



Left, Green, Progressive
**EUROPEAN
 FORUM**
Rivas Vaciamadrid
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FINAL DECLARATION 2023

7th EUROPEAN FORUM OF LEFT, GREEN AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES

The debates at the 7th European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive Forces confirmed the failure of a neo-liberal, reactionary, patriarchal, and environmentally predatory model of European construction. This model has demonstrated its inability to offer positive solutions to the challenges confronting our people, and it lacks a genuine commitment to achieving strategic autonomy in its foreign policy.

Based on this observation, this 7th Forum calls on progressive social, cultural, trade union and political forces to unite in the endeavor to construct a different Europe.

A Europe that places the democratic and sovereign choices of peoples at the center of all concerns, aiming to improve the lives of individuals and defend the environment.

A Europe free from gender-based violence that puts an end to all forms of discrimination and inequality, and closes the gender pay gap by promoting public care systems to alleviate the burden borne by women, ultimately dismantling the patriarchal system, human trafficking, and exploitation.

A Europe that achieves full democratic development by implementing socially progressive policies that provide young people with the prospect of a dignified life and stability.

Europe that creates a new definition of “global security” working to build peace and resolve conflicts diplomatically and through negotiation, based on the United Nations Charter and respect for international law, as well as the protection of social rights, co-development, food security, and climate security. Therefore, we believe that the next steps to stop the war would be: a return to the negotiating table, a ceasefire, a withdrawal of all Russian troops from Ukraine.

We are resolute in our commitment to engage in political action and facilitate the development of a democratic and socially progressive Europe founded on the principles of equality, solidarity, and sustainability. This vision entails Europe assuming a stance of strategic autonomy in foreign policy, advocating for an international order free from hegemonies that hinder the right of peoples to self-determination, and promoting cooperation and solidarity among sovereign nations.

In pursuit of these objectives, participants in the 7th Forum, representing our diversity and plurality, engaged in debates, exchanged proposals, shared experiences, and coordinated actions. We will disseminate these insights to various participating organizations, urging them to study and implement these ideas within their respective spheres of influence. Additionally, we encourage the consideration of these proposals for integration into their programs for the upcoming European elections. Our collective aim is to collaborate in pushing back against the right, in both its neoliberal and neo-fascist manifestations, and to collectively pave the way for a future of peace and prosperity in Europe.

In this sense, the rise of the far right in various European countries, including its presence in some governments such as Italy, compels us to combat historical revisionism and advocate for a resurgence of anti-fascist values that prioritize a Europe grounded, above all, in social justice.

Therefore, we advocate for this European Forum to become the starting point for working towards deepening convergences leading up to the European Elections of 2024 and beyond. This involves fostering a common ambition that is recognizable in the social and labor programs of the entire left in Europe. To achieve this, we support the joint document of 16 points with specific proposals aimed at implementing a groundbreaking plan that improves the lives of all citizens of the European Union (EU) and facilitates more effective trade union action, ensuring that no one is left behind.

A Europe that promotes the social economy for its values of democratic management of businesses, wealth sharing, solidarity, territorial articulation, and empowerment of individuals in the economy, with decent and high-quality employment, and an ambitious and emancipatory social and cultural model.

A Europe of progress and social justice, public services, employment, and new industrialization. We urgently need to denounce free trade treaties to ensure industrial and commercial sovereignty. We aim to establish new international treaties for democratic control over trade and investment in common goods, mutual development, security, food and industrial sovereignty, and the achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals. This will facilitate a new industrialization in Europe that meets social needs and respects the planet, based on cooperation and solidarity between territories.

Public services must be exempt from European competition rules. A European observatory for public services should be established to ensure democratic and citizen oversight. Workers' rights should be extended to enable their participation in defining the social and ecological objectives of businesses and public services.

A Europe where health and social rights take precedence in the face of increasing pressures from commodification.

A Europe that acts to promote agricultural and food sovereignty. A new Common Agricultural Policy is necessary to fully integrate food policies. The allocation criteria must be reviewed to secure producers' incomes, support employment and accompany the agro-ecological transition.

Specifically, we advocate for a Europe that adopts a sustainable development model, actively tackling the ongoing climate emergency by transforming the ecological transition into an avenue for social and environmental justice. To accomplish this, we must champion a Europe wholeheartedly dedicated to the energy transition, liberating us from our carbon dependence. This necessitates putting an end to several neoliberal aberrations, starting with the 'European electricity market' and the carbon market (ETS).

A Europe that upholds effective multilateralism, based on the founding Charter of the United Nations, with an independent external action from the USA and NATO. A Europe that ceases to be a fortress rejecting economic migrants, asylum seekers, and all those fleeing disasters caused by neocolonialism, capitalist crises, wars, and climate change. A Europe that uses its resources to build coexistence and collaboration among peoples. To achieve this, policies must be ensured to prevent continuous massacres in the Mediterranean and at Eastern borders. The Dublin Regulation must be repealed, the outsourcing of the management of European borders to third countries must cease, and the Frontex agency must be abolished. The regularization of individuals with irregular administrative status in Europe is necessary, and we reject the ongoing migration pact being negotiated within the EU.

All this requires mobilizing resources and powers to avert the impending crisis, particularly by deploying the trillions from the European Central Bank (ECB) for public services and social protection, through the establishment of a European fund, democratically dedicated to their financing. It involves swiftly changing the perilous policy of high-interest rates at the ECB: advocating for a selective decrease and increase in rates, in favor of employment, education, wages, and ecology; and against speculation, job-destructive mergers, outsourcing, and capital income.

It is imperative to promptly reassess the conditions of national public aid within the European Union to make them cooperative, supportive, and with specific criteria for ecological results and quality employment.

In this context, we want to convey our active engagement and solidarity with the ongoing struggles in Europe and various parts of the world.

This Forum calls for an end to the partition of Ireland. We believe that the political and electoral conditions are in place. The full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland cannot continue to be compromised 18 months after the last provincial elections, and the British government must take responsibility. The peace process in Ireland, so far exemplary, could serve as inspiration for the resolution of many conflicts.

This Forum demands the end of the 49-years-long Turkish occupation of 37% of Cyprus. It calls for the resumption of the talks under the auspices of the United Nations from where they were left in 2017, to reach according to the UN Resolutions a bizonal bicomunal federal solution with political equality as defined by the UN. Strongly supports the common work of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political and social organizations to achieve the reunification of Cyprus and its people.

We vigorously denounce Turkey's pressure on the democratic opposition; we demand Turkey the release of all political prisoners and the implementation of decisions by the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. We condemn armed attacks on civilian infrastructure in Kurdish regions, leading millions to face poverty due to a lack of access to water and electricity.

We support calls for a democratic solution to the Kurdish issue. On behalf of Jina Amini, we stand in solidarity with all women fighting for freedom, especially the Yazidi women of Şengal, echoing the cry of Jin-Jiyan-Azadi (Women, Life, Freedom)!

We defend the Sao Paulo Forum against the attacks and defamations it is facing from the European extreme right, and we recognise it as a reference point for the forces of progress in Latin America and the Caribbean. We also salute the birth of CELAC Social as an example of the dynamism of this region in the construction of a model of horizontal integration and solidarity, free from external interference.

We are concerned about the situation in Peru and Guatemala, where the President's *Semilla* party has been banned, potentially leading to a "soft" coup d'état.

We support the calls, repeatedly endorsed by UN resolutions, to end the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States. Additionally, we urge Cuba to be removed from the unilateral list of state sponsors of terrorism. Consequently, we endorse the convening of the International Tribunal on the Cuban blockade, scheduled to take place in Brussels on 16 and 17 November 2023.

We can only rejoice that the old dominations inherited from the colonial period are giving way to the revolt of the peoples of Africa. We advocate for the political, economic, and monetary emancipation of the African peoples who aspire to a "second independence." The abolition of the CFA/ECO franc, a tool of neo-colonial domination, must be a priority. Public aid for co-development needs reform, ensuring that governments, businesses, and civil society in the concerned countries take ownership of and implement their economic, social, and human development projects, as well as their ecological transition policies.

In the same vein, we express our solidarity with the Saharawi people, who have been deprived for decades of the right to live in their own territory, suffering the repression of the occupying forces. We demand compliance with the UN resolutions in favour of self-determination and the organisation of a referendum in Western Sahara.

ACTION PLAN

The 7th European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive Forces presents this Final Declaration, a reflection of our debates, we continue to refine and advance in developing an Action Plan that enhances the presence of the participating forces in the streets during this Forum. Thus, we propose the following actions to be implemented until the next 2024 Forum:

- Organization of a campaign for a Feminist Europe culminating on March 8, 2024, as outlined and approved by the Women's Assembly of the Forum.

- Engage the forces participating in this Forum to carry out, in collaboration with European trade unions, a campaign in defense of the 16-point platform with concrete proposals aimed at implementing a groundbreaking plan that improves the lives of all EU residents.

- Actively participate in the mobilizations scheduled for June 5, 2024, World Environment Day.

- Join in the activities to be held on May 9, 2024, the day of victory against Nazism.

- Organization of a roundtable discussion on the eve of the European demonstration against austerity called by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) on December 13, 2023 in Brussels, to discuss the urgent need for a completely different use of money in Europe (ECB, profits, public aid).

- To continue working in collaboration with other international organizations that advocate for peace, so that September 21, 2024, becomes a day of mobilization in support of peace and the demand for an end to the numerous conflicts that are plaguing significant parts of the world.

- Mobilise to demand 2% of the European Union's GDP to fund culture. And to work towards a basic European statute for artists (intermittent).

When implementing the Action Plan, experience shows that providing it with a team responsible for its follow-up is necessary. To this end, we advance that the Forum's Small Group establish a team of representatives from each action proposal submitted to monitor the Action Plan's progress.

Comrades, the 7th Forum does not end here. Continuing its efforts in developing actions and mobilizations to further the results of our discussions and plans, the Forum aspires to organize the 8th edition in Hungary. It is time to celebrate the progress of our positions in the political, social, trade union, and institutional fields. This will be achieved through better coordination and cooperation among all the forces and collectives that advocate for a more just, supportive, egalitarian, and sustainable society.

The path of cooperation and coordination continues.

Rivas Vaciamadrid, November 2023

DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

The 7th European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive Forces condemns all acts of terrorist violence committed in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

We endorse the declarations of the Secretary General of the United Nations, who has called for an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Gaza and the release of the hostages held by Hamas.

We call for the release of political prisoners in Israeli prisons and express our condemnation of the apartheid policy to which the Israeli government subjects the Palestinian people, as well as the entry of the Israeli army into Gaza, contrary to international law. And above all, we condemn the indiscriminate bombings by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip, veritable war crimes for which the perpetrators must be held accountable before the International Criminal Court.

We reaffirm that the establishment of a lasting and stable peace depends on the recognition of a viable and fully sovereign Palestinian state, alongside Israel, under the conditions defined by various United Nations resolutions.