



**Calling every European citizen!
EUROPE MUST BE ON ALERT!
Let's take our future in our hands
For a permanent collaboration and a convergence of actions between leftist, green
and progressive forces in Europe**

Millions of Europeans have suffered and still suffer the attacks of a predatory capital, which is promoting labour, social, economic and institutional changes whose aim is to demolish historical achievements of the working class and the popular strata in order to impose an authoritarian, precarious, deregulated society, without labour, social or citizen's rights.

On this basis, those of us who have gathered in Bilbao on November 9, 10 and 11 of 2018, in the second European Forum of the forces of the left, greens and progressives, calls upon the popular groups from all over Europe to be on alert and mobilized.

We are on alert against the social harms and inequalities that increasingly tear our societies apart, and which are aggravated every day by policies that promote austerity, the loss of social benefits and competition among workers.

We are on alert against the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few, when insecurity and poverty grow throughout Europe.

We stand up for the climate, aware of the threat of catastrophic climate change, of air pollution and the risks to biodiversity, because the planet is warming and runs the risk of becoming uninhabitable if nothing is urgently done to change the course of our economic and industrial models, as is once again requested in the alarming report published by the IPCC.

We struggle against the attacks to the democratic liberties and to the rights of women. We are on alert to the shameful treatment to migrants.

We are on alert to the risk to peace, which the renewed militarization of international relations, as well as the military expenditure, required among others, by NATO, implies.

We fight against the rise of far-right and reactionary forces that are once again awakening hatred, racism and tension throughout the continent.

We are on alert against the spread of racism and xenophobia that is powered by a number of governments and political forces; and against the building of a European fortress, closed to migrants escaping from war and poverty.

Our main message is the need to be on alert and mobilized to confront the policies that are crushing the peoples of Europe, who are ignored by the rich and powerful, the financial agents and the markets in their search for neoliberal policies.

We say that the time has come for the peoples of Europe to take control of their future and our common destiny.

It is time to combine our forces and open the door to a new era, a path towards a new economic, social and ecological model, including new responses to emancipation and democratic progress to face the most important challenges of mankind.

It is time to work and act together to make our energies converge over the long term, because we know that the citizens of Europe face historical challenges without precedent, and that none of our forces can face these challenges alone.

Many different forces are working together to create another kind of future and a form of development that moves away from this brutal and decadent capitalism.

In a moment in which we are facing a Brexit full of unknowns for British citizens and for non-British people living and working in Britain, as well as elections to the European Union Parliament that will likely change the balance of forces and of power within the European Union, it is vital that these forces work more actively together to make citizens of Europe pronounce loud and clear that another way is possible: that of social progress, inclusion, democracy, peace, respect for equality between men and women, and in general among all people, sustainable development from the environmental point of view and inclusive economic growth. We want to make these popular forces combine their energies.

Based on these common challenges, and in line with the call of the first European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive Forces held in Marseille in November 2017, we have decided that this Forum must continue our work to create a permanent space of convergence at the European level.

Our forces are diverse. Whether rooted in the history of the struggles of the workers' movement, anti-fascist, internationalist, green, emancipatory, or emerging from mobilizations within society, we are aware that we have a lot in common and that we also have our differences.

We do not deny these differences, and each of our forces is and remains fully sovereign in its decisions. The objective is to make these differences not interfere in the pursuit of the common objective of this forum, providing a framework that offers political, social, labor and civic forces the opportunity to contribute their ideas, examine them, derive common axes of political action, encourage the people to mobilize at the national and European level, and to promote cooperation between leftist, green and progressive forces everywhere, as well as in the Parliament of the European Union.

We propose to prepare the third forum to be organised as part of the combined actions that we agree to develop in 2019. There are many potential fronts of action. This year, we propose to join forces and focus on four basic axes:

1. The reordering of the immense wealth created in Europe towards a new model of social and ecological development.

Inequality and poverty continue rising in Europe, while banks, the financial sector, and multinationals feast at a time in which social and economic progress is urgently needed.

The GDP of the European Union is 17 trillion euros. Undoubtedly, inequality and poverty is increasing. Since 2009, the ECB has injected almost 5 trillion euros into the economy of this area, while the tax evasion in the same territory amounts to almost one trillion euros. This money should be redirected in order to satisfy social necessities, to finance public services and the environment, as well as to alleviate the unsustainability of the sovereign debt.

In this way, as progressive and leftist movements, we defend the right to a decent job for all, including full employment, with quality working conditions, sufficient salaries, security, social protection, without discrimination, and with equality between men and women.

We propose that the wealth and power of the countries serve to favour the development of a dignified life without discrimination based on gender, expression and sexual or affective identity.

Our call:

We propose to establish new criteria on how to spend money in Europe in favour of a transformation of the productive structures and for a new social and ecological development model based on a Framework Convention that proposes a new economic and productive model. On this basis we put forward the intention to open a debate on the creation of a European financial, fiscal and budgetary COP similar to the COP on climate change.

2. To defend and promote gender equality.

Women's rights must be defended. One of the pillars on which the hegemony of liberalism is based is patriarchy, which itself is based on ideological values that relegate women to a secondary role in society, normalizing the wage gap, and which fails to involve the eradication of sexist violence from the root, such as trafficking with women and minors for sexual exploitation, because these and other situations of inequality and discrimination maintain and sustain this system that subordinates women. Moreover, we have to put an end to discriminations against LGBTQI people.

The lack of solidarity, equality and equity only generates greater inequality, discrimination and violence that will affect to a greater extent those who have already been victims of an economic, fiscal and political crisis.

We are convinced that there will be no real democracy while women do not live free, without violence, and with equal rights to men. For this reason, the fight against patriarchy is fundamental for the construction of a new project of society that puts the value of people's lives above the benefit of the markets.

The equitable distribution of productive and reproductive work is fundamental for the recognition of social and labour rights that prevent all types of exploitation of women.

Our call:

Based on these premises from this Forum of Leftist, Progressive and Ecologist forces, we set out to elaborate a protocol for gender equality that assumes the full incorporation of women into the world of work, and of men into care work, and which aims to overcome inequalities and ensure gender equality in all spheres of life.

3. Peace and collective security.

The relaunch of military spending and the arms race in line with the NATO's objectives represents a serious risk to peace. The principles of collective security, as defined in the Charter of the United Nations, are threatened. Donald Trump's policies are also putting pressure on all Europe. The question of relations between all European nations and neighbouring regions must be reconsidered on the basis of these principles.

Our call:

We propose to organize citizen debates throughout Europe to promote the idea of a pan-European conference for peace and collective security. It will allow to bring together people across the continent to reject the course towards war in favour of a peaceful and secure world.

It should permit binding agreements with a single standard on asylum and protection of international law by means of a migration policy based on solidarity and responsibility, guaranteeing secure rescue paths for the Mediterranean. We have to build answers based on solidarity, such as the reform of the Dublin system. Hospitality policies are not only a matter of mercy but remain a fundamental part of any redistributive action.

4. Democracy and respect for popular sovereignty.

A democratic society is one that responds to and protects the needs of its citizens having the capacity to listen and act for a collective benefit.

This is why we consider that the main rationale defining the European Union is the weakness of democracy in its functioning. The neoliberal orientation of its treaties is imposed without the consent of the people, and sometimes against their will. For instance, the ECB works without any democratic control. This is combined with the asymmetrical intergovernmentalism, policies led by conservative majorities, and the criteria of some of the European institutions, which are also an attack against democracy.

What dominates in Europe is not cooperation but rather competition and authoritarianism.

Today, there are even countries who are calling for “illiberalism”, in other words, liberalism without democracy. Reactionary and far-right forces must be fought tirelessly and without any compromise, as pluralism and democracy are essential pillars for European peoples and nations.

Our call:

In order for Europe to have a different future, the challenge is to combine respect for popular sovereignty, cooperation between peoples and nations and to pool resources to achieve shared social and environmental objectives. Our goal is to fight for a Europe that is a fully cooperative, solidary, equal and socially advanced democracy. We call for empowering popular sovereignty by launching a new charter for sovereign democracy in Europe.