



EL Manifesto for the 2014 European Elections

Escaping austerity, rebuilding Europe

It is a certainty that Europe is going through a deep crisis. The immense power left in the hands of financiers, the consequences of austerity policies and the recent democratic setbacks endanger the very idea of a European "union".

Anger is growing among the European peoples, and it is legitimate.

The European treaties as they exist, are based on the principles of competitiveness, competition, deregulation and liberalization. The European Central Bank and the euro are at the exclusive service of the financial markets, and the power of big capital prevents social progress in Europe.

The financial crisis was the pretext for going further into ultraliberalism, for imposing barbaric austerity plans, and social and democratic regressions. In country after country, we see the "Troika" landing, these technocrats from the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission. With the complicity of our governments, they lower our wages and pensions, slash public services, privatise and plunder. The result is rocketing unemployment and precariousness; life is becoming harder.

Today, the proposed transatlantic market with the United States and Canada - built by and for multinational companies - is a new threat to work, quality standards, culture and democracy on our continent.

We, who feel the need to rebuild Europe, are more and more numerous. Letting Europe sink into the path of social and democratic regression would be criminal. But letting Europe break up and return to war, to fall back into nationalism and xenophobia would not be the solution either. We propose another way: that of a refoundation of Europe on a new basis. Our goal is to renew hope: a new ambition for cooperation and solidarity at a European level in the service of our peoples and the peoples of the world.

The manifesto presented today by the Party of the European Left seeks to trace the outline of a Europe refounded on a democratic, social, ecological and peaceful solidarity basis. It is the result of a joint effort. We propose the major lines of this transformation and the concrete steps to immediately improve the lives of Europeans.

Resisting austerity and putting social development at the centre of European policies, regaining power over finance and building democracy, increasing the rights of everyone: it is on this basis that we propose to all workers in Europe, to all citizens on the left, to trade unionists and social movements in Europe that struggle against austerity and capitalism for democracy and peace, that we unite our forces.

This platform is a starting point. We want to enrich it with meetings with the forces that, like us, are looking for a positive way out of the crisis. These forces are numerous, as was demonstrated by the signature by more than 100 organizations at an "Altersummit" in Athens in June 2013, of a "Manifesto of the peoples", including many proposals similar to those we propose today. In our countries, platforms, programmes, the demands of associations, unions, networks and political activists of the left and ecologists prove our strength as well.

The European elections in May 2014 will be a crucial time for the future of the peoples. It is this hope, that of a new Europe that we will be the bearer of, against both the defenders of neoliberal Europe and the extreme right that rejects the idea of solidarity between peoples.

Pierre Laurent – EL President

Short version with key points

1. - Resist austerity, for a new model of social development

- a) Debt is not a national problem. We need to find a European solidarity solution. The EL will organize a conference on the issue of restructuring public debt.
- b) Stop austerity plans in order to prevent human and humanitarian catastrophe.
- c) Relaunch economic activity to meet social needs while respecting the environment and fighting precarity and unemployment, especially among young people and women. No to privatisation.
- d) Budgets must be directed towards solidarity, aid to individuals and countries in difficulty. They should aim to reduce social, regional and gender inequalities.
- e) Reform the Common Agricultural Policy.

2. - A new model for ecological development

- a) Localising and converting industrial production in Europe, developing short production and consumption circuits in order to minimize the use of resources.
- b) Fighting climate change by developing true renewable energies and energy savings, development of public transport. Fighting against market solutions to carbon emissions.
- c) Ensuring food sovereignty by developing economically and ecologically sustainable agriculture.
- d) Protecting the sea and making non-explorative use of marine resources.
- e) Rejecting the privatisation of natural resources and making public the production and distribution of energy.

3. - Give power to the people, for a citizens' revolution

A socially and environmentally sustainable, democratic and solidarity-based Europe cannot be built on the existing European Union Treaties. We need to rebuild Europe to win power for the people, workers and citizens.

- a) Regain power over finance.
- b) Respect popular sovereignty.
- c) Facilitate citizens' involvement in EU decision-making.
- d) Workers' rights, trade union freedoms.
- e) Ensure the independence of European countries towards the USA and NATO.

4. - For a social Europe, for a Europe of rights

Our goal is to guarantee the fundamental human rights of all Europeans, men and women, by universal access to these rights, through public services and social security systems, managed by the public. The fundamental rights of citizens are not dependent on the markets; they should not be left in the hands of private companies and financial markets. Their purpose is human emancipation, not profit. Also, we think they should be at the heart of public investment via EU funds, state budgets, local authorities, and contributions systems.

- a) Right to decent work, increase the wages
- b) Right to health care and health protection
- c) Universal right to public education
- d) Ensure access to common goods
- e) Right to social services, and care for disabled people
- f) Rights and freedoms
- g) LGBT rights
- h) Women's rights

- i) Migrants' rights
- j) Right to culture.
- k) Rights of disabled people
- l) Rights for the elderly, rights to pensions

5. - For fair trade with the world. Reject the transatlantic market

- a) Refuse the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This transatlantic market will lead to major social and cultural regression in Europe. We want to unite all sectors and citizens threatened by the Treaty, in agriculture, industry, audio-visual broadcasting, in the world of work in general, the environment, and culture. We demand a public information campaign and a referendum on the TTIP in every country where possible. We want to immediately stop the negotiations on the treaty.
- b) We will put means of inquiry and struggle in place against the spy networks. This is in order to preserve the independence of European states against the USA and NATO.
- c) The EL demands the suspension of the Israel/EU Association Agreement as long as Israel violates international human rights.
- d) The EL demands Mediterranean cooperation and agreements for the benefit of ordinary people. The Union for the Mediterranean, which has as its declared aim the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity, has contributed to destabilising the region.
- e) The renegotiation of the free trade agreements with Latin America and the Caribbean on bases that serve mutual interests and benefit the people.

6) For a Europe of peace

We defend peace and political dialogue against violence and military coercion. The EL is the choice of peace between persons but also between peoples and societies. We defend internationalism, contrary to imperialism, which creates divisions between countries and peoples in an artificial way; we want to unite against the neoliberal and capitalist crisis which victimizes a great number of people, workers and society.

- a) Defend the values of peace
- b) Oppose the military treaties and their consequences for the EU
- c) Resist armaments policy
- d) Act on on-going conflicts, in order to pursue peace in the world

EL Electoral Manifesto

1 - Resist austerity, for a new model of social development

a) On debt

The starting point of our proposal is our opposition to the crux of the debt crisis in Europe: neoliberal policy that has minimised the contribution of capital to financial needs, imposed austerity programmes, lead to the termination of democracy and working rights and to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in a series of EU member-states. The European Central Bank (ECB), as an institution, has aggravated this problem rather than solving it. Our proposals, therefore, do not concern only the countries of the South; instead they are designed within the framework of a European policy meant to tackle the debt issue, including a reliable and definitive settlement.

- A European conference on the Eurozone debt crisis, for the implementation of a sustainable solution, based on the London Conference in 1953, which settled the debt of post-war Germany.

- We fight for the abolition of a large part of public debt, the freezing of its repayment and the introduction of a "growth clause" for the remaining part of it. At the same time, we fight for a radical change in the role and the function of the ECB, so that it becomes a lender of last resort and offer loans directly to over-indebted member-states.

- At the same time, austerity programmes must be terminated, because they lead to more unemployment and to deeper recession and, consequently, to increased public debt, because of the constant need for new loans. What Europe needs are public investment programmes, to fund stable job creation and sustainable development projects, taking advantage of increased funds from the European Investment Bank.

These immediate measures that the EL proposes may not resolve the debt issue once and for all. They are the first steps towards a viable solution to the debt crisis, which must be followed by fundamental changes in the economic and financial sphere, based on a radically different economic model that will serve social needs instead of capitalist interests.

b) Stop austerity to prevent human and humanitarian catastrophe.

c) Relaunch economic activity to meet social needs while respecting the environment and fight precarity and unemployment, especially among young people and women.

- We reject the Competitiveness Pact

- We propose the creation of a European public bank of social and solidarity-based development. In contrast to the European Stability Fund, it would distribute funding for projects on the basis of social and environmental criteria. Funded from the ECB, a share of the EU budget and the taxation of financial transactions and revenues, it would free public investment from the financial markets and would in this respect disarm speculators.

- Aim towards the public and democratic control of strategic sectors of the economy in Europe.
- Relaunch and change industrial production in Europe for social and environmental reasons. It is necessary to produce as close as possible to the place of consumption in Europe.
- Produce better and in cooperation rather than by waging economic war. We propose a critical evaluation of the way we produce today and to redefine our production targets. Taking into account the social usefulness of production, its environmental impact, and the way the decisions are taken within businesses.
- We propose European industrial plans for strategic industries and a European recovery plan.
- Relocate industrial production in Europe through the institution of European protection and social and environmental norms, against the pressure of capital and low-cost production on globalized markets. With for example: concerted national taxes on the re-importation into Europe of goods resulting from relocated production. A “mileage” tax in order to decrease the preventable transport of goods.

d) Budgets must be directed towards solidarity, and aid to individuals and countries in difficulty. They should aim to reduce social, regional and gender inequalities.

- We reject budgetary cuts in aid to poor people.
- We are fighting for a fair redistribution of wealth, a fair tax system in the member states and in Europe.
- We want the rich and the revenues from capital to contribute more.
- We propose a European tax on large fortunes in order to finance a European economic recovery plan.
- Taxation of financial transactions
- To fight against fiscal dumping, we are in favour of the harmonisation of corporate taxation in Europe.
- We are in favour of banning the provision of public subsidies to companies that lay off workers while making profits.
- We propose to condition and adjust the allocation of public aid to companies, based on the creation of decent jobs and on social and environmental criteria.

e) Ensure food sovereignty, reform the Common Agricultural Policy

Europe must guarantee the sovereignty and food security of its people and enable farmers to live with dignity from their work. Agricultural Europe must initiate a development model that respects people and territories. We must undertake an ecological transition in agriculture.

- Establish an international protection clause when the land and water (fishing), of a country are threatened by speculation and diversion of food production.
- Develop tools to regulate agricultural markets, buffer stocks and measures against speculation. A first step could be the creation of an international convention on the non-speciation of food products (a campaign where the NGOs have already put the banks on the back foot)
- Taxes on imports and exports which destabilise local markets, in order to finance the relocation of production.
- Stop supporting the production and importation of biofuels, which threaten food production and destroy forest resources
- Implement the community preference and the suspension of bilateral free-trade agreements negotiated by the European Union (Mercosur).

- The affirmation of food sovereignty by the constitution of European security stocks.
- The introduction of economic tools regulating the margins and practices of the agrifood giants and the big retailers.
- Faced with the climate risk, we propose that Europe establishes a tool for the protection of living resources such as land, sea and forests (Mutual Insurance Calamities' Scheme)

For a new model of ecological development

Our ambition is to situate environmental issues and the growth model in an economy based on an ecological framework. We also want to be active against global warming. To mitigate climate change, we must save energy, switch mainly to renewable energy supply, provide for an effective carbon tax and binding international agreements. Through the ecological restructuring of the economy, reducing the arms race and limiting capitalist profit-making, which emphasizes unilaterally the quantitative growth, we can protect the natural environment in a manner that respects both employment and social justice.

a) Localising and converting industrial production in Europe, developing short production and consumption circuits in order to minimize the use of resources.

b) Fighting against climate change by developing true renewable energies and energy savings, development of public transport. Fight against the carbon emission market.

c) Protecting the sea and making a non-exploitative use of marine resources

d) Rejecting the privatisation of natural resources and making public the resources, production and distribution of energy.

2. - Give power to the people - for a citizen's revolution

A socially and environmentally sustainable, democratic and solidarity-based Europe cannot be built on the existing European Union Treaties. We need to rebuild Europe to give power to the people, workers and citizens

a) Regain power over finance:

- Democratic control of the ECB and re-orientation of bank credit. The ECB should use its power of monetary creation to fund projects that create decent jobs (in industry, research, new modes of production) and public services at national and European level.
- The European Central Bank will be allowed to directly lend money to states at low (or null) rates without any political or economic conditionality. If the European Central Bank lends money to states directly, then speculation against public debt will stop immediately.
- In case the recapitalisation of banks is necessary, (it must be democratically controlled) these banks must be placed under democratic control through social ownership. This can lead to public banks subject to supervision by the state.
- Block capital movements between the EU and tax havens outside of the Union.
- Eradicate tax havens within the EU itself.
- We do not accept the neoliberal criteria of Economic and Monetary Union and demand that employment, social development and democracy be given priority.

- Public control of banks, creation of a public banking pole, separation of commercial and investment banks
- Fight against tax evasion
- End banking secrecy, which protects big capital, and tax avoidance
- Promote the development of mutual funds and non-profit cooperatives

b) Respect popular sovereignty

- We demand the abolition of the TSCG and the «6 pack» and all similar measures.
- We will emancipate ourselves from Lisbon Treaty which has brought about austerity and taken sovereignty away from the people. The Lisbon Treaty contains all previous treaties and concentrates in itself all the dead ends of contemporary capitalism. It demands free and fair competition at the expense of social rights won by the democratic workers' struggles of the last century. It promotes free trade at the expense of the environment and social justice. It maintains the authoritarian drift of the European Union by concentrating power in the hands of unelected institutions. It is necessary to overcome the Treaty of Lisbon so as to deal with the social emergency, to fight ecological disaster, to solve the democratic crisis and to build another Europe.
- Authority must reside with elected assemblies on the national and European levels.
- Budgetary power must be given to the national parliaments. They should also be able to control and participate in EU decision-making.
- Strengthen the powers of the European Parliament and national parliaments against the European Commission. We question the monopoly of legislative initiative in Brussels.
- The European institutions are subject to opaque and antidemocratic lobbies. Beyond an obligatory register, we will forbid all lobbies and give power back to elected representatives.
- For a better representation in the European Parliament we want to generalise the proportional election system via national lists, in countries where this is not already the case.
- Gender parity should be a principle enshrined in the Treaties

c) Facilitate citizens' involvement in EU decision-making

- We want to offer real power through citizens' involvement. This could start with a simplification of the procedure of the European Citizens' Initiative which is today littered with obstacles, especially treaties which forbid it to serve human progress, and by real consideration of proposals from NGOs. This implies a questioning of the place reserved today for lobbying.
- We propose the organisation of European public debates leading to the consultation of the people on major issues affecting them, with a referendum in as many countries as possible (with a referendum wherever the fundamental laws allow that). We ask that this proposal be applied immediately for the proposed transatlantic market.

d) Workers' rights, trade union freedoms

- We want to give new powers to workers enabling them to act on the direction and organization of their work, to organise themselves within companies and at European Works Councils level, including European posted workers, who are often used by employers as instruments for dumping. For social control of the means of production.
- Encouragement of women's participation and election of women in trade union bodies.

- Workers and their representatives in the management bodies of companies must have veto rights on speculative projects, on restructuration or relocation. In case the project fails, the right to a buyout by a co-operative or other self-managing means is crucial.
- We want tools allowing workers to fight against precariousness in their company. The rights of users must be extended, as well as access to the right to strike by private or public workers, including for political purposes.
- We stand for the restoration of collective agreements.
- We want to restore the framework for negotiation with trade unions and fight against anti-union repression

e) Ensure the independence of European countries towards the USA and NATO, refusal of the Swift program, Prism, etc.

3 - For a Europe of rights

Our goal is to guarantee the fundamental human rights of all Europeans, men and women, by universal access to these rights, through public services and social security systems, managed by the public and/or in cooperation with associations and non-profit organizations. The fundamental rights of citizens are not dependent on the markets; they should not be left in the hands of private companies and financial markets. Their goal is human emancipation and not profit. Also, we think they should be at the heart of public investment by EU funds, state budgets, local authorities, contributions systems, etc.

a) Right to work, salaries

- Enough of competition between workers, which forces down wages and undermines rights! We want wage increases all over Europe, equality of wages between men and women, and the creation of a European minimum wage enforced by law or through collective-agreements, to be introduced progressively, adapted to the cost of living in the different countries.
- We want to increase work security and educational training as fundamental principles of the right to work and of collective agreements in the countries of Europe. A levelling upwards of labour legislation could prevent social dumping.
- We are in favour of a reduction of work time without decreases in wages, progressively and taking into account the realities of the different countries, heading towards the 35 hour working week. This is also a means of combating unemployment.

b) The right to healthcare and health protection

- Fight against the growing inequalities in health issues and against exclusion and the imposition of individual forms of payment of services and treatments by ensuring universal access to health care.
- Fairness, integrity and the public character of national health systems. Re-appropriation of the management and the objectives of health services. Public resources should be destined for public health.
- Ensuring sexual and reproductive rights, such as the right to free contraception, free - not penalised - abortion and free prenatal care, through the public health system.
- We want to develop a new culture of health, on a human scale, in favour of prevention and health promotion and against the interests of the big bio-pharma-medical industry. Only public intervention can guarantee medical research that is independent of markets and the interests of firms.

-We aim for a public health policy, for the development of all the actions in the social determinants of health: work and working conditions, housing for all, universal education, clean environment, sufficient and proper food, sufficient pensions and social rights.

- Block privatization and re-establish public health services free from speculation and the markets.

c) Universal right to public education

- A free, secular school system, completely financed by the state, which welcomes all children and which gives the citizens of tomorrow the means of mastering their future and participating in the collective decisions concerning their employment, their country and the world.

- The development of inclusive measures in public schools to fight inequalities throughout Europe.

- The development of national public services of education, higher education and research so as to allow anyone to accede to further education, free of charge, and to thrive in them.

- Education facing the challenges of the latest knowledge in a spirit of cooperation and of service to the community.

- To liberate education, higher education and research must be free from financial pressures and the short-term needs of business so that educational systems contribute to the free development of knowledge in the service of emancipation and progress.

- Compulsory schooling with the same duration in the whole European Union, which is necessary to raise the level of knowledge, culture, diplomas and qualifications for all young people, for the whole population.

- An education which is not limited to compulsory schooling and training, but which provides the possibility of continuing education for personal growth and for autonomy of thinking.

- Working conditions for teachers and school staff which make possible a positive atmosphere and, consequently, improve the quality of teaching.

- To ensure secularism, no public funds should finance private schools, private early childhood facilities or cultural associations.

- Public universities must have sufficient public budgets to enable any qualified and inclined person access to higher level training. Serving the community and society and not the needs of companies and capitalist markets. It should ensure human and humanitarian training alongside technical training, and not see students as instruments of "human resources" at the service of the markets.

-The purpose of education must be human emancipation.

- Students' income must be guaranteed.

-A true co-education based on non-sexist or male-centred values, challenging gender stereotypes.

-Elimination of early school dropout. Special measures against school dropout among girls related to premature and/or forced marriages.

d) Ensure access to common goods

Water and energy must be considered as common goods of humanity. Indeed, they are crucial to life. Nobody must be deprived of them.

-Right to water and energy, by publicly-run systems or public services.

-Free of cost first brackets and progressive billing systems to limit waste.

e) The right to social services, and care for disabled people.

- Provision of structural funds to support people at risk of social exclusion.
- Priority of integration or social reintegration, including in the world of work, whenever this is possible.
- Right to public transport.
- Right to communication, to culture.
- Right to insurance/unemployment benefits.
- Right to professional training.

f) Rights and Freedoms

- Every citizen must be able to exercise their civil and democratic rights regardless of their origin, ethnicity, social status, gender, or ideology. We defend individual freedoms. We will not tolerate any form of racism.
- Secularism: social secularism as a principle and opposition to any religious discrimination. No religion should affect gender equality.
- Protection of computer and online freedoms: rejection of ACTA
- Protect citizens against the illegal spying of the USA

g) LGBT

LGBT people are being targeted under the premise of conservative discourses about health, “normal” family, heteronormative and conservative models. In many countries in Europe, LGBT people are being physically persecuted, suffering from bullying in the workplace or school, denied medical treatments, with the complacency of the state authorities. We stand for equality of rights, prevention / sanctions against any kind of discrimination.

h) Women's rights

- Demand all social, economic and labour rights, as well as sexual and reproductive rights.
- Equal pay for women and men
- Elimination of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual exploitation and forced prostitution. Endorsement of the supporting social structures.
- Directives and policy measures aiming at real actual sharing of domestic and family responsibilities.
- Provide consultative status with the European institutions for women’s and feminist organizations.
- Right to abortion and free contraception - not penalised - and free, included in public health care.
- A secular Europe, where equality between women and men is not related to religion.
- Work towards gender parity in the institutions of the European Union

i) Migrants’ Rights

- Abolition of the inhuman and ineffective Frontex program. Europe shall not be a fortress.
- Defence of the rights of migrant women, who are in a situation of extreme vulnerability.
- Struggle for legislation and educational measures to create awareness to counter the business of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls.

j) Right to culture

- Culture shall not be a product of enterprises, pure entertainment without discernment.
- Access to culture has to be a universal right. For this, public investment and thus sufficient budgets are needed.
- Defence of European cultural diversity.
- Equal access for men and women to available time for cultural activities and leisure, which supposes equal gender distribution of housework and care work.
- Promotion of popular education, a real factor for the emancipation of workers.
- Promotion of cultural products that challenge gender stereotypes. Defence of women against the commercialisation of the female body.

k) Rights of disabled people

- Achieving accessible buildings
- Educational accompaniment
- Professional integration.
- Replacement income equal to the minimum wage for people recognized as unable to work
- Disabled people are disabled only because of a particular organisation of society. Society must adapt and take into account the specificity of this part of the population.

l) Elderly people's rights

The elderly are suffering an shameful attack on their dignity and survival. Now that scientific advances are extending the possibility of life, new pressures are being brought to bear: extension of working hours, reduction in pension levels, the decline of public health care, and the growing and inevitable levels of personal dependence. This is where the capitalist logic of elimination leads so-called “non-productive” section of the population.

- implementation of the European Declaration of rights concerning old people
- guarantee the right to pension: No increase in the retirement age. We demand adequate pension provision and other social protections for all. Low pensions must be increased. We are in favour of adequate public pension systems and the phasing out of private pension funds.

4) For fair trade with the world. Refuse the EU-US free market

a) Refuse the EU-US free market. The transatlantic market threatens social rights, small enterprises, product quality and European identity itself. More generally, the EU agreements with other countries of the world threaten the rights of all. We want to unite all sectors and citizens threatened by the TTIP Treaty, in agriculture, industry, audio-visual broadcasting, in the world of work in general, the environment, and culture.

- We demand a public information campaign and a referendum on the transatlantic market in every country where possible.
- We will immediately stop the negotiations on the agreement. Especially since the USA have once again demonstrated their vision of “free and unfettered competition” and “partnership” while spying on states and European leaders.

b) We will put in place means of inquiry and struggle against spy networks. So, in order to preserve the independence of European states from the USA and NATO, we will put an end to Swift, Prism etc. programmes. We envisage means to apply sanctions against countries which use these practices in Europe.

c) The EL demands the suspension of the Israel/EU Association Agreement

as long as Israel violates international human rights.

d) Renegotiate the free trade agreements with Latin America and the Caribbean on bases that serve mutual interests and benefit the people

e) In the Mediterranean: reconsideration of Euromed.

5) For a Europe of peace

We defend peace and political dialogue against violence and military coercion. The EL is the choice of peace between persons but also between peoples and societies. We defend internationalism, contrary to imperialism, which creates divisions between countries and peoples in an artificial way; we want to unite against the neoliberal and capitalist crisis which victimises a great number of persons, workers and the society.

a) The values of peace

- Defend the culture of equality, justice and solidarity. Introduce education for peace as a specific subject. The EL will organize events in different European countries in 2014 on the 100th anniversary of the First World War.
- Reform of the UN, transforming it into a democratic organ which guarantees world peace.
- The introduction of an International Tribunal for climate justice
- An ecological crime is a serious infringement of the common good. The severity of such a crime is appreciated in light of the endangering of the ecosystem and its consequences for human rights, and the proven responsibility of criminals. These crimes are crimes against humanity. They shall be punished.
- Support for participation in international organs for the defence of peace, such as the WPC (World Peace council) and women's organizations and grass roots women's movements. Take preventive measures (including lessons and instructions to soldiers and officers) on violence against women, rape and trafficking during military conflicts. Judicial punishment for those who commit such crimes, according to international law.

b) On the military treaties and their consequences for the EU

- Review military, commercial and strategic treaties, in particular with the USA.
- Immediate EU and member states exit from NATO. Dismantling of NATO bases in Europe. Dissolution of NATO. Europe must not be militarized and must not cooperate with NATO on crisis management and rapid reaction forces.
- The EU will not participate in "preventive" wars, nor in "humanitarian" interventions without a UN resolution.
- The status of non-aligned countries must be respected.

c) On armament policy

- Act in favour of a reduction of armament expenditure in all EU countries and in the whole world.
- Elaboration of a code of conduct connected to the selling of arms.
- Multilateral destruction of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, banning of explosive mines and chemical weapons.
- Promoting nuclear-free zones.

d) Act on the on-going conflicts, in order to pursue peace in the world

- The EU has to commit to the unification of Cyprus, demanding that Turkey respect international rights.
- The EU has to act for the recognition of the Kurdish people in Turkey and for the end of repression. For us this is a condition for an eventual entry of Turkey into the EU.
- Palestine: The EU has to recognize Palestine and work for the sovereign rights of the Palestinian people, revising its agreements with Israel. We are in favour of a free Palestinian state. We condemn the Israeli colonisation of Palestinian territory and advocate a return to the borders of 1967. We demand the destruction of drones.
- The right to self-determination of the Sahraouian people has to be an objective for the EU. We want to nullify the favourable treaties between Morocco and the EU. The EU has to act for decolonization all around the world where people still suffer from this situation.
- The EL collaborates with the Platform for Peace in Colombia and will undertake an effort to explain that this peace is fundamental for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Abandon the Common Position on Cuba. Against the blockade.
- Promote relations between the EU and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas.

Proposals of Latin America Working Group

The EU policy towards the countries of Latin America is the extension of those implemented against the peoples of Europe, based on free and unfettered competition in the name of competitiveness. The EU - in search of new markets, sources of energy and cheap labour - proposes "free trade agreements" or "association agreements" to countries in Latin America. In the end, it is always a relationship of domination that is offered to the peoples of this region.

The ELP proposes a new relationship, based on cooperation and complementarity between the peoples of the EU and America, a relationship that respects the choice of development strategies of countries governed by progressive forces. The ELP rejects bilateral investment treaties that punish countries which dispute the stranglehold of the transnationals over the wealth and economies of Latin America. The EU has much to offer to the peoples of Latin America with real political cooperation which develops public services and provides transfers of technology.

Political cooperation means working together for dialogue and action in favour of a new international order with a reformed and democratic UN, demilitarisation of international relations and the creation of mechanisms for dialogue and conflict prevention. Human development, climate change, the promotion of peace and disarmament are also examples of terrains for political cooperation.

Trade relations must take into account the asymmetries between the two regions and should be designed as part of development agreements.

The EU should make clear its support for those fighting today in Colombia for a just and democratic peace. The "common position" adopted by the EU in 1996, which conditioned all cooperation with Cuba should be cancelled. Cuba is the only country in the world subjected by the EU to such treatment, which in fact reinforces the blockade, an anachronistic measure to which the island has been subjected for half a century.