



## **Continuing mobilisations to stop austerity, to change economic policies, and to impose an Action plan against poverty in Europe**

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People all across Europe have demonstrated against the austerity measures that the European Union, governments and the IMF are trying to impose. The European Confederation of Trade Unions organised a European Day of Actions on September 29th. There have been general strikes and big demonstrations in Iceland, Greece, Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and many other countries.

The leaders of the EU and governments have not cared about these voices and the demands of the majority. They continue to cut public spending, jobs, salaries, social security and public services. These measures do not solve the crises of financial capital – on the contrary they deepen the crises. At the same time the EU and the governments give even more power to the financial markets, to the same bankers, investors and shareholders who are guilty for the crises.

Today we can see in Europe concentration of wealth in the hands of the few – and the growing poverty of the many. There are over 80 million people facing poverty in European Union and even more in other European countries.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the European Left calls to continue joint actions and to strengthen the class struggle to stop these attacks against the rights of working people. Together the trade unions, people's movements, the left and progressive forces can break the logic of big capital passing debt to states, belt tightening for the people and profits for the financiers.

We fight against social dumping and precariousness, for the principle of equal pay for equal work in every European country.

We demand radically different, more just distribution wealth. The economy will recover when new jobs are created, when minimum income, wages and pensions are higher, when investments in public services, housing and the environment are higher. New revenues for all this can be found by taxing big capital, financial incomes, speculative transactions and high salaries. Instead of lending money to speculators, the banking



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system must finance investments for job creation and social and environmental development.

Europe needs a concrete action plan against poverty. The European Left demands a guaranteed and reasonable basic income for unemployed, students, pensioners and others who have no other means to make their living. This basic income should be tax-exempted and index-linked.

Creating meaningful and regular jobs should be one of the priorities. An ever-growing number of persons are overworked because of a growing pressure in the workplace, while hundreds of thousands are without work or have to survive with the help of precarious jobs. We demand shorter working hours without pay loss and the creation of new jobs. The artificial use of precarious forms of employment must stop. We demand a European minimum wage that represents at least 60 % of the national average wage and the strengthening of collective agreements. We demand the guaranteed possibility of retirement for all at 60 with full pension. We also demand a European-wide minimum wage of at least 60 % of the national average wage and an appropriate guaranteed minimum income for those who have no other means to sustain their livelihood.

Policy must be based on people's needs, public interest and co-operation. The financial and banking sector must be transformed so that it will work in the interest of the people, for socially just and ecologically sustainable development. It should be organised under public ownership, through democratic control and transparent processes. Monetary policy must encourage banks to finance investment with social and ecological purpose and discourage financial operation.

The European Left Party proposes an international tax on financial transactions to reduce the level of currency speculation and provide a lasting source of funds to promote fighting the effects of climate change in developing countries.

The European Left will form a Working Group to elaborate a more detailed proposal within ten months. The Working Group should have a maximum of ten members.



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The European Left is ready to work together with trade unions, social and political movements, with all interested parties to develop alternatives and to build a broad coalition for a new kind of development, democracy and solidarity.