

The EU and the European Elections
Submitted by Manchester Left Unity

Conference notes that Left Unity currently has no agreed position on the relationship between the UK and the EU, that this will be a major issue in the European elections on 22nd May 2014 and that it is urgent to take a view regardless of whether Left Unity is in a position to stand candidates or not.

Conference, therefore agrees:

1. That the Europe-wide capitalist crisis requires a Europe-wide working-class response.
2. That we should no more oppose European capitalist integration than we would oppose the merger of two companies, even though the bosses use mergers as an excuse to attempt job cuts and other attacks. When Britain plc merges into Europe plc, the answer is to link up with other European workers in solidarity and struggle.
3. That demanding withdrawal from the EU, or opposing British entry into the European single currency, is a British nationalist position which misidentifies the enemy as "Europe" rather than the ruling class.
4. The road to a Socialist United Europe is the road of responding to European capitalist unification by organising for cross-European workers' and socialist struggle. We advocate the following program for this struggle:
 - Oppose all cuts; level up wages, services, pensions and workers' rights to the best across Europe;
 - Tax the rich and expropriate the banks, Europe-wide;
 - Scrap the EU's bureaucratic structures; for a European constituent assembly;
 - Against a European defense force; for a Europe without standing armies or nuclear weapons;
 - For a Europe of democratic socialist states.
 - Against fortress Europe: for the free movement of people
5. In a referendum on British entry to the Euro, our position will be to advocate an active abstention and our slogans will be along the lines of "In or out, the fight goes on"; "Single currency - not at our expense"; and "For a Workers' Europe".
6. The 22nd May European elections will be dominated by nationalist rhetoric around Europe, including attacks on migrant workers' rights and calls for harsher immigration controls. The left and labour movement must stand against this attempt to divide the working class, by fighting back against anti-migrant prejudice.

This conference, therefore, resolves:

1. To organise public meetings promoting solidarity with workers and social movements across Europe
2. To organise meetings and actions in solidarity with Romanian, Bulgarian and other migrant workers.
3. To initiate a short statement setting out this position and circulate it around Britain and Europe for signatories.
4. To produce articles, pamphlets and leaflets setting out this position ahead of the European election.