

Speech of Kemal Okuyan (Communist Party of Turkey) Brussels, 30 September, 2013

Dear comrades,

Europe has always been the main arena for the class struggles and will continue to be so. The international communist movement can never overcome the shortcomings and cannot promote socialism, which is the only alternative to a capitalist society without having a clearcut revolutionary perspective in Europe. That should be another lesson that we conclude from the tragic events in our common history.

The communist movement should be stronger and the coordination between the communist parties should be deepened all over the continent.

Dear comrades,

When we say Europe is the main stage for the class struggles, we neither approve euro-centric positions nor the positions of the euro-left tendencies praising "bourgeois democracy" which in reality mean supporting imperialist policies.

It is just the opposite. Europe has a heritage of great ideas and great struggles for the human kind. We cannot repeat or imitate but actualize and change the class character of all historical fights for democracy, enlightenment, republicanism, anti-fascism and directly link those for the need of overthrowing capitalism.

That is what Lenin, as a great revolutionary who in a final analysis is a "Zapadnik", tried to do. It was a historical contribution to the international working class movement but mainly to the movement in Europe. We have to admit that, Leninism had some genetical problems with the movement in Europe and not all were solved by the help of the legality of bolshevism and Soviet Union throughout the 20th century.

Without trapping ourselves to a nostalgia, without excluding the new elements in the political, ideological and economic sphere, without playing a "leftist" game, a new initiative to revolutionize the communist tradition in the continent should be taken in a Leninist spirit. This initiative should focus on a complete ideological breakup from any form of bourgeois ideology, include political elements in the definition of imperialism and seriously work on the term "weak point of the capitalist chain."

Dear comrades, all the illusions that arouse about the post-war capitalist societies in Europe are coming to an end. Capitalist barbarity has no room to move, has no mask to hide its real face. If we don't take into account this phenomena and continue to act as parties functioning in calm and secure harbors I'm afraid that we will face with another defeat which we cannot afford.

In each European country, communist parties should find its own way to use the social energy that is not in itself socialist or even revolutionary but that can be linked or connected to the struggle for socialism. An arithmetic sum of secular tendencies, the

forces that seek for sovereignty, peace activists, patriotic sentiments, ecologist movement etc. cannot help to create a revolutionary strategy. All these elements should be taken seriously but not to practice a simple common position. Such a strategy can only be achieved in a hierarchy that has a class-based character without any doubt. On the political level, without a socialist perspective in the center or in the top, communist parties will be reduced to ordinary political actors, floating in the sake of alliances or coalitions.

Dear comrades,

The balance of forces might not be in favor of the communist parties. However, in a long going structural crisis with real political aspects, you can never know when and how the conditions will change.

The recent events in Turkey is a good example of how social dynamics mature in a very short time. Our party, TKP, has always been trying to introduce a socialist revolutionary perspective, using actual concrete problems and agenda. And we've been labeled as "dreamers" by some circles in our country as well as some friends in Europe. Well, thanks to this dream, during all those mobilizations TKP was one of the main forces, TKP recruited many new members and TKP is becoming a key element in the discussions and polarization within the political crisis.

We are still a small party as long as electoral basis is concerned but things have changed a lot as for the first time in our near history, communists are seen as a real political force and not as dreamers.

We have always been a party against EU and Turkey's membership to EU but we know that Turkey is a European country as well as being a Middle East, Balkan and Caucasian country. We will do our best to contribute to the communist movement in Europe, welcome any initiative that helps to create a genuine marxist-leninist movement. You should take into account that Turkey with some other countries in Europe has a real potential to witness radical social changes which will have a direct impact on the the communist movement.

TKP has a simple principled line to all issues; the events in Syria, the Kurdish problem, Islamic fundamentalism, EU, NATO, national sovereignty: Anti-imperialism, working class enlightenment, and defense of public interest in a socialist perspective. There is nothing above or important than the task to strengthen, to contribute the international revolutionary process and not a single problem can be handled without defending this common process.

Let us create a communist movement challenging all traces of the so-called euro-communism which is an outcome of imperialist tendencies in the working class movement especially in the most-powerful capitalist countries in the continent. Let us show that Marxism-Leninism is not a symbol or something of the past, communists are not playing a game with no hope.