

The task of the communist parties

First of all, the Communist Party of Sweden wishes to thank the Communist Party of Greece for hosting this event and extends its fraternal greetings.

The parliamentary elections in Sweden and the role that the communists played in the campaign preceding it has highlighted the role of the communist party, both in relation to the working class, but also to the other political parties.

In our election campaign, we stressed the basic similarity between the other parties participating in the elections, regardless of their position in the political spectra: their support of capitalism joins them together far more than their different political approaches.

In this, we were unique. We were the only party to deliver a critique towards the capitalist system in its entirety. Other parties on the left in one way or another lent their support to the bourgeois parties in parliament, and thus enhanced the illusion of democracy.

This highlights one of the basic tasks of the communist party: **to maintain political independence from the bourgeoisie and to maintain a critique of the entire capitalist system, not just its most violent or extreme expressions.**

Without this independence, it is not possible to combat the illusions present among the workers concerning capitalism and society – it is not possible for us to reveal the true character of the society, in which we live.

One of these illusions, present not only among certain strata of the workers, but also in the radical movement, is the illusion of unity. Self-proclaimed communists claim that the existence of various groups and parties on the left is a problem and that the unity of the left would strengthen the position of the workers.

This is false and very problematic. The unity of various parties on the left, most of which lack a coherent revolutionary political analysis, would suffocate the revolutionary movement in opportunism and populism.

Instead, we want to highlight another basic task of the communist party: **to maintain political and ideological clarity.**

Without this clarity, the communists will be unable to criticize opportunism, as well as to put forward their own revolutionary agenda, which ultimately paralyzes the communists and the revolutionary workers, and clears the way for capitalism and imperialism. We must remember that the strength of the communists lies not only in quantity, but in quality as well – without a revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement.

Consequently, we reject the analyses that claim that the communists must unite with all the progressive forces to defend democracy or to combat right-wing populism. The alliance with other parties and organizations for goals such as these muddies the role of the communist party and forces it to make concessions on vital ideological standpoints.

Unfortunately, we have examples of this from our own history. The proposition of the Communist Party of Sweden to the Social Democrats in 1944 to form a united Workers' Party included concessions that would have removed democratic centralism as well as the central role of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Fortunately, this proposition never became reality.

Errors such as this are being committed regularly. The struggle for unity against various expressions of capitalism contains also the justification of the capitalist system and the creation of illusions concerning it. This is why we reject unity or co-operation on the basis of "the lesser evil", which again highlight the central task of the communist party to maintain a critique of the entire capitalist system.

In the co-operation with various other political parties, there are other risks as well. Apart from those already mentioned, there is the risk of appealing only to those already politicized, leaving the great mass of non-politicized workers as they are.

The central task of the communist party to be **the party of the most conscious and advanced part of the proletariat is intimately connected to its basis among the workers.**

Through the work of communists in the workplaces, in the neighborhoods of the workers, in the schools and the universities, both the support and respect for the communists are established. We must continue to turn, therefore, directly to the workers, and we must turn to them with socialism; with a critique of the entire system that day by day increases the exploitation of the workers.

In order for us to do this, it is important that we find the cracks in capitalism, and that we fill them with our own content. Capitalism fails people daily, and it is the duty of the communists to point these failures out to people, to at all times break their confidence in both capitalism, as well as its state.

Finding the cracks in the facade of capitalism and organizing around them, gives the communists the possibility to deepen their ties with the people and the working class by injecting their own analysis and organization in the daily lives of the people. From this process emerges the cadre of the communist party.

Through the building of the people's power today, we concretize yet another central aspect of the communist party: **the establishment of a clear path from today to socialism.** Without this link, the dictatorship of the proletariat becomes an empty phrase void of meaning; it becomes something you mention to sport your radicalism.

What we build today must be stepping stones to the future, socialist society and at the same time enlarge the power of the people and the working class. The creation of the peoples' and workers' own organizations, in which they struggle against the bourgeoisie become the foundation of the future socialist state – a state with solid pillars among the workers. In these organizations, the communists must play the leading role, gathering the most conscious workers within its rank, realizing its role as the vanguard and pride of the working class.