

## **CHANGING COURSE TO EUROPE**

A World of Peace, Solidarity and Justice needs more Europe of Peace, Solidarity and Justice. Nevertheless the European Union risks to disintegrate due to serious errors of political and economic strategy, to the inadequacy of its institutions and the lack of democracy. Walls have been rebuilt with the bricks of national egoisms, and they are stifling the idea of a Europe establishing the right of citizens to free movement. In this way, the common European home designed by the Ventotene Manifesto – that connects the perspective of a Federal State to the European democracy, to peace and to the fight against inequalities – crumbles. In this way, hopes of millions of Europeans are wiped out.

In the last ten years, austerity has blocked the investments in the real economy, exacerbating inequalities, creating uncertainty and precariousness, and dismantling the European social model.

Europe has to be the land of rights, welfare, culture, and innovation. Europe should have learned the values of Peace, hospitality, equality, and coexistence from the best part of its history and from its tragedies.

The European Union must face the grand challenges of our times restoring the hope in the well-being of the whole community, assuring common goods, the strength of rights and solidarity. It is fundamental to restore the meaning of politics, in order to eliminate inequalities by stopping austerity policies and by removing the mechanisms that introduced them, to create social and territorial cohesion, to give priority to environment as an engine for a new model of development fighting against climate change, to reduce the generational and gender divides; to promote active participation and citizenship also through a European welfare system, to reject wars and pursue the respect of rights and human dignity; ensure the reception of those asking for refuge, the freedom to migrate by engaging in solving those global problems that are at the origin of many migratory flow..

We need a European democracy, where sovereignty belongs to the men and women that will elect a Federal Government responsible towards the European Parliament.

For these reasons, we intend to take actions in order to transform the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 in the opening of a constituent phase to overcome the unanimity rule, to involve local communities, economic and social actors, civil society movements together with citizens' representatives at regional, national and European level and to conclude this phase in occasion of the European elections in Spring 2019. For these reasons, we decided to promote a strong grassroots mobilization for the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, in Rome, and to solicit similar initiatives in other European cities.

**DEMOCRATIC EUROPE WILL ASSERT ITSELF ONLY IF CITIZENS WILL CHANGE ITS COURSE**