R10 No one sacrificed for European economy

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Agenda item: 1. Resolutions

Motion text

A brief description of the dynamic

A capitalist system needs sacrifices to be successful.

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

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

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

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

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

A clarification is needed: talking about "sacrificed industrial cities" we are not talking about big polluted cities constantly attacked for their pollution, but about normal cities with a higher cancer and pollution rate that are normally ignored and tend to not appear in statistics.

A concrete example - #IlvaIsAKiller

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

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

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

To this day, it has been proved that:

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

Conclusion

This dynamic is present with some variations in different parts of Europe, and as this dynamic is hidden from mass media, it's safe to say that these are not isolated cases and that indeed it's more common than it appears.

With this resolution we request:

- -That the Federation of Young European Greens acknowledges the existence

of these "invisible" industrial cities, standing in solidarity with the hundreds of victims affected by this situation every year and the thousands who died;

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

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

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