

CONTRIBUTION OF THE "UNION DES ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTES" DURING THE WORKING CLASS CONFERENCE OF TARRAGONE - 15-17 MARCH 2013.

Everywhere in Europe and around the world the global crisis demonstrates the failure of the capitalism.

The peoples of the whole world are suffering from the dictatorship of the capitalist finance, the system which, to survive its own contradictions, sacrifice the working class and beyond, the roots of the civilization, as it has sacrificed the peoples of Europe during the world wars massacres of the last century.

Everywhere, the same measures imposed by the "troika": the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the World Bank and the European Commission, many instruments of the financial capital, which impose to the national States the austerity measure: drastic cuts in social and public budgets, privatizations, dismissals...

Facing these attacks, the working class is looking for ways of the resistance. In Greece austerity policies are leading the country to his ruin: 25% of the workers are unemployed, to warm up and even to feed themselves became a daily problem for Greeks. Strike actions, like last February 20th, demonstrations are succeeding for two years. The political situation seems blocked, the solution can emanate only from the people. It belongs to the Greek people, in total independence to forge its fate and it will inevitably come from the break with the European Union.

Right here, in Spain where the unemployment reaches the 27 %, the revolt is getting organized against the austerity policy. The general strikes followed one another, putting in the street hundreds of thousand workers. And now?

We could multiply examples, as in Portugal, in Italy or in Germany. This last country knew important strikes, and some of them victorious, for pay rises.

There is no need to set up miradors and to stretch barbed wires to build a dictatorship. The process can take a more discreet and "legal" shape.

We are assisting for several years, within the framework of a "left-right" consensus one of the most anti-democratic, the implementation of the dictatorship of the market under the aegis of the European Union.

The forced march towards "new Europe" still accelerated recently with the adoption in France, by the National Assembly and then the Senate, of the *European Mechanism of Stability*.

The purpose admitted by this EMS is to watch after the stability of the Eurozone, in other words to grant loans to member countries if these make a commitment to operate a destructive austerity measure against business and social laws of workers, just like what is currently happening in the whole Europe and in a particularly rough way in Greece.

It is planned that the EMS consists of a decision-making authority, the council of governors, which is Ministers of Finance of member states and board of executive directors, which managing director is elected by the governors.

We notice immediately that none of these eminent characters can clam to come from the popular vote. But if it was the only thing!

EMS will benefit of "full legal entity". It will have the possibility of going to court, on the other hand all its properties (archives, documents, funds, premises, etc.) will be shielded from any legal proceeding (search, seized, etc.). As for the employees of the EMS, they will be exempted from any national income tax and will benefit from a total immunity for any act committed within the framework of their missions. What a beautiful example of democracy and transparency!

The adoption of EMS was followed by the ratification of the *Treaty on stability, the coordination and governance (TSCG)* which goal is to institute the famous "golden rule" in the constitution of countries, in other words, to constitutionalize the rigour!

The immediate and concrete translation of such a decision is to make illegal, (because unconstitutional) any pay claim in the public service, it would be a deathblow given to the labor-union liberties, of claiming and negotiation. We fall over to a totalitarian system.

If the working class does not succeed in getting organized on the international level to invert this process, all the social rights, all the benefits of the class struggle will be threatened, because the objective of the troika serving the financial capital is the total deregulation of the market.

But are we brought to notice the dishonest compromise of a part of the labor-union bureaucracy? Indeed, a certain number of labor-union devices are trying to get the working class to believe the holy alliance. But there's a gap between the cup and the lip.

The labor activists of any tendencies which remain attached to the labor-union independence have to condemn clearly the "gathered trade unionism", "the fascist myth of the unity" which takes, in France in particular, various forms today: "institutionalized interunion committee", villainous law on the labor-union representativeness... and now the will to constitutionalize the "social dialog".

Just elected, Holland wished for a "historic compromise" on the flexibility in employment.

The words are not neutral, they refer to the political agreement between the Communist Party and the Christian Democracy in Italy of the 70s, agreement appointed in Dante's style by the expression "compromesso storico". This agreement had been preceded by another "historic compromise" a few decades previously between Stalinist Russia and Vatican.

The "Elysian" will was to conclude an agreement between labor unions and the MEDEF (employers' association) to still deregulate a little more the "labor market".

After several days of negotiation the "*agreement on the reassurance of the employment*" is brought to baptismal fonts by the Quadriumvirat which consist of two labor unions claiming the social doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, CFDT and CFTC, of a specific labor union the CGC and of the employers' association, the MEDEF with the approval of Minister of Employment.

We have no choice but to note that the MEDEF defended at least effectively its constituents. If it granted an increase of 7% of employer's contribution to the unemployment insurance for CDD, it obtained that the missions of temporary work and the replacement of absent employee are not concerned. This 7% increase will apply only to the only CDD for "increasing of activity". Bosses just have to avoid referring to this "increasing of activity" and there you go!

The MEDEF obtains besides an exemption from 3 to 4 months (according to the size of the company) for the hiring of a person of less than 26 years under permanent contract.

Another novelty of this agreement: from now on the limitation period for the illegal employer's practices is returned from 5 to 3 years. Comrade, if your boss "forgets" to pay your extra hours, if he does not pay you at the level of the collective agreement during a good decade, you can only obtain repair over 3

years. A real bonus to the thieves!

Finally, CFDT (because in this particular case CFTC and the CGC are there only to make good measure) endorses the fact that, in the name of the "sacro-holy" economic situation, the employer can impose to all the employees a momentary reduction in their salaries and a modulation of the duration of the work during a maximum duration of two years. In case of refusal the employees will be purely and simply fired for economic motive.

If a step was crossed in the destruction of workers's rights, the operation "historic compromise" failed! The CGT-FO and CGT refused to sign this shameful agreement. It is an undeniable support to organize the resistance that is coming. On March 5th of this year both not signatory syndicates called the French working class to demonstrate against this scandalous agreement. The class struggle is taking back its rights and nothing is decided yet.

In a wider sense, this offensive against the independence of the working class, against the class struggle, takes its scale at the European level.

In December 2011, appeared in the European press a call cosigned by eight "labor-union" leaders (quotation marks take here all their sense), all member of the *Labor-union European Confederacy*: Ignacio Fernández Toxo, General Secretary of CCOO (Spain), Cándido Mendez, General Secretary of the UGT (Spain), Michael Sommer, President of DGB (Germany), Susanna Camusso, General Secretary of the CGIL (Italy), Bernard Thibault, General Secretary of CGT(France) François Chèrèque, General Secretary of CFDT (France), Anne Demelenne, General Secretary of the FGTB (Belgium), Claude Rotin, General Secretary of the CSC (Belgium).

Signatories explain, in particular, how the *European Confederacy of Labor unions (CES)* have to play completely its supplementary role and participate in the governance of the capitalist economy in crisis:

«While relying on the decisions of the last Congress of the European Confederacy of Labor unions (Athens, May 2011), we think that today, more than ever, we need a new monetary, economic and social policy, within the framework of a strong economic governance of the Eurozone (...).»

To those who could be surprised by such a negation of the class struggle by individuals referring to the trade unionism, things are clearly said, without make-up and beyond shame:

«The European labor union does not defend a partisan position: we try to defend the general interest and to contribute in search of solutions to the serious political crisis of the EU. (...) It is necessary to establish a new social and economic contract with the active participation of social partners.»

Unquestionably, this text is of corporatist inspiration, it joins in continuity the fascist experiments of sinister memory. It is no more and no less the «Petain Work Charter» to the European scale which is proposed to us there.

If we want to fight against this almost finished totalitarian society, denouncing the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Union, it is necessary to add to THESE to the troika is not sufficient any longer. It is not possible any more to delay, this corporatist pharmacy has no more the modesty or the caution, to keep its cards hidden. Yes, the class struggle is more than ever a need facing the current events and the working class needs a free and independent trade unionism.

For us anarcho-union activists, it is clear that the free and independent trade unionism, which the international working class needs more than ever, has to break with the *European Confederacy of the Labor unions* which is nothing else than the Trojan horse of the European Commission within the labor movement.

The question remains the same for the CSI, *International Association of labor unions* which does not hesitate to claim, with bosses, *«a minimum floor of social welfare»*.

Today, while the workers of all the countries are rising, get organized and unite against the oppression and the exploitation, trying to break the neck of their exploiters. It is necessary to support their fight in China, in India, in Latin America, in Africa, in Europe, in the U.S.A...

It is urgent to reconstruct a new labor international, to defend all around the world the social and political rights conquered by the class struggle and the labor-union independence.

The *Union of Anarcho-Syndicalistes* is inclined to debate with all the components of the authentic labor movement. It needs to be a free debate without taboo where each can make his contribution. That is why we positively respond to the invitation of our Spanish and Portuguese companions but it seems to us that the justifiable frame of such a debate is the *International Agreement of the Workers*, which we are founder members of, and we wish a *World Labor Conference*.

The class struggle is in a crucial phase:

"Proletarians of all the countries unite!"
"The emancipation of the workers will be the work of the workers themselves!"

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«L'ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTE»
19, rue de l'Étang Bernard - 44400 Rezé
Subscription for 20 n°: 30 euros
Subscription of support: 40 euros
Pay in: ASSOCIATION DES GROUPES FERNAND PELLOUTIER
CCP : 9998 28B Nantes; 19, rue de l'Étang Bernard - 44400 Rezé
Special printing office of *L'Anarcho-Syndicaliste*
Publication fundor: Alexandre HEBERT
Manager: Christophe BITAUD
