

FINAL DECLARATION

8TH EUROPEAN FORUM OF LEFT, GREEN AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES



Left, Green, Progressive
**EUROPEAN
FORUM**
Budapest
8-10 NOVEMBER 2024

1. In pursuit of a Europe built on progress and social advancement, we advocate for an equitable distribution of wealth, strong universal and quality public services, and public ownership of shared resources to create a fairer, more participatory, and democratically planned society. Access to decent, affordable, and climate-appropriate housing must be a right, not a luxury. Social security, including healthcare, pensions, and unemployment benefits, should be universal right guaranteed to all people across the EU. This implies a different use of money from companies, banks and the ECB.

The right to decent working conditions and secure jobs as well as well-paid lifelong learning are fundamental. This includes strengthening trade union rights, introducing social clauses in public contracts, increasing wages and social rights, closing the labour gap and improving the working environment. We want quality jobs for everyone and the right to a dignified pension from the age of 60, delivered by efficient public institutions.

We advocate for free and universal access to healthcare and the strengthening of public health systems to reduce social inequalities. We demand modern public services that are adequately staffed,

efficient, and managed with user participation. One of the strategic questions of our society is to secure high-level education that is free, open, equal, liberating, and emancipating for everyone, without religious, regressive, or market-driven influences.

The shortage of affordable, quality social housing is an urgent crisis across Europe that requires immediate and decisive action. Measures and initiatives must be taken at European level to direct financial resources towards the needs of individuals instead of financial interests. We call for the establishment of a European housing programme supported by economic and social policies aimed at increasing public investment in non-profit housing. We demand transnational regulations to limit rent prices and counter the exploitative trend in housing needs, with the aim of speculation.

Addressing the social crisis must be an absolute priority. This is why we are opposed to the resumption of the liberal austerity policy advocated by the European Commission, which is based on the one hand on liberal measures that favour the ruling classes and reduce the citizens' human, economic and social rights of the European peoples, and on the other hand that rely on increased military spending at the cost of reducing the funds that should be devoted to social spending, equality and job creation.

We want to win power over money, to develop public services, cooperation, efficient and high-quality employment in companies, and reject free and undistorted competition. We want to do this both within the EU and with the rest of the world. We want popular sovereignty over money for other social goals, unlike the current EU, which responds to the needs of capital. One way of doing this would be to create a European Fund to finance public services through loan to governments at zero interest, financed by the ECB.

2. We consider the climate crisis as an emergency that requires a comprehensive response. The European Union should take immediate action to address the climate and social crisis. It is essential to move away from the coal-based energy model while ensuring job creation. This entails a social transformation of our production and consumption patterns to achieve climate neutrality by 2040 and to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. We need more ambitious environmental targets and green planning to ensure a just transition.

3. We advocate for a Europe founded on peace and solidarity, promoting a future shaped by peaceful and diplomatic solutions, that deals with conflicts through dialogue. A Europe that integrates an alternative approach to security, based on a new vision that no State can truly be safe unless the others share the same level of security.

We strongly condemn European policies against migrants and refugees: the right to asylum and freedom of movement must become the fundamental characteristics of the Europe we want and we will fight against the policies put forward by Ursula von der Leyen's migration and asylum pact that seek to ban them. This means tackling the causes of migration and developing a new co-development policy in conjunction with the countries concerned.

We do not want Europe to be part of a new Cold War or turn into a battlefield. We oppose NATO's militaristic dominance over the EU and its member states, the increase in military and war expenditures to the detriment of social services, and the swift militarization of politics, the economy, and public consciousness. Instead, we envision a Europe free from US, NATO and of outside powers' mandates.

The wars and armed conflicts, serves the interests of financial capital that profits from them. As long as these wars continues, more innocent civilians will die every day. We therefore demand an end to the violence through negotiations that must begin to bring lasting peace to Ukraine, within the framework of the United Nations.

In the same way, we demand fair and negotiated solutions to the armed conflicts spreading across various regions of the world, such as Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Western Sahara, etc. The ongoing development of nuclear weapons and the fact that their use is openly contemplated by nuclear powers make disarmament an urgent necessity for humanity's survival.

The Hamas attack of 7 October, which we strongly condemn, does not justify the war waged by Israel. We demand an immediate ceasefire in the Middle East and an end to Israeli aggression in Palestine. We call for the release of all Israeli hostages and Palestinian political prisoners, as well as the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, the reconstruction of all that has been destroyed by the Israeli army, and the return of all displaced Palestinians. We reaffirm that the establishment of a lasting peace in the region requires the end of the occupation, colonization and apartheid regime that the Palestinian people is suffering, along with the recognition of a viable and fully

sovereign Palestinian State under the conditions defined by United Nations resolutions, of recognition of two states.

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.

We call for an end to the occupation of Cyprus and the reunification of the country in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

We call for an end of the Turkish military interventions in north-eastern Syria, northern Iraq and Sinjar, and an end of the oppression of Kurds and Turkish people in Turkey. 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. The repression of democratic politics and trustee politics must end. A just and democratic solution of the decades-old Kurdish Question requires dialogue and negotiation- not isolation, imprisonment and violence.

This eighth Forum joins the motion adopted by the UN calling for an end to the unjust and illegal blockade that the United States has imposed on Cuba for decades, and at the same time demanding Cuba's removal from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

We support the search for peace and autonomy in Africa. It is time to rebuild African-European relations on the basis of equality and solidarity, to build a future where peace and dignity prevail over violence and domination.

We aspire to a new international economic order based on the rights of peoples and reject all global monetary hegemony. We call for cooperative, democratic and non-hegemonic solutions for joint financing of the ecological transition and public services worldwide.

4. Class feminism challenges the capitalist and patriarchal system and highlights the contradiction between capital and life. It opposes an economy rooted in human exploitation and envisions a society free from patriarchal violence, allowing for emancipatory human development for all, in equality and harmony with nature: this is the economy grounded in the care of life. The feminist movements fight against sexist violence, inequality, which women and their

children face throughout their lives and demands comprehensive legislation and a robust political framework to combat all forms of sexist violences.

The feminist movement, together with the environmental movement, serves as catalysts for political change and social transformation in Europe, which is why both the right and far-right consistently attack the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people, and deny climate change.

This Forum proposes that the EU's economic, ecological, and social policies, as well as those related to healthcare, care, education, and culture, should be guided by a female perspective. To start the feminist transition in Europe.

We support the fundamental rights of all couples to marriage and parenthood. Additionally, the legal recognition of LGBTQIA+ identities should be included as grounds for granting asylum.

Together with feminist movements, we want to promote the inclusion of the right to decide about our own bodies and our motherhood in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. We also seek to have gender apartheid recognized in international law so that women and LGBTQIA+ individuals facing such oppression, as in Afghanistan, can be welcomed as refugees and receive protection in Europe.

5. We are aware of the need to actively address and integrate the needs, dreams, concerns, and perspectives of young people and students, promoting their involvement in the plans, campaigns, and actions of European Left, Green, and Progressive forces. We will make this a specific focus in the coming years.

6. The rise of the far right in elections to the EU Parliament has continued in subsequent national and regional elections across various European countries. This rise is a reflection of a neo-fascist ideology with no ethical or moral values, which feeds on racism, xenophobia, misogyny, homophobia, LGBTQIA+phobia, authoritarianism and hatred towards migrant people, as well as a self-centred and unsupportive form of individualism.

Facing a growing economic, social and moral crisis, there is a growing sense of political disaffection and lack of future prospects felt by the working classes, and their anger are directed toward far-right and

fascist movements that propose simplistic economic solutions in favour of the bourgeoisie, the ruling classes, and capitalism, and partly towards demotivation and abstentionism. Only a strategy based on the social justice, ecological sustainability, sharing and peace, which are championed by progressive movements, can offer them a positive perspective.

Thus, in this final declaration, the 8th edition of the European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive forces agrees to participate, in cooperation with other political, trade unionist, pacifist, and feminist organizations, in the preparation of a Conference for peace and solidarity in the world, and to promote, in collaboration with European trade unions, a campaign against the austerity policies and cuts proposed by the European Commission.



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