

## The Final Resolution

### Our call for struggle to the workers and labourers of Europe...

We the undersigned members of the Europe region of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations (ICMLPO) came together under the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic to review the work of our parties in the initial period of the pandemic and discussed especially the details of our activities in the current so-called "new normal" conditions.

It is obvious that we are not faced with an "*unknown enemy*". It is true that the coronavirus does not distinguish between the classes, but under the conditions of the hegemony of international bourgeoisie and finance capital, the pandemic having such serious magnitude as well as the policies against the pandemic and the level of contagion are all to do with the class.

This class aspect is also proved by the fact that while almost only the capitalists and the middle classes to a certain extent have been given financial support in the face of the pandemic and the call to "stay home" can only be implemented by them, the working class is only given little crumbs. Self-protection is only valid for the capitalists; the monopolist capitalists have taken shelter in their mountain chalets and secluded islands but the workers do not have the opportunity to stay home and not work.

Another proof is the fact that in the initial period of the pandemic, the workers and labourers who work in the essential sectors such as health, food, logistics, post, public transport continued with their production and services and were put at risk, and that in the period of the "new normal", all factories and workplaces aim to operate at full capacity as much as possible and the workers and labourers have become susceptible to the coronavirus contagion. Moreover, despite the fact that the workers who work in the essential sectors such as health, cleaning and supermarkets, the majority of whom are woman, are the most adversely affected by the pandemic and that they work under the most adverse and difficult conditions, they have not received what they deserve, not even in the form of a wage increase. Also, while the capitalists can use all possible cures in private hospitals, the workers consider themselves lucky if they can squeeze into a corner in the corridors of public hospitals which have become dysfunctional due to the neoliberal policies of privatisation and austerity, where the health workers cannot even get the necessary protective equipment, they were sent home for isolation or left on their own in hospital corridors.

The elderly and the vulnerable have also been left to their own devices instead of being taken under special protection, and the sad state of care homes during the pandemic is well documented. The pandemic and the resulting lockdown and unemployment has hit the women most: it was the women who lost their jobs in the first place; the burden of the house was mainly on their shoulders; and they were at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic as the workers in the healthcare, cleaning and supermarket sectors were mainly woman.

The conditions we face today have shown us once again that the pandemic which has cost so many lives and the shortages of hospital beds and protective equipment are all connected with the governments' policies of privatisation of hospitals and other health institutes as well as austerity measures. It is obvious that these neoliberal policies aim to diminish the gained rights of the working people such as health, education and housing, removing their character as public rights and opening them to private companies for profit and exploitation. We have all witnessed the consequences of neoliberal capitalism, i.e. the privatisations and cut backs in public services which are deemed to be unnecessary if they are not profitable, and they have led to the death sentences of hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom were working people. What we have witnessed is the fact that the fight against the pandemic is inseparable from the fight against capitalism.

Although Europe does not have Trump and Bolsonaro-like examples who openly evade the threat of the pandemic, the bourgeois governments have the sole responsibility for the whole continent to be

caught unprepared for the pandemic because of the privatisations and austerity measures, neglecting public health and leading to dysfunctional health sectors unable to provide the frontline health workers with the necessary protection, some even considering the "*herd immunity*" as a viable option. We cannot let these governments which are now trying to blame solely the pandemic for the capitalist crisis and whitewash their neoliberal policies that deepen the crisis to shift the burden of the pandemic onto the shoulders of the workers and labourers. It is the capital and their governments who are responsible for this crisis and they are the ones who must undertake its burden.

It is not only the destruction of health services and the fight against the pandemic that has an obvious class aspect; this is also true for the fact that the European capitalism, which has gone into a stagnation in the pre-pandemic period, accumulating the elements of crisis, is trying to load all the burden of the crisis deteriorated by the pandemic onto the working class, especially in the form of increasing unemployment and poverty. Capitalists want workers and labourers to pay the price for the pandemic and for their own crisis, and by doing this, they motivate us to unite and fight them both.

For example, The EU Commission has been working on a proposal for the European minimum wage. We must watch this process closely in order not to allow any regulations to the disadvantage of workers.

No! We refuse to pay the price. It is not us who did privatisations; we are not to be blamed for hospital shortages which has led to the weakening of the fight against the pandemic; it is the capitalists and their governments. Nor is the crisis our fault; it is a result of the exploitative capitalism. For us, the workers, the fight against the pandemic and capitalism has become even more important as the wheels of capitalism have accelerated in favour of maximum profit of capital without any concern for the pandemic and the risk of contagion, and as redundancies soar while workplaces are opening up again.

Furthermore, we are witnessing two consequences of the sharpening class contradictions under the deteriorating social conditions due to the pandemic and the capitalist crisis which are accompanied by sharpening inter-imperialist contradictions, rivalry and the fight of redivision of the world—as a result of the unequal and uneven development of capitalism in different countries and sectors—which manifest themselves especially between the US and China, but also including Russia and Europe: 1) The increasing need of the bourgeoisie in Europe for new and more reactionary policies and forms of government in order to keep under control the exploited classes whose discontent is on the rise and who have difficulty to live in the old ways. Nationalist and racist tendencies, far right and fascism as well as xenophobia are on the rise. 2) War expenditures, warmongering and armament are on the rise. In terms of Europe, the consequences of the fight for increased share of world markets and hegemony can be seen in the Mediterranean, Syria, Libya and Africa as well as Ukraine followed by Belarus.

Despite grave pandemic conditions and instead of supporting the working masses and health services in the fight against coronavirus and the crisis, capitalist hegemony and their governments use public resources for rescuing capitalist corporations, for armament, and for more military expenditures for intervention for the redivision of the world, including Northern Europe and The Arctic, especially in the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East where the EU, led by Germany and France, also strives to increase its share. This is not acceptable!

We, the European Marxist-Leninists, are working and will work to develop the united struggle of labour against capital in the factories, workplaces and the neighbourhood, taking the necessary measures against the pandemic such as physical distancing, masks and hygiene, but without isolating ourselves in our homes.

It is only through the struggle of the working class and labouring peoples, a struggle which includes the youth and women, that we can avoid from shouldering the burden of the pandemic and of the capitalist crisis, from an unsecure future spreading fast with increasing unemployment and poverty,

from the destruction caused by wars and from the destruction of the environment, the result of which we see even now with climate change. We the working class, labourers, the youth and women can overcome both the pandemic and capitalism with its destructive crises. It is only us who can achieve this.

Let us unite around the widest possible labour front in order to get rid of the hegemony of capital which is exploitative as well as reckless about the environment and public health. Capitalism, which has nothing to offer us, to the working people, is not our destiny, the revolutionary rupture and the new society, the socialist one is necessary and possible.

We call upon the working class and labourers of all nationalities of the peoples of Europe to fight for the following immediate demands against capitalism, which does not consider the pandemic as a public health issue, and their bourgeois governments which do not implement measures prioritising public health.

- Governments cannot retire from the fight against the coronavirus pandemic leaving people to their own devices in the name of "normalisation", risking public health and leaving the responsibility to people to take their own measures. No to governments giving priority to the well-being of the capitalist economy and to the profit of the capitalists, and inviting the "second wave" by easing restrictions!
- Access to health services is a public right; free and equal access for all! Privatisations and cuts in the health sector must end; health services must be improved with new investments and with the deployment of more doctors and health workers, and all hospitals, health institutions, pharmaceutical companies, private or otherwise, must be controlled by the workers, trade unions and professional organisations in this sector.
- The working conditions of the doctors and health workers as well as other frontline staff such as cleaners, supermarket workers and logistics workers, who are at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic must be improved and their salaries must be risen to the level of average living standards.
- Test and treatment priorities to be given to the health workers, other risk groups and the workers and labourers who work in great numbers in the workplaces which should be considered as risk groups.
- No safe working conditions, no production! The workplaces with coronavirus infection must be closed down until all necessary measures are taken, and workers must be paid in full.
- Working from home not to be used by the employers as an opportunity for intensified exploitation; no to heavy workload in the form of compulsory work!
- Redundancies must be banned, leave of absence with pay must continue during the pandemic.
- Unemployment insurance and support for those workers who are unable to work must be extended to cover the migrants and refugees without any precondition.
- The right to "breath" is an inalienable human right; no to racial discrimination and xenophobia! Equal rights and opportunities to all.
- Education must be reorganised at schools with adequate measures and transport in line with the pandemic conditions, and infected classes must close until all necessary steps taken.
- In the face of the "second wave", shortages of medicine, vaccines, protective equipment and food must be addressed quickly; free masks and hygiene products for all!
- No to billions of euros in state subsidies for monopolies!
- An end to war expenditures, and for funds for health and education rather than armament.
- Strikes and demonstrations cannot be banned; it is not acceptable to restrict the right to strike, protest, political and trade union association, freedom of the press with the excuse of the pandemic. No to the state repression and the police state!
- Human beings are inseparable with their environment; no to the destruction of nature for the drive for maximum profit!

**Workers' Communist Party – Denmark**

**Workers' Communist Party of France**

**Organization for the Construction of the Communist Workers Party of  
Germany**

**Communist Platform – Italy**

**Marxist-Leninist Organisation *Revolusjon* - Norway**

**Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist)**

**Labour Party (EMEP) – Turkey**