

**Portuguese  
Communist  
Party**



## *The «Avante!» Festival*

*A Festival of  
Portugal's April Revolution!  
A Festival of  
internationalist solidarity!*

*The 43<sup>rd</sup>. edition of the “Avante!”  
Festival, the largest political and cultural  
event to be held in Portugal, took place  
on September 7, 8 and 9.*

*A Festival promoted by the Portuguese  
Communist Party, the “Avante!” Festival  
is a Festival of Portugal's April – of the  
April Revolution that this year marked its  
45<sup>th</sup>. anniversary, the Festival of workers  
and people, the Festival of the youth.*

*The «Avante!» Festival, a festival of  
comradeship, fraternity, joy, confidence  
in the struggle for a better future.*

*The «Avante!» Festival, a festival  
of culture in its many and varied  
dimensions, the festival of popular  
participation with all its richness.*

*The «Avante!» Festival, a festival  
of internationalist solidarity, to which  
the solidarity of dozens of international  
delegations of communist and workers'  
parties and other progressive and anti-  
imperialists forces from the four corners  
of the world make a valuable and  
irreplaceable contribution.*

*In 2020, the 44<sup>th</sup>. edition of the Avante!  
Festival will take place on September  
4, 5 and 6.*



Speech by **Jerónimo de Sousa**,  
General Secretary,  
Rally of the «Avante!» Festival 2019  
8 September 2019, Atalaia, Amora, Seixal

## **«A vote for CDU counts towards the PS not having free reign to practice old policies»**

It is with immense joy that we salute all the constructors of the «Avante!» Festival, the participants and guests, our friends from the Ecologist Party «The Greens» and the Democratic Intervention, and all the independents that, with us, integrate CDU.

A special salute to the youth and JCP who, both constructing and participating, are proof of the Festival's future. A Festival that encapsulates the dream we pursue: the project for Portugal for which we fight will, one day, have the beauty of our «Avante!» Festival.

We have stated, and those who participate in our Festival see it, that this is the greatest political and cultural event in our Country.

A Festival created with work and art, the two building blocks of humanity that are closely tied with the identity of our «Avante!» Festival.

A Festival built with the militant effort of a great collective who — while building this singular political and cultural initiative, this space of affirmation of the values of fraternity, peace, friendship, internationalist solidarity, democracy and socialism — is fighting and answering the most demanding tasks, in diverse fronts, fulfilling its role in defence of the workers, people and Country. And is ready to confidently fight in the electoral battle in less than a month!

Allow me to salute in particular the dozens of foreign delegations who, through their important participation, provided living content to the internationalist dimension of the «Avante!» Festival, mutual solidarity, solidarity with struggles throughout the world where peoples fight for their legitimate rights and aspirations.

Solidarity that is increasingly necessary in an international situation marked by dangerous and multifaceted imperialist aggression directed against all countries and peoples who don't submit to its dictates and interests and who sovereignly take their destinies into their own hands.

War, coercion and military siege, economic and diplomatic sanctions and blockades, arms race and nuclear threat, disrespect of treaties and agreements, confronting international law to impose its global hegemony, the United States of America, with the complicity of its allies, namely NATO, engage in their unrestrained strategy of blackmail, destabilization and aggression.

Confronted with the deepening of its structural crisis and intensification of its contradictions, responsible for the brutal intensification of labour exploitation, for the evermore reactionary, authoritarian and fascist shift, for the insatiable appropriation of nature's resources and the degradation of the environment — capitalism, and its exploitative, oppressive, aggressive and predatory nature, is at the root of the problems, crises, conflicts, wars, and immense scourges afflicting the peoples of the world.

Eighty years after the beginning of World War Two — which caused over 50 million deaths and an immense legacy of suffering and destruction —, the convergence and unity in action of the forces of peace and social progress is more imperative than ever to stop the disaster towards which imperialism is dragging Humanity.

Convergence and unity in action among communists and between these and other progressive forces who have one of their most important and consequential expressions in the firm and active solidarity with the peoples and forces on the front line of imperialist aggression.

Solidarity with the peoples of the Middle East, who face occupation, war and encroachment — as in Iraq, Syria, Yemen or martyred Palestine.

Solidarity with the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean who face attempts of isolation and blockade, of destabilization and coups, blackmail and threats of military intervention — as in Cuba and Venezuela.

Solidarity with the peoples of Africa who face interventionism, the pillage of resources, neo-colonialism.

Solidarity between the forces who face an increasingly neoliberal, militaristic and federalist European Union, and who fight for a Europe of cooperation, social progress and peace, for a Europe of workers and peoples.

Solidarity that also demands the development of struggle in each country in defence of the rights and interests of workers and peoples, against exploitation and oppression, for sovereignty and development, for peace, for democracy and socialism.

In Portugal, we are close to a very important electoral battle. A decisive battle that will determine the immediate and future evolution of the Country and the lives of the Portuguese. Four years ago, in 2015, we fought and won, with the struggle of workers and people and the decisive contribution of PCP, a hard and prolonged battle to interrupt a violent and retrograde offensive, with brutal conditions for the living conditions of the Portuguese.

We defeated a government who, with implacable severity, executed and deepened a brutal program of aggression, exploitation and national impoverishment that PS, PSD and CDS accepted and coordinated with the IMF, European Union and ECB.

In a Parliament with a new composition and in a framework where none of the parties responsible for more than four decades of right-wing policy in Portugal had conditions to impose its policies fully, it was possible to begin, with the decisive contribution of PCP and PEV, a process of restitution of rights and incomes and advance with new conquests, which translated into an improvement of the living conditions of the Portuguese.

For four years, we fought internal resistance and threats and external pressures from big capital and the political forces in its service, where each advance called upon the struggle of workers and people, and always with the firm action, initiative and proposal of PCP and the forces of CDU.



Today, we need to wage and win a new battle — create conditions to continue to advance and avoid going backwards.

Advance decidedly towards the solution of the Country's main problems, which remain postponed. Advance in deepening the rights and living conditions of workers and people, fend off the dangers of any return to policies of impoverishment and increased exploitation.

This is what is at stake in this important and decisive electoral battle on October 6th for parliament: advance in what is necessary for the development of the Country and the rights of workers and people, giving more strength to CDU, or go backwards.

Let there be no illusions, what was advanced is not guaranteed and recent times demonstrate the balance is tilting towards the side contrary to the defence of popular interests, particularly against workers.

PCP will wage this important and decisive battle, in the framework of CDU, in all electoral circles.

In this new fight, we are determined to confirm and widen our influence in the circles where we elected and have MPs, and will wage with determination the battle to elect CDU MPs where we have none!

We aim to grow in votes and MPs, confident in our work, in the unquestionable role of PCP and CDU in taking the Country forward and defending the interests of workers and people, with the project for an alternative future that we embody.

The people will decide. There are no forgone winners, nor a priori elected MPs. All the paths towards a reinforcement of CDU are open and we will face the voters, telling them they will not find a political force other than CDU that can give greater guarantees they will defend what was achieved and advance further.

A force that always presents solutions to serve the workers and people. The only force that next October, as 4 years ago, guarantees the interests of workers and people will

not fall prey to the crises that capital creates, nor be subjected to the dogma of the deficit. A stronger CDU, means a more certain and secure path forward.

Yes, a vote in CDU is the only vote that can guarantee this!

The sure and secure vote to insure a most just distribution of wealth and that won't resign before injustice and inequality.

A sure vote to guarantee a developed Portugal, of solidarity, justice and progress!

A secure vote to achieve a left-wing policy and ensure dignified wages and pensions, effective social rights, better working and living conditions for all.

A vote that truly matters to strengthen a patriotic policy and guarantee the Country advances in the fight against its weaknesses and dependencies!

A vote to combat the causes of our backwardness and affirm a sovereign development.

A vote investing in our national potential and wealth, defending them to guarantee the development, progress and improvement of our people's living conditions.

There is not much time until the elections and plenty of work to do. We need each and everyone's availability and ability to wage this important fight. Now is the time to advance with our active presence, with our word in the workplace, in each company, each place, each city or electoral circle, embodying a campaign able to insure the success of CDU in this new battle!

We will address all those who have ever voted CDU, reminding them their vote in CDU was never betrayed but always honoured. We'll meet with who never voted CDU to underline that, in CDU, PCP-PEV, they can find a broad space of convergence of democrats and patriots, of all those who want the Country to advance in wages and pensions, in public services and the State's social functions, in public investment and economic promotion, in national production and work with rights.



It is up to us, our collective and individual action, to build a strong current of mobilization to vote in CDU and demonstrate the Portuguese workers and people have the possibility of achieving the Portugal we have a right to, giving more strength to CDU, with more votes and MPs, so the Country will truly advance!

These four years of the new stage of national life have demonstrated it was and is worth fighting to open the way to a solution to the people and Country's problems.

We've demonstrated, from the first hour, the falsity of the recurrent campaigns trying to make us believe the legislative elections are to elect prime-ministers or that what is decisive to govern is which party gets most votes. Campaigns to perpetuate the vicious circle of alternation without alternative that for years drove the right-wing policies.

No! They are not for electing prime-ministers! They are for electing MPs. The recent national political life has dispelled that mistake, with the decisive contribution of PCP!

Contribution from this Party that did not stand waiting and conformed, as others, with the electoral results, but sought solutions and paths that immediately served the struggle of our people for better living conditions, but also the Country, confronted with continuous decline.

We were not hampered by circumstance and fought on!

We don't run away from a fight, we engage it!

Because we are a Party that won't leave the people and Country in a dead end, that knows the ground it treads on and always presents solutions to problems!

A Party with confidence and in whom one can trust! That does what it says and always fulfils its commitments!

These four years have proven this. Given the change in Parliament's composition and the persevering initiative of PCP and PEV, in a framework where PS and its government, but also PSD and CDS, had no conditions to

impose, by themselves, the fullness of their eternal policies, important advances in the lives of the Portuguese were possible.

Many of the measures the workers and the majority of Portuguese recognise as positive are marked by proposals from PCP and PEV.

Look at the most diverse sectors of our collective life and you will certainly find a measure to resolve a pressing problem, express a sign, a will to try answers to old problems, but also pave the way to novel solutions.

Yes, we gave priority in our proposals and action to the recovery of rights and incomes, the restitution and valuing of wages, holidays and Christmas bonus, a tax decrease for lower and intermediate incomes, to social benefits in unemployment, sickness, for people with disability, family benefits, valuing long contributory careers, fighting precariousness, but we look at the Country as a whole, to solve problems and signal a solution to show there is different way than impoverishing workers and people.

Looking at the Country as a whole, not subjecting everything and everyone to the myopic policy of the deficit by containing and postponing the Country's problems, instead of a productive and more fecund solution invested in reinforcing investment, economic growth and more robust jobs, and valuing living conditions as an important motor of the economy.

With eyes upon the most diverse sectors, we advanced. Advanced with a proposal to increase pensions for three consecutive years. We advanced with a reduction in health bills and medication costs. Advanced with that important measure of free schoolbooks. We advanced with the Intermodal Transit Pass and lower transportation prices.

With eyes on the Country to support small and medium executives, we eliminated the Special Payment on Account and reduced fuel costs for farmers and anglers.

Advances achieved with hard work. Much of what was achieved wasn't in the PS program, nor in the Government's Program. Many and strong resistances had to be overcome in order to advance.



Have no doubt! When PCP and CDU gain strength, the solution to the people and Country's problems gains strength.

Today, they're waving the scarecrow of false excesses and announcing new crises to postpone the answer to problems and deny justice to the people and Country!

We know what this means and what they want. Maintain the commitments assumed with Brussels, giving priority to the deficit and accelerated rhythms of debt payment, even if that means rolling back investment, worker's rights, the defence of public services and the State social functions, sacrificing the National Health Service, not investing in rolling stock to ensure population mobility, or going backwards on school books under the pretext of reusing, handing written and erased books.

Yes, we know what it means and what they want with the discourse of the crisis and excesses. It would mean, if they could, a stall on pensions without ensuring the increases we propose to guarantee their real valuing. It would mean stalling wage increases, so necessary and possible.

Let there be no illusions! PS hasn't changed its nature, nor abandoned its fundamental options, as written into the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) of ill memory. Nor have PSD and CDS given up on their policy of disaster, extortion and setbacks that characterized their governing.

Look at their programs and their profession of faith and devotion to the rules and impositions of the European Union and Euro.

Look at their proposals to review the Constitution, but also to review the electoral laws, whose objectives are to ensure governing majorities with a minority of votes — the grand electoral subversion to perpetuate right-wing policies and their mandate.

In this electoral battle, where we're deciding between advancing or retreating, we've understood big capital's wager: favour PS and create the conditions to freely and fully resume the policy that guarantees its interests and, simultaneously, limit the growth of the force it most fears — CDU!

In other words, the big economic interests want two things: an absolute majority for PS and less strength for CDU — the true obstacle to its project of exploitation and setbacks.

Those they can't reach to attain these objectives, they send a message. They invent artificial scenarios, false decisive disputes that are anything but decisive and, in particular, since the old bipolarization between PS and PSD won't stick in present circumstances, they try out new artificial bipolarizations, using the most ridiculous and false reasoning to hide what is evident: a vote in CDU counts, and counts well, to stop a PS absolute majority.

Yes, a vote in CDU counts to stop PS from having its hands free to practice old policies, with or without PSD and CDS, a secure and coherent vote that decides another policy.

Yes, a vote in CDU is the necessary choice for workers and people in the October 6th election!

In this fight we are waging in order to advance, the struggle of workers and popular masses is essential. Struggle that developed intensely, in the most diverse sectors and companies and in the convergent actions promoted by CGTP-IN. A struggle that was the basis for the defence, restitution and conquest of rights, that faced the employers and allowed advances in living conditions of workers and their families. Struggle of populations that allowed the defence of rights, public services and quality of life.

An organized struggle that marked social and political reality, despite occultation, silencing, manipulation and provocation.

Struggle for a generalized increase in wages, against precariousness, against work schedule deregulation, for better living conditions, to repeal serious labour legislation norms.

Regarding labour legislation, the repeal of norms attacking worker's rights was and is necessary, but instead the PS government, with its class option at capital's beck and call, established an agreement with employer confederations and UGT, approved a law in convergence with PSD and CDS, which the President enacted, and which not only maintained the existing grave norms but added others, namely extending the experimental period to 180 days, opening a new door towards generalizing precariousness. Faced with a law with elements against the Constitution, PCP took the initiative to have the Constitutional Court appreciate the law.

And the struggle continues and will continue in the work places, companies and streets. We salute workers, their unity, organization and struggle, and salute CGTP-IN, the great trade-union confederation of Portuguese workers, we affirm PCP's solidarity and support.

We are far from resolving the problems that years and years of right-wing policies created and which the present governing policy is incapable of resolving.

Portugal needs solutions to answer accumulated setbacks. The structural deficits in production, demography, science and technology, which hinder development and the insufficient economic growth. The chronic social problems, the worsened working conditions, the profound social and regional inequalities, the decay in public services.

The Country needs a true change. Portugal needs a new path with another policy, a rupture with right-wing policies, because there is no exit with that policy, be it by the hands of PSD and CDS, or the hand of PS.

The Country is not condemned to be a colony of economic groups and big multinationals, nor can it be shackled to constraints it must, sooner or later, necessarily break.

We assume the need to value work and workers as a decisive issue for the Country. A general increase in wages, including the National Minimum Wage to 850 euros. A national emergency for a more just distribution of wealth, to promote the national economy, to retain and foster thousands of workers trained in our Country, who continue to leave at the rate of 80 thousand a year, to answer the demographic deficit, to strengthen Social Security and ensure better pensions for the future.

We need to value who works and who worked. We need to fight precariousness, work schedule deregulation and ensure a decrease to a 35 hour work week, protection for shift work, guarantee the defence of union rights, including the right to strike, and repeal the grave labour legislation norms.

We need to increase the real value of pensions, as well as the right to a full pension without penalizations for workers with 40 years of contributions, and to return the retirement age to 65 years.

We want to advance. We want a Country that respects the rights of parents, grandparents, but also children. Consolidating advances like school books, but also giving a new and decisive step guaranteeing free day-care to all children until the age of three.

Advance in broadening social protection, by reinforcing the Public Social Security System, capable of ensuring universal and higher family subsidies and reinforcing social benefits, giving the necessary answer to situations of unemployment and disease. We want the diversification of sources of financing, fighting the different attempts to privatize the system.

We want to advance in valuing and empowering public services, which need more means and to contract thousands of professionals. The National Health Service needs to be defended and valued, and the Portuguese people have the right to a family doctor and nurse, cheaper medication, proximity services and being treated with dignity and without charge during all life stages. Schools, hospitals, health centres, courts, libraries, theatres, research centres, public transportation, roads and railroads, ports and airports need means and a policy that makes investment a priority. A policy that promotes the maintenance, requalification and construction of infra-structures, as well as better working conditions. This demands public investment never below 5% of GDP.

The advances following the reduction of transport prices had an enormous social and environmental effect. But to avoid rollbacks, we must advance in improving the capacity and quality, and replace individual with collective transportation, we need a National Investment Plan in public transportation.

Part of the resources the Country needs to answer the aspirations of workers and people also requires a just fiscal policy, based on the effective taxation of big capital and the reduction of taxes for workers and lower incomes; reducing indirect taxes relative to direct taxes. We want to advance with a reduction in VAT for energy to 6%.

We want the Country to produce. Produce and produce more, in particular want we need to import. Industry, agriculture and fisheries are not, not for PCP or CDU, an issue for the market or what is possible under European Union rules. We need food, we need medication, we need boats and trains to improve the life of populations. Our path is producing here what they want us to buy abroad. A Country capable of taking advantage of new technologies and the digital revolution, placing them at the service of who produces and the national interest.

We want the Country to advance, where the right to housing and mobility aren't crushed by the logic of speculation. There is a public response that has to be given, promoting the construction of housing by the State and urban rehabilitation. We need to promote the repeal of the "eviction counter" and ensure the right to renting for a minimum period of 10 years.

We want the Country to advance. We want to recover incomes, but also instruments that today are in foreign hands. We want to recover for the Country what belongs to the Country. In banking and insurance, in energy and telecommunications, in airports and highways. Portugal has to guarantee its own development strategy. The Country can not wipe out the losses of failed banks and then privatize them again, as occurred with BES; or accept the destruction of CTT and the postal service.

We want to advance in building a cohesive and balanced Country, that ensures the defence of the interior and rural world, with regionalization, territorial planning and fighting desertification and depopulation.

We want a Portugal with a future and need a patriotic and left-wing policy, and a government to achieve it. An alternative policy that won't submit, not to the European Union, not the Euro. That assumes the sovereign right of the Country to define its economic, budgetary and monetary policy.

A policy that wants to renegotiate the debt and free resources for the Country's development.

A policy that won't leave any of the many problems behind.

A policy that wants to value cultural production and enjoyment assuming the important objective of achieving 1% of the State Budget for culture. Where young people can reach the highest levels of learning, investing in public schools, reinforcing School Social Services and ending university tuition. A policy that knows that given the serious environmental problems we face, the answer isn't new businesses in the name of the environment, but a



policy that breaks with the capitalist logic of maximum exploitation of the workforce and the planet's resources. A policy committed to fighting corruption, addressing its deeper causes and endowing the competent authorities with the adequate means to fulfil their mission and ensuring a new path to Justice that is equal, accessible and closer to citizens.

A policy to ensure a free and democratic Portugal, based on respect for the Constitution.

Portugal is not condemned to be left behind, nor going backwards. Another policy and advancement is possible and necessary.

Advancing is necessary and therefore it is necessary to give CDU greater strength.

The struggle of workers and populations, and the intervention and action of CDU led to advancements. It will be with a stronger CDU that we will advance in the solution to the problems of workers, people and Country.

A vote in CDU will count and decide another policy, to guarantee a sovereign Portugal, a Country in command of its destiny, a people that builds its future.

We have great battles ahead that we will face with great confidence.

This «Avante!» Festival is an example of that confidence. Its success is an expression of that confidence, that determination that allows us to pursue the tasks ahead with greater strength and energy.

But confidence also because of our history of intervention, action and initiative in defence of the rights, interests and aspirations of our people and homeland.

This history of struggle and intervention that allows us to state proudly, eye to eye, what we stand for. We are a Party with solutions for our time. We are the Party that will take the Country forward!

We are the Portuguese Communist Party!

This Party with almost one hundred years of history that gains honour every day, assuming the unshakable commitment, derived from their class nature, as the Party of the working class and all workers.

This Party, PCP, with its communist identity, renewed and reinforced after the Campaign of 5000 contacts with workers, with whom we raised the issue of giving our Party greater strength with their membership and militancy.

New communist militants, whom we want to welcome, not only to have, but to intervene, in the companies and work places, to widen our base organizations, to reinforce our ties with the masses, the working class and workers, the primary reason for our existence.

This is the Party, Communist, Portuguese, that lives and intervenes animated by the goal of building the Patriotic and Left-wing policy the Country needs, towards an Advanced Democracy with the Values of April in the future of Portugal, who won't give up, nor undermine its supreme objectives, but rather reaffirm them daily in the struggle, the emancipating project of building a new society, without exploiters and exploited, the construction of socialism and communism.

Yes, there are reasons to be confident. Confidence that animated the struggle during the black night of fascism, confidence that overflowed during the glorious days of the revolution, confidence that never abandoned us during the fight against right-wing policies and monopolist restoration. A confidence of who knows that the future we dream of and fight for be closer with a stronger Party.

The Portuguese people know from experience that this Party, associated with each advance over the almost one hundred years of its history, always drew strength from the struggle for their rights, that this Party never failed to defend their interests, that this Party, more necessary today than yesterday, never betrayed their aspirations. As it was yesterday, so it is today, and will continue to be tomorrow!

We are prepared for the fights ahead. Ready and animated by our convictions and ideals. Ready with the necessary political courage. Ready with all the courage that may be needed. With tremendous confidence!





VALORIZAR O TRABALHO E OS TRABALHADORES PCP



# Communiqué of the Central Committee

October 8, 2019

*The Central Committee of the PCP having met on October 8, 2019, analysed the results of the elections for the Assembly of the Republic and the elections for the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, and the resulting political framework. Appreciated aspects of the international situation, and set down lines of action, political initiative and Party strengthening to respond to the demands that arise.*

## Political framework resulting from the elections

1. Failure by the PS to obtain an absolute majority, in a context in which PSD and CDS saw their condemnation confirmed, is not in itself a sufficient condition to ensure a path of new and more decisive advances and to prevent the danger of going backwards in what has been achieved.

By honouring the commitments made to the workers and the people, the PCP will not fail with its political willingness, initiative, determination and independence to make the country and the life of the Portuguese move forward, to fight for an alternative policy, patriotic and left-wing, that, in rupture with right-wing policies, will disengage the country from the constraints that, by the option of the PS, limit and prevent the response to national problems and popular aspirations.

The Central Committee of the PCP reaffirms in this context that the votes entrusted to the CDU, associated with the mass struggle, are the force that will count towards advancing the living conditions and the development of the country. On the PCP's part, this is the guarantee that the workers and the people can rest assured.

2. The results of the elections for the Assembly of the Republic reflect, albeit with alterations in the positioning and electoral expression among the political forces with parliamentary representation, a framework with a correlation of forces similar to that of 2015.

But this fact cannot delude that this current institutional arrangement of forces corresponds to a different political conjuncture. In 2015 the government's action and policy of national disaster was halted, with the important decision then taken by the PCP and PEV to contribute to an institutional solution that put in correspondence the social and electoral defeat imposed on the PSD/CDS government to its political defeat, thwarting its plans to continue and intensify the offensive that the Stability and Growth Programs (SGP) and the Pact of Aggression had set down as a guideline, countering the efforts of the then President Cavaco Silva.

It has been clear in these years that steps have been taken in the defence, restoration and achievement of rights, but it has been equally clear that the negative measures that have been prevented and the advances made are not sufficient for the necessary response to the national problems and the materialisation of a developed and sovereign Portugal.

The situation of the country and its evolution in recent years makes more pressing today the need to pave the way for a policy that breaks with essential options of right-wing policy that, despite being constrained by the parliamentary composition of the now-ending legislature, the PS did not abandon and continued in structural aspects.

What a full response to the country's problems demands is a break with the interests of big capital, placing the valorisation of labour and workers as a central objective and a break with the submission to the Euro and the impositions of the European Union, affirming the right of the country to a sovereign development.

What is needed is the implementation of the alternative, patriotic and left-wing policy, that the PCP proposes and which a PS government does not guarantee.

What is needed, with the intervention of the PCP and with the mass struggle, is to move forward, not allow any setbacks, particularly in matters such as the so-called structural 'reforms', which PS and PSD share in several areas.

3. In the present situation, as it has been over decades and successive legislatures, the President of the Republic, after consulting the parties, appoints the Prime Minister, a government is formed and takes office.

It will be in the light of the PS's choices, the budgetary instruments it presents and the content of its legislation, that the PCP will determine, as always, its position, linked to its commitments to the workers and the people, determined to combat all the negative measures, all the regressions that the PS wants to impose.

The workers and the people will continue to count on the initiative of the PCP to present solutions that valorise the living conditions and rights, and to intervene to adopt measures that mean progress.

4. The result obtained by the CDU (329,117 votes and 12 MPs) - translated into a drop in its electoral expression and the number of elected MPs, is a negative factor for the near future of the country's life.

It cannot be ignored, however, that this result, which is identical in number of MPs to that of 2002, is obtained in a political and ideological framework that had already been present in the elections to the European Parliament and which translated into the electoral expression then obtained.

CDU's result is inseparable from an intense and ceaseless operation it encountered, sustained by lies, slander and the promotion of prejudices, either by manipulating its positions or in the spreading of stereotypes, aiming to attribute to the PCP and to PEV concepts that their course, practice and project do not portray, an operation that methodically bolstered other political forces and amplified aspects of distortion and mystification of their action in national political life in the previous legislature - translated either by repeated insistence on the existence of a 'left-wing majority' or a 'left-wing government', either by systematically erasing the decisive role and intervention of the PCP in what has been achieved, or by its obsessive presentation as a waning force, in stark contrast with the obvious promotion of other forces.



An operation that targeted the PCP, precisely for its decisive role in the restoration, defence and achievement of rights, its full and consistent assumption to uphold the interests of the workers and people, for the affirmation of its proposal, programme and communist identity.

Only the dimension of the electoral campaign, built with the militant commitment of the CDU activists, only the patent recognition of their action and the trust placed in those who do not betray pledges, only the deep connection and rooting of the CDU forces with the workers and the people, enabled in the present situation to endure the attempt of electoral erosion to levels that some had described as “inevitable” and beat the powerful campaign unleashed by the centres of monopoly capital and the instruments at its service. This does not mean acknowledging weaknesses and shortcomings of various kinds that must be assessed, corrected and overcome.

The PCP will honour its commitments to the workers and the people, giving strength to their struggle, counting on the mobilization of all, even if they did not realize that what was truly decisive in these elections was to strengthen the CDU, they will soon realize that it is on this force that they can count on and that it is the strongest guarantee to stand up to the projects of increasing exploitation, to defend rights and contribute for a better life.

As always, it will be the struggle of the workers and the people that will be called upon to prevent setbacks and make advances possible.

5. These elections highlight the significant loss suffered by the PSD and CDS, adding to the defeat they had already registered in the 2015 legislative elections, in itself inseparable from the reaffirmed disapproval of their recent responsibilities in the policy of social regression and economic decline that they imposed on the country. This does not, by itself, mean that the projects associated with the right-wing policy and its associated agenda have been defeated.

The PS, which registers an increased electoral expression in votes and mandates, does not, however, achieve the coveted absolute majority which it called in the name of a hypothetical ‘stability’, while the Left Bloc reduced its votes and kept the same number of mandates.

Changes in the composition of the Assembly of the Republic should also be noted, either by the constitution of a parliamentary group by PAN and the election for the first time of a representation of the Livre, along with the new parliamentary representations of two political forces (Chega and Liberal Initiative), linked to the most reactionary centres of monopoly capital, with undisguised populist and undemocratic agendas.

6. To all those who took the step of transforming their support and recognition of CDU’s determination and

coherence into a vote, in particular to all those who did so for the first time, the Central Committee of the PCP reaffirms its commitment to always honour its word, to intervene in defence of the workers and the people, their rights and aspirations.

The Central Committee of the PCP salutes the thousands of activists who, side by side with the candidates, set up a campaign of enlightenment and mobilization that contributed to building the outcome of the CDU. A campaign that raised the awareness of the workers and the people to face the many struggles that will ensure that there is no turning back, to resist attempts at new attacks on rights and to continue the struggle to build a political alternative, patriotic and left-wing, to ensure Portugal with a future.

7. The past four years, which corresponded to what has been termed the ‘new phase of national political life’ in its relationship to both the previous legislature and four decades of unchanged right-wing policies, have not been travelled in vain. During this period, dogmas collapsed, theses and reasons repeatedly underlined by the PCP were confirmed, lessons have been learned that will integrate the PCP’s heritage of struggle and intervention.



A period that confirmed the decisive intervention of the PCP, its proposals and solutions, its determination not to waste any opportunity to defend and conquer rights. A period that has highlighted the irreplaceable role of the struggle of the workers and the people and which, however difficult and prolonged, eventually sets the course of events. A period which revealed that, contrary to what they were trying to instil in the conscience and life of the people, the improvement of living conditions, the expansion of rights, the valorisation of wages and pensions, the increase in the income available to families, is a condition for economic growth, job creation, budgetary balance, and development of the country.

A period that has shown once again that when others give up or adapt, the PCP strives to break new ground, broaden perspectives and build new solutions to defend the interests of the people and the country.

A period that has also shown, as the PCP has always pointed out, that notwithstanding the importance of responding to the most pressing problems, the solutions and policy that the country needed and needs to overcome its structural deficits and ensure sovereign development is a patriotic and left-wing policy that frees the country from submission to the euro and the impositions of the European Union, valorises labour and workers, promotes national production, ensures public control of the banks and of the basic and strategic sectors of the economy, promotes an administration and public services to serve the people and the country.

8. The Central Committee of the PCP underlines the persistence in the national political life of the traits, present in the elections and their results, inseparable from the process that the most reactionary sectors have under

way to recover the lost space and time, in the intensification of the offensive they have entered as their objective and which has experienced, even partially, in the last four years, a setback that they never accepted.

A process marked by a prolonged and systematic attack directed against the PCP, in which some present and former Party members have taken part, entertaining backward and populist ideas and conceptions, including whitewashing fascism and what it represented, by the provocative operations that from various structures and movements aim to divide the workers and discredit their struggle and their representative class organisations, by the spreading of factors that target democracy itself and political action in general, regardless of the content expressed by putting forward objectives that seek new steps in the subversion of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic.

9. The Central Committee of the PCP notes the electoral outcome that, in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, enabled the election of a CDU MP and the preservation of parliamentary representation in the Regional Legislative Assembly.

A result that, without denying the loss of a MP and a loss of votes, cannot be separated from an intense and artificial operation of bipolarization and the dispersion of candidacies created to facilitate the objectives of the PS and PSD in the Region.

The Central Committee of the PCP salutes the Party militants and CDU activists who carried out a campaign of enlightenment and mobilization that enabled to resist and confirm the CDU as an indispensable force.



In the context of the loss of an absolute majority by the PSD and the formation of a successor PSD/ CDS government, the Central Committee of the PCP also stresses the political significance of PS's repeated calls to the CDS to support a regional government, in a ridiculous process of dispute between PSD and PS to engage CDS as a future governance partner.



## II

### Strengthen the struggle, solidarity and anti-imperialist cooperation

1. Against the background of the structural crisis of capitalism, the international situation remains characterised by great instability and uncertainty, with signs of deterioration in the economic and financial situation and 'announcements' of a new peak of crisis, used as a pretext for the intensification of a policy of exploitation and attack on fundamental democratic rights.

2. The promotion of reactionary and undemocratic values continues, as exemplified by the infamous anti-communist resolution and falsifying of history recently adopted by the majority of the European Parliament, trying to subvert the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the Victory over Nazi-fascism, on May 9, 2020.

3. Particularly serious is the US' aggressive spiral - sustained, albeit with growing contradictions, by its allies, notably NATO and the EU - against countries and peoples that they consider to be an obstacle to their interests, clearly pointing out as their strategic opponents the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China, which commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of its founding on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Faced with the resistance and struggle of the peoples and the process of rearrangement of forces under development worldwide, US imperialism eschews no means - from economic warfare to direct military aggres-

sion - to counter the tendency of its relative economic decline and seek to safeguard its global hegemonic domination.

The US is responsible for a huge arms escalate which, also involving its disengagement from relevant nuclear arms containment and limitation treaties, poses a serious and increased threat to world peace and security, which in no way should be overlooked.

4. The Central Committee points out that the legitimate concerns about environmental problems - which should not be confused with any manipulative view of this problem - cannot be dissociated from the predatory nature of capitalism, together with its exploitative, oppressive and aggressive nature, as presently the decision centres of big capital seek to impose.

5. The Central Committee of the PCP welcomes and values the courageous and persistent resistance and struggle of workers and peoples in defence of their rights and sovereignty, and calls for the enhancement of internationalist solidarity and the strengthening of anti-imperialist unity in defence of peace, sovereignty and social progress.

The Central Committee of the PCP calls for the strengthening of the fight for peace and disarmament, particularly for nuclear disarmament, notably against the holding of the NATO summit in London on December 3/4.

The Central Committee reaffirms PCP's commitment to strengthening and uniting the international communist and revolutionary movement by contributing - on the basis of compliance of the principles of relationship between communist parties - to overcome persisting weaknesses and to project into the world the communist ideal and project whose validity and topicality is reaffirmed in the face of a capitalism in crisis, steeped in its contradictions and unable to respond to the problems and aspirations of Humanity.





## Strengthen the Party, stimulate political initiative

1. The Central Committee of the PCP salutes the Party and JCP organisations and militants for their work, dedication and militancy which ensured a strong political and institutional intervention, the development of the mass struggle, the implementation of measures to strengthen the party organisation, the holding of the 43<sup>rd</sup>. edition of the Avante! Festival, the intervention of internationalist solidarity, together with the political campaign of the masses that the elections for the Assembly of the Republic constituted. An extraordinary action that placed great demands on the organisation and leadership work and to which the Party responded, fulfilling its role as a necessary, indispensable and irreplaceable Party, resisting the intense and diverse campaign launched against it, affirming its communist identity.

2. In the current context of the country's situation, the Central Committee of the PCP underlines the great demands placed on the action of the Party collective and points to the need for a strong political initiative in the affirmation of the patriotic and left-wing alternative, in the development of mass struggle and the strengthening of mass unitary organisations and movements, the stimulation of intense action in local government, the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira, the Assembly of the Republic and the European Parliament, and in the strengthening of the Party.



3. It is in this context that the Central Committee of the PCP points to the need to hold meetings and plenary sessions of militants at various levels of the party structure, promoting the analysis of the current situation and programming their work and intervention.

The Central Committee of the PCP highlights the initiatives already underway, namely the rally to be held on October 11 at the Lisbon Forum, the Regional Meeting of Cadres on October 19 in Porto and the rally on October 26 in the Setúbal Peninsula.

4. The PCP, in answer to the commitments made to the workers and the people, sets down as its immediate objectives the struggle for the general increase of wages and of the national minimum wage to 850•; fight precariousness and deregulation of working hours; demand the repeal of the grievous norms of labour legislation; increase retirement pensions; create conditions to ensure free kindergarten nurseries for all children up to the age of three; for the right to housing; for a strengthened and qualified National Health Service; for public services able to respond to the needs; for investment in public transport; for a fair fiscal policy; for a dignified public administration; for expanding social aid; ensure the protection of nature, environment and ecological balance.

5. The Central Committee of the PCP underlines the great political and cultural success of the Avante! Festival, which is an important contribution to the affirmation of the April values, marked in the context of the 45<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the April Revolution, and for the affirmation of the Party and its ideal and project. The success of which is all the more significant as the Festival was silenced and was built with the Party's own means and forces, with many friends of the Party and of the Festival, who see it as their own, and in the preparation of the elections to the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, a few weeks after the elections to the European Parliament.

The Central Committee of the PCP stresses that the next Avante! Festival, on September 4, 5 and 6, 2020, places on all organisations the need to begin its planning and preparation, including its dissemination and affirmation.

6. Strengthening the Party is a key priority in articulation with its political initiative and intervention.

Bearing in mind the Resolution of the Central Committee "On the Strengthening of the Party. For a Stronger and more Influential PCP", the Central Committee of the PCP points to the need in every organisation to evaluate the steps taken, set priorities and move towards achieving the guidelines defined for strengthening the Party.

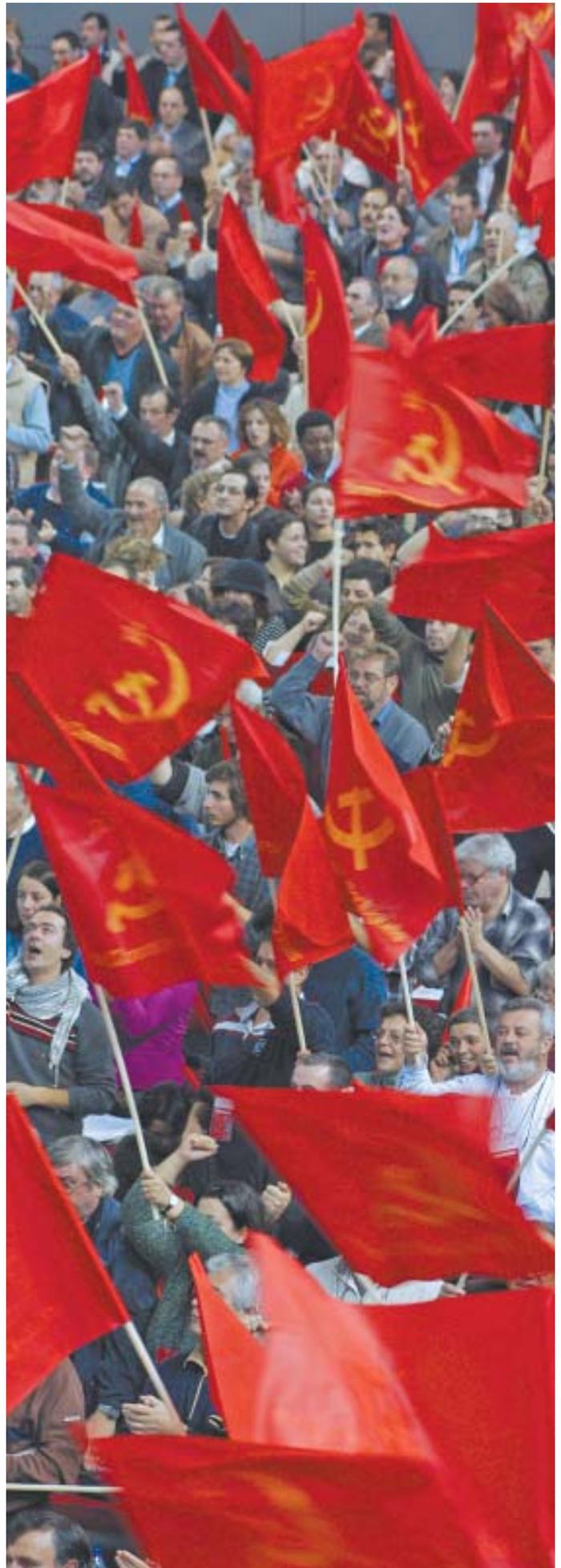
Following the intense intervention of the Party, steps must be taken to strengthen the work of leadership at various levels, ensure the accountability of cadres and militants for permanent tasks and responsibilities, pursue political and ideological formation, promote affirmation of the Party's working principles.

We highlight the priority of promoting organisation and intervention with workers in companies and workplaces. The Central Committee of the PCP underlines the importance of the action of the 5,000 contacts and the significance that already has the accomplishment of more than 3500 contacts and the joining of more than 1000 workers to the Party, enabling the creation and reinforcement of cells and the intervention in many companies where there was none, further rooting the Party with the workers, as well as the willingness of many other workers to support the PCP and participate in its activities. These potentials need to be harnessed with the integration of new militants and progress towards contacts to complete this action. It is necessary to promote the reinforcement of cadres and means, ensuring an action that has as its fundamental concern the knowledge of workers' problems, aspirations, claims and state of mind and the initiative to promote their unity, organisation and struggle, articulated with the affirmation and strengthening of the Party.

It is also necessary to pursue the implementation of the other guidelines for the strengthening of the Party, namely the handing of the new membership card, the promotion of intervention among social groups and specific sectors, the strengthening of local organisations, the work of propaganda and Party press, guaranteeing the financial independence of the Party, holding assemblies of the organisations.

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*At a time marked by uncertainties, dangers and potential, the Central Committee of the PCP points, with confidence in the workers and the people, to the development of the mass struggle and the strengthening of the Party as the necessary path for the defence of peace, development and progress, the construction of the patriotic and left-wing alternative, the advanced democracy with the April Values in the future of Portugal, of socialism and communism.*





DEP/PCP 2019

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