

Plan B for Europe: Appeal to build a European area of work in order to end austerity and build a true democracy

Friday 8 April 2016, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 7 April 2016).

In July 2015, we witnessed a financial coup d'état carried out by the European Union and its institutions against the Greek Government, condemning the Greek population to continue suffering the austerity policies that had been rejected on two occasions in the polls. This coup has intensified the debate over the power of the EU, and by extension it's institutions, its incompatibility with democracy, and its role as guarantor of the basic human rights demanded by European citizens.

We know that there are alternatives to austerity. Manifestos such as "For a Plan B in Europe", "Austerexit" or DiEM25 (Democracy in Europe Movement 2025) denounce the blackmail of the third memorandum of understanding imposed against Greece, the catastrophe that it would cause and the antidemocratic nature of the EU. The President of the European Commission no less, Jean -Claude Juncker, said : " There can be no democratic decision against European treaties ".

We are also witnesses to the unsupportive, and at times xenophobic, response from members of the EU, and its institutions, to the arrival of refugees from the Middle East and Africa and to the human drama that entails. Underlining the hypocrisy of the debate within the EU with respect to the humanitarian disasters is the indirect way in which, through the sale of arms or by pushing its trade policies, the EU has been a key player in the conflicts which have in turn provoked the recent humanitarian crises.

The EU's solution to the crisis, started eight years ago and based on austerity, privatizes common goods and destroys social and labour rights instead of addressing the root causes of the crisis; deregulation of the financial system and the corporate takeover of EU institutions through the employment of powerful lobbies and revolving door policies. The EU promotes false solutions by negotiating trade and investment treaties, with hardly any transparency or democratic oversight, such as the TTIP, CETA, or TISA, that eliminate what are considered to be barriers to trade: the rights and regulations that protect the citizens, workers, or environment. It's the final blow to our democracies and rule of law, especially regarding the procedures put in place for so called investor protection

The current EU is governed by a de facto technocracy serving the interests of a small, but powerful, minority of economic and financial powers. This has provoked a resurgence of rhetoric from the far right as well as from xenophobic and nationalist factions in many European countries. We have the responsibility to react against this threat and stop fascists from capitalize on the pain and unhappiness of the citizens, who in spite of everything have shown solidarity towards the hundreds of thousands of refugees that are suffering this humanitarian tragedy.

Society has now started to work towards a radical change in the policies of the EU. Social movements, such as Blockupy, the current campaign against the TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement between the European Union and the United States) , the Alter Summit, the European general strike in 2012, the Euromarches , or the massive amount of work carried out by

numerous citizen groups and NGO's make up valuable human, intellectual, and ideological capital in the defense of human rights, the respect of The Earth, and of the dignity of people over and above political and economic interests. However, we believe that better coordination and cooperation is needed in order to mobilize at a European level. **There are many proposals on the table that could do away with austerity:** a fair tax policy and the closure of tax havens, complementary exchange systems, the re-municipalization of public services, the equal distribution of all jobs with a and enshrining fair conditions. commitment to a production model based on renewable energies and reform or abolish the EU tax treaties - formally known as the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union. The example of Greece has shown us that in order to face the current circumstances we must join forces, all the Member States and from all their spheres: political, intellectual and the civil society. Our vision is all-inclusive and international. For these reasons we want to generate a To carry out all these proposals in order to redefine and re-establish political and European institutions and treaties, civil society must be organized, we must think our common strategies and see how to articulate them. We know that these transformations cannot be done in isolation from each of the European countries. Our vision is of solidarity and internationalist.

For this reason we want to create a convergence of all the people, movements, and organizations that oppose the current model of the EU and agree to a common agenda of objectives, projects, and actions, **with the aim of breaking the EU wide system of austerity and to radically democratize the European Institutions, putting them to work for the citizens.**

With this idea in mind we propose to set up a European conference on 19th, 20th and 21st February in Madrid and we invite you to participate in the debates, workshops and discussions that will take place.

First Signatures

Lola Sánchez Eurodiputada, Podemos

Miguel Urbán Eurodiputado, Podemos

Marina Albiol Eurodiputada, Izquierda Plural

Javier Couso Eurodiputado, Izquierda Plural

Susan George Presidenta del Transnational Institute

Yanis Varoufakis Economista, ex-Ministro de Finanzas griego

Ada Colau Alcaldesa de Barcelona

Eric Toussaint Portavoz CADTM

Zoe Konstantopoulou Abogada, ex-Presidenta del Parlamento griego

Catherine Samary Économiste altermondialiste, France

Ken Loach Film director, UK

Mariana Mortagua Diputada Parlamento de Portugal

Noam Chomsky Lingüista, Filósofo y Activista, USA

Alexandra Strickner Presidenta de ATTAC Austria

Alberto Garzón Diputado de IU – Unidad Popular

Alberto Montero Diputado de Podemos

Adoración Guamán Profesora de derecho del trabajo. Universitat de València, miembro del consejo científico de Attac

Alda Sousa Ex-députée européenne, Bloco de Esquerda, Portugal

Alexandra Fernandez Diputada al Congreso por la Marea

Alexis Cukier Philosophe, Fondation Copernic, France

Alfred de Zayas Relator Independiente de la ONU para DD.HH

Ana Benavente Sociologue, IAC, Portugal

Andrej Hunko Diputado Die Linke al Bundestag

Andy Storey University College Dublin

Angela Wigger Associate Professor, Radboud University, The Netherlands

Anna Gabriel Diputada/o autonómico de las CUP

Antonio Baylos Catedrático de Derecho del Trabajo. Universidad de Castilla la Mancha.

Antonio Sanabria Profesor de economía de la Universidad Complutense

Antonis Ntavanelos DEA – consejo político de unidad popular

Beatriz Talegon Abogada, ex-Secretaria General de la Unión Internacional de Jóvenes Socialistas

Bibiana Medialdea Profesora de Economía de la UCM

Bodo Ellmers Eurodad, Brussels

Bruno Bosteels Cornell University

Carlos Sanchez Mato Concejal de Economía y Hacienda de Madrid

Carmen San José Diputada Podemos CAM

Cédric Durand Economista, Centre d'Economie de l'Université

Paris-Nord-École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, EHES

* * *

Céline CAUDRON Militante féministe (Belgique)

Cem Oyvat Lecturer, University of Greenwich

Chris Hedges Pulitzer Prize – Journalism

Christina Laskaridis Miembro del Comité de la Verdad de la Deuda Griega

Christine Pagnoulle President of ATTAC Liège

Christine Vandendaelen Féministe, membre du secrétariat international du CADTM et CADTM Belgique

Corine Gobin Politologue à IÚLB, Belgium

Costas Lapavitsas Profesor de Economía en SOAS, Londres

Creston Davis Founder, Director & Professor of Philosophy, The Global Center For Advanced Studies, GCAS

Daniel Munevar Asesor Yanis Varoufakis y Miembro CADTM

Daniel PIRON Ancien secrétaire interprofessionnel de la FGTB-Charleroi-Sud Hainaut (Belgique)

Daniel Tanuro Ecosocialist Network

David Fernández Diputada/o autonómico de las CUP

David Wagner Député – déi Lénk, Luxembourg

Dimitris Sotiropoulos Open University, UK

Eduardo Garzón Economista

Ernest Urtasun Eurodiputado de ICV, Grupo de Los Verdes/ALE

Eugénia Pires Economist, Portugal

Fabio di Masi Member of the Euro Parliament, Die Linke

Fátima Martín Periodista y Miembro de la PACD

Fernando Luengo Profesor de Economía Aplicada de la UCM y CCA de Madrid de Podemos

Florent Marcellesi Portavoz de EQUO en el Parlamento Europeo , Grupo de Los Verdes

Francisco Louça Bloco de Esquerda, Portugal

Freddy MATHIEU Ancien secrétaire interprofessionnel de la FGTB Mons-Borinage (Belgique)

Gerardo Pisarello Primer Teniente de Alcalde Barcelona

Gilbert Achcar Professeur, SOAS, Université de Londres

Gilbert Lieben General Secretary CGSP Wallonne, Trade Union

Gustave Massiah Membre Fondateur de IPAM France

Heikki Patomäki Professor of World Politics, University of Helsinki, Member of Board

Vasemmistoliitto -Vänsterförbundet - The Left Alliance

* * *

Hilary Wainwright Co-editor Red Pepper and Fellow of Transnational Institute, UK

Hugo Braun Attac Germany

Huáscar Sologuren PACD Madrid

Ioanna Gaitani Ex diputada de Syriza-Red Network

Isabel Serra Diputada Podemos CAM, Anticapitalistas

Jaime Pastor Polítólogo y Editor de la revista Viento Sur

James Petras Bartle Professor Emeritus, Binghamton University

Jean-François Pellissier Portavoz de Ensemble

Jean-Francois Ramquet General Secretary FGTB Liege, Trade Union

Jérôme Duval Miembro PACD y CADTM

Joana Mortágua Economista, Diputada del Parlamento del Portugal

Joao Camargo Precários Inflexíveis, Portugal

John Hillary Director de War on Want, UK

John Weeks Professor Emeritus, SOAS, University of London

Jonathan Stevenson Jubilee Debt Campaign

Jordi Sebastià Eurodiputado por Compromís, Grupo de Los Verdes

Jose María González (Kichi) Alcalde de Cádiz

Jose María González Suarez Presidente de la Fundación por una Europa de los Ciudadanos

Josep Manel Busqueta Ex-Diputado autonómico de la CUP

Josep María Terricabras Eurodiputado Grupo Los Verdes

Juan Torres Catedrático de Teoría Económica y Economía Política. Universidad de Sevilla

Justa Montero Activista feminista y miembro de la Asamblea Feminista

Katerina Sergidou Red Network

Kenneth Haar Corporate Europe Observatory, Denmark

Lidia Senra Rodríguez Diputada por Alternativa Galega de Esquerda (Galiza) no Parlamento Europeo

Lina Gálvez Catedrática de Historia e Instituciones Económicas. Universidad Pablo de Olavide

Lourdes Benería Profesora Emerita Dpto. Planificación Urbana y Regional Cornell University

Ludovica Rogers Member of Debt Resistance UK

Luís Fazenda Bloco de Esquerda, Portugal

Luka Mesec Leader of Parliamentary Group of Združena Levica, (United Left), Slovenia

Luke Cooper Another Europe is Possible, UK

Malin Björk Eurodiputada Partido de Izquierda, Grupo GUE/NGL - Suecia

Mamadou Ba Bloco d'Esquerda

Manolo Garí Economista, Anticapitalistas

Manolo Monereo Doctor en Ciencias Políticas y licenciado en Derecho

Maria Bolari Ex diputada de Syriza-Red Network

Maria Lucia Fatorelli National Coordinator of Citizen Debt Audit Brazil

Marga Ferré Ejecutiva IU

Mauricio Valiente Concejal Ahora Madrid

Mehmet Ugur Professor in Economics and Institutions, International Business and Economics, University of Greenwich

Michael Hardt Duke University

Michael Hudson ISLET: Institute for the Study of Long-Term Economic Trends, USA

Michael Lowy Réseau Ecosocialiste International, France

Miguel López SKP-Finlandia

Michel Husson Économiste, membre de la commission pour la vérité sur la dette grecque (France)

Miska Seppäelä Vasemmistoliitto -Vänsterförbundet - The Left Alliance

Mosis Litsis Journalist, Greek Committee Against Debt, CADTM

Mónica Oltra Compromís - Vicepresidenta de la Generalitat Valenciana

Montserrat Galcerán Catedrática emérita de filosofía, Concejala de Ahora Madrid

Myriam Martin Portavoz de Ensemble y Diputada Regional

Myriam Vander Stichele (TNI/SOMO) The Netherlands SOMO es Center for Research on Multinational Corporations

Nacho Álvarez Secretario de Economía de Podemos

Natalia Munevar Plataforma Auditoría Ciudadana de la Deuda - PACD

Nick Dearden Director de Global Justice UK

Nikolaos Chountis Eurodiputado Unidad Popular (Grecia)

Olivier Besancenot Ex-candidato a las presidenciales del NPA, Francia

Ozlem Onaran Professor of Economics and Director of Greenwich

Political Economy Research Center, University of Greenwich

* * *

Pablo Carmona Concejal Ahora Madrid

Pablo Echenique Secretario General de Podemos Aragón y diputado en el Parlamento autonómico

Patrick Saurin Portavoz del Sindicato Sud del Banco BPCE, Francia. Miembro del Comité de la Verdad sobre la Deuda Griega

Paul Murphy Irish Socialist Party. Anti-Austerity Alliance Dublin, Ireland

Pauline FORGES Enseignante, déléguée syndicale, membre de la LCR-SAP (Belgique)

Pedro Santisteve Alcalde de Zaragoza

Penelope Duggan Editor International Viewpoint, France

Peter VELTMANS Syndikalist ACOD Financiën, lid van de SAP-LCR (Belgium)

Philippe Marlière Profesor de política europea en University College, London

Pierre Galand Président du Forum Nord Sud, Belgique

Pierre Khala Coprésident de la Fondation Copernic, France

Pierre Vanek Député – Membre de Solidarités, Suisse

Quim Arrufat Diputada/o autonómico de las CUP

Rastko Mocnik Sociologist, Ljubljana, Belgrade

Rafael Escudero Profesor de filosofía del derecho. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

Raúl Camargo Diputado Podemos CAM, Anticapitalistas

Richard Wolff The New School

Rommy Arce Concejala Ahora Madrid

Rui Viana Pereira Membre de CADPP, Portugal

Ruth Rubio Marín Professor of Constitutional and Public Comparative Law European University Institute

Sebastián Martín Profesor de Historia del Derecho. Universidad de Sevilla

Sergi Cutillas PACD, Miembro Comité de la Verdad sobre la Deuda Griega

Sofia Sakorafa Member of the Euro Parliament, Greece

Sol Sanchez Diputada IU-UP en el Congreso

Sonia Farré PACD, En Comú Podem

Sonia Mitralia Membre du CADTM et de l'Initiative "Femmes contre la dette et les mesures d'austerité"

Soren Sondergaard MP for the Red-Green Alliance, Denmark

Srecko Horvat Croatia - UK

Stanislas Jourdan Mediaactivist, Basic Income, Quantitative Easing

Stathis Kouvelakis Profesor en Kings College, Londres

Stavros Tombazos Professeur d'économie politique, Université de Chypre

Stefan Zgliczynski Editor of le Monde Diplomatique, Poland

Tariq Ali New Left Review

Teresa Rodriguez Secretaria General de Podemos y Diputada en Andalucía

Thomas WEYTS SAP-LCR ,Belgique

Xabier Benito Eurodiputado Podemos

Xabi Domenech Diputado en el congreso por En Comu Podem

Tom Kucharz Miembro de Ecologistas en Acción, Spain

Vicenç Navarro Catedrático de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, Universidad Pompeu Fabra

Yago Álvarez PACD Madrid

Yayo Herrero Ecologistas en Acción

Yorgos Mitralias Promoteur "Manifeste Antifasciste Europeen"

Zbigniew Marcin Kowalewski Chercheur et Editeur, Pologne

P.S.

* <http://planbeuropa.es/manifesto/?lang=en>