

Dear member of the left group GUE/NGL in the European Parliament,

The approval by a majority of members of the left group in the European Parliament of the resolution on the Conclusions of the extraordinary European Council meeting of 17-21 July 2020 did not go unnoticed by progressive forces from different quarters, from within the EU and even from without. In the first place, the peace movement is appalled that your group supported the call of the mainstream parties for a larger budget for the European Defence Fund; this is a fundamental break with the past, as the left was *always* opposed to the militarization of Europe. Secondly, the resolution calls for more money for the Integrated Border Management Fund. This implies the strengthening of the EU's increasingly militarized approach to migration and asylum policy, responsible for thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean, a policy that has already been condemned by several humanitarian organisations. Thirdly, by approving the resolution, you also approve its silence on the conditions which may be attached to the approval of grants and loans; however, the explicit link of the recovery plan with the European Semester is far from reassuring.

We know that your group proposed a number of amendments, opposing some of the mentioned positions; this proves that you are well aware of the reprehensible points in the resolution. You did nevertheless approve it; if we should infer from this that GUE/NGL considered the three abovementioned objections as minor issues, we would thoroughly disagree with this.

Enclosed you find an Appeal to reconsider the political orientation in these matters, together with the list of signatories. They come from varied quarters and member states, and hopefully convince you of the expectations we put in you. As the final decisions will only be taken in the coming months, we hope your group will then have a principled attitude.

Kind regards,

The signatories of the Appeal