

TO ALL EUROPEANS: MAY 2019 BECKONS!

On the 10th of March 2018, beginning in Napoli, we are embarking on the path to the first ever single, pan-European, transnational list to compete in the May 2019 European elections on the strength of a single Manifesto mapping out a clear path to a democratic, ecological, egalitarian and ambitious Europe.

Europe is on a knife's edge. Left to its establishment, it will continue to sleepwalk into a dead end. But we can do much better, together. The next few years will determine whether the current and future generations will look at Europe as a source of torpor or as a source of promise. This is our generation's moment to seize the day.

We invite you to join us!

WHO WE ARE

We come from Europe's North, South, East and West. We come from Central Europe as well as from its islands and outermost regions. We are progressives, radical democrats, ecologists, feminists. We are citizens, activists, mayors, local councilors. And we bring to Europe's first transnational party list our different cultures, languages, accents, political party backgrounds, ideologies, skin colours, gender identities.

We are committed to getting back our cities, our regions, our countries, our environment, our Europe. We aim at becoming the credible, coherent, radical alternative in Europe's Parliament.

WHAT WENT WRONG

At the heart of Europe's derailing there lies a deceit: A highly classist, top-down, opaque decision-making process, in Brussels, in Frankfurt, and in all national capitals, was presented as 'technical', 'managerial', and 'neutral'. Political to its core, it was labelled 'apolitical'. European and national elites have bypassed democratic processes so as to impose unpopular measures on behalf of oligarchies and at the expense of our environment and our people - while blaming 'Europe'!

Repeatedly, Europeans tried to stop them. Alas, the people were ignored. And when the establishment's failed policies caused a systemic European crisis, they doubled down by creating new bureaucracies, troikas and arbitrary 'rules' by which to impose the same policies of self-defeating austerity, deregulation, privatisation, smashing of trade unions, while turning a blind eye to falling wages, insecurity, tax heavens, the housing crisis and overstretched public services. Now, having pushed Europe to the edge, they are presenting themselves as the defenders of Europe!

Is it any wonder that the sirens of disintegration now lure many Europeans? Of course, the establishment and the xenophobic forces (calling for a retreat to the patriarchal nation-state) are accomplices that feed off each other.

The resulting options, 'More of this Europe' or EU disintegration, are both dreadful. There must exist an alternative. Thankfully there is!

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The European Union has shown the world how peace may be salvaged from centuries-long conflicts and bigotries. It is now time to show the world how solidarity, protection from exploitation,

rationality, transparency, emancipation and shared prosperity can become features of a renewed, democratic European Union.

We stand convinced that the solution to our regions' and countries' crises must be European. Like climate change or tax avoidance, which requires both local and global action, we need a combined pan-European, national, regional and municipal strategy for tackling our common crises: private and public debt; the low levels of investment that contribute to precariousness, unemployment and poverty; pressure on wages; deficits in food safety and public health; insufficient social housing; involuntary migration within the EU and lack of solidarity to refugees; the challenges from automation; patriarchy; and, of course, climate change.

None of these solutions can emerge from Europe's current technocracy, from the business-as-usual attitudes of its establishment. Nor, indeed, can they come from the disintegrationists proposing a return to the nation-state. Europeans need first to wrestle democratic control over the European Union.

What Europeans need today is a realistic but radical plan for ending Europe's crisis. We are running out of time and, thus, we must move urgently without first giving more power to Brussels or waiting around for yet another reform of EU treaties. Our programme is founded on two pillars:

1. **Pan-European Green New Deal:** An economic, ecological & social policy framework by which to address the crises of private & public debt, tackle under-investment, poverty, inequality within Europe, promote public and common goods, and implement a massive green investment program to the tune of at least 4.5% of the European Union's GDP, in direct cooperation with Europe's cities. These measures can be implemented within a two-year period (2019-2021) through existing institutions.
2. **European Peoples' Constitutional Assembly Process:** Europe needs a Democratic Constitution written by the peoples of Europe for the peoples of Europe, capable of placing citizens, local communities and municipalities at centre-stage of decision-making. In parallel to our New Deal, we shall launch a grassroots assembly process, from villages and cities across Europe before culminating into a Constitutional Assembly that will, in conjunction with the European Parliament, draft the future European Democratic Constitution by 2025.

HOW DO WE PROCEED FROM HERE? The roadmap to May 2019

A temporary council of our single, transnational party list has been formed, on which all participating movements will be equally represented. The council is open for those wishing to join. By June 2018 our common Manifesto will be presented, followed by a tour of Europe's capital cities. By the end of Summer 2018 our grassroots from across Europe will select the list of candidates who will then present and debate our Manifesto and policy agenda in every European town, village and city.

The train has left the station, slowly and with its doors wide open.

Join us!