



Give Power to Your Voice

At a time when capitalist contradictions are increasing, social inequalities and the gap between rich and poor are on the rise, the people are called on the 26 of May to go to the polls for the European elections.

For EDON, Europe today is not what we want. We do not want the European Union of monopolies, racism, xenophobia and anti-grassroots policies. We want a Europe that will serve the interests of the many, an EU that defends the interests of the people and vulnerable groups and actually promote the principles and ideals of democracy.

Our way, it is your vote to be a barrier to the neo-liberal policies that are currently being implemented by the right and social-democrats, with the extreme right, in the European Parliament. AKEL continues to be the force that consistently promotes policies that respect human rights and the interest of many, for a people's Europe.

In these circumstances and after every vote counts, we call on every young person to register on the electoral lists until the 2nd of April, and on May the 26th to support AKEL-Left-New Forces, strengthening it in the European Parliament. You have reason to vote. In these elections, give strength to your voice, to those who really claim and fight for the people inside and outside the parliament.

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ΕΥΡΩΕΚΛΟΓΕΣ 2019
SUNDAY 26 OF MAY





A premeditated conscious political and economic crime to sell out Co-op Bank

The government's unacceptable and so atypical attitude to deprecating the outcome of the Co-op Bank, is anything but surprising. It is a fact that nine months after the collapse of the Co-op Bank, the research committee's findings expose not only the Minister of Finance but also the pre-planned tactics of the Government and of the President of the Republic of Cyprus himself. However, as it was expected, Mr. Anastasiades, instead of bearing the responsibilities attributed to him for the non-removal of Mr. Georgiades from the position of the Minister of Finance, nevertheless says that he welcomes and adopts any act of the Minister as if it were his own.

While the outcome clearly emphasizes and analyzes that the disintegration of the Co-op took place after 2013 and the policies of the present Government, both Mr. Anastasiades and Mr. Georgiades attempt once more to artificially dismantle the people and their self-evident responsibilities for the well-established crime of dissolution of the Co-op Bank. They are blatantly refusing to take on their responsibilities, even after the burdening of 8 billion euros debt to the taxpayers, who once again found themselves in the hands of the Government.

They are stating, by their appearances at noon shows, that the finding is not a court document obliging them to accept it. They try to justify the unjustified, refusing to admit or even to understand that the finding is a thorough and documented finding of the independent research commission.

It therefore emerges that the finding is a major blow to, and proof of, the current government's inability for a socio-economic policy of a rule of law. In essence, once again the government shows its reluctance to assume its responsibility for its downfall. Disregard for the outcome is a blow, not only for democracy itself but also for the institutions.





Housing problem - Time zero

The housing problem is now particularly intense. The banking crisis and the parallel rise in property purchase or rental prices lead to vulnerable population groups in deadlock. The working conditions that are prevailing are, hunger wages, the high cost of living (fuel, electricity, etc.) in combination with the lack of a state-owned Housing Policy leads to low-wage young workers or low-pensioners on the streets. The homeless phenomenon in urban centers is now a daily phenomenon. New couples cannot start their lives. Students have difficulty in continuing their studies or, in some cases, they do not even start them!

The situation has reached a crisis point. The state, through the ruling party, does not seem to be able to assume a role of a protector for the vulnerable population groups. But this is not due to lack of political will. It is their own ideology, the neoliberalism that guides them in their political decisions. In many cases, we see the Anastasiades - DISY government, instead of defending the interests of many, they further chew social benefits. For example, Student Welfare shows cuts of 23 million in total from budgets in the past 6 years. The state is dismantling the social benefits instead of in a time of economic crisis to strengthen it.

In TEPAK, Proodeftiki SM managed to provide housing for those students who meet socio-economic criteria and rent an apartment on behalf of the University. Is it the ideal solution? Obviously, the answer is also negative. It is the state that should ensure the right to housing, and not any other institution. But in the absence of a comprehensive Housing Policy, we must find the solutions to apply pressure on them to ensure the right to housing for all.





Natural gas for the people or the capital?

The identification of the “Glafkos” deposit in the Cypriot EEZ led the government once again to heavy and fickle statements. The location of the deposit is promising, and it is the responsibility of the government to make use of it, for the benefit of the Cypriot people. The policies of the Anastasiades - DISY government so far on the gas issues are not optimistic.

The Anastasiades-DISY government has demonstrated in recent years the inertia and improvisations with which it handles gas issues. An example is the cancellation of the government’s integrated strategy by Christofias, and the continuing sloppiness that the current government is following for the energy policy. A striking example is the dissolution of the State Hydrocarbon Company, which was in the process of recruiting consultants to create a liquefaction terminal.

In addition to the above, the rulers are seeking to sell off the “Aphrodite” deposit, with the change of contracts that will minimize the revenues for the Republic of Cyprus and at the same time create the risk that other companies will also seek to change contracts.

The government did not take the necessary steps to shield the Republic of Cyprus from the Turkish violations in the Cypriot EEZ. Both the stagnation in the Cyprus problem with the two leaders blaming each other, as well as the absence of a multilevel foreign policy that will protect the Republic of Cyprus, show that the celebrations for the “Glafkos” deposit do not serve the Cypriot people in any way.

It is clear that on the issue of hydrocarbons, the government does not function to serve the interests of our people but serves the interests of monopolistic groups faithfully following the imperialist plans in the region.

