

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

Affiliates' Draft Resolutions
European Treaties
Submitted by the CGSP, Belgium

		Proposed amendments	
1.	CONSIDERING that since it was first established as a supranational institutional and political entity, the shaping of the European Union has focused as a priority on constructing a single market, fully embracing, from the mid-1980s and the signing of the Single European Act, the principles of neoliberal economics and strict monetary doctrine.		
2.	CONSIDERING nevertheless that this European structure, with regard to a certain number of aspects, has constituted and still constitutes significant progress in the integration of an ever growing number of States and in the progressive development towards identification with common principles and values, in the context of increasingly recognised 'European citizenship'. The election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage and the extension of its powers within the Union, the integration of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU in the Lisbon Treaty and the forthcoming accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms all represent genuine progress towards the creation of a Europe of rights.		
3.	CONSIDERING however that the various economic governance treaties ratified in the context of financial recovery of the Union Member States whose deficit and debt levels exceed those laid down by the criteria of the Maastricht Treaty – reformulated more strictly in the Euro Plus Pact and implemented through the European Semester and shortly the Budgetary Pact,		

		Proposed amendments	
	or Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG) – are imposed on Member States as a priority over protection of employment, respect of human rights, social protection and wage bargaining. The wave of privatisations and drastic cutbacks in public spending are among the main consequences of the application of the measures included in these Treaties, as too are the deregulation of labour law, the increase in the retirement age and the working week, salary cuts and rises in unfair taxes such as VAT.		
4.	CONSIDERING that the application of these Treaties and Pacts (the European Semester, the Six Pack, the Two Pack, the Euro Plus Pact, the European Stability Mechanism and finally, bringing together the principles and recommendations of the latter in a single Treaty, the TSCG or European Budgetary Pact) drawn up by the Commission and/or the Troika, ratified by the Council, and approved by Parliament, has so far made no improvement to the economic situation of the countries subject to these Treaties, on the contrary thrusting the latter into a disastrous spiral of increase in debt, recession and alarming deterioration in living and working conditions, plunging millions of people into poverty.		
5.	CONSIDERING moreover the lack of transparency and democratic debate accompanying the adoption of these mechanisms, and the near impossibility for the States, as a result of the introduction of reverse majority voting to counter any sanction imposed on a Member State, to avoid the drastic, antisocial measures of budgetary restrictions imposed via the above-mentioned texts.		
6.	CONSIDERING the loss of sovereignty of the States, via the ratification of these Treaties, in drawing up		

		Proposed amendments	
	their national budget – and the consequent calling into question of taking into account particularities specific to each country – since this budget first has to be submitted to the European Commission for approval.		
7.	CONSIDERING too the restrictive monetary policy of the European Central Bank since its establishment, with its priority objectives of price stability, strictly balanced budgets and market liberalisation having prevailed over the role of protection of the national economies, obliging the States to finance on the financial markets at rates which are sometimes exorbitant, while the loans it grants to financial institutions rarely exceed an interest rate of 1%.		
8.	CONSIDERING that alongside these budgetary measures, which are as radical as they are significant, the Europe of rights and democracy is receding in a worrying fashion: the openly discriminatory and repressive policies (e.g. against Roma) are not penalised; the popular debate is ignored and even muzzled; the attacks on labour law and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights are not only unpunished, but sometimes even encouraged through certain measures laid down by the Commission on the dismantling of social protection or by security institutions such as Frontex in enacting increasingly inhumane anti-illegal immigration directives. Economic, social and cultural rights and trade union rights are dismissed through an inappropriate, ineffective and counterproductive 'ordoliberal' ideology, with total impunity, and without the voice of the peoples who are constantly mobilising to defend their dignity being heard. Consequently, there is fanning of the trends towards insularity, excessive nationalism, the search for scapegoats and the re-emergence of political parties and movements		

		Proposed amendments	
	based on primary ideas which are anti-European, xenophobic, discriminatory, anti-trade union and anti-democratic (cf. Viktor Orban and the Jobbik Party in Hungary, the extreme right movement of Golden Dawn in Greece, and in general, the worrying rise of extreme right fractions more or less everywhere in Europe).		
9.	CALLS UPON and URGES the Executive Committee and all the affiliates of the EPSU:		
10.	To campaign and exert pressure actively and continuously, together with the ETUC and all the industry federations, with a view to:		
11.	Bringing about democratic debate within the Member States on European budgetary decisions and Treaties, such as the TSCG, which condemn the European countries and their populations to being caught up in systematisation of poverty.		
12.	Providing information as clearly and widely as possible, through readily understandable texts and accessible audio-visual tools, on the dangers of the TSCG and related Treaties and on the reasons to oppose them.		
13.	Opposing, by all means available, and especially through parliamentary channels, the ratification by the States of the TSCG for as long as it does not guarantee the dominance of human rights over economic interests and does not encourage revival of demand through a true job creation and wealth distribution policy.		
14.	Increasing the number of European citizens' initiatives, such as that defending the right to water as a common good, in order to demand en masse the protection of fundamental rights and the protection		

		Proposed amendments	
	and promotion of quality public services for all.		
15.	Inverting the order of priority of the articles of the EU Treaty (currently in favour of economic deregulation to the detriment of any human right) and reinstalling in the centre of the European construction full compliance with Article 2 of this Treaty, according to which: 'The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.'		
16.	Amending the mandate of the European Central Bank so as to enable it to grant loans directly to the States at rates as favourable as those that it grants to the financial markets. This will have the effect of curbing financial speculation and of providing real assistance to the national economies rather than obliging them to be blighted by loans deriving from speculation.		
17.	Uniting, supporting, organising, coordinating and communicating as widely as possible through the official and alternative media, the various union actions throughout Europe, in order to ensure that they have a concrete and resounding impact and to promote their repercussions throughout society.		
18.	Supporting and allying with associative and citizen movements calling for a Europe of rights, dignity and justice, since the inversion of the balance of power lies in the combination of actions and not in their fragmentation.		