

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**
2ND CONGRESS OF THE  **EuropeanLEFT**
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ADOPTED MOTION

The European Left: For Civil Rights and Democracy

Basic rights are aimed not only at the protection of citizens, individually and collectively, from foreign dangers, but also from the state and its institutions. That is a fundamental principle of a constitutional state.

The current domestic and security policies in many of the European Union member states and in the EU itself are turning this fundamental principle on its head. For years, the citizens of Europe have been confronted with the transformation of the constitutional state into a state of control. With all attempts at genuine democratisation of European institutional apparatus being to no avail, the European Parliament and the citizens it serves must make do with insufficient opportunities to have a say. This lack of democracy is not confined only to European institutions and political processes. No: it is integral to the structure of the EU member states' societies. In schools, businesses, and with the authorities, people are encountering increasingly opaque structures, hierarchical power relationships and a lack of opportunity to shape for themselves the political and social world they live in.

The overemphasis – since September 11, 2001 – on the necessity of defence from an abstract, domestic and foreign terrorist threat has been used to justify various domestic policy measures, which are hindering rather than broadening citizens' freedoms. Pan-European measures, such as saving data on a grand scale, or the intertwining of police and secret service operations, are being justified with promises of safety which cannot be kept. The pan-European exchange of personal biometric data is already reality, uninterrupted monitoring by video cameras and data from transport usage is on the way. Private security companies are advancing the activities of state authorities, while state security bodies are forwarding data on to so-called 'third party' (i.e. non-EU) states as part of the fight against terrorism.

The protection of privacy, the right to control information about oneself, and freedom from force are integral to the constitutions upon which democratic and free societies are based. Civil rights and rights to freedom may not be withdrawn because of alleged security measures.

The state, international terrorism, mainly targeting the mass movement, the struggles and rights of the working people, the whole of political and social rights, both individu-

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al and collective, is fostered and exercised using numerous conventions, agreements, decisions and laws from “above”, while there is being an effort for the state to impose itself on societies by any means. The last resolution of the European Commission, allowing the authorities of the member states to take fingerprints even from 6 years old children, is unprecedented and expresses the intentions of the ruling political forces in the EU, as well as creating a data base of biometric readings of international flight passengers travelling through airports in the EU, even for connecting flight purposes only.

We demand full respect of democratic rights and liberties for all the EU residents.

We demand the abolition of all “anti-terror” laws adopted by governments and the EU bodies, under the pretext of the fight against terrorism, as well as the abolition of all surveillance systems.

We demand the immediate end of the system of “preventive repression” developing in the EU, through the pre-emptive collection of personal data (Prum-Convention) and the exchange of information.

1. Therefore, the European Left demands the democratisation of all areas of life, from the workplace and educational organisations to social and state institutions. In our eyes, this also means the clear extension of rights of participation and control for workers in the workplace, and the securing of greater transparency in political and economic decision-making processes.
2. For years, fundamental political rights have been denied to immigrants, minorities and the socially vulnerable in Europe. The European Left opposes any form of ethnic, cultural or ideological discrimination. Religion, culture, gender, sexuality and race should not be obstacles to participation in society, to finding work and accommodation or to exercising civil, political and social rights.
3. The political Left’s examination of its own history also means that, for us, social and political rights are two sides of the same coin. Political and social rights should never again be claimed or defended separately from one another, or even weighed against each other. Political and social rights each have their own value; however, they are tightly interwoven and therefore inseparable.
4. The European Left advocates genuine political integration in Europe, under a banner of democracy, society, ecology and peace. We see European integration not just as a single currency and an economic community. Therefore, the position of the European Parliament in relation to the Council and the Commission must be strengthened, and the national parliaments must play a greater role in EU decision-making. In our opinion, referenda on key issues affecting

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European citizens, with a view to decisions on them at a European level, are essential for a democratic EU.

5. We demand the abolition of all discriminations and social exclusion against the ROMA people and other minorities and migrants and we recognize the right of self and collective definition of national and cultural minorities. We demand the full support of the rights of the disabled, in healthcare, education, employment, culture, their full integration in the social tissue.
6. Control of the controllers must be increased at a European level. We believe this would lead to more positive relationship towards the EU among its citizens. The path to participation in political decisions by as many interested and affected parties as possible, at a European level, is also the only possible path to a democratic political approach. We need an EU with a new basis in international law to achieve this. Therefore, our rejection of the EU Reform Treaty must be accompanied by advocating European integration, and the EU as the political and legal manifestation of this integration.