

The offensive of capital against the Welfare State does not have limits. Under the pretext of the crisis, several states keep following EU's guidelines and thus being in the hands of banks and the financial power. They cut labour rights, salaries and they reform the labour market, they cut public and social spending... The biggest cut backs in the last decades are being applied to the majority of the population to benefit an economical elite, whose tax burdens have been reduced and who have lots bonuses or are entitled to commit fraud.

Now, those responsible for the crisis intend to cut down on the public retirement system:

- Increase the retirement age to 67 year
- Increase the number of years in which we have to make contributions in order to have the right to receive a retirement pension This means that there are more and more people without the right to have a retirement pension, as in this precarious labour market, with part-time contracts and with no guarantees at all, the only thing we know for sure is that we can be unemployed very easily, so it is almost impossible to make contributions throughout all the years required.
- Increase of the years to be taken into account to calculate the regulatory base, which are currently 15 years. They can set it in 20 or 25 years, or maybe more. This could reduce an average pension up to 20%.
- Reduce the amount of the pension depending on the number of years we have contributed. To reach 100% we will have to make contributions for a longer period of 38 or 40 years.
- To eliminate the obligation of pensions to maintain the purchasing power.

This cut backs affect us all, with no exception, but will leave those people with a bad situation in a more precarious situation, those people with part-time jobs, women, young people...

The pensions reform and their alleged infeasibility is just a strategy to try to finish with the public system, to privatise it and be able to speculate. A strategy that is being carried out in all Europe, to save banks again with our money. Just a theft, but a legal theft.

A theft orchestrated by the economic power and carried out by the political power. Because, beyond vote-catching disputes, all institutions in Vitoria and in Pamplona, as well as in Madrid, share the same path, no matter if they are leaded by PSOE-PSE, PNV or UPN. They share an alliance with banks and big companies to continue filling their pockets at the expense of exploiting the working class.

Enough is enough. The majority of Basque trade unions responded to these attacks. We have come out to the streets, have gone on strike twice and will continue mobilising. Because we do not want that future of poverty they have prepared for us. It is necessary to build a new model; a model that will boost the measures that most of the trade unions put on the table in a Decalogue in 2009.

A model that will ensure that everybody will get a decent pension, and for that purpose measures completely opposite from the ones we have currently must be taken, measures focused on sharing wealth.

- Create employment, but quality employment; the bigger the salary, the bigger the contribution.
- Making it possible for young people and women

to enter in the labour market, under the same conditions and opportunities.

- A fair and progressive tax system, where those who earn more pay more and where capital gains are not boosted.
- Capacity and instruments for the Basque working class to be able to decide over its pension system. A specific decision framework.

They threatened us by saying after the crisis nothing would be the same again. So making things different is in our hands. It is necessary to continue fighting for a real change, for a different economic and social model in which people is not being used to favour the economies of only a few, but a model in which economy works in favour of the society. We, the Basque working class, must mobilise, go out on the streets, and claim our rights.

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