



Solving the current crisis with economic and social rights

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The economic and financial crisis is worsening and leaves its impact on all people and economic sectors of the different member states of the European Union. Due to the growing unemployment and the threats on the social protection systems, this could lead to a major social crisis. Moreover, the ecological crisis demands urgent measures that could however facilitate a solution to the economic crisis.

AEDH (European Association for the defense of Human Rights) demands the heads of state and government of the European Union, meeting for their spring summit on 19 March, to take courageous decisions in order to restore trust, to promote employment and to strengthen social protection. AEDH is convinced that a solution to the crisis will need to strengthen economic and social rights in order to strengthen social cohesion and solidarity that contribute to growth and economic efficiency.

The current crisis presents risks but is also an opportunity. It shows the urgent need for a strong political and social Europe that can act in favor of its people as well as in favor of its economy and banks. This crisis not only needs an economic governance and industrial policies but also, and most of all, coherent actions on all fronts in order to strengthen social cohesion, the social responsibility of companies, the ecological dimension as well as financial stability.

For the European Union, AEDH demands an ambitious program aimed at the development of an economy that brings social justice. This program should imply:

- Support for public investments, including social infrastructure, innovation and clean energies;
- Programs in favor of services of general interest as elements of growth and of protection for the population;
- Social measures, including a minimum wage in function of the GDP of different member-states, the strengthening of workers' rights in order to avoid social dumping and mechanisms for the redistribution of incomes in order to stop the growing inequalities;
- Incentives for upholding and strengthening social protection, especially for young people, the unemployed and retired people;
- Programs in favor of employment and training, especially for the unskilled people;
- Programs to stop all forms of discrimination.

The growing unemployment as well as the threatening discriminations and xenophobia could lead to a social crisis that can only be stopped with urgent measures in favor of solidarity and social cohesion. They all point to a better respect of all human rights and economic and social rights in particular. Freedom and equality, laid down in the European treaties and the Charter for fundamental rights, are the ideal solution for protecting people and fostering economic efficiency.

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The European Association for the defense of Human Rights (AEDH) is an umbrella organisation gathering leagues and associations defending Human Rights in EU countries. It is associate member of the International Federation for the défense of Human Rights (FIDH). More information : www.aedh.eu