



Declaration of the MTCE seminar from 18 to 21 October 2012 in Bratislava:

New approaches for social security in Europe

Informed by the seminar from 18 to 21 October 2012, the MTCE takes on board the issue of "Social Security in Europe". The effects of austerity policies have been specifically analyzed. It is important for the MTCE to recognize the "signs of the times" and to interpret them in the light of the Gospel in order to come up with a way of taking action.

What we see

Since 2009, severe austerity programs have been implemented in Europe to consolidate public budgets of member states. The huge reductions in government spending have had an impact on the living conditions of workers in Europe. Privatization, minimum wage cuts, lower wages and benefits, increases in the retirement age, reducing the number of public sector employees and, at the same time, higher taxes on consumption, etc ... this results in an impoverishment of the population and an increase in unemployment, and especially the youth unemployment which has reached unequalled records so far. The economic effectiveness of these programs is at least doubtful. The impact of these measures on social norms, social rights and democratic processes are unacceptable.

European policy has declared as its main priority the rescue of the financial system and the banks. The social needs of people in these countries in crisis seem to take second place as do the democratic rights of citizens and of parliaments. The task of saving the Euro has been given to a small inner circle of technocrats and ministers, who are subjecting Europe to a dictatorship of reduction.

The banking crisis highlights the real faults of the capitalist economy namely: the lack of control, lack of democratic decisions, of reprehensible objectives and the destruction of economic stimulus, the lure of money, the unequal distribution of added value, the degradation of human work to the status of a commodity, leads to devaluation of people as creatures of God.

What we want

In light of the consequences of unbridled economic liberalism, the European social model and its various national expressions must be protected by a vision of a united Europe and we must continue to persevere in the construction of welfare states. The example should

be a European social model that assures every person equal dignity with inalienable rights. The European social model can be defined for the MTCE as a concept along the lines of a European common life. We need a Europe where everyone finds social security, filled with meaningful prospects, forming the basis of a "good life" and a "good job."

Financial markets must serve economic stability and social equity. They should actively support sustainable development. The money must be invested in the lives of people, in fair structures and not goods that affect irreversibly man and nature. The policy restrictions of the Troika (European Central Bank, European Commission, International Monetary Fund) , which aggravates the crisis, must end.

Accordingly: we need more of Europe, but above all a different Europe. We must take a path that overcomes the shortcomings of the Treaty of Maastricht and the asymmetry of economic construction. We must install a European economic government that derives its legitimacy in a democracy.

What we will do

We, the MTCE, are committed at European level and also in our national networks to this "new" Europe. This 'renewed' Europe will not be gifted to us by the powerful but it will have to be conquered by a long struggle. This world, fair and social starts its growth.

As a sign of community, we wish to make an appeal to the movements of the MTCE, in the coming years, to organize common actions for the World Day for Decent Work which is held each year on 7 October.

Bratislava, 21 October, 2012