

Founding Congress of the European Region

Presenting the common program for Europe

All of this could all be interpreted as signs of the force and power of the System. In truth, we see in this conduct the ultimate outward symptoms of a profound weakness in our opponent.

The System may permit a two-party system or political fragmentation, but also creates dependency on political force, and will not brook the expression of opinion which is not officially approved and which goes beyond the bounds of its international eco-financial network.

Its greatest fear is that an element from outside of the 'great scheme' will find voice and perhaps kindle the discontent which lies dormant in more than 70% of the population.

The facts on voting abstention confirm this: election after election abstention grows, in some cases it is as high as 80%. This means that 'don't knows' and spoiled papers in fact represent the majority. The self-appointed official 'majorities' sometimes consist of the votes of as little as 15% of the population.

The permanent and constant presence of the inviolable and incorruptible HP makes these fears a reality.

Only with their governments disguised as 'left' or 'progressive' have the neo-liberal right achieved its aims: the carrying-out of decisions made by the World Bank, the international Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation, by the most unpopular means since the last world war.

Only governments with subjugated oppositions and unions could conceive and create:

- The Europe of Maastricht and the Euro. A monetary Europe with the Single market financed at the cost of health and education being privatised; privatisation of essential services (electricity, gas, water, telephone etc); theft and privatisation of pensions and social welfare, and an increase in unemployment
- The Europe of Schengen. An enclosed fort where racial and ethnic conflicts are being exacerbated, where bygone forms of exploitation are making a comeback and new forms of slavery invented, to the extent of the shameful detention centres and Lager for foreigners.
- The Europe of NATO. Base for the development of war and death - not only in the Balkans but in the Middle East and Mediterranean. An aggressive police always seeking the war-like calls of American industry. What was called 'humanitarian war' was in fact a test field for new ways of killing.
- The Europe of Dioxina. This represents the greatest and clearest example of speculative interest to be introduced to this continent. The thirst for profit knows no bounds, even the risk to health and life of millions of people is not enough to stop it.

Traitors, primitives and killers.

For more than three months homes in Serbia and Kosovo have been bombarded and people killed.

For far longer than this our consciousness has also been bombarded in an attempt to kill all hope.

So-called economic experts and irresponsible politicians have not been capable of resolving one single social, economic or ethnic problem within Europe.

This military fort, financial bank Europe will go down in history as the Europe of bombs and the Euro. But this Europe will never be part of the history of the Universal Humanist Nation, which will be made up of a free people and a great vision of the human future.

This is not the Europe that we want.

This is not the Europe in which we want to live.

We want to live

- In a Europe which responds fully to the most basic necessities of human beings such as health, education, housing, work, food, and the quality of air and water, while also heeding their deepest desires.
- In a non-violent, non-discriminatory, anti-racist, hospitable and co-operative unified nation.
- Where it is not a fatal geographical mistake to be born Serbian, Croatian, Kosovan or Irish, nor to be Muslim, orthodox, Jew or atheist a basis for discrimination and prejudice.
- Where man learns not only to get by but to develop his capacity to conceive diversity as an indicator of progress.

For all of the above reasons the Humanist parties of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Holland, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Hungary, Russia, here convened at the European Council of Humanist International, on this the 7th July 1999 in Madrid:

- Denounce the governments of the European nations for the betrayal of the Declaration of Human Rights, signed in December 1948 and never respected in 50 years.
- Propose that all responsible people, individually or as part of collectives, adhere, sustain and contribute to the enrichment of the following points of the common European platform:

1. Changing the macroeconomic parameters of Maastricht determining the "quality of life in the nations" for those suggested in the indicators of the Human Rights act.

- The right to social security and the satisfaction of economic rights (art.22), with the introduction of a minimum social benefit.
- The right to work and to the free choice of one's work (art.23). The creation of interest-free banks for the development of productive activities. The imposition of taxes on speculative earnings. The development of the Law of Worker's Participative Ownership.
- The right to sufficient rest time (art. 24), with a gradual reduction in working hours, where there is work for every citizen, and equal rights, self-respect and opportunity.
- The right to an adequate standard of living (art. 25), principally free health and education of a high standard to everyone regardless of nationality, religion, origin, age or sex. The guarantee of a good diet and environment which is suitable for adults, youths, old people and children both now and in the future.

2. re-examination of the issues of immigration and emigration with the emphasis on the "right to exist" and "human being" rather than the "geographical" right of birthplace, and a consequent repealing of the Schengen Treaty.

- Application and extension of the right to asylum of persecuted peoples (art. 14), equally for economic and social as for political reasons.
- The closure of detention centres.

- The transfer of the powers of immigration, presently run by the Ministry of the Interior, to the new Ministry of Human Rights and International Co-operation.

3. The establishing of real democracy in terms of political participation and responsibility and the consequent abolition of laws which exclude against minorities.

- A law of Political Responsibility which gives citizens control over elected politicians' actions and the action taken on behalf of the electors in the case of non fulfilment of pledges undertaken. The revision of national election laws establishing equal conditions and requirements which guarantee the maximum degree of electoral competition (art.19), access to the media, and representation of the various groups according to the proportional system.
- No limitation or special treatment in dealing with the parties whenever they do not heed Human Rights.
- A law backing associations and political parties, assigning them services and infrastructure (premises, publications, travel, materials etc, but not money), taking as a reference the activities carried out on a social basis.

4. The defining of international issues in terms of peace and co-operation, and the consequent denunciation of governments which have fostered war

- The departure of NATO from all European countries and the immediate dismantling of US bases on European land
- The initiation of a policy of gradual, proportional and simultaneous disarmament in all European countries.
- The closure and restructuring of the military industry and the immediate investment of military spending into the rebuilding of countries bombed during the Balkans War.
- 1% of the European GDP to go to international aid and co-operation
- The cancellation of the external debt contracted with European banks by the countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Europe must give wealth back to these areas, including interest starting from October 1492!

In conclusion

The powers and government of today must be attentive, for amidst the clamour and confusion of their bombs they are deaf to the murmuring of the river of a new humanity which is born, grows, and advances.

Let this day, 7th July 1999, go down in history and in each of our minds as a meeting of free men and women who are uniting their exceptional forces and best intentions in an extraordinary act of solidarity and hope, opening the floodgates of this unstoppable river.

I wish to finish with the words of Silo, uttered on the 7th January in Santiago de Chile, which reinforce us in our conviction of building and extending Humanist Parties in Europe and all around the world:

"The council of humanist parties, today set in motion, has behind it the force and dynamics of the winds of integration which are blowing to its advantage."