

In our “after-workshop-email” we had asked you to participate actively in a common effort of thinking how to make the suggestions of Gabi and Mariana politically more concrete and more efficient: More specifically, how to highlight the solidarity with the socially weakest in European politics, how to achieve a solidarization with the “underclass” and the “marginalized and excluded people”, while fully activated the disenchanted broad middle class, in a common effort of addressing and challenging the present EU institutions. And to translate this into the kind of political activities currently going on: What would be the meaning of such an approach in the preparation and the run-up to the EU elections of 2014?

In so doing, we had started a small informal discussion in order to concretize such an agreement and to define specific steps towards making it real and relevant. We have not created any kind of new formal network or organization. We have continued to see ourselves as interested individuals or as a loose informal group of individuals who want to offer some suggestions to existing groups or organizations, without even attempting to build any further commitment among ourselves.

We have started our discussions by addressing the question of the common interest of people: They want to live a decent life, asking to improve the conditions which determine their daily life and their future. We count on contributions from all who accept this demand not only for themselves or for the groups closest to themselves, but as a demand also of and for everybody. The core question to be addressed in such a common deliberation and effort can still be formulated in a very simple, straightforward way: What does it mean to be fully free as individuals and, at the same time, to be able to influence on the direction and the mode of society’s development? How can we build the power and the leverage needed in order to make our deliberations practically relevant, how could we achieve the key changes we think to be ever more urgently needed.

On the basis of this core concern, we can continue to militate for the following key demands:

- to be free from violence, repression, discrimination, surveillance;
- to be protected from social exclusion and misery – to have decent work, a decent income, and a decent housing;
- to have real access to education and to medical care on a high level standard;
- to live in a living and unadulterated nature, capable of carrying human life.

The existing historical reality is very far from fulfilling these demands, especially the dimensions of reality in which those live who are socially weakest. Our experience has shown that the ruling forces have, ever and again, started their attacks against the social interests of the majorities within peoples as attacks against those who are socially weakest. Social repression is targeted above all on those who depend on public subsidies for the support of their reproduction.

(a) It is in the interest of an objective majority, therefore, to have in force specific social, ecological and democratic standards protecting the socially and economically weakest, thereby enabling them to lead a decent life. And it is also far better for the cohesion and the internal climate of society in order to reduce the growing social gaps and to overcome the resulting social inequalities.

Of course, such an approach will have to solve the problem of how taxes will be paid for (and, eventually, by) the poor non-taxpayers of today, but also to increase a pressure on the “rich weak” taxpayers, to pay the taxes required from them.

(b) Such an approach will mean, above all, to maintain and to strengthen and to democratize the public. We suggest to take on board, in so doing, the following considerations:

- the public is not simply good *per se*, but it is easier to influence and to control in a process of broad participation than the private, which tends to be closed;
- likewise, the private is not simply bad *per se*, but is, in fact, bad whenever it exploits the non-owners or it functions to socially exclude the non-owners of considerable private property from common societal functions;
- it will have to be taken account in the process of such changes that also the collective is capable of exploiting and of socially excluding the non-owners of considerable private property.

(c) This means, in turn, that we cannot propagate or support any kind of a primitive state oriented approach (“statism”). We are fully aware of the fact that a life in dignity will not become possible without a guaranteed protection against social exclusion and that this supposes the existence and the effective action of a strong and democratic public sector. And we also are aware that there is no practical answer to the question of how to create the conditions for solving the urgent ecological, societal and global problems without relying to some degree on such a strong public sector?

(d) The supporters of neo-liberal policy presently use the on-going financial and economic crisis and the resulting debt issues in order to press for further privatization and financialisation within the EU and within national political arenas. This implies an on-going and reinforced process of redistribution of income and property (also cross-border) which serves to reinforce present inequalities and furthers the on-going processes of polarization and marginalization.

Being aware of our own weaknesses and short-comings, and facing a kind of policy and politics of the ruling groups, within the EU, as well as within our respective member-states, which is steadfastly geared to “competitiveness and security“, we can see that our effective possibilities are limited, without being restricted: We can do what we are capable of doing by concentrating upon acting within three fields which are closely linked to each other:

- Organizing solidarity structures especially for the defence of the weakest, first of all, on the local and the regional level;
- demanding conditions for a life in dignity and organizing the forces which could realize them;
- organizing resistance against socially, ecologically and globally destructive projects of the ruling groups.

Such activities are possible and urgently needed on the local level, on the regional and on the national level, as well as on that of the EU, on the European and on the global level.

To be aware of these broad and variegated levels of action should not preclude us from specifically looking forward to the election to the European Parliament. In fact, we are challenged here to discuss how to develop our critique of the institutions of the EU and how to develop it into an effective orientation for the on-going popular struggles against the new phase of neo-liberal crisis-management:.

1. Immediately, the existing EU law could be used for mitigating and for solving the most urgent and pressing problems. E.g. the demands of the European Network against Poverty should be realized. All activities to mitigate and to solve the existing social, ecological and global problems should be supported.
2. The odious debts should be cancelled; a reasonable financial transaction tax should be introduced. Accordingly, on January 1st 2015 public debt audits should be started in every EU-member state. Their task would be to identify illegitimate and odious debts, especially in debit of the public authorities.

At the same time, and without delay, all exportation of weapons should be taxed in a relevant way and military spending should be reduced immediately by a minimum of 10%.

3. A human asylum and migration policy should be conceived and implemented, while FRONTEX should be abolished. Whoever lives in the EU and in Europe should have or get basic rights.
4. All privatization, deregulation, militarization and mega-projects should be put on a moratorium until a public evaluation process of the projects already realized has taken place.
5. The speculation with public debt, with currencies, with food, and with natural resources has to be forbidden and prosecuted. Beginning with January 1st 2015, the financial sector should start to reimburse the public finance facilities provided for the rescue of financial institutions. The reimbursed financial means should then be used for fighting poverty, ecological destruction and for the strengthening of public services for the population, above all in the social “middle class”, as well as in the “underclasses”,

Let us use our networks and meetings to discuss these proposals and suggestions.

The idea of this has been to have a small discussion among the interested individuals. This has not fully emerged as we had hoped for, so that we have found ourselves constrained to address you again, repeating our invitation for participation in this common project of struggling for an alternative development of the EU and in Europe.

We do hope that you are still motivated to contribute to building a common project from these starting considerations – and we inform you that our 4th EU experts' discussion will take place on 24.-26.10.2014 in Belgrade.