

## **Plan B for Europe**

### **Appeal to build a European area of work in order to end austerity and build a true democracy**

After the financial coup against the Greek government on the last 13<sup>th</sup> of July , which condemned the majority of Greek society to the austerity policies that were rejected in the polls. The debate about the power of EU institutions has intensified, also its incompatibility with democracy and its role as guarantor of basic rights demanded by the Europeans.

Manifestos such as "For a Plan B in Europe " ( [https://www.euro-planb.eu/?page\\_id=105&lang=es](https://www.euro-planb.eu/?page_id=105&lang=es) ) , " Austerexit " ( <http://www.vientosur.info/spip.php?article10444> ) and other initiatives that have raised the blackmail done to Greece and the imposition of the third memorandum for bank bailout and indebtedness do nothing but aggravate the socio-economic crisis. Denouncing the undemocratic nature of the EU institutions, as in the case of the President of the European Commission, Jean -Claude Juncker, who said : " There can be no democratic decision against the European treaties ".

Xenophobic and unsupportive response from the EU institutions to the arrival of refugees from Syria, Iraq , Afghanistan , Eritrea, among others, have raised questions of what Europe wants to build . Against this blackmail, we need our own plan B to combat the agenda of austerity policies implemented for seven years since the beginning of the economic crisis. The regime of EU crisis privatizes the common goods and destroys the social and labour rights instead of addressing the root causes of the crisis , deregulation of the financial system and the corporate capture of EU institutions .

The current EU is governed by a technocracy serving the interests of a small but powerful minority of economic and financial powers, whose policies have increased the weight of the extreme right and its speech, even though an important part of European society from the bottom has shown solidarity with the humanitarian tragedy suffered by hundreds of thousands of refugees.

In recent years there have been impressive movements against the regime of austerity, defending social rights and common goods in many countries. We have also seen some success at European level as the Alter Summit practices, European general strike in 2012, the three editions of Blockupy or the current campaign against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement between the European Union and the United States (TTIP). However there has not been sufficient coordination, mobilization and practical cooperation at European level so it has not been able to slow the progress of implementation and institutionalization of austerity policies in the European Union.

We know that there are alternatives to austerity, as a fair tax policy and the closure of tax havens, complementary exchange systems, the redistricting of public services , the equal distribution of all jobs including care in dignity or commitment to a production model based on renewable energies. Proposals to reform or abolish the European fiscal pact - formally the

Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union – to the extent that perpetuates the austerity and reject TTIP.

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.

Our proposal to the actors who are already part of different European networks , social movements and organizations , universities and civil society in general, is to converge to discuss and to share models of what Europe we want , and starting to build a common agenda and alternative policies to break the austerity regime of the EU.

With this idea we propose to set up a European conference on 19, 20 and 21 February in Madrid. To do this, we would like to count on your participation as part of the debates, workshops and discussions that will take place.

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