

Red-Green Alliance conference

Denmark: An alternative on the Left

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At the beginning of May, the Red-Green Alliance, an organization of 4 000 members which includes practically all the currents of the Danish radical and ant-capitalist left, held its annual national conference.

Its debates are rather similar to those which are taking place throughout the European radical left: organizing resistance to the liberal offensive, the distribution of wealth, the relationship to social democracy, the question of participation in government, the fight against the Europe of Brussels, abolition of prostitution.

And there was even the debate on the Islamic veil, some of the delegates contesting the selection of a member wearing the hidjab as a candidate for the next legislative elections. The slogans concerning European construction gave rise to an animated discussion. New, younger members wanted to contest the demand for the withdrawal of Denmark from the European Union, which the Alliance has put forward throughout its existence. On this point, the conference confirmed the traditional approach.

Concerning the “question of government”, with the perspective of the Social Democrats returning to power, the resolution adopted first of all reiterated the programme defended by the Alliance: the fight against the commodification of society, against NATO and American imperialism, for the rights of immigrants, for an egalitarian distribution of wealth, etc. It went on to note that, on these topics, the Social Democratic Party and the “bourgeois” parties defend essentially the same policies.

It thus concluded that the conditions for a government that would represent a break with these policies do not exist and that “the political loyalty of the Alliance must go to the fight for the defence of the interests of working people, not to any government”.

It insisted on the need to rely, not on negotiations or agreements based on being present in the institutions of state, but on links with extra-parliamentary movements and mobilizations. Such an orientation is in contradiction with participation in a government led by the Social Democrats, which would lead anti-capitalists to take on “joint responsibility for governmental policies”, thus blurring the difference between the Left and the Right. In opposition to this, the Alliance reaffirmed its position of being, “even under a Social Democratic government, an alternative on the left”.

P.S.

* Translation from the French by International Viewpoint.

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