



Contribution to the 20th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties

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“The contemporary working class and its alliance. The tasks of its political vanguard – the Communist and Worker’s Parties – in the struggle against exploitation and imperialist wars, for the rights of the workers and of the peoples, for peace, for socialism”

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the PCPE I would like to convey to all the present Parties warm and internationalist greetings. I would also like to take this opportunity to express the gratitude and respect of the Spanish communists to the comrades of the CP of Greece, not only for hosting this 20th International Meeting, but also because in 1998 they decided to devote their efforts to developing this space for the meeting and the discussion between the Communist and Workers' Parties around the world.

Our Party has been present in practically all the editions of the International Meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties. Regardless of our situation of greater or lesser organizational capacity, we have always devoted a significant part of our time and resources to participate in the international spaces to which we have been invited. We think that it is through honest and comradely exchange of opinions that we best help the development of our international communist movement.

In some moments our interventions have been more directed at exposing the situation of the working class in our country. At other times, we preferred to intervene on debates or controversies that went beyond our direct field of class struggle, because we thought that our opinion and our own experience could be useful for other fraternal Parties, in the same way as experiences and the history of other parties has helped us immensely over the years.

On this occasion, the PCPE wants to transfer to the set of Parties here present, as well as those who follow the contributions to the Meeting through the Solidnet website, the experience that we have accumulated in recent years in our work towards the working class, trying to recover the organization of the Communist Party in the work centers.

We start from the basis that one of our essential tasks today, if we want to honor our condition as the political vanguard of the working class, is to decisively recover the communist organized



presence at the heart of the class struggle, in the same place where the exploitation of our class takes place. In the case of Spain, this organized presence of the Communist Party in companies disappeared since the 70s, when Eurocommunism decided to abandon the revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and prioritize the electoral struggle over everything else.

We believe that there are two premises in the political struggle that are valid for every Communist Party, regardless of its size at a given time or the correlation of forces that exist in its country:

-The Communist Party is a proletarian party whose class character derives from its ideological position, the objectives it pursues, its class composition and its capacity to assume the practical direction of the working class.

- Without an organized presence and a broad influence of the Party within the working class, the revolutionary task becomes impossible.

Thus, in our 10th Congress (2016) we decided to start what we call the "workers' shift" or "workers' turn" of the PCPE, whose orientations and objectives were clarified in the 11th (Extraordinary) Congress of 2017, and whose first general assessment will be made in the Labor and Trade Union Movement Conference that we will celebrate in 2020.

With the expression "workers' shift" or "workers' turn" we mean the prioritization of the Party's work towards the working class, overcoming a conception of communist work that, fruit of the difficulties involved in developing a policy specifically directed towards the class, opts in many cases to focus on inter-class struggles that, being also important, they can never become the only ones in which the work of the Party is developed. If this were so continuously, there would be a risk that the Party would subordinate the interests of the working class to those of other social sectors, thus preventing the development of the revolutionary subjective factor.

While other classes and social sectors have clear class consciousness and defined objectives, the Spanish working class is mostly prey to the reformist and petty-bourgeois positions that, today, make it difficult to establish an independent class position. It is in this context that the Party must fight at this time.

Our "workers' turn" is concretized in three fields: the ideological field (towards the ideological independence of the class), the political field (to reveal the class character of the governmental



proposals and the proposals of other political forces), and the organizational field, so that the Party is really present in the work centers and in the main productive sectors.

Therefore, at the organizational level, all the structures of our Party have been analyzing and debating over the past year in which companies and sectors will focus their political work to take the most important step of recent years: the gradual abandonment of an organizational structure built exclusively on a territorial basis towards a productive and territorial base structure. Towards a Party present in the work centers and in the working and popular neighborhoods, capable of intervening in every struggle in defense of the living and working conditions that may occur in them.

Hence, the four priorities of mass work of the PCPE arise. Priorities which have to do with the organization of the struggle within the unions, with the organization of the youth of working and popular extraction and with the organization of the working women, establishing in the neighborhoods where possible the workers' and popular centers, whose objective is to extend the communist influence in the cities and to structure the popular movement in the view of the social alliance (alliance policy of the working class) that we advocate.

In practical terms, it is necessary to say that we have already passed the phase in which some sectors of the Party were refractory to direct intervention in the work centers, to the planning and development of tasks or to the prioritization of specific sectors or companies. We know perfectly well that to develop the Party organizations in the work centers there are no instruction manuals, but it is necessary to develop a multifaceted task that, in the conditions of our country, implies combining the struggle inside and outside the work centers and the trade union work of our militants. Today, thanks to a trade union policy that allows our members to work in different trade union organizations, we are accumulating an experience that allows us to think about higher levels of intervention but, above all, allows us to have daily contact with thousands of workers. Starting from this reality, our concern now lies in being able to combine adequately, in an organized and planned way, the different intervention routes: the intervention through the trade union and the direct intervention of the party.

Our influence within the trade unions, still very limited, has grown substantially in the last two years. We try to avoid the struggles between different trade union organizations and prioritize the trade union unity and the unity of the staff in the work centers, whether they are in conflict or not.

This insistence on unity beyond trade union acronyms is due to the union situation in Spain, where in the same company there can be representation of several unions (union sections) and union plurality also in the representative bodies of the entire workforce (workers' council).



This tactic, which sometimes does not give good results, in other moments is an important step in terms of the knowledge of the Party by the class, which even allows a decisive influence on the direction of the concrete struggle, beyond the proposals that come from the structures of the trade union organizations. The cases of the recent struggles in the companies Vestas and Amazon are good proof of this.

The workers' turn is paying off. Today we can say with pride that we have some party base organizations that are exclusively oriented to companies and sectors of a strategic nature and that we already have an organized presence in transport, communications, energy and education companies.

On the other hand, we continue to maintain Workers' and Popular Centers in three large cities of our country, recently we have opened a fourth one, and two more will be opened at the beginning of 2019, one of them in Madrid.

In what refers to the youth, the Collectives of Young Communists continue to develop their work towards the youth of working and popular extraction, focusing in recent years on the development of a strong student organization that overcomes the dispersion of the student movement in Spain and is present in all territories and at all educational levels. The CJC will celebrate their 10th Congress in March 2019. In their Congress they will evaluate their tasks and set the ways to implement the workers' turn in their work plans.

All this work, comrades, is complemented in the ideological field with the definitive recovery of the Nuevo Rumbo newspaper, for now of a monthly nature, and with the forthcoming appearance of the PCPE publishing house, which will publish both classic and current texts, also recovering the materials published in the countries that built socialism during the 20th century. We want to arm our class with ideological tools to be able to face the onslaughts of the class enemy and the reformist forces.

Comrades, we are proud to participate in this 20th edition of our International Meetings and we convey to all the fraternal Parties our wishes for success in the struggles they carry out, as well as our desire to deepen bilateral relations with all the participating Parties.

Long live the 20th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties!

Long live proletarian internationalism!