



EUROPEAN FORUM *Bruxelles*

Final declaration – Brussels European Forum

Europe is currently experiencing an increasingly alarming period of political and economic crisis. The challenges are becoming more numerous: austerity policies, increasing inequalities, the energy crisis, climate change, managing Brexit, the migration crisis, threats to peace, a renewed emphasis on armaments, and a rising and threatening racism.

In this context, the 3rd European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive Forces, which took place on 8, 9 and 10 November following the Forums held in Marseille in 2017 and Bilbao in 2018, is good news.

***This Forum is a space for political work,
collaboration and convergent actions to
promote a new future for Europe.***

This Forum continues to progress and is becoming a space for political work, collaboration and consideration of convergent actions for all those who wish to promote a new future for Europe. All peoples and nations aspire to freedom, justice, social development, solidarity, peace, protection of our various public goods and environmental sustainability.

At the recent European elections, the Grand Coalition failed to achieve an absolute majority of seats for the first time. The Greens make progress. But the breakthrough by the reactionary right and far-right, and by the defenders of patriarchy and xenophobes, is alarming. Popular and social mobilisations need a positive outlet. We have indeed to work on it. We must seize every opportunity to counter neo-liberal, authoritarian and predatory policies in order to bring forward social and environmental justice, peace and solidarity solutions.

We who have come together here in Brussels condemn the fact that the current configuration of the EU, written in its treaties, is neither an expression of solidarity between national economies, nor is able to respond to social and ecological emergencies. It is rather becoming an instrument in the service of the major capitalist and neo-liberal economies which have dominated the process of European construction by designing an institutional architecture which combines financial globalisation and productivism,



while irresponsibly restricting its policies on fiscal justice and the redistribution of wealth. Our public goods are also victims of this. The environmental deficit is not negotiable, and the clock is ticking.

Therefore, we who are participating in the Forum of Europe's green, progressive and left-wing forces are conscious of the fact that we must act on the real causes of the crisis if we do not want the situation to worsen and lead to social, economic and ecological disasters which will be harmful to the vast majority of people.

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The aim is to build a Europe which is socially and ecologically sustainable, fully democratic, based on the principles of popular sovereignty, free from patriarchy, which fights against all types of discrimination and which plays an active role in building a multipolar world of peace and solidarity.

Constructing this alternative requires the development of a series of proposals based on a series of principles, among which we would emphasise:

1 We fight for full employment and decent work; and using the economy to improve living conditions for the majority. We need to anticipate the major changes affecting the world of work and in particular the increasingly important role of digital platforms. We also need to re-examine the relationship of workers with their tools. This means breaking with current European policies that cause social dumping, competition between workers and between their social protection systems.

We are proposing solutions: guaranteed minimum wages, with a reduction in the retirement age and the working week, based on the social and territorial cohesion of European peoples through guaranteed criteria for upward convergence in terms of salaries, employment, social protection, and quality public services, as well as European unemployment insurance arrangements.

2 We assert that a proposal for environmental transition must include measures which transform models of production, consumption and exchange and improve policies for combating climate change, for animal protection and biodiversity. Productivism should no longer be at the heart of the approach but, rather, the sustainable preservation of public goods and our ecological, economic and social assets.



We are proposing a new relationship to water use, operated as a common good, making agricultural and fisheries policies more socially and environmentally equitable.

We are advocating a new, clean European energy model based on renewable energies, using a model for energy self-sufficiency in which the supply of energy is seen as a right, by establishing mechanisms to develop energy efficiency, by establishing more stringent mechanisms for intervention and checks against the background of a democratic approach, implementing measures for energy sovereignty which promote sustainable development in key sectors of the social economy.

3 We defend the place of public services within society. Education, health, housing and mobility are basic rights. States and peoples must be able to refuse commodification to ensure their universality and accessibility.

We propose to protect public services from both austerity policies and competition in the private sector.

4 We view the promotion of gender equality as a fundamental principle of European integration which will help to close the current gap between recognition of the right, its guarantee in law and its effective application.

We propose to promote equal pay and the empowerment of women through the implementation of gender equality policies and the formulation of clear and binding goals for compliance with gender equality at all levels.

5 We advocate for a peaceful Europe, free of nuclear weapons and in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which promotes peace and solidarity among all the peoples of the world, which accepts the inalienability of the fundamental civil, political and social rights of its inhabitants and which is open and socially responsible; a Europe which works for the development of a multipolar world, which puts an end to "Fortress Europe" with its selective and discriminatory migration policies and guarantees trade while respecting human rights, which operates with fair and complementary trade practices and which breaks with the growing militarisation of Europe and its submission to NATO.

6 We advocate a Europe which promotes a development model for our societies which is no longer focused on short-term profit for the few, but on the protection of all our common assets. We want a Europe that places the human being at the heart of all its concerns, rather than the individual interests of a few multinationals. We state clearly that this vision is incompatible with a conservative neo-liberal Europe. We want a new democratic model, supported



by deliberative and inclusive citizen participation. We are fighting the criminalization of social movements and the persecution of activists in Europe and the rest of the world.

7 We support the spirit of the Ventotene Manifesto, condemning the fact that this desire to build a fairer, more social, more democratic Europe is being betrayed and manipulated by those who bear its name through the development of an ultra-centralised, neo-liberal, authoritarian, predatory European Union run by institutions without any democratic controls, which has caused the worst systemic and climatic crisis since 1945.

In this sense, this Forum has made contributions through the various panels, workshops and assemblies that have been organised. Such work is complementary to this declaration.

It is for each political, social or trade union body to translate this work into its own particular scope of action in order to make 2020 a year of mobilisation and popular struggle, in which the will of millions of Europeans to fight for a better society can be expressed.

We will work with an Action Plan shared with citizens' movements, social movements and trades unions.

Therefore, we consider it essential to continue with the work of this 3rd Forum throughout 2020, through the implementation of an Action Plan shared with citizens' movements, social movements and trades unions, a plan which has been discussed in various panels, assemblies and workshops.

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We call on all the peoples of Europe to support the struggle of feminists, trade-unionists, environmentalists, LGBTQI, citizens and pacifists, as well as the social struggle; we also call for participation in mobilisation movements to confront the aggressive economic and military policies promoted by the United States Government. We call for mobilization against the extreme right, and the ideas it brings into the political debate.



Therefore, those of us who have met in Brussels over the course of these days are taking up the challenge of working to ensure that the opportunities for cooperation and coordination between the pluralistic forces participating in this Forum will continue through the various civic, social, political, trade union and institutional actions which will be developed during 2020.

In order to advance this cooperation and coordination and to ensure the continuity of the existing working groups, we will ensure that the Working Group which has been operating since the first Forum continues, and we will implement policy coordination with representation of the three pillars making up the Forum and executive coordination which will ensure that the tasks and objectives which we have approved during these days are followed up and developed.

Finally, and from this very moment, we call for the initiation of preparations for the 4th Forum as a continuation of our common will.

Brussels, 8-10 November 2019

