

9th EPSU Congress
20 to 23 May 2014, Toulouse, France

Affiliates' Draft Resolutions
For a citizens' audit of the public debt in European States
Submitted by the CGSP, Belgium

		Proposed amendments	
1.	NOTING with the greatest concern the deepening of the 'debt – deficit – austerity' spiral in several European States and the growing impoverishment of the population of these countries, without the situation showing the slightest sign of improvement.		
2.	CONSIDERING that the recent increase in the public debt and, consequently, in the proportion of the budget assigned to its repayment in the majority of European States is caused predominantly by the choices made by governments to save banking institutions at very high cost and unconditionally at the time of the banking crash of 2008 and disastrous fiscal policies, on the one hand, and the economic crisis stemming from the financial crisis and these inappropriate political decisions, on the other.		
3.	ALARMED that the budgetary stringency and austerity measures currently taken by governments under the auspices of the Troika are unfair, ineffective, increase the public debt burden and unravel the social protection and wealth redistribution safety nets, thereby affecting first and foremost women and young people, without for all that achieving any significant reduction in the public debt of the States.		
4.	KNOWING that the question of the public debt occupies and will continue to occupy a prominent place in political and social life in the coming years, since the private financial sector continues to		

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	speculate freely and fresh recapitalisation of banks is to be predicted.		
5.	NOTING that governments, whether left-wing or right-wing, accept being subject to the pressure of the financial markets, one of the priority requirements of which is precisely the continuous repayment of the debt, with this repayment being presented by the Heads of State as unavoidable, incontrovertible and obligatory.		
6.	CONSIDERING that if it is wished to maintain the social rights won through workers' struggles, to halt the social decline and to guarantee fundamental rights, a radical reduction in public debt is a prerequisite and that it is imperative for the question of public debt to be at the heart of the discussions on recovery from the crisis. This reduction is also essential to implement an economic and social policy for the people, especially by assigning appropriate funding to quality public services.		
7.	KNOWING and WELCOMING the fact that in many European countries, including Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Belgium and Italy, initiatives for citizens' audits of the public debt are being organised at local, regional and/or national levels, with active participation by the trade unions at all levels, and already knowing that some have led to constructive, significant results. [An audit of the public debt is a process of in-depth analysis of its components, origin, use and the terms and conditions associated with its repayment]		
8.	CALLS ON the Executive Committee and all the affiliates of the EPSU:		
9.	To encourage and provide active support for the		

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	establishment of, and participation by the unions affiliated to the EPSU in, citizens' public debt audit committees, at local, regional and/or national levels, in order to check that the debts contracted by the public authorities are not odious, illegitimate or unlawful.		
10.	To accompany this support by an information and awareness-raising campaign on the question of the debt and the importance of audit initiatives. The audit must have the effect of reinstalling the question of the debt at the centre of public discussions. It therefore includes a profoundly democratic dimension.		