

# 1 EFGP 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution

2 presented by Los Verdes, Spain

## 3 4 PROPOSED MEDITERRANEAN FREE TRADE ZONE CAN WORSEN 5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF REGION: 6 PRIORITY TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, ECOLOGY AND 7 SOLIDARITY IN THE EURO-MED PROCESS

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9 The proposed creation of a free trade zone, as well as recently signed association  
10 agreements, in the Mediterranean region raise serious concerns. The tendency toward  
11 increased unsustainable production and consumption rates resulting in increased  
12 pollution threaten further degradation of scarce and fragile natural resource ecosystems  
13 in Southern Mediterranean countries. With the removal of trade barriers there could be  
14 a relocation southward of polluting UE industries, a great increase of intensive  
15 agriculture on fragile soils in arid areas and greater transport flows around the  
16 Mediterranean Sea, all with serious negative consequences. The proposed free trade  
17 zone could also have a negative effect on already weak local markets of basic  
18 necessities and an increase in social disparities. It could also have a negative social-  
19 environmental effect on small-scale Mediterranean farming in Southern Europe.

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21 The EU must take action in this region where over 80 million people survive on less  
22 than 2 euros a day. The grave problems of desertification, over-population, loss of  
23 water resources, rural poverty and migration and urban degradation the region,  
24 especially in North Africa, are some of the underlying factors behind fundamentalism  
25 and violence in many countries.

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27 We propose:

- 28 1. Clear environmental and social indicators and targets within Euro-Med agreements.  
29 Adoption of a Euro-Med Sustainability Strategy. The strengthening of local and  
30 regional markets should be the priority.
- 31 2. Debt relief by EU within debt-for-nature schemes.
- 32 3. Massive transfer of appropriate ecological technologies on the part of the EU to  
33 increase water management, local food sovereignty, urban sustainability and to take  
34 advantage of the great potential in solar and wind energy in the region.
- 35 4. No environmentally harmful tariff reduction. Sustainability impact assessments of  
36 each proposed trade agreement. The environmental consequences of mining,  
37 agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and sewage must be taken into account in any  
38 proposed agreement.
- 39 5. Avoid socially and environmentally harmful services liberalisation.
- 40 6. Financial aid should be broad-based, eco-conditional and oriented toward civil  
41 society with clear guarantees for participation and transparency.
- 42 7. All bilateral agreements in the Euro-Med process should include measures that  
43 include the participation and social improvement of women and ethnic minorities.
- 44 8. All bilateral or regional Euro-Med agreements should give incentives for upward  
45 movement of environmental, health and social standards.

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47 David Hammerstein, Los Verdes