



## Contribution of the Communist Party of Belgium to the 22nd International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties

Dear comrades,

On behalf of all the members of the Communist Party of Belgium and its Central Committee, I would like to thank the Communist Party of Cuba for the warm and fraternal welcome to this IMCWP. I would also like to start by reiterating our full solidarity with the people of Cuba and its socialist government and our support for the struggle against the criminal blockade imposed for more than 60 years by US imperialism. We demand the immediate end of the blockade.

We are gathered here to discuss a theme, "Solidarity with Cuba and all the struggling peoples. United we are stronger in the anti-imperialist struggle, together with social and popular movements, in the face of capitalism and its policies, the threat of fascism and war; in defense of peace, the environment, workers' rights, solidarity and socialism. The debate that we must have within the international communist movement needs to be clarified because we can only move towards revolutionary unity and socialism with principles and clarity.

For the past 8 months, capitalist Russia has invaded Ukraine and we, along with some 40 other ICM parties, have condemned this invasion. The tragic events and the latest developments (sending arms, additional funds to Zelenski by the USA, NATO, the EU and the bourgeois governments that make it up, as well as sanctions, on the one hand, calling up the reservists, attacks on the pipelines, the attack on the Crimean bridge and the bombing of Kiev, on the other) force us to keep a cool head and analyse the situation in class terms.

We support the struggle of the Ukrainian and Russian peoples and their revolutionary vanguards against their own bourgeoisie, against the war, for socialism and friendship between peoples. Since the beginning of the war, we have analysed the current war as an inter-imperialist war. We do not adhere to the theses which assert that there is only one imperialism, that of the United States, refusing to recognise the imperialist character of present-day Russia.

We must take up Lenin's theses on imperialism, which cannot be reduced to war alone, but rather to the monopolist phase of capital, the fusion of the industrial banking sectors, the export of capital, the conquest of new markets and, in the end, the redefinition and new division of the world between imperialist forces.

If there is indeed an imperialist pyramid at the top of which is US imperialism, we have nothing to gain by choosing between one or other imperialism, Russian, Belgian, European, Euro-Atlantic, any more than we have to gain between a hegemonic imperialism or a multipolar world which remains the expression of capitalist barbarism and which carries an increased risk of wars between imperialisms for hegemony. Multipolar capitalism is not the goal of the proletariat.

Our present task is to direct and lead the uncompromising struggle against our own bourgeoisie, against war and capitalism. This means fighting against NATO and the USA, but also against the European Union and especially against the Belgian bourgeoisie. Just as we refuse to reduce imperialism to an aggressive military policy (NATO-US), we refuse the analysis that the other components (countries) of the Euro-Atlantic bloc would be submissive to Washington when they have voluntarily united into Nato to defend the interests of their monopolies. Still, there are contradictions within this bloc, as for example the abstention of Belgium, an imperialist country, on the last sanctions against Russia because it threatened its interests, especially in the steel industry.

In addition, there is the plan of the monopolies for their profits. War is the solution of capitalism to overcome the crisis by reviving the economy through military production and by playing on the energy supply at the expense of the people. War is "used" to increase speculation and allows the monopolies of raw materials, armaments and food to "fix" higher prices and make mountains of gold. In reality, prices had already been rising since mid-2021 when the monopolies wanted to recover the effects of the economic crisis during the Covid. The energy crisis, which directly hits working class and popular households, unmasks the class character of the bourgeois governments serving the monopolies. These governments continue their anti-popular and anti-working class measures by attacking wages and pensions, and by continuing to break up public health and education services (to make working class youth into fodder for the bosses or to militarise them).

In the face of this, we continue to mobilise for the struggle against the high cost of living, for an affordable household basket and energy, against the sending of arms, money and soldiers, against the imperialist war in Ukraine. We refuse the precariousness and frugality that the bourgeoisie wants to impose on us, which makes us believe that we are all in the same boat by declaring that the crisis will require efforts from all. This means that the working class and the popular strata must fight independently, class against class. The speculators and war-grabbers must pay.

For this, another of our essential tasks is to raise class consciousness and define objectives of struggle, away from reformism, electoralism and opportunism. This is one of the important points that we will develop in our 37th congress that we will hold next December. After the 36th Congress in 2018-2019 which put us ideologically back on the revolutionary path after decades of reformism, the 37th Congress must politically and organisationally concretise the intentions of the 36th Congress.

Another important point of our meeting today is how to fight against the growing fascist threat, which is the weapon of capitalism to direct the legitimate anger of the workers into wrong solutions. In this respect, we have to pay attention to two points: 1) we cannot fight against the fascist threat without fighting against the system that produces it, capitalism. We do not have to fight against fascism to save the bourgeois democracy that crushes us every day. 2) In the context of the inter-imperialist war in Ukraine, we cannot accept Russia's anti-fascist rhetoric to justify the invasion of Ukraine. The so-called denazification announced at the beginning of the war poorly hides Putin's anti-communism and Great Russian nationalist aims as well as the repression of the popular-labour movement and communists in Russia, the recent

destruction of Soviet monuments in Ukraine and the attempts by Western imperialisms to associate capitalist Russia with the legacy of the USSR.

Finally, we cannot end without supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people against colonisation and apartheid and for a single Palestinian state. Our party will be present this Saturday 29th in Brussels to support the return march.

To conclude, the objective of the proletariat is the end of capitalism. As far as we are concerned, this can only be achieved by a consistent struggle against our imperialism: the EU, the Euro, NATO, the Belgian bourgeois state; for socialism, friendship between peoples and peace. Hope lies in our class against class struggles.

Long live proletarian internationalism.