

# For a sliding scale of wages across Europe! Coordinate the struggle of all European workers!

## Statement of the International Marxist Tendency



All over Europe we have massive price increases that threaten the living standard of working people. The magnificent demonstrations and strikes of the last few months in Slovenia are expressing the same concerns and problems that workers have to face throughout Europe and the world. “Stop inflaciji!” (“Stop Inflation!”) was one of the main slogans. Workers’ wages simply cannot keep pace with rising prices, especially the price of food, housing, heating and fuel.

The policy of the trade union leaders, which is generally that “wage moderation” would help resist the massive delocalisation of businesses, has been proven bankrupt and has led to stagnating and even falling real wages in all countries. The introduction of the Euro has led to a general rise in prices to European “standards”, while wages are still very un-

even from country to country. This has cynically been used by the capitalist class in all countries to undermine the rights and conquests of the workers in order to raise profits at home while threatening the workers with the blackmail of delocalisation. The inevitable result has been declining living standards for workers in all countries.

The Maastricht treaty was consciously used by the capitalist class as a tool to slash social spending, attack the pension system and justify an orgy of privatisations. Usually with the complicity of the Labour leaders these policies were presented as necessary sacrifices “to join Europe”.

The EU labour legislation (last but not least the recent “Lisbon treaty”) has been used as a Trojan horse to undermine progressive labour legislation in all countries, helping to introduce

and extend casual labour and “flexible” working hours. Racist immigration and asylum laws have been passed to divide the workers and play one section against the others. As a result, casual labour is spreading like an epidemic and the number of people who have a job but live below the poverty line is increasing year by year.

At the same time we have seen the explosion of the profits of the banks and corporate business. In the last 20 years a massive redistribution of wealth has taken place in all countries. Huge profits have been literally squeezed out of the workers with a massive increase in exploitation and pressure on the workforce. The portion of GDP that goes to wages has been nearly halved to the advantage of profit and speculation. Top managers now earn an average 40 times (!) more than normal workers.

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And all this has developed in a boom period! What can workers expect now that we are facing the most severe international economic crisis for decades? Capitalists will try to throw all the weight of this crisis onto the working masses. Already in the past years the capitalists have refused to increase wages in real terms. Every year they have demanded wage “moderation”. They have attacked the system of collective bargaining, public pensions and social security.

Under the conditions of economic crisis capital will increase the pressure even more. Wage cuts, the destruction of jobs, factory closures and delocalisations will be on the agenda. Cosy trade union relations based on the principles of “social partnership” have been counterproductive in the past, but would be criminal in this context. Social partnership today means the complete subordination of the interests of the working class to those of capital. The hopes of many trade union leaders that one could relaunch the system of social partnership at an all-EU level is a reactionary utopia and we have to reject it..

If we want to defend our living standards and our rights then we need fighting trade unions. The experience of the last years shows that the only way to achieve this is for the workers themselves to take back control over their own organisations. Shop stewards’ committees (democratically elected and subject to recall) should be organised in every branch of industry and services, regardless of trade union affiliation of the workers involved and should be coordinated on an European level.

Trade unionists all over Europe need to work out a common strategy and programme and launch a general coordinated mobilisation in each country. What we need here is to fight to gain back what has been lost, starting with significant wage increases and protect purchasing power through the introduction of a sliding scale of wages. Higher wages should be matched by improved job and security conditions. This should be a first step towards achieving the same rights and wages for all European workers. It is our task to take this struggle home to our trade unions and our workplaces.

Capitalism shows once again its real face. This system only works thanks to the increasing exploitation of our labour force. Capitalism, they say, cannot work with too many rules and constrictions, “the market will regulate itself”. All history shows that this is not so. Every improvement has been achieved through struggle. So why should we accept a system that does not guarantee a humane existence for millions of workers? Without our permission this system could not work. Not a single light bulb shines, not a wheel turns, not a telephone rings without the permission of the working class. If we stand united, the working class has an immense power. The struggle in defence of our living standard can only be the starting point for a struggle towards the transformation of society. It is our labour that allows this system to run. So why shouldn’t we also decide how and what has to be produced and how this society should be run? This would be possible if we challenge the right of

a handful of capitalists to decide our own destinies and take control of the means of production.

#### **We fight for:**

- ✪ Substantial wage increase to take back what has been lost in the last years!
- ✪ For a national minimum wage in each country of at least two thirds of the average wage, as a first step towards a European minimum wage.
- ✪ For a sliding scale of wages to defend our living standards!
- ✪ Repeal all EU directives that introduce or support casualisation of labour!
- ✪ No to the Lisbon Treaty!
- ✪ Scrap all racist immigration and asylum policies!
- ✪ No to “social partnership”!
- ✪ For fighting and democratic trade unions!
- ✪ Organise shop stewards’ committees (democratically elected and subject to recall) in every branch of industry, coordinated on a European level.
- ✪ For the re-nationalisation of what has been privatised for the profit of a few capitalists, and the public ownership under democratic workers’ control and management of pension and health systems, transport, telecommunications, the production and distribution of energy, banking, insurance and credit, and of all major industries.
- ✪ No to the Bosses’ European Union. For a Socialist united states of Europe!

The **International Marxist Tendency** aims to organise workers and youth that fight for a Marxist programme within the trade unions and the mass organisations of the labour movement. If you are interested in putting forward or discussing these ideas, **contact us!**

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zloge. Vsako leto so zahtevali »modificiranje« plač, kar je pomenilo manjše plače. Napadali so sistem kolektivnega pogajanja, pokojninski sistem in socialno varnost.

V ekonomski krizi pa bodo kapitalisti še naprej povečevali pritisk. Zmanjšanje plač, ukinjanje delovnih mest, zapiranje tovarn in premestitev le teh drugam bo še naprej njihov plan. Dobri odnosi sindikatov do delodajalcev, ki temeljijo na socialnem partnerstvu so bili kontraproduktivni v preteklih letih, kar je kriminalno dejanje, ker zahteve delavcev niso niti bile predstavljene niti upoštevane. Socialno partnerstvo danes pomeni celovito sodelovanje z interesi delavskega razreda proti kapitalistom. Upanja mnogih sindikatov da bi dosegli sistem socialnega partnerstva na vse evropski ravni je utopija katero moramo zavračati.

Če hočemo ubraniti svoje življenjske standarde in naše pravice potem rabimo sindikate, ki se bojujejo. Izkušnje iz preteklih letih nam povedo da je edini način da se to doseže, da delavci prevzamejo nadzor nad svojimi organizacijami. Da je ustvarjen delavski svet (demokratsko izvoljen in če je potrebno kadarkoli odstavljen in ponovno izvoljen), ki bi morali biti organizirani v vsaki panogi industrije in storitev, neodvisen od sindikatov in vsi delavci naj imajo pravico do sodelovanja v delovskem svetu neglede nato ali so člani kakšnega sindikata ali ne. Delavski svet bi moral biti kontrolirani na Evropskem nivoju.

Sindikati po celi evropi morajo

najti skupno strategijo in program in začeti uresničevati združen boj v vsaki državi. Kar moramo mi storiti je boriti se in pridobiti tisto kar je bilo izgubljeno, začeti z vidno rastjo plač in zaščiti kupno moč z usklajevanjem plač z inflacijo. Višje plače bi morale biti usklajene z težavnostjo in varnostnimi razlogi. To bi moral biti prvi korak doseganju enakih pravic in plač za vse evropske delavce. Naš cilj je da prenesmo boj domov k našim sindikatom in k našim delovnim mestom.

Kapitalisti so znova pokazali svoj pravi obraz. Ta sistem deluje le z izkoriščanjem delavskih vrst. Pravijo da kapitalizem nemora delovati z preveč pravili in omejitvami, »trg naj se regulira sam«. Torej zakaj bi sprejeli sistem ki ne zagotavlja preživetja milijonov delavcev? Brez našega dovoljenja sistem nemora delovati. Niti ena žarnica ne sveti in niti eno kolo se ne vrti in telefon ne zazvoni brez dovoljenja delavskega razreda. Če bomo enotni, ima delavski razred izjemno moč. Boj za naš življenjski standard je lahko le začetna točka k preobrazbi naše družbe. Je naše delo ki dovoljuje temu sistemu da živi. Torej zakaj nebi mi odločali kako in kaj naj bo narejeno in kako naj ta družba živi. To je mogoče če se upremo kapitalistom in odločimo svojo usodo in prevzamemo nadzor nad delom.

#### **Borimo se za:**

✪ Za večje povečanje plač za pridobitev tistga kar smo izgubili v

preteklih letih! Za enako plačilo in pravice na enakem delovnem mestu v vseh panogah industrije, neodvisno od nacionalnosti delavca.

- ✪ Minimalna plača mora v vsaki državi znašati vsaj dve tretjine povprečne plače, kot prvi korak proti pravi evropskim minimalnim plačam.
- ✪ Za nenehno usklajevanje plač z inflacijo za ohranjanje našega življenjskega standarda!
- ✪ Razveljaviti in zavračati vse evropske zakone, ki predstavljajo ali podpirajo škodo delavcem.
- ✪ Ne Lizbonski strategiji!
- ✪ Zaustaviti vse racistične zakone o imigraciji in slabe zakone ki škudujejo tujim delavcem.
- ✪ Ne Socialnemu partnerstvu!
- ✪ Za sindikate ki se borijo in so demokratični!
- ✪ Organizirati svet delavcev ( ki je demokratično izvoljen in je lahko odstavljen) v vsaki panogi industrije in kordiniran na evropskem nivoju.
- ✪ Za ponovno nacionalizacijo tistega kar je bilo privatizirano za profit nekaj kapitalistov, vse družbeno premoženje dati v last delavcem, kontrolo in management pokojninske blagajne, zdravstvenega sistema, javnega prevoza in telekomunikacijskih podjetij, elektrarne in firme ki prodajajo električno energijo, bančništvo, zavarovalništvo navsezdanje vso veliko industrija.
- ✪ Ne vladarjem Evropske unije ampak za združeno socialistično Evropo!

**Internacionalno Gibanje Marksistov se bori za organizacijo delavcev in mladih za boj Marksističnih programov v sindikati in masovno organizacijo delavskega gibanja. Če bi radi sodelovali ali debatirali te ideje, nam to sporočite!**

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# Borimo se za plače ki se prilagajajo inflaciji v Evropi! Združimo se v boju za Evropskega delavca!

Sporočilo Internacionalnega Marksističnega Gibanja



Po vsej Evropi se soočamo z množičnim višanjem cen, ki ogroža standard delavcev. Demonstracije in stavke zadnjih nekaj mesecev v Sloveniji sporočajo enake skrbi in probleme s katerimi se soočajo tudi delavci drugih evropskih držav po svetu. («Stop inflaciji») je bil eden glavnih sloganov. Delavske plače enostavno ne dohajajo cen, še posebno cen hrane, stroškov bivanja, kurjave in goriva.

Ideje sindikatov, ki so predvsem, da naj bi »popravki plač« pomagali proti masivni selitvi dela drugam, so se izkazale za ne resnične in so vodile samo k stagniranju in padanju plač v vseh državah. Uveljavitev Evra je vodila k glavnemu dvigu cen k »Evropskim standardom«, medtem ko so plače še vedno zelo neurovanovešene med državami. To so kapitalisti cinično uporabili v vseh državah za oslabitev pravic in plač delavcev za maksimalno povišanje profita,

med tem ko so ustrahovali delavce z selitvijo dela v tujino. Ne izogiben rezultat tega je bil zmanjšanje življenjskega standarda delavcev v vseh državah.

Maastrichtska pogodba (uradno Pogodba o Evropski uniji, s kratico PEU) je bila zavestno uporabljena v kapitalističnem razredu zato da bi zmanjšala socialistično širjenje, napadla pokojninski sistem in opravila masovno privatiziranje. (To je bilo predstavljeno kot nujno dejanje za pridružitve k Evropi.)

Evropska delavska strategija je bil potrjena (ne zadnja Lizbonska strategija) in uporabljena kot Trojanski konj za opustitev napredujoče delavske strategije v vseh državah in pripomogla k še večjemu ne zanimanju v delavca in fleksibilnega delovnega časa. Racistični zakon o imigracijah in zakon o tujih delavcih, je bil ustvarjen zato da bi razdvojevali delavce in usmerli drugega proti

drugemu. Rezultat tega je še večje nezanimanje v delavca ki se širi kot epidemija in število ljudi ki so zaposleni vendar živijo na robu revščine se povečuje iz leta v leto.

Sočasno smo pričča veliki eksploziji profita v bančnem sektorju in velikih korporacijah. V zadnjih 20 letih se je ne razporejenost bogastva zelo povečala v vseh državah. Velik profit je bil narejen z izkoriščanjem delavcev in pritiskom na te. Delež BDPja ki gre za plače je bil razpolovljen v primerjavi z profitom. Vodje podjetji dan danes zaslužijo 40krat toliko kot delavci.

In vse to se je razvilo v zelo kratkem času. Kaj lahko delavci pričakujemo zdaj? Eno največjih svetovnih ekonomskih kriz ki lahko traja desetletja? Kapitalisti bodo poskušali bremeniti vso težo te krize na delavski razred. Že v preteklih letih so kapitalisti zavračali povišanje plač za katere so imeli delavci realne ra-

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