

R10 No one sacrificed for European economy

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Agenda item: 1. Resolutions

Motion text

1 A brief description of the dynamic

2 A capitalist system needs sacrifices to be successful.

3 Around Europe, in many industrial cities human lives are daily sacrificed for
4 the "greater wellbeing". In the name of economic success, the European Union and
5 its members close their eyes and allow to die thousands of people. To add
6 insults to injury, these deaths are ignored by the media, as institutions do
7 everything possible to make these catastrophes invisible.

8 The damage has three main axes: environmental, economic and social.

9 These industries are first of all environmental hazards. Do not follow the
10 safety rules, releasing toxic products that pollute the air, the ground and the
11 water. This pollution impacts not only nature but also, of course, human health.
12 The working-class is the first impacted, but everyone within a range of a
13 hundred kilometers is affected and risk to have health issues, notably cancer.

14 This environmental impact affects also the economic system of the area around
15 these factories: the polluted area is unable to be properly cultivated, and the
16 environmental situation makes the region touristically dead. The local economics
17 become therefore intrinsically linked to the factory which caused this
18 situation, creating a loop.

19 The last axis, the social axis, is defined by how this economic and
20 environmental hazard creates a local social struggle, where lower, middle and
21 upper classes continue dying for EU's and national economic development, and the
22 enemy is the employer and the institutions who let it be because intervene would
23 cost more than human lives.

24 A clarification is needed: talking about "sacrificed industrial cities" we are
25 not talking about big polluted cities constantly attacked for their pollution,

26 but about normal cities with a higher cancer and pollution rate that are
27 normally ignored and tend to not appear in statistics.

28 **A concrete example - #IlvaIsAKiller**

29 To make these dynamics tangible, the city of Taranto, often called "Italian
30 Chernobyl", will be used as a model.

31 Taranto has been home for a steel mill since the 60s, Ilva, and during the last
32 40 years this city has been affected by this mill that has escaped EU
33 environmental regulations duties, polluting all the area around for kilometres
34 and creating health issues other than an economic and environmental catastrophe.

35 Taranto has been subject of many environmental and health studies, by academics,
36 governmental institutions and international organisations (including [WHO](#)), and
37 more than once it has been demonstrated how the steel production affects the
38 lives of everybody in the area, creating an immesurable damage. Nonetheless,
39 still today its residents fight against the inaction of the Italian government
40 and the European Union, as it has been said through words and sometimes through
41 actions that Ilva brings too much to the Italian and European economy.

42 To this day, it has been proved that:

- 43 • Ilva causes at least 50 deaths per year, and influences more than 1000
44 indirect deaths per years;
- 45 • Ilva does not respect EU regulations on environmental security;
- 46 • Ilva is a danger for its workers, with many accidents through the years;
- 47 • Because of Ilva's pollution, Taranto's province has an abnormal higher
48 rate of cancer and other health issues;
- 49 • The presence of Ilva highly influenced the touristical influx;
- 50 • The concentration of steel particles in the air is higher than allowed by
51 the law, at the point that "curfews" are organised during some days for
52 students and workers.

53 **Conclusion**

54 This dynamic is present with some variations in different parts of Europe, and
55 as this dynamic is hidden from mass media, it's safe to say that these are not

56 isolated cases and that indeed it's more common than it appears.

57 With this resolution we request:

- 58 • -That the Federation of Young European Greens acknowledges the existence
59 of these "invisible" industrial cities, standing in solidarity with the
60 hundreds of victims affected by this situation every year and the
61 thousands who died;

- 62 • -That the Federation of Young European Greens acknowledges these cities and
63 their activists as one of the best examples of green activism, where
64 climate justice and social justice interconnect perfectly;

- 65 • That the member organisations of FYEG make an effort to acknowledge
66 industrial cities in their own countries that follow the aforementioned
67 criterias, having as goal to make them visible and push institutional
68 measures to change the social and environmental context of these cities;

- 69 • Where these industries are totally necessary to the existence of the local
70 economy (and not for that for the national or European economy) because of
71 the dependence created by the aforementioned reasons, an ecological
72 reconversion must be privileged and pushed with immediate urgency.