



## A call for action

As we write this declaration, workers in different countries are living some of the **greatest strikes** of the last years in Europe.

We strongly share their concern and support their struggle. Life has shown that there is no way forward if you don't fight for your own rights.

EACL is in total solidarity with the movement of the workers and of the students. When we fight for our pensions rights, for a decent working time or against flexicurity, when we defend public transports or the quality of education, we are always facing the same enemy: the bourgeoisie and its appetite for more and more profits, built upon the harsher exploitation of the workforce, on the reduction of state investment in public universal services and on their privatization.

On the other hand, Member States of EU commit themselves to **increasing public expenditure in the field of defence**. It is indeed the only sector where there is such a commitment in an article of the new Lisbon Treaty. Of course the 27 governments, who have supported this, will then argue in their own countries that they can not avoid doing these militaristic policies because they are imposed by the EU...

The continuation of the wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan, with no solution on the horizon, and the shadowy perspectives for Iran, are certainly one main argument to this need for ever-growing defence investment. Our **opposition to military "solutions"** to conflicts, to participation in **NATO**, and our commitment to **peace**, are the reasons why we strongly oppose this option in the Treaty.

We support the protests of the Polish and Czech people against the implementation of the new American military facilities in their territories and **call all the left forces and peace movements to act in solidarity with the local activists and elected representatives who are organizing the resistance to such aggressive projects.**

The peoples of the European Union are facing a **second wave** of the attempt to impose them a Treaty that may consolidate the neoliberal project. The only thing that is really new in this second round is that **the governments have lost the confidence** that they could make their peoples approve anything they would tell them to. It is this lost of confidence that led them to one of the most shameful and dishonest manoeuvres in the history of EU: putting the popular vote out of the equation is the magic solution they invented. That's why, adding to our fight for a social alternative model to the development of our countries and of Europe, we also raise our voices in the name of basic democratic principles defending the **right of the people to express their opinion in referendums.**

EACL salutes the coming **2008 European Social Forum in Scandinavia**. It is important to go north, in order to involve more deeply in the participative process of the forums the Nordic left and social movements. They have a rich and different political experience which must be merged with other activist traditions in order to give the Forum a real pan-European character.

All over Europe, there are many different social movements, Trade Unions, left wing parties and European networks that, in spite of their natural differences, can agree on the fundamental axes of criticism of the present policies.

What we need now is to engage together, more and more, in **real action.**

Each on our own we mean very little. Together we can face the big challenges posed by the present situation and we can build real alternatives, social and popular alternatives, to the neoliberal offensive. EACL sends all the other European political networks a strong call to engage in **common actions** during the year 2008.

*Almada, Portugal - 17, 18 November 2007*