

International newsletter

COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE



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ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2009



THE CC OF KKE RELEASED the Electoral Declaration for the Elections for the European Parliament in June 2009. The Elections for the European Parliament constitute a significant political battle that is related with all aspects of the life of workers and popular strata.

The EU, in which Greece takes part as well, is an interstate union of capitalist countries. The EU policy, formed and implemented in each country by the governments of its member states, attacks the workers' and peoples' rights favouring the growth of the monopolies and their profits.

KKE BELIEVES THAT THE ELECTIONS for the European Parliament provide people an opportunity to condemn both the EU and the anti-people policy and its perpetrators, the ND government and the parties that support the "EU one-way road. In any case this battle will have a strong impact on the domestic developments with repercussions on European level.

"CRITERIA FOR VOTING SHOULD BE THE INCREASING PROBLEMS. CONDEMN THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROBLEMS WITHIN YOUR COUNTRY AND IN THE EU." urges the CC of KKE.

THE CC OF KKE calls upon the popular strata: "At the elections for the European parliament in June 2009, you have the opportunity to cast the KKE ballot and give a resolute answer to the EU and the parties that all those years have supported and still do, this way or another, the strategy of this intergovernmental imperialist union, namely the EU, as well as its reactionary choices in the economic, political and military fields.

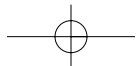
SINCE THE FIRST MOMENT, KKE had declared "no to the EEC of the monopolies" and later on "no to the Treaty of Maastricht". Until nowadays KKE never has stopped fighting back the EU at all levels: in the struggles, in the Greek and European Parliaments but also in international meetings and mobilisations. The prediction of KKE that only the bankers, the ship-owners, the industrialists, the big merchants, the constructive enterprises will benefit from the EU "predatory alliance", while on the other hand the people will constantly lose rights, has also been proven true. The EU has nothing to do with the Europe of the peoples.

[The full text of the Declaration of the CC of KKE on the web-site: http://inter.kke.gr](http://inter.kke.gr)

THE 18TH CONGRESS OF KKE ON 18TH-22ND FEBRUARY 2009

The Congress will discuss the following themes:

- Report of the Central Committee since the 17th Congress and plan of action until the 19th Congress.
- Conclusions from the socialist construction in the 20th century in Europe.
- Election of the new Central Committee and the Central Audit Committee.





IMPORTANT STRUGGLES OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS

AT THE END OF APRIL, 2.500 IMMIGRANT RURAL WORKERS AT THE STRAWBERRY FIELDS OF NEA MANOLADA WENT INTO STRIKE, SUPPORTED BY PAME AND CLASS-ORIENTED TRADE UNIONS. THE LANDOWNERS GOT UPSET, FURIOUS AND DID NOT HESITATE TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF PAME AND KKE WHO STOOD BY THE SIDE OF THE IMMIGRANTS. HOWEVER, THE JOINT STRUGGLE WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND SIGNALED AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT FOR THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN GREECE.

In Athens, an important industrial action by the class-based Trade Union of Textiles, Clothing and Leather took place in the textile factory "Lady Fashion". In that company the terrorism exercised by the bosses against the immigrant workers reached the level of atrocious violence, when workers who dared to deny working on

Sunday and demanded their wages were beaten. The workers squared up encouraged by the support of their trade union and the communists. The militant unity of the immigrant workers along with the class solidarity and support expressed in practice by PAME and the communists led to one more important victory.

17th anti-imperialist camping of KNE



THE 17TH ANTI-IMPERIALIST CAMP OF KNE took place in Northwestern Greece, at the Lake of Prespa whose region once hosted the headquarters of the Democratic Army of Greece. Thousands of members and friends of KNE met, paid tribute to the fighters of the past and vowed to intensify the struggle of the youth on the side

of KKE, for the overthrow of the monopolies and the socialist power.

THE LAKE OF PRESPA IS THE MEETING POINT of the frontiers among Greece, Albania and FYROM, constituting thus a symbolic reference of our region. Balkans still are a focal point of the imperialist competition over the control

of the wealth resources and the exploitation of the labour force of the people in the region. The only way out for the people in the region lies in forging the solidarity and friendship among them and developing the anti-imperialist struggle for peace and socialism.



PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM VISITS GREECE MEETING WITH ALEKA PAPARIGA

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Nguyen Minh Triet realized an official visit to Greece. On the afternoon of June 9, President Triet met with General Secretary of the KKE, Aleka Papariga and exchanged views on issues related to the bilateral relations of the two countries and peoples, as well as the international situation.

ALEKA PAPANIGA REAFFIRMED THE FIRM SOLIDARITY of KKE with the people of Vietnam and reiterated the wish for the further development of the fraternal relations between the Communist Party of Greece and the Communist Party of Vietnam.

THE MEPS OF KKE ISSUED AN OPEN LETTER DENOUNCING THE DANGEROUS STIRRING UP OF MINORITY ISSUES - EXISTING OR NON EXISTING ONES - IN THE BALKANS BY THE IMPERIALIST FORCES INTENDING TO PROMOTE THEIR INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PEOPLE

The Dangerous Stirring up of **Minority Issues** in the Balkans

In the open letter the KKE MEPS underscore:

"The danger of a general outbreak of war in the Balkans is reignited due to the imperialist plans, the changes of the borders in the Balkans, the rise of nationalism, the so-called declaration of independence of Kosovo and its recognition by the USA and the EU, the emergence of new protectorate-states in the Balkans, the increase of the presence of foreign armies and the development of military bases. These developments, especially the so-called declaration of independence of Kosovo, provoke serious concerns amongst the peoples of this region, because they open a "Pandora's box" for new "dismemberments" of states, border changes and renewed bloodletting."

It is also mentioned that:

"KKE, on principle, respects and fights for the rights of



minorities. Rights related to background, language and religion, which are protected by specific international and bilateral agreements. We are of the opinion that minorities can and should be bridges of friendship between the peoples and must not be transformed into tools in the hands of the imperialists, in

order to justify war and every type of intervention for border change. The imperialist are not at all concerned about the peoples and minorities, only in the promotion of their class and geopolitical interests.

Under the conditions of Imperialism, minorities must demand their rights within the borders of the states where they live. The common class interests of the workers constitute the base from which attempts at discrimination can be dealt with, whether these arise from the governments of these countries and the foreign powers, or from the leaders of their communities, who often seek the secession or autonomy, not to liberate their people from class exploitation, but to be able to be oppressors or to enjoy the 30 pieces of silver through their attachment to the strategic plans of the imperialist countries."

The General Secretary of KKE in CUBA

A delegation of the CC of KKE visited Cuba from 29th April to 3rd May 2008 upon an invitation by the CC of the Communist Party of Cuba. The delegation comprised of the General Secretary of CC of KKE Aleka Papariga, Dimitris Koutsoubas member of the Political Bureau and Despina Markou associate of the International Section of KKE. After her return to Greece Aleka Papariga noted: "we have always had close relations with the Communist Party of Cuba at regular basis. Nowadays our effort is to intensify our solidarity with Cuba which has been for many years, actually since the victory of the revolution, but especially after 1990 and on, under the unprecedented pressure and interventions of the USA and its allies."

JOINT STATEMENT of KKE & CP of ISRAEL

The Communist Parties of Greece and Israel protested the joint maneuvers of Greek and Israeli air forces that took place under code-name "Glorious Spartan 08" (28 May -12 June) around the Greek island of Crete, using NATO and US facilities around the base of Suda Bay. During mass-scale training exercises, that were kept secret, 130 flights were realized by Greek and another 130 by Israeli fighter jets.

These joint manoeuvres took place in a period that the voices of US and Israeli officials arguing for a pre-emptive strike on Iran grow stronger. The whole concept and planning of the exercise prove that the aim was to prepare a potential strike against Iran.

The Communist Parties of Greece and Israel denounce the direct engagement of our countries in the very dangerous escalation of the threats against Iran. These imperialist plans constitute a direct threat for peace and stability in the region; hold new serious dangers for the peoples in the region. They aim at the promotion of the "New Middle East" project, at the further expansion of NATO all over the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central Asia.

We call upon the working class, the peace-loving people of our countries to mobilize, to prevent a possible adventurism against Iran with the participation of our countries.

JOINT STATEMENT on the EU-Latin America & Caribbean Summit

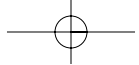
On the occasion of the 5th EU-LAC summit that was realized on 16-17 May 2008 in Lima, Peru, 22 Communist Parties from EU countries including KKE issued a joint statement denouncing the policy of the EU towards Latin America. The statement notes that EU has the same imperialist and neo-colonial goals with USA. The statement warns that the EU-LAC "strategic partnership" runs contrary to the interests of the peoples in both continents and concludes that the solidarity with the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean are integral parts of the struggle for a Europe of equal co-operation, of social and economic progress, of peace, in opposition to the process of European capitalist integration. The parties expressed their support to the popular movements of LAC, demanded the abolition of the EU "common position" on Cuba, that that FARC-EP and ELN be recognised as belligerent parts and immediately removed from the EU list of "terrorist organizations and rejecte the unjust association agreements promoted by the European union. They also voiced against the immigration policy of the European Union.

Meeting of Communist & Workers' Parties from EU member-states

ON 14TH -15TH MARCH 2008

a meeting of 23 Communist and Workers' Parties from 20 EU member states took place in Athens, on initiative of KKE and on the subject of "the new Treaty, developments in the EU and peoples' struggle". According to the press release the participants discussed the current developments in the EU and underscored the following: "both the EEC and the EU constitute the choices of the leading powers and the west monopoly capital. The EU promotes neo-liberal measures favouring the monopolies, the accumulation and concentration of capital. It cannot represent a genuine counterweight to the USA in favour of the people. With the Reform Treaty, new steps are being taken towards the configuration of the EU as an imperialist, economic, political and military block contrary to the interests of the workers and the peoples. The sovereignty and independence of peoples and countries are being further undermined." The participants condemned the adoption of the Treaty promoted "behind the back of the people". Furthermore they supported that there is an imperative need for a real alternative in opposition to big capital and imperialism. This alternative should keep the door open for rupture with the process of the European capitalist integration and for the socialism. Through the important struggles of the working class, the left and progressive forces the possibility of a different situation of a Europe of equal cooperation, peace, social and economic progress emerges more powerfully".

The whole text of the press release is available on the website of the Party <http://inter.kke.gr> and at <http://www.solidnet.org>



KKE PARTICIPATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF UKRAINE

ON 2ND APRIL AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES TOOK PLACE IN KIEV ON THE SUBJECT OF "THE ACCELERATION OF NATO EXPANSION TO EAST, PROBLEMS OF SECURITY IN EUROPE". KKE WAS REPRESENTED BY DIMITRIS KOUTSOUBAS, MEMBER OF THE PB OF THE CC OF KKE, AND ELISEOS BAGENAS, MEMBER OF THE CC OF THE PARTY. IN HIS SPEECH D. KOUTSOUBAS UNDERSCORED:



"NATO HAS ALWAYS BEEN A POLITICAL & MILITARY MECHANISM SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE CAPITAL". He also referred to the estimations of KKE concerning the current developments and the duties of the anti-imperialist movement. He also noted that the hope of the people for a safe and peaceful world is fully in line with the peoples struggle to overthrow the imperialist plans and build a socialist-communist society without exploitation of man by man.

KKE welcomes the "NO" of the Irish people

FOLLOWING THE RESULTS OF THE IRISH REFERENDUM ALEKA PAPANAGI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF KKE, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

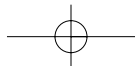
"Yesterday it was the big day of the "NO vote" of Irish workers, peasants and popular strata. It was the day of the victory of the Irish people who did not give in to black-mails and dilemmas concerning the "NO and YES Vote" despite the pressure exerted to them. KKE believes that other peoples can also say their "NO". Nowadays it is possible, provided that referendums had been held or will be held in all the EU countries, the NO Vote to dominate in several countries or at least to become very strong, stronger than ever".

FURTHERMORE SHE STRESSED: "We demand a referendum and in any case the battle of the elections for the European parliament must be transformed in a battle to condemn the EU. No time should be wasted. We must take steps forward. Things will get worse in the next years, unless we organize our counterattack. We are optimistic. All these years KKE had the courage to go against the grain and has been vindicated".



8TH KKE FESTIVAL FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS

Workers originating from all over the world met in the park "Fix" where the annual festival of the Athens' organization of KKE for Greek and immigrant workers took place for eighth year in succession. Many immigrants' communities contributed to cultural program of the festival which also included discussions and events promoting the joint class struggle of Greek and immigrant workers.



KKE CONDEMNED THE DECISION OF THE US COURT ON 4TH JUNE 2008 TO UPHOLD THE CONVICTIONS OF THE FIVE CUBAN PATRIOTS, WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED FOR TEN YEARS DESPITE THE ACCUSATIONS OF SPYING IN THE USA HAVE BEEN COLLAPSED.



STATEMENT ON THE DECISION TO UPHOLD THE CONVICTIONS OF THE FIVE CUBAN PATRIOTS WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN THE USA

IN THE STATEMENT KKE UNDERLINES: "It is an outrageous decision that reflects political aims of the US imperialism. It has been taken in the frame of the efforts to build up pressure against socialist Cuba.

IN ADDITION, the recent statements of the candidate Presidents Barack Obama and John McCain prelude a further escalation of the imperialist aggressiveness against the Revolution and the people of Cuba.

THE STANCE OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT is also condemnable since it chose this very moment to declare coincidence with the imperialist plans of the USA and the EU. The government of ND has no political or moral right to lecture Cuba about the respect of rights and freedoms.

THE GREEK GOVERNMENT should stop hiding behind the EU common position on Cuba, which is not supported anymore even by some of its inspirers. We demand the abolishment of the EU common position as well as all the measures against Cuba. Our country must stop adopting the EU measures against Cuba, and fully normalize the relations with Cuba on bilateral basis.

WE CALL UPON THE GREEK PEOPLE TO CONDEMN the unacceptable decision against the 5 Cuban patriots; to be on the alert and respond resolutely to a new possible round of imperialist attacks against Cuba".

FURTHERMORE the Party Organization of Athens and Piraeus organized a solidarity rally on Tuesday 10th June Mavili Square next to the US-Embassy.

34TH STATEMENT of KKE on the anniversary of the fall of the military junta



Celebrating the fall of the military Junta in Greece today may sound like a provocation given that today:

- Nine out of ten strikes are declared illegal by the courts
- The intimidation by the employers and the state oppression reign in the workplaces
- Workers' and peoples' rights have been abrogated and replaced by the term "chance"
- The state mechanisms for the ideological and political suppression are being constantly strengthened
- Anti-communism is on the rise.

This democracy that regards every act of resistance as a crime and the workers who struggle for their rights as terrorists is a formal one. It is the kind of democracy that suits the EU, the plutocracy and its parties.

The current political system has had its day long ago. The change in the balance of forces is an imperative need in order to pave the way for radical changes against the management and the disguises of the system.

80 MEMBER OF GREEK PARLIAMENT VOICE AGAINST THE BAN OF KSM

80 MEMBERS OF GREEK PARLIAMENT signed and submitted to the Czech Embassy a petition to the Czech government calling for the withdrawal of the ban on the free action of KSM. Except from the 22 deputies of KKE, 11 are MPs of the right-wing, ruling party of ND, 33 are MPs of the social-democrat Party of PASOK and 14 are MPS of SYRIZA.

IN THE TEXT OF PETITION IT IS MENTIONED THAT:

"The decision of the Court of Prague to ban the action of the Communist Youth Union of the Czech Republic (KSM) constitutes a dangerous development as it calls into question the elementary political freedoms and fundamental rights. It leads to the penalization of the right to express one's different political view."

FACTS ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF KKE TODAY WORKING CLASS:

KKE EXERCISES significant influence on the working class. In a series of national wide trade unions, such as the Federations of Construction Workers (the largest private sector federation in Greece), of Pharmaceuticals, Metalworkers, Textile Workers, Sailors etc. as well as in local trade unions [Trade Union Centers], the lists supported by KKE get the majority of votes.

At the General Confederation Greek Workers [GSEE] the forces supported by KKE elected in the last congress (2007) 21% of the representatives, while at the Confederation of the Public Servants [ADEDY] trade union elected 11% of the representatives.

PAME [all-workers' militant front] is a trade-union front founded in April 1999, that encompasses federations, labor centers, trade unions, struggle initiative committees and single trade unionists fighting in a class direction since has been rallying the working class forces.

YOUTH: The Communist Youth of Greece [KNE], the youth organization of KKE, has an active role on the youth movement and on the political features of the youth's struggle. This is quite evident among the university students who have their associations' elections every year. PKS, the



rallying of students supported by KNE, on the 2007 elections got 15,35% at the Technological Educational Institutes and 15,33% at the Universities of the country.

GENERAL ELECTIONS: In the last general elections on September 2007, KKE as the 3rd largest party achieved 583.818 votes, 8.15% and elected 22 MPs.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES: In the local elections of 2006 KKE elected 64 prefecture councilors, hundreds of members at the municipal councils and 15 mayors.

ELECTIONS FOR THE EP: At the 2004 elections for the European Parliament KKE elected 3 MEPs receiving 580.396 votes that is 9,48%.

Statement of the Press Bureau on the US Anti-missile shield

KKE CONDEMNS the decision of the government of the Czech Republic that ignored the expressed willing of the Czech people and promoted the agreement with the USA about the deployment of the USA anti-missile system. This action -carried out with the consensus of NATO and the Greek government – is the first step towards the deployment of the "anti-missile shield" in Europe that constitutes a great danger for all the people. It will reinforce the armament race and the militarization of Europe. In addition, it indicates the continuance of the numerous aggressive actions of the EU and US imperialists, such as the new American military bases in Romania and Bulgaria, the perpetuation of the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, the presence of NATO troops in Balkans, the deployment of the EU occupation forces in Kosovo and other countries in Africa, the intensifying threats and the military drills at the expense of the Iranian people and the people in Middle East.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES FROM EU COUNTRIES ABOUT THE 5TH EU-LAC SUMMIT

NIKOS BELOGIANNIS

MURDERED FOR THE IDEAS OF KKE THAT BECAME HIS WAY OF LIFE

"MY LIFE IS ASSOCIATED WITH KKE AND ITS ACTION. MANY TIMES I FACED THE DILEMMA TO LIVE AND BETRAY MY IDEOLOGY AND MY BELIEFS OR TO DIE AND REMAIN LOYAL TO THEM. I HAVE ALWAYS CHOSEN THE SECOND WAY AND I AM DOING THE SAME TODAY". The statement of Nikos Belogiannis at the court martial has a timeless meaning applying also nowadays that more and more fighters need to trust their strength. To believe that they can bring about the rupture, the overthrow that is been shaped by the alternative of KKE ", underscored Aleka Papariga, General Secretary of the CC of KKE in her speech delivered during an event devoted to the Communist hero Nikos Belogianis.

"OUR PARTY, like all the Communist Parties, had been affected by the turbulence caused by the counter-revolution. Nevertheless, we withstood the crisis, even though we sustained losses. The enemy did not manage to get us

out of the way neither was vindicated, as it was believed in 1991. Soon after, we started to put obstacles in its way. We resisted and found our feet again. We reconstructed our party and formed our Programme. Furthermore, we keep on studying the building of socialism in order to draw conclusions. In this process we level criticism as well as self-criticism. Our policy, based on the modern analysis of several issues enables us to be in a process of alertness and counterattack. Through our ideological and political struggle we have tried to unveil the myths of the so-called "globalization" and the supposedly "united Europe". We have always been the vanguard in the struggles of the people's movement. Our action has an impact not only within our country but also internationally. Our party is battle-hardened and it will become much more mature" stressed Aleka Papariga in her speech.

NIKOS BELOGIANIS was a member



of the Central Committee of KKE. After a decision of the Party he came to Greece after the defeat of the DSE (Democratic Army of Greece) in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the illegal party organizations of KKE. He was arrested on 20th December 1950. He was judged according to law N. 509/1947 that regarded KKE as a criminal organization and declared it illegal. He was accused of being a spy of the USSR. He was executed along with three of his comrades on Sunday 30th March 1952 at 04:10. The time and the day of the execution had been uncommonly unusual in order to prevent people's reactions (executions used to take place always on Sundays at the dawn).

KKE HONOURS RITSOS & THODORAKIS

THE POETRY OF GIANNIS RITSOS inspired by the people's life, suffering and aspirations met the music of Mikis Theodorakis and they both became a symbol of the people's movement that inspired and encouraged its struggle. KKE honoured these two companions of the people's movement by organising a concert in the frame of the celebration of its 90th anniversary. The concert took place in the rifle range of Kesariani where 200 communists were executed by the Nazis on May 1st 1944.

"We decided to celebrate the 90th anniversary of our Party in this place where 200 distinguished communist cadres were murdered by the Nazis. Above all we wanted to honour the work of Giannis Ritsos and Mikis Theodorakis the two great men, whose name has been associated with the peoples movement as well as with the history of the Communist Party. Hundreds of thou-

sands of people and youth joined the struggles of the popular movement only because they were motivated by the verses of Ritsos and the melodies of Theodorakis. In my opinion, these two men showed what an artist can do when his/her talent meets the people's movement. For that reason, they will go down in history" said Aleka Papariga, General Secretary of the CC of KKE. Eri Ritsou, the daughter of the Poet and Mikis Thodorakis participated and saluted the event.

