

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

ADOPTED MOTION

**TIME TO FOCUS ON YOUTH
TIME TO CHANGE THE FUTURE!**

The European Left Party (ELP) is one of the political spaces we've chosen to construct, in order to overcome the national dimension of our organisations and upgrade the level of our common political understanding. We know that, in front of the homogenization and deregulation processes of markets and capital in the neo-liberal globalization, our answer needs to be global, to be efficient, starting from the European level. In fact, European institutions—together with a series of uncontrolled and illegitimate transnational bodies—define many of the economical and social policies of our countries. Therefore, our primary aim is to formulate a coherent set of demands for the democratisation of the former and the abolition of the latter, in order to have the chance to reach other goals as well.

The movements against the neo-liberal globalization, which rose in the beginning of the 21st century, referring especially to the Social Forum process, which is still alive, have shown that building the same mobilizations, struggles, paths and thoughts in different European countries is not only necessary, but possible. They have also shown that it is indeed possible to create a positive synergy among political and social actors, differing one from the other: political parties, movements, organisations, trade unions can all fight for common goals with common means – by creating networks and platforms of cooperation.

Our generation is usually depicted as the one of apathy and passivity: In many cases, like in France, Germany, Greece and Italy, the movements have proved that it is quite the opposite. Young generations are capable of regaining the future, starting from the critique to the precarity in the labour world, the erasure of democratic guarantees, the denial of civil rights, the destruction of the environment and, finally, the permanent use of global war.

In fact, a global framework of effective arguments and fronts can be shaped, emerging from local experiences. There is a new networking-production, which has changed the idea of politics itself: From the student organisations to the experience of enquiry and conflict groups on precarity, to the experimentation of new forms of communication, through the self-narration.

We need to start building the alternative right now, applying it in the present, without more delays and postponements. We think that opening public spaces of comparison and discus-

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sion is a basic step in a Europe choosing to reduce politics to technocratic concepts and elite decision-making bodies.

We want to create spaces of convergence for militants and activists. Open spaces of participation on a local scale, where people will be able to exchange experiences of activism, relieved from dogmatic concepts of ideological purity and militant avant-garde. Spaces which will be friendly and attractive for young people, despite of the generally applied condition of precarity in their lives, which compresses free time and free thinking and makes the space of politics more and more marginal.

There is a need to broaden our intervention on international issues, especially concerning peace and war. Apart from activating political and activist struggles against the neo-liberal and neo-conservative political leaderships that wage military interventions and occupations, it is also necessary to find ways of letting the young generations know the experiences of the peoples fighting for self-determination, social justice and freedom. This can be achieved through the practical realisation of solidarity, thus through the reinforcement of “diplomacy from below”: Solidarity caravans, the practice of non-violent resolution of conflicts and international cooperation—built outside any opportunistic and western-centric logic—can be the tools to weave actual relations among people, build the alternative and get concrete results.

We believe that there is a need to rebuild the interaction between the political and the social field.

Starting from these common feelings and actions, we want to propose some topics of discussion, but most of all we want to build innovative practices on a European level. This common path of ours has still a long way to go, still many more relations to give birth and content to. We choose to create a network, as a first form, which preserves the political autonomy of every organisation and to elaborate our collective political actions in modules. We want to build positive relations with all the already existing, European and global networks of movements and youth political organisations, with which we share common goals.

We share the analysis and the political line proposed in the document of the Second Congress of the European Left. Starting from this common stance, we want to delve into the dramatic effects that the neo-liberal policies implemented in Europe have had and are still having on the material life of the young generations.

We have already started an important discussion for the organisation of our European campaign against precarity: “Reclaim Life! Fight Precarity!”. We have developed our thought in many meetings, as the one we had during the Summercamp in Sapri (Italy), which saw the participation of many activists of our organisations.

For young generations, precarity does not concern only the bargaining typology with which we enter the world of labour. Our generation is the first one risking to see its wealth decreasing compared to the one of our parents’. Precarity concerns all aspects of our life and exist-

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ence: knowledge and training, welfare, civil rights, environment, war and violence are the plugs of a dramatic regression and of the gradual deconstruction of those conquests we used to consider gained.

For these reasons it is nowadays fundamental to include the construction of a new model of citizenship in our fight against precarity, a model built starting from the following demands:

Half education is half life.

All educational reforms and policies implemented all over Europe are not independent from each other. They are based on the common, neo-liberal strategy of turning education into a useful practical and ideological tool for the market and the dominant system. They aim at producing a new model of an obedient, super-specialized, half-educated scientist, who can be used as a cheap and expendable workforce.

The abolition of commodification policies imposed by neo-liberalism on knowledge and the radical transformation of the training model are two essential steps, in order to restart focusing on the issue of equality and freedom. That is why we primarily fight for the abandonment of the criteria imposed by the Bologna Process and for a radical redirection of educational principles, based on the concept of a public and free education of high academic and didactic standards, which will offer guaranteed professional rights and will be administrated through participative and direct democratic models.

Moreover, we commit to fight for the acknowledgement of the economic and social autonomy of students from their cultural background and from their families. That is why claiming free services such as housing, transports, schoolbooks and access to cultural events is one of our main goals. At the same time, we think it is necessary to broaden the idea of the right to study, up to include a direct financial support (“scientific income”) by the state.

Flexy-nothing.

Social security and safe working environments are non-existing notions for young people entering the labour market today. Flexible working spaces, flexible working hours, flexible contracts and salaries can never go together with a secure and stable life.

The European Union has decided to sentence our future to a constant chase of survival, by introducing “flexicurity” as the new way of deepening the neo-liberal strategy.

Neo-liberal policies have used the transformations in the way of production of value, goods, profit to re-question conquests and victories of the workers’ movement that we used to consider as guaranteed. By now, this regression is not only a danger, it is a reality. We fight against this degradation of social achievements. At the same time, we deem necessary, now more than always, to fasten our analysis of the world of labour and non-labour to the changes of the present. In order to do that, we need to fight against the new notion of “flexicurity” and keep the long-term, collective contracts at the centre of the dependent-work relations. Moreover, we cannot postpone anymore the struggle for a new and re-formulated welfare, able to guarantee basic and fundamental rights—such as sickness treatment and mater-

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nity—regardless of one’s bargaining and working situation, a continuity of income for all precarious workers and the protection of youth from the blackmail of insecure employment and the danger of a forced emigration. That is why we demand equal rights and guarantees for all those living in the European Union. We also believe it is necessary to establish a European collective bargaining. We fight against social dumping and we demand that the European Union adopts new policies aiming at guaranteed equal wages in the different countries of the Union.

Cities for all.

Instead of promoting our personal emancipation, by offering us every possible means for it, local and national authorities do everything to prevent us from enjoying a self-managed, independent life. Our cities are full of empty houses, while renting costs make it impossible to leave our parents’ house. Our streets are filled with immobilized and polluting cars, while public transports are either inexistent or expensive, low-quality and inefficient. Huge amounts of money are spent every year in commercialized, mainstream cultural productions, while independent and innovating artists are thrown out of state funding and support. Meanwhile, new technologies and knowledge remain accessible only to those who have the ability to spend a lot for them, instead of being offered freely to all citizens.

It is our duty to fight for guaranteed social benefits, low-cost and high-quality housing and transports for all. It is our duty not to let anyone “postpone” or “delay” our emancipation.

The whole earth is our home!

Migrants ending up in European countries are used as cheap and invisible labor force. With neither rights nor social protection, they live a very fragile life, unable to claim their basic rights, because of the constant fear of job loss or even deportation. These people equally contributing to the societies are deprived of rights, which we consider as basic, such as citizenship of residence and the right to participate in all levels of the decision-making processes. “Fortress-Europe” is not our Europe!

My body-My choice!

The present repressive system forces us to live our lives following a moral pattern of patriarchal and heterosexist behavior, denying the rights to our body and to pleasure. Women are seen as reproductive machines, taken under less consideration than men, economically dependent on them and less paid for offering equal work. At the same time, the dominant hetero-culture marginalizes all the other sexual orientations and does not recognize equal rights to the LGBT communities, as the right of marriage or adoption.

All the above is a first set of commonly shared analyses, thoughts and proposals. It is our first step on a new path of cooperation, a new channel of common understanding and a new tool of making our ideas work on a continental scale.