EU declared 2010 the “European
381 Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion”, in order to contribute to
382 overcoming poverty and social exclusion. The EU’s 2020 strategy also raised
383 the banner for “preventing poverty”. But the growing poverty and social
384 inequality are the product of neoliberal policies implemented in the EU.

385

386 The logic of the current strategic decisions, as well as the practical steps to
387 defeating the consequences of the economic and financial crisis still places,
388 unchanged, competition, profitability and competitiveness at the top of the
389 agenda. Just as the European elites provide so few coherent and intelligible
390 answers to the current economic problems, they do nothing against social
391 inequalities that increase every day. The consequences of poverty have not
392 even been lessened, because the causes of growing poverty remain
393 unaddressed. The Party of the European Left is committed to achieving social
394 justice. Wealth cannot longer be concentrated among few hands, as the
395 owners of capital or of big assets. Europe must recognise that property has
396 duties and shall serve for the good of society.

397

398 The common goods like water, health, culture, land ownership, natural
399 resources and means of production must not be privatised but, on the
400 contrary, they must be attributed to the common property with the objective of
401 their socialisation.

402

403 The Left sees the fight against poverty as a social and political problem. We
404 need development that places people in the foreground. For this reason, the
405 fight against poverty will only be successful when this aim is the key
406 component in all areas of European Union and national policy. Europe needs
407 a comprehensive safety net of guaranteed high social standards.
408 Homelessness and child poverty must be defeated by 2015. The concrete
409 overcoming of poverty is closely connected with the solution of all other social
410 and environmental problems in our society.

411

412 For these aims, a Europe-wide action plan is urgently needed. The European
413 Left suggests the following goals, which expand on significant aspects of the
414 immediate battle against the crisis:

415

- 416 • A European-wide minimum wage of at least of 60% of the national
417 average wage and the strengthening of collective contracts;
- 418 • An appropriate guaranteed minimum income for the unemployed,
419 and others who do not have the means to sustain livelihood

- 420 • A decent wage for students and people in professional formation
- 421 • A decent pension guaranteed for everyone at the age of 60 years
- 422 • Concrete and regular working conditions as well as access to decent
- 423 jobs
- 424 • Shorter working hours without a drop in income;
- 425 • Higher investments in social security, health, public services and public
- 426 housing and good environmental surroundings;
- 427 • Through the implementation of a programme for raising energy
- 428 efficiency in private buildings, using pre-existing technology, each
- 429 person can be guaranteed a warm flat. The fight against “energy
- 430 poverty” is considerable, because energy bills swallow up 10% of the
- 431 average household income.

432

433 The taxing of capital gains, speculation businesses and the progressive
434 taxation of incomes, in connection with a developed public sector and
435 recovery of privatization, represent the financial means for the implementation
436 of this action plan. A European policy that forces national tax dumping for
437 companies and demands higher contributions from the employed and socially
438 disadvantaged must be stopped. The European Left underlined in its platform
439 for the elections to the European Parliament 2009 that the Growth and
440 Stability Pact must be replaced by a new solidarity pact, focusing on growth,
441 full employment, social justice and environmental protection.

442

443

444 **3. For a new Development Model**

445

446 Nowadays, the idea that ambitious and coordinated policies are necessary to
447 face the vital challenges to humanity and the planet has developed. But the
448 capital’s logic represents a major obstacle. The financial crisis, whose
449 systemic nature has become obvious, reveals the gigantic dimension of the
450 waste generated by the current development approach. This is why the total
451 of the proposals that this document exposes registers an alternative logic, of a
452 new social development model, durable and civilian. These three dimensions
453 are indissoluble: the social evidently includes the economic sphere which
454 should first and foremost be used to serve of the needs and the aspirations of
455 each and every individual.

456 It is a question of creating a new era of human civilisation, based on a
457 progressive process founded on multiple systemic reforms, transforming daily
458 routines, and led without losing sight of the ambition and the stakes.

459 This action at the service of a true civilisation change entails in a common
460 movement:

461

462 • The Party of the European Left will continue its struggle for a consistent
463 peaceful external and security policy for a world without weapons of
464 mass destruction and destruction in general. We take part in all
465 necessary struggle for solidarity and peace in particular in the Middle
466 East, for a fair and just settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on
467 the basis of UN resolutions, with the founding of a viable Palestinian
468 state, side by side with Israel, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We
469 demand the end of the war led by NATO in Afghanistan and the
470 withdrawal of all foreign troops. We also demand the withdrawal of the
471 remaining troops and other military sub companies from Iraq and call
472 for the responsibility of the international community for the civil
473 reconstruction in Iraq. The right of self determination of the Iraqi people
474 and their sovereign choices of reconstruction and the future of the
475 country must be fully ensured. Progressive and reciprocal disarmament
476 with third countries and conversion are essential. We want a peaceful
477 and mutually beneficial cooperation and dialogue with our neighbours,
478 and stability in Europe including Russia. The military strategic
479 collaboration with NATO the EU is a on the wrong track and must be
480 stopped.

481 • The European Left reaffirms its demand for the dissolution of NATO
482 and struggles for an international cooperative security system
483 conforming to international law and to the principles of a reformed and
484 democratised UN system. We strongly oppose any move of the EU
485 towards growing militarisation in its external relations and struggle for a
486 peaceful role for Europe in the world. The EU also has to respect the
487 rights of neutral countries to continue their policy of non-alignment.

488 • The Transfer of the population from Turkey to the occupied part of
489 Cyprus should be stopped immediately because it's a political act of
490 Turkey to complete the conquering and turkification of the Island.
491 Turkish occupation of the 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus
492 should end. The Turkish government should contribute in practical
493 terms, in order to lead the ongoing negotiation procedure, as soon as
494 possible to a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem that will be
495 based on the relevant UN resolutions, the international and European
496 law.

497 • The EL expresses their greatest solidarity and support with the political
498 processes that are taking place in Latin America trying to enlarge
499 democracy with higher participation from the citizenship. In that sense,
500 we consider it very important to continue with the joint meetings

501 between the Sao Paulo Forum and the EL in order to exchange
502 experiences to deal with crucial demands. In particular we stress the
503 necessarily to end the blockade against Cuba.

- 504 • We believe that the EU-LA agreements that have taken place and
505 those currently under development are trying to impose hard neoliberal
506 conditions in favour of the Multinational enterprises, mainly those with
507 the worst environmental consequences and at the same time are trying
508 to make patents in the fields of health and biodiversity.
- 509 • European development policy must realise the self obligation of all EU
510 member countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals by 2015
511 by ensuring the commitment to stick to the 0,7% of the GDP for
512 development aid. This requires a reorientation of the mode of
513 production and consumption, which does not threaten the capacity of
514 nature and where commodities and money are not the basis of
515 appreciation. With this aim we are struggling for trade agreements of
516 the European Union emphasising the respect of all core criteria of the
517 International Labour Organisation, labour and human standards in all
518 trade partner countries. They should not be benefiting transnational
519 companies which seek mostly to gain access to natural resources and
520 maximise their profits.
- 521 • The European Left fights together with other forces for an energy
522 revolution based on genuine renewable energy resources and energy
523 savings. We do not consider biomass for energy to be a genuine
524 renewable energy source on a large scale, especially when it replaces
525 food crops. Climate change mitigations and energy production should
526 no longer be a question of profit making. Natural resources should not
527 be wasted on rearmament and wars. Development and foreign trade
528 policies of the EU must break with the current logic of land grabbing
529 and exploitation of natural resources of these countries. We promote
530 the cancellation of the debt of the poorest countries and the
531 reimbursement of the ecological debt of industrialised countries to the
532 so called developing countries.
- 533 • We have to struggle for an international cooperation in order to combat
534 global warming. To prevent the most severe impact of climate change,
535 action needs to be taken by 2020. EL proposes to strive for 40%
536 reduction of CO2 emission by 2020 in developed countries (compared
537 to the level of 1990). In Europe this particularly affects sectors like
538 energy innovations technologies, agriculture and forestry dedicated to
539 the preservation of biodiversity and carbon sequestration, construction
540 engineering, traffic and regulations by public investment. There will be
541 huge investments in the European energy sector in the years to come
542 that will pave the way until the middle of the century. The Kyoto

543 Protocol cannot be reduced to a system of emission quotas; each new
544 attempt for an international treaty (Kyoto 2) must form a new paradigm
545 based on cooperation and not competition. The European Left fully
546 supports the Cochabamba declaration. Time is short.

547 • We fight for individual civil liberties and the fundamental social and
548 political rights of all the EU's citizens and immigrants on the basis of
549 the Charter of Principles of the movements. The European Left
550 welcomes the EU joining the European Convention of Human Rights
551 and is campaigning for the further development of fundamental rights in
552 Europe based on the ECHR, including all legal instruments both at
553 national and European level. We defend the rights of those
554 discriminated against on grounds of ethnicity, sexual orientation,
555 gender, religion, ideology, disability or age. We demand the equality of
556 men and women. The European Left defends the complete respect of
557 the principle of secularism. We need consistent strategies against
558 racism, xenophobia, chauvinism, fascism, anti-communism,
559 homophobia and all other forms of discrimination. We are working for a
560 refugee policy in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Those who
561 must flee on account of their political activities, religion, ideology,
562 sexual orientation or gender identity must be able to find acceptance
563 and safety in Europe. We demand the recognition of gender-specific
564 and non-national persecution as grounds for asylum, as well as
565 particular protection for child refugees. For this reason we reject the
566 current FRONTEX border control system. The EL strongly opposes any
567 attempts to make migrants "scapegoats" for any kind of social
568 problems. We struggle for a strong social dimension to integration
569 policies.

570 • Universal access to education, culture, media and the possibility to use
571 one's own cultural forms of expression are essential for a democratic
572 dialogue in Europe and worldwide. The public responsibility for
573 intercultural exchange and neutrality of digital networks should be of
574 European and national responsibility. Free education, freedom of
575 information, a modern copyright including rights of users and an
576 appropriate integration of creativity are overdue. Privatisation of public
577 education must be stopped. This is why we reject the Bologna Process.
578 Good working conditions for teachers, journalists, those working in the
579 news sector, and the film, entertainment and software industry must be
580 fought daily. Europe needs a true political pluralism in the media, public
581 or private, an essential condition for democracy.

582 • We want to fight the financial crisis by regulating the markets, creating
583 a consistent macro-economical orientation towards a social, ecological
584 model of development and fighting the necessary sustainable battle

585 against poverty. In order to further develop our political alternatives
586 towards a new model of development, which we can then introduce
587 into the political discourse, we also want to put forward the following
588 strategic focal points in our political struggles.

589 • The development of public services that serve the essential collective
590 needs bringing together their efforts on a European scale, a concerted
591 and co-operative management of the world's public goods, and a
592 development of the social and interdependent economy on a really
593 democratic basis. This means stopping the processes of liberalisation
594 and privatisation of the public services and the massive private
595 investment plans in these sectors.

596 • An active policy of job creation, accompanied by a life-learning system
597 and employment guaranteeing income.

598 • A new era of democracy on all levels, with new intervention powers in
599 the employees' management and new powers for the elected
600 representatives of the territories in control of the public funds allotted to
601 large companies.

602

603 With these suggestions, the European Left is turning to the population of
604 Europe; to men and women, regardless of which country, regardless of world
605 view or religion, regardless of whether they were born inside or outside the
606 European Union. The immense sharpening of the economic-social and the
607 ecological crises demands immediate, radical action. We want Europe and
608 the world to become better places to live for everyone. But for this to happen,
609 we must safeguard them from threats. We cannot improve the world if we do
610 not save it, but we can save the world by improving it. The European Left
611 stands for a vision of a radically different world, for democracy and socialism.
612 The European Left is open to everybody who wants to support this agenda.
613 We aspire to a world of freedom, justice, and equality, without repression,
614 exploitation, hunger or need. We want to make this project a reality.