

The role of the communist and workers' parties of Europe in order to strengthen the struggle of the working class and popular strata against the EU and the strategy of capital, for the pro-people way out from the capitalist crisis, the overthrow of capitalism, for socialism.

European Communist Meeting, Brussels 30 September 2013.

Speech of Wil van der Klift, New Communist Party of the Netherlands.

Dear comrades,

We thank KKE again for organizing this necessary meeting and we are greeting all communist and workers' parties that are represented here.

The New Communist Party of the Netherlands is a small party and therefore organisational weak. We even could not prepare this meeting in a proper way. With a small group of leading cadre we try to fulfil all - too many - tasks that are necessary. This is daily practice, trying to maintain, nor growing but survive taking small steps under very complicated circumstances. Too many tasks so continuing making priorities for the work in neighbourhoods, factories, public and social organisations and trade unions.=20

After 21 years of struggle to maintain as a communist party based on marxist-leninist principles in a hostile society it is not easy to continue. It really is a matter of surviving, (big) steps forwards are not possible to make. So revolutionary patience is needed. Although new young cadres are coming to the party it is very complicated to educate them. Generally speaking the young working class generation has to pay much attention to survive under capitalist conditions and they are very much involved in their own struggle for life to work out there own strategies for a decent future. So these young cadres are not sufficient educated and are involved in a daily struggle for life, Both quality and quantity are under extreme pressure in relation to the building of the party. The young cadres don't have enough time for organizing collective activities, although they are very much inspired, full of good will and see the necessity for such activities. The party is not able to pay some of these young cadres a salary to be free to work for the party and not be depending on finding a job in the capitalist society.

Dear comrades,

We all know the negative role for the working class of the EU. So that's not a question. The question is what can we do against it? The title of the meeting is very generally. The reality however is that there are many differences between and in European countries and many differences between and in communist and workers' parties. So a common answer or force is not easy to develop. Anyhow we need more political and ideological unity, better and more frequent exchange of information and if possible more common actions. A bridge too far at the moment, but the goal is clear.

Dear comrades,

the situation in the Netherlands is rather complicated. The organized working class is very, very weak. Many of them still believe in neo-liberal solutions within a capitalist society. Trade unions are trying to unite, but the actual base for unification is far too much social democrat. After many years of class cooperation and social partnership it will take time and discussion to build a new class-based trade union, although the social-economical situation is becoming worth for even bigger parts of the (organized) working class strata. Generally speaking there is no base in the Dutch working class at the moment to fight for socialism, although the struggle for better conditions of groups of workers and in several sections of the labour movement are growing, sometimes even rapidly.

The majority of the (working) people, influenced on a daily base by the bourgeois class mass media is still hoping that neo-liberal measures and parties will solve their growing daily problems and that capitalist parties and government(s) will be able to do so. What we see is a rising doubt in the lower strata of the social-democrat party, and also a growing amount of members of that party that leave that party, but still a majority that see no other alternative for the present government of social-democrats and liberals. Also in the trade unions there is no radical will to struggle, but rather illusions, false hope and expectation.

So in parliament still we see a overwhelming majority for rightwing opinions and ideas and support for the neo-liberal demolition of social and labour rights of the European Union. It's at this time only a small minority that wants to change the system or fight for socialism. That's how it is at the moment.

Dear comrades,

The only one party that has a more or less reasonable leftwing policy is the so called SP. The S stands for socialist, but in practice the SP is a new type leftwing social-democrat party without any real influence. The S changed into another content: not socialist, but social. And social in a capitalist society. No more Mao, Marx, Engels or Lenin. This former maoist party now is a reformist party without a clear goal for the future. No real idea about a socialist future. In practice this party became a real barrier for us as it stands between our party and the working class, supported to do so by the mass media. The existence of the parliament orientated SP makes it more difficult for us to reach the more radical strata of the working class better than we do now, as they are hoping for solutions of their problems in parliament only. At the same time the SP lost its historical influence in neighbourhoods and enterprises as the only line for them is to win seats in the parliament and looking for the possibility to get in government. The main problem is the lost of the insight that only by class-struggle positive changes are possible. Under such conditions we try to survive.

The Union of Communists (VCN) - started in 1981 - that existed before we established the NCPN in 1992 had to start without any (financial) means after the former CPN (Communist Party of the Netherlands) started the process of cancellation at the beginning of the eighties. The CPN disappeared as a party, became part of a new GreenLeft party and took all financial and other resources with her. So we are still fighting to

remain and build up a real marxist-leninist communist party since 1992 as NCPN and before that as VCN. All together now more than 30 years in one of the centres of imperialism and also fighting against reformism of the old and new social-democrats. During that time the SP - after revisionist en reformist ideological transformations - grew and became seats in parliament and part of the bourgeois political spectrum in our country. The SP however is a real expression of the ideas of the majority of the social feeling people in our country that does not want to change too much and has many illusion about their future. Now the real base for capitalism in the Netherlands is crumble more people are looking for better answers, analyses and solutions than the SP is giving. After more then 30 years now time is on our side! But still the barriers are high and extremely difficult to 'pull down'.

Dear comrades,

So our main task is to bring into the discussion in the neighbourhoods, enterprises and trade unions our ideological points of view, under as many people as possible. That's not an easy task. Therefore we must succeed in maintaining our party as an independent organisation, with a paper, an office, a library, with members that become more class consciousness and a Marxist-leninist education. That our priority now. Small successes are giving us the power to continue. As long as capitalism is able to convince the masses that this system is the most profitable and successful, as long as a big part of the working class believes in the fairy tales of new and traditional social-democracy it is not easy to continue and survive.

But comrades we will maintain and grow, because we own the only effective instruments tot make proper and useful analysis of social, economical, political and ideological human developments. That means practically - now many more people are open for socialist and communist ideas - we are able to convince more strata of the working class. Not big groups but person after person will understand that to get a better life, socialism is the only possibility. What we do is to change the individual feelings of anger, opposition and resistance more political and ideological. Not an easy task but our daily experience shows us this is possible and successful.

What we need is self-confidence, self-consciousness and revolutionary patience. Venceremos.