

**EMI MEMBERS COUNCIL MEETING
ATHENS, 11 APRIL 2014
DRAFT RESOLUTION**

ONE MILLION SIGNATURES FOR A EUROPEAN SPECIAL PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The Lisbon Treaty (Article 11.4, TEU) provides for the possibility for one million EU citizens from at least seven European Union member states to propose legislation to the European Commission on matters where the EU has competence to legislate. This is an important instrument of participatory democracy, whose implementation can help to regain the citizens' support to the European project at a time when the European election campaign is approaching, while populist, nationalist, and Eurosceptic trends are gaining ground.

EMI believes that it is high time to foster a strong grassroots movement through a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) that calls for the implementation of a European special plan for sustainable development and employment. EMI calls for a strong boost of the EU policies for social solidarity, sustainable development and participatory democracy.

In this perspective, EMI decides to support and promote the ECI proposal demanding "European New Deal" to end this crisis by implementing a European Special Plan for sustainable development and employment

The ECI proposal is already promoted and supported by a wide array of political, economic and social forces: European federalists, trade unions, civil society organisations, mayors of major cities, and personalities of the cultural world. National committees for its promotion were set up in Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain. Further committees are being set up in other European Union countries.

The funds provided by the EU to tackle unemployment are actually inadequate to have a Europe-wide impact. Therefore, we need to allocate new resources to a European fund for employment, above all for young people. Given the limits of the austerity policies that have been put in place, this seems to be the main way to overcome the crisis.

The plan has to be financed with own resources coming from:

- a new tax on financial transactions (FTT) – which is needed to penalize financial speculation (the European Commission foresees a revenue worth at least €30 bn/year);
- a carbon tax – to fight climate change and promote the transition to renewable energy (which should be worth at least €50 bn/year);
- and the Euro-bonds, in particular the euro project bonds.

The project of European unification brought peace democracy and prosperity on an impoverished continent that had been ravaged by two world wars. However, today the European Union is becoming less and less up to those tasks. A change is needed.

The ECI proposal (judged eligible by the European Commission in March).

* Main objectives:



**European
Movement
International**

- a EU special program of public investments for the production and financing of European public goods (renewable energy, research and innovation, infrastructural networks, ecological agriculture, protection of the environment and cultural heritage);
- a special European Solidarity Fund to create new jobs especially for young people;
- increasing the own resources of the European budget through a financial transactions tax and a carbon tax.

Provision(s) of the Treaties: Article 3 of the TEU, Articles 38, 39, 145, 170, 171, 173, 179, 180, 181, 311, 352 of the TFEU