

# International newsletter

## COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE



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STRIKES &  
WORKING CLASS  
MOBILIZATIONS

CAMPAIGN PROMOTING  
THE POLITICAL  
ALTERNATIVE OF KKE

SECESSION OF KOSOVO

ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE FOUNDA-  
TION OF EEC-EU

MEETING OF THE COM-  
MUNIST & WORKERS'  
PARTIES FROM M.EAST

MEETING  
ON EUROPEAN ISSUES

10.000 EDITIONS OF  
RIZOSPASTIS

THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE FOUNDATION  
OF KKE

IMPORTANT MOMENTS  
IN THE HISTORY OF KKE

SOME INFORMATION ON  
THE INFLUENCE OF KKE  
IN GREECE TODAY

## STRIKES & WORKING CLASS MOBILIZATIONS



The first 3 months of 2008 were marked by the biggest, since 1974, strikes and other protest actions of the working people.

**THE ACTIONS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST** the attempts of the ND government to impose a new reactionary reform of the social security system and pensions. Not by chance, the measures of ND are in the same direction as the previous ones imposed by the social democrat government of PASOK. The PASOK government already achieved to impose flexibility and to prolong the retirement age to 67 years by court- ing pensions.

**KKE APPEALED TO THE COMMUNISTS AND WORKING PEOPLE** to resist the attacks by reinforcing the ranks of the class oriented trade unions and deploying the resistance in every working place. [<http://inter.kke.gr>]

**THE ALL WORKERS MILITANT FRONT** [PAME, <http://www.pame.gr>], the class oriented current in the trade unions took the initiative in organizing the fight in Athens and more than 60 cities of the country by mobilizing massively workers, poor farmers, small entrepreneurs, students and youth.

**THE ACTIONS WERE BACKED BY** dozens of National Branch Trade Unions, Labor Centers, trade unions of many factories as well as unionists opposing the policy of "class compromise" and submission promoted by the leadership of the General Confederation of Greek Workers [GSEE, operating in the enterprises and factories of the private sector] and of the General Union of the Civil Servants [representing the public sector]. Both official national Confederation actually under the control of PASOK and SYN are not challenging the antipopular measures promoted by the EU and the concept of "competivity".

**PAME PROMOTED ONCE AGAIN DEMANDS** responding to the today's needs of the working people and to



the wealth accumulation, some of which are the following:

- 1400 Euro for the basic salary
- 1120 Euro for the basic pension
- Financial assistance for the unemployed
- 35 hours without reduction of salaries
- Abolition of all antisocial laws regarding social security voted by ND and PASOK
- Retirement age for women to 55 and for men to 60 years
- Full public and free of charge education and health

**AT THE SAME TIME PAME** underlined the need to strengthen the fight in order to change the correlation of forces in the trade union movement as well as on political level.

**THANKS TO THE ACTIONS OF PAME** the lay offs at CARREFOUR and many other enterprises were recalled.

**KKE BY GREETING THE BY FAR BIGGER MOBILIZATIONS OF PAME** underscored the urgent need for the working people to keep the struggle and the disobedience towards the policy of the big capital and EU.

After the last general elections a sharp drop occurred as far as support for the bipartite (ND and PASOK) system concerns. So, several maneuvers to reform the bourgeois political system are underway. Under these circumstances KKE carries out a nation wide campaign to present its alternative proposal on the question of the power ruling the country. On the relative Announcement of the CC of KKE it's highlighted among other things that:



## CAMPAIGN PROMOTING THE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE OF KKE

"THERE CAN'T BE ANY POSITIVE CHANGE FOR THE PEOPLE, as long as the struggle doesn't strengthen decisively against the capitalists in every field in order to deprive the monopolies of their power. [...]

**THE REINFORCEMENT OF KKE** in the elections and the strengthening of workers' opposition, coupled with a substantial action by the class oriented forces at the workplaces, are the main factors that hinder the anti-popular measures promoted by the government of ND concerning the Social Insurance System, labor issues, Education etc. [...]

**THE PROMOTION OF CENTRE-LEFT SCENARIOS** is targeting the interests of the working people. The alleged "alternative governmental solutions" so strong mediatized in Greece have been proved to be linked with tragical consequences for the people of Italy and France, but welcomed by the big capital.

**THE "LEFTIST ALLIANCES"**, hypocritically projected by SYN-SYRIZA, are proved to lead to the incorporation and submission of the popular movement, to a "cosmetic improve-

ment" of the capitalist barbarity. The policy put forward by SYN-SYRIZA does not affect the main issue, which is the question of the future for the capitalist forces and power, and sustains that there are measures which serve both, the capitalists and the working class, the people.

**SYN-SYRIZA IS AN UNRELIABLE PARTY.** For some time now bows to the "one-way street" of the European capital and the centre-left. It collaborates with PASOK in municipalities, in prefectures and in the trade union movement. Now, it uses leftist phraseology in order to conceal the essence of its intentions. It fosters illusions that the correlation of forces can change from "above" for the benefit of the people without colliding with EU and the monopolies.

**AS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE CC OF KKE**, a real popular alternative can occur based on a "shift in the correlation of forces in order to strengthen KKE, to build the Anti-imperialist Anti-monopoly Democratic Front and to struggle for the popular power."

### SECESSION OF KOSOVO

**IN A PRESS RELEASE** on 15 February KKE stated that "the declaration of independence of Kosovo is guided, controlled and imposed by the USA and the EU in order to create a protectorate. This was one of their intentions when they conducted the criminal wars in the Balkans.

**FURTHERMORE**, it constitutes an extremely dangerous development for all the peoples because the borders are changing and new hot beds of tension and destabilization are being created. It signals intensification of aggressiveness and creates negative conditions for fighting people such as the Cypriot, the Palestinian and many more.

**THE GOVERNMENTS** of ND and PASOK bear great responsibility because they have consented to, backed and participated in the implementation of the imperialist plans.

**KKE DEMANDS FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT** to not recognize the independence of Kosovo. To withdraw immediately the Greek military forces from the area. No participation in the EU occupation army.

**KKE CALLS UPON THE GREEK PEOPLE TO RAISE ITS VOICE** and send a powerful anti-imperialist message of resistance, to condemn the imperialist organizations serving exploitation, interventions and wars. To impede the country's participation in these organizations and to condemn at the same time the political parties that serve the decisions of the plutocracy, and opt for the "EU one-way street".

**ON THE SAME ISSUE** under the initiative of the Portuguese Communist Party a joint position of communist and workers' parties was made public. [<http://www.solidnet.org>].

## ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF EEC-EU

ON THE OCCASION of the fiftieth anniversary of the EEC-EU, the General Secretary of the CC of KKE Aleka Papariga noted that “the foundation of the EEC was a conscious decision made by the west-European capital that responded to the necessity not only to enforce its role but also to fortify capitalism against the socialist system. So, the class character of the EEC was the starting point and its fundamental characteristic.

THIS COURSE OF CAPITALIST unification, the EEC first and the EU today, aims at strengthening and amplifying the west-European monopolies in conditions of intensification of the rivalries and inter-imperialist conflicts, by compressing the work force price, depriving the workers of their rights and gains, exploiting new markets and national resources (...)

NOWADAYS, THE NECESSITY for disobedience and indiscipline against the EU policy is confirmed. The goal for the communists, for the militant progressive forces, is to transform the popular discontent into struggles of confrontation and rupture from EU. Our country has to quit the EU in order to weaken it and so to effectively contribute to the creation of an all-European movement that will question the EU opening so a way to a different Europe, a socialist one.”

AN ANNOUNCEMENT on the same occasion has also been issued by 29 European Communist and Workers’ Parties [<http://inter.kke.gr>].

## MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST & WORKERS’ PARTIES FROM M.EAST

KKE HOSTED IN JANUARY A MEETING of the parties of South and East Mediterranean, Red Sea and the region of the Gulf . The meeting dealt with the most recent developments after the Annapolis agreements, the treats against Lebanon, Iran and Syria, and more generally with the implications of the US and NATO aggressive strategy for a “Greater Middle East”. An action plan of solidarity and common initiatives was adopted [<http://www.solidnet.org>] . The foreign guests were received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Carolus Papoulias who stressed “the vanguard role played by the communists in the forward



front of the just struggle of the people of the region”.

THE NEW CRIMINAL ATTACKS by the Israeli army in Gaza were protested by rallies and protest marches in Athens and other important cities. Under the initiative of the Syrian Communist Party a joint protest and solidarity appeal of the communist and workers’ parties was released.

### MEETING ON EUROPEAN ISSUES

IN ATHENS TOOK PLACE A MEETING under the motto “The new EU treaty, the developments in the EU and the popular struggle” attended by representatives of communist and workers’ parties and movements coming from EU countries.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED with the release of a common press statement and of a program for further joint actions opposing the new treaty and the EU policies. [<http://www.solidnet.org>].

### 10.000 EDITIONS OF RIZOSPASTIS

RIZOSPASTIS, THE DAILY “VOICE” of KKE published since 1908, and organ of the CC of the Party since 1/8/1921, has reached 10000 legal daily editions, since its republication on 25 January 1974, after 27 years of illegal circulation. In spite of the repressions, the killings of many journalists and other obstacles, Rizospastis hold on and continued offering its support to the fair struggle of the working class. NOWADAYS, Rizospastis is a 32-page daily newspaper sold in kiosks throughout the country, and on Sundays it comes out on a 56-page edition, also sold by the KKE

branch organizations. Rizospastis covers the main political and social issues, the popular struggles, critics regarding the other political parties, ideological and international issues, issues related to the youth, the women, culture, environment and sports.

RIZOSPASTIS IS AN IRREPLACEABLE “WEAPON” in hands of Greek communists on their daily political action.

APART FROM RIZOSPASTIS, KKE also publishes the bimestrial theoretical magazine “COMMUNIST REVIEW” and runs the “902” radio and TV channel.



# THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF KKE



IN A STATEMENT OF THE CC issued on the anniversary to be commemorated in November is noted among other things:

“KKE welcomes its ninetieth year with the unwavering conviction of the timeliness of socialism and with a heightened sense of responsibility towards the working class and the popular masses. **KKE HAS NEVER SIGNED ANY STATEMENT** of “repentance” addressed to the domestic and international bourgeois class, and never will. The heroism and sacrifices of communists embrace the past and the present alike, and constitute a valuable legacy for the generations to come. The Central Committee pays homage to the thousands of comrades, men and women, who lost their lives in the struggle.

**KKE POLICY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY LIFE.** Its positions

regarding the international conditions after 1989-1991 and the Balkans more generally, its analysis of EMU and the euro, and of capitalist European unification as a whole, its absolute opposition to the strategy of capitalist restructurings and its demonstration of their causes, as well as its other basic stances have been proved correct by the popular forces beyond its electoral impact. The KKE’s policy of alliances and the need to combat opportunism have been confirmed.

**OUR PARTY EXPRESSES ITS DETERMINATION** to continue on the same course. It has made a commitment to the people and the youth that it will step up its efforts to push forward the creation of the Anti-imperialist, Anti-monopoly Democratic Front, which will fight and demand power to the people.”

## IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF KKE

- **17-23 NOVEMBER 1918:** It was held on Piraeus the Founding Congress of the Socialist Workers’ Party of Greece (SEKE).
- **1919:** The SEKE was associated with the Third Communist International.
- **1924:** (3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Congress) SEKE was renamed KKE.
- **31 OCTOBER 1940:** The (first) “open letter to the Greek people” by Nikos Zachariadis, General Secretary of the CC of KKE, imprisoned by the fascist State Security is made public. The letter marked the resistance against the aggression by Italy followed by Germany. The action of EAM followed the course set by the “open letter”.
- **16 JULY 1941:** On the initiative of KKE, the Workers’ National Liberation Front [EEAM] was created, and on 27 September 1941 EAM [National Liberation Front] was established.
- **16 FEBRUARY 1942:** The Greek Popular Liberation Army [ ELAS ] was created.
- **10 MARCH 1944:** The Political Committee of National Liberation [ PEEA ], the central political body for the liberated regions was established.
- **DECEMBER 1944:** Armed murderous attacks were launched against the people of Athens, who were fighting an unequal battle against the untied military force of British troops and local military bourgeois forces.
- **12 FEBRUARY 1945:** The unacceptable “Varkiza Agreement” was signed obliging ELAS to laid down arms.
- **1946:** In the mountains was born the Democratic Army of Greece [DSE]. The armed anti-imperialist internationalist struggle of DSE that lasted three years “was the most important moment of the class struggle in Greece during the 20<sup>th</sup> century” [http://inter.kke.gr].
- **1949:** DSE was defeated and began a long period of cruel, bloody persecutions and illegality for KKE.
- **FEBRUARY 1968:** [12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the CC] It was decided that the Party would continue to exist. The CC of the Party re-established the party organizations and decided to found the Communist Youth of Greece [KNE]. The revisionist group of the CC withdrew and followed the opportunistic line of “Eurocommunism”.
- **17 NOVEMBER 1974:** Uprising of the Polytechnic School in Athens. The communists had a significant role. A few months after the repression of the uprising and the NATO lead invasion by the Turkish army in Cyprus the dictatorship collapsed.
- **23 SEPTEMBER 1974:** KKE was legalized.
- **1991:** Attempt to dissolve KKE, organized by some cadres, members of the PB and the CC and the General Secretary at the head, in cooperation with forces that were participating in the SYNASPISMOS. Their intention was to transform SYN which was created 1989 as a coalition of KKE and several other parties and political figures in to a single party.
- **1991:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of the KKE made an effort to summarize the main conclusions drawn from this crisis and elaborate its political position, the anti-imperialist struggle.
- **1993:** A national Conference elaborated the Party’s positions regarding the EU.
- **1995:** A national Conference was held under the title: “Thoughts about the factors that determined the reversal of the socialist system in Europe. The timeliness and necessity of socialism.” [http://inter.kke.gr].
- **1996:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Congress approved the Program and the Constitution of KKE. The elaborated strategy for the program of the party defined the nature of the revolution in Greece as socialist, putting forward as criterion what was objectively necessary for the Greek people and not the actual general negative correlation of forces.
- **2001:** The 16<sup>th</sup> Congress proceeded to a more detailed elaboration of KKE’s political alternative regarding the building of the Anti-imperialist Anti-monopoly Democratic Front [AADM] in the perspective of the socialism.
- **2005:** The main subject of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress was the strengthening of KKE, as a fundamental factor on the growth of the labor-popular movement.

## SOME INFORMATION ON THE INFLUENCE OF KKE IN GREECE TODAY

**WORKING CLASS:** KKE exercises great 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 candidates supported by KKE get the majority of votes.

At the General Confederation Greek Workers [GSEE] the class 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 since April 1999 has been rallying the working class forces.

**YOUNG PEOPLE:** 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 more obvious 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 national MP.

KKE is represented in the European Parliament with 3 MEPs.