

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:  
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**  
2<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  **EuropeanLEFT**  
PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 23-25, 2007

## **ADOPTED MOTION**

### **The European Left: Five peace priorities for peace in the Middle East**

The European Left sets its policy of urgency for the Middle East around five priorities:

- 1.** Active Solidarity with all the peoples from the Middle East, particularly with those who are victimized by situations of colonial domination and military occupation.
- 2.** The social mobilization and institutional action in Europe against the risks of another military adventure, this time against Iran. Such a prospect would have catastrophic consequences for the whole region. The mobilization of public opinions in our countries is crucial to stop and defeat the new steps of the escalade towards a preemptive war.
- 3.** The demand for a European policy, independent from the north-American administration, committed with the political resolution of the different conflicts, at the regional or domestic level, in the several countries in the region, and grounded in the principle of noninterference.
- 4.** The political and ideological combat against islamophobia which is being carried on in our countries. We do it for defending human rights and cultural diversity. And also because islamophobia is the result of an intense campaign of intoxicating the public opinions, with the purpose of making they accept the militarization of politics and the sacrifice of essential freedoms and civil rights in Europe, in the name of the so called "anti-terrorist war".
- 5.** Supporting the democratic, secular and left tendencies fighting in the different countries of the Middle East, in difficult conditions, for the construction of simultaneously sovereign and democratic States, able to respect Human Rights and committed with overcoming communalism and the striking social and gender inequities present in the region.

In face of the explosive current situation in the Middle East, the European Left demands without delay a real progress still within 2008 on the issues such as: clear agreement about border limits, return for refugees in accordance with the U.N. resolution 194, dismantling the Israeli settlements, establishing a viable Palestinian state alongside with the state of Israel, East Jerusalem as a capital of the Palestinian state status, releasing all the prisoners.

- 1.** The end of military occupations, along with the establishment of a fixed schedule for the retreating of foreign armies in Afghanistan and Iraq. These are conditions for the

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success of national dialog processes aiming at shutting up guns and preserving the territorial integrity of current regional states.

2. The clear rejection of military solutions for the border crisis between Turkey and Iraq. The recognition of the Kurdish people and their cultural and political rights, wherever they live, safeguarding conditions for regional security, the respect for Human Rights and the advancement of the democratization processes simultaneously.
3. The re-endorsement of the conflict about the Iranian nuclear program to the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The verbal escalate, military threat and sanctions, harmful for citizens, must be abandoned and replaced with serious negotiations on the grounds of the existing International Law.
4. The immediate lifting of the blockade to the Gaza Strip, and the abolition of the illegal annexed wall and the violation of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
5. The transferring of the Golan Heights and the fields of Chebaa from the Israeli State respectively to Syria the Lebanon.
6. A solution for the Lebanese crisis which would be negotiated among independent forces, without any external regional or imperialistic interference, which could lead to a civil war.

The European Left considers that the explosive situation the Middle East is going through is a consequence of the Bush administration strategy: to create a new Middle East from chaos. This imperial and adventurous dream envisages the long lasting control over the production sources and distribution of fossil fuels, and a dominant position of the USA and Israel in the framework of weakening the sovereignty of national States and even their fragmentation into communalist protectorates.

The Annapolis conference, scheduled to the next days, doesn't contradict this strategy. More than trying to solve a conflict, it could express the will to change the framework of regional alliances.

To oppose this instrumental strategy for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, whose goals are the war and regional influence, the European Left stands for an alternative of Peace and collective Security to the region. Therefore, we propose:

1. The creation of a permanent conference for peace and cooperation, under the auspices of UN, involving all parties involved in current conflicts, in which non-State actors participate. The role of the USA, EU and Russia should be of "power guarantees" to the agreements, and not of interference between each party in the conflict.
  - a. The first objective of this conference should be substituting military violence with truce and security guarantees while negotiations last.

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- b. The second objective of the conference should be the analysis of UN proposals concerning the final Statute between Israel and Palestine and about the territories occupied since 1967.
  - c. The third objective of the conference is the creation of a political and strategic framework for a gradual and quantified demilitarization of the Middle East, and its substitution for a security guarantees system. Arms export to the Middle East must be banned; the denuclearization of the region is the only guaranty against the proliferating of nuclear aspirations.
2. This conference should be carried on with a specific platform allowing for the participation of civil society from the different countries involved. Peace won't be achieved by States. Hate and suspicions must be overcome also in society and between the activists from several opposite sides of the conflict.
3. The European Left declares its will to facilitate the creation of meeting and dialog platforms, in cooperation with organized groups and reference personalities from non-confessional Left forces of the Middle East. A lively dialogue is needed between leftists in Israel, in Palestine and in the Arab countries. The European Left will seek to ensure that such a conference takes place. Cyprus would be a suitable location for it.
4. The European Union must play an independent, active role in the resolution of the Middle East conflict. This means that the EU must emancipate itself from the US, and not shy away from critical discussions with Israel, too. The European Union must commit itself equally to peace and justice for Israel and Palestine. These issues are inseparably linked. Peace and justice in the Middle East must become an important issue in European politics.