

**LIFE WITHOUT
EXPLOITATION
IN THE ERA
OF THE “DIGITAL
ECONOMY”**

— & —

**THE “CHERNOBYLS”
OF CAPITALISM
BEHIND THE MYTH
OF “GREEN DEVELOPMENT”**

Material from the Discussions
at the 45th Festival KNE – Odigitis

Life without exploitation
in the era
of the "Digital Economy"

The "Chernobyls" of capitalism,
behind the myth
of "Green Development"

Text editing: Ideological Committee of the CC of the KNE

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Festival KNE – Odigitis, September 2019

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FOREWORD.....

Many of us, observing the way we live, thinking about the future that lies ahead and the effort we have already made in order to improve our lives a little, we ask ourselves: can we truly live a better life? Do the possibilities exist in order to make the things we dream about come true?

The reality itself can give us the answer! As long as we search within reality itself and take a good look at it.

Only a quick look is not helpful and can be confusing unless we shed some light on the necessary theoretical knowledge...

We may live in the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution where the automation of production is proceeding rapidly, robots are being integrated into it, overall science and technology are developing rapidly; but, at the same time unemployment, overtime and underemployment are rampant, along with poverty and the destruction of environment. We have to choose which of our needs will be satisfied when all of them could be met in a combined way.

Many of us think that today's situation cannot be a one-way street and we wonder how things can change, if and how a society without exploitation can exist, with all our contemporary needs satisfied.

We aim at answering all these questions or intensifying the concern of all those young men and women who read this issue. It includes the materials of the events "Life without exploitation in the era of the digital economy" and "The 'Chernobyls' of capitalism, behind the myth of 'Green Development' " that took place within the framework of the Festival of KNE-Odigitis in Athens, "Antonis Tritsis" Park.

What's more, we aim at something else... at proving that only

the construction of a socialist society, of socialist relations of production, can utilize all the possibilities that are open before us for the benefit of society and its overall prosperity, contrary to the bourgeois propaganda and its targets for development -whether "green" or not- that supposedly will benefit everyone, the exploiters and the exploited ones.

Reality, the socialist one-way path, is quite known to the bourgeois class, its state and its governments. They fear the prospect of young men and women gaining the scientific knowledge that will show them the way to abolish exploitation and to be convinced of the necessity of revolutionary action alongside KKE and KNE today. This is why they deploy all the ways and means in order to prevent young men and women from finding out the truth: movies, books, school and scientific books are all utilized in this direction. A good example of this occurred recently with the well-known television series that aimed at slandering and distorting the construction of socialism in the 20th century, focused on Ukraine and the nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

All of us young men and women, everyone who is being suffocated within the framework of this system, everyone who wants to change the world, we all must seek the truth. Everything the system is trying to teach us is not enough for us. We young militants and communists need to constantly pursue knowledge, to become more capable of answering the new questions that our daily life brings.

It constitutes a condition in order for us to become more capable in our struggle, to be more effective and more pervasive in our action. With Marxism as our weapon, we study today's society, we learn history, we draw conclusions from it, and we become the revolutionaries of today and tomorrow!

Thus, the words of Brecht become more timely than ever:

“Learn those elementary things!
For those whose time has come
It is never too late!
Learn the ABC. It won’t be enough.
But learn it! Don’t be dismayed by it.
Begin! You must know everything.
You must take over the leadership!
Don’t be afraid to ask comrade!
Don’t be talked into anything.
Check for yourself!
What you do not know yourself
you don’t know.
Scrutinize the bill,
it is you who must pay it.
Put your finger on each item,
ask: how did this get there?
You must take over the leadership.”

Ideological Committee
of the Central Council of KNE



Event of the 45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis



LIFE WITHOUT EXPLOITATION, IN THE ERA OF THE “DIGITAL ECONOMY”

Keynote speech by Makis Papadopoulos¹

Opening remarks and introductory questions by Konstantina Tsioupra: *With this discussion, we would like to take a first look at the basic issues that arise and that raise concerns among a great section of the youth in regards to the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” and the era of the “digital economy”, as they describe it.*

We decided to give an introductory character to the speech, so we can all understand to some extent, what is meant by the “digital economy”, what is the method with which we should observe the developments, the new dilemmas that may arise from them. In any case, a revolutionary organisation, like KNE, should always address such issues, study what’s “new” to understand it and take it into account in its intervention, so that it can be more incisive and effective.

Today, many discussions take place regarding the impact that the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” will have on our lives! They present these changes as something extremely different from previous periods, as a turning point in the evolution of human society!

It is worth noting that it is not the first time that human society has experienced such a great development of technology and science vis-à-vis previous periods. The introduction of steam, the discovery of electricity, the creation of computers and the development of automated production have played, in turn, a decisive role in

¹ Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the KKE

human evolution and its society, in the development of production in each era. The development of the railway system and generally of public transport, the expansion of production and the development of telecommunications are just some of the results they have had. To understand the significance of the breakthroughs made, we just have to imagine life as it was before them.

What about the “Fourth Industrial Revolution”?

Scientific approaches note that the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” is based on three pillars: the vast computing power of computers, the massive amounts of data we generate through the use of various electronic devices and artificial intelligence, which is evolving based on the computers’ ability to process algorithms better.

No matter how much that all “sounds like Greek to us”, ultimately they are not... A glimpse into our everyday life should be enough...

At home, on the train, in the subway, we use our mobile phones, surf the internet, follow our friends on social media, chat with other people, find out their locations and they also find out ours, we know who their friends are, their relatives, we learn the news etc.

When we get back from home, school, a walk, we go online from our mobile, laptop, computer and we buy everything we need for



our home from the supermarket, clothes, furniture, books. We pay with our bank card via a POS terminal by carrying out contactless payments or by entering our information into a platform.

On our way back home, we can turn on the water heater from our mobile to have warm water and if we leave and forget the lights or an appliance on, in the same way we can switch them off. When we are out jogging or walking, we can measure our performance. A simple app on our mobile or our smartwatch can do the trick.

The TV has gone online, as well as our watches, and the "internet of things" – as they call it – will expand into even more devices. If we like adventure series and movies, apps like "Netflix" will propose us similar programs to watch because we leave our digital fingerprint on all the smart devices we use.

These and many more are applications of the discoveries concerning the so-called "Fourth Industrial Revolution" and are already in our everyday life. Within this context, the ground is being shaped so that many people may wonder... "So, since capitalism has led to such great developments, perhaps it's not that bad?", "could a different management change things?" In fact, some even more vindictive types go a step further and exploit this truly huge growth to claim that Marx was wrong, that his theory was not confirmed; that capitalism is a system that constantly gives impetus to development or that it does not even have inherent contradictions, trying to sidetrack the need for its overthrow.

Today what impedes new technology from being utilised for our needs?

However, at the same time, many questions arise regarding the "digital economy" and its consequences. They refer to the rise in unemployment because of the elimination of some job positions,

about changes in the type of work that each and every one of us performs and thus in the various specialisations as well. Therefore, how can we address these changes? Could technology be exploited in a way that would be for the benefit of our everyday life in general and how are we going to accomplish that?

Answer: Today, we all understand that we live in a world that is changing rapidly. Changes in technology and the organisation of production, of work, in every area of life **that would have needed a whole generation to be implemented in the 20th century**, can now take place in a matter of years.

We are already passing from the “digital economy”, from the extensive use of the computer and internet to the era of extensive robot use, to the possibility of therapid collection and intensive processing of an immense volume of data, of big data, to the organisation of work via smart devices that coordinate with each other and with employees and which can contribute to decision-making. We are entering the era identified by bourgeois scientific thought as the “Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

Even though we are not involved in the digital economy, many of us realise through experience that **while technological potentials have grown** and can ensure society’s prosperity, there are major obstacles to the satisfaction of our needs.

We watch advertisements on television about the “smart home”, in which one can turn on the airconditioner and the washing machine with their mobile on their way back from work, but, at the same time there are many households that cannot even pay their electricity bill and of course it is impossible for them to afford such an expensive service package.

We realise that the advances in informatics, robotics, artificial intelligence, can increase productivity and reduce working time,

but today these advances are translated into huge numbers of unemployed people and into intensification and increased exploitation of those who work.

In a society that is changing rapidly, unsupported **demands and illusions** could easily arise; that new technology will automatically lead to a better world of social prosperity or, on the contrary, that there will be a **demonization of technology** as the major culprit for our sufferings, increasing unemployment, repression, poverty.



In any case, historically, this is not the first time. This also occurred in the former industrial and technological revolutions and changes. Just remember the **Luddites that considered destroying the machines** to avoid losing their jobs.

To avoid the trap of the misleading thoughts of both technophobia and utopian deterministic expectations about the spontaneous social benefits that new technology will presumably bring, we should define theoretically, scientifically, historically, **who the real culprit is that is nullifying the vast possibilities** that the employees, the workers have created to have social prosperity.

That is why the study and creative development of Marxism-



Leninism are irreplaceable under today's conditions.

A new important publication of "Synchroni Epochi" which you should all get is "*Marx/Engels Correspondence on Capital*". It's **worth reading Marx's critique of Proudhon**, who could not explain the historical, temporary character of the means of production and the forms of bourgeois production, because he could not understand the interaction between the relations of production and the development of the productive forces, he could not understand the strategic importance of the question of ownership.

In one of his letters, Marx comments:

*"**The exploitative use of machines** is something completely different from the machines themselves. Gunpowder remains gunpowder **both when used** to injure a person **and when used** to heal the wounds of an injured..."*

In other words, the response to all great questions - how will new technology be used, how will society benefit from its potential, what consequences will its implementation have, how can we

ensure its further development and implementation for the needs of the people – begins from the basic question: **Who owns the means of production, who owns the robots and “smart machines”, who holds the power, capital or the working class.** In which system will these questions be answered, in capitalism or socialism.

Today, within the framework of the capitalist relations of production, capital **decides what, when, where and how it will be produced, what the priorities of scientific research are, what the content of Education is.** Today, the worker, the salaried worker, has to sell his labour-power to the capitalist to survive. Today, the worker endures the theft of most of his working time to ensure capitalist profits. Today, we live in the jungle of capitalist exploitation. The fact that new technological potentials are in the hands of capital is to blame for our sufferings and not technological development itself.

It is not by chance that **drones are utilised for war purposes**, so that the USA can easily strike, for example, distant targets in the Middle East. They could be used much more for prevention and protection against major natural disasters and industrial accidents.

Here, we should also note that the digital content itself on the internet and in telecommunications does not develop neutrally and innocently. The creation of **online gambling - online casino applications on the internet** is not by chance. Nor are the social media platforms innocent, e.g. “Facebook” and “Instagram” that urge those who are networking to **voluntarily and constantly expose their personal data.** The immense electronic monitoring operation that is set up on this terrain by the CIA and other secret services is proven in practice.

Capital also defines **the criteria and prioritisation with which robots and smart devices** will contribute to complex decision-

making, e.g. priorities in the matter of tackling large-scale accidents.

Nowadays, a handful of large shareholders in monopoly groups appropriate the results of labour's social character which is increasingly deepening. Just think **how many scientists, technicians, and workers in various specialities are needed** for the invention, industrial production, installment and upgrading of **optical fibres** and that, on the other hand, only very few large shareholders earn huge profits from this activity.

Capital also impedes the tendency for the **even deeper socialisation of production** and work. The most typical example are the obstacles that **the competition of the monopoly groups and imperialist centres create around vital scientific and interdisciplinary cooperation without any limitations**, around the freedom of research for the satisfaction of society's needs. Research activities are subject to capital's needs for profitability and are split between competing research groups.

Of course, today there is an impetus for technical progress with means that cannot compare to the previous ones. This does not surprise us. Lenin had thoroughly explained a monopoly group's capacity to provide great impetus to new techniques.

At the same time, however, **there is parasitism and relative stagnation in comparison with the potentials that socialist relations of production have to exploit technology for the satisfaction of social needs**. Think, for example, about the patents which limit the diffusion of technology that the monopolies own (intellectual property).

In general, technological development intensifies the contradictions of capitalism. The greater the proportion of the contemporary means of production in relation to the labour-power in the production process, **the greater the tendency of the**

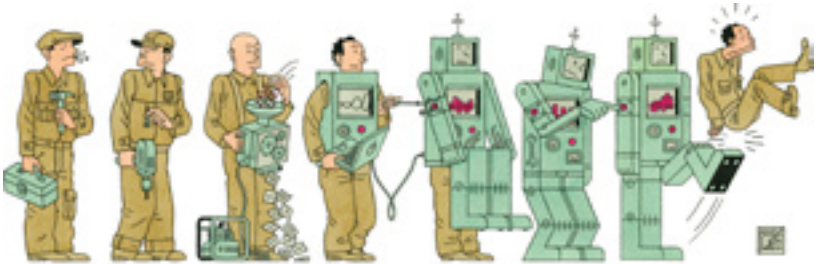
rate of profit to fall. We should always remember that the source of capitalist profit, of surplus-value, is **the exploitation of living labour-power and not of robots.** The unpaid working hours of the worker is what the capitalist is stealing and appropriating.

Today, we see that a large part of capital **is becoming stagnant, is over-accumulating and finds no outlets** for its investment with a satisfactory rate of profit. This is the root cause of the international economy's stagnation and of the danger of a new international crisis.

Of course, bourgeois policy does not passively observe this tendency. It intervenes in a multifaceted way to prevent it; **it exploits new technology to increase the rate of exploitation of the working class.**

Capital utilises digital technologies to impose forms of **extreme flexibilisation of labour relations.** It imposes **permanent availability** of a worker's labour, **the extension and prolongation of work in space and time throughout a worker's life.** It generalises the constant electronic monitoring and surveillance of the workers. Many workers now work even when moving from home to the workplace, in the era of smartphones and wireless networks.

However, what does the capital have in store for manual workers and employees mostly of low specialisation, **who will lose their jobs** in the upcoming years in manufacturing, public transport, trade, the banking sector, the Health sector? For most of them, **a low mere survival income will be provided, that is called "guaranteed",** and respectively basic healthcare insurance so that they will not die in the streets. For some, especially in the banking sector, energy, telecommunications and other sectors, various "voluntary redundancy packages" will be provided for the these changes to occur without reactions, in an atmosphere of class



In capitalism, the introduction of new technology in the production can lead to the rise of unemployment.

collaboration.

Obviously, the salaried labour and working class will not disappear over the coming decades. Many of **today's professions and jobs will not be eliminated, but will change their nature** regarding the tasks and the qualifications required. New professional skills and new economic sectors will be created.

There will be **changes in the content of work that will require** the enhancement of the worker's ability to work in a group and take initiatives, to have emotional intelligence. However, under capitalism, **Education, training and evaluation** are in the hands of capital and are utilised to destroy the unity of the working class, to encourage and foster competition for a temporary "place in the sun".

That is why the word "workers' **rights**" is disappearing and replaced by "**opportunities**". The system is casting out equality as an anachronism and is promising equal opportunities for the victims of exploitation.

At the same time, the dominant class in each country uses new technologies to increase the **monitoring of workers**, of the people. A **complex network of monitoring, surveillance and interconnected databases** has been formed in the EU (e.g.

Schengen Information System, the European Visa Information System). They are even proceeding to keep **records of the passengers' personal data in the aeroplanes**, in the name of countering terrorism.

This **orgy of electronic monitoring** is strengthening as the contradictions amongst the imperialist centres are sharpening. Therefore, for example, the EU's "**Digital Europe**" Programme attaches particular importance to the utilisation of high technology for cybersecurity, network and information security, infrastructure security.

In other words, capitalism is exploiting new technology, putting in danger every right and every aspect of our lives in general, and not just in the workplace.

The liberating force of socialism

Question: *Nowadays, the society for which the KKE fights, socialism, does not exist anywhere. In fact, if we look at the recent past, even where there was an effort at socialist construction, it did not succeed and it was overthrown. Many claim that because there was no profit incentive, there was no development of production and science. Is it possible that socialism is an obsolete solution? Is it possible that it is something unattainable?*

Answer: Socialism can liberate the productive forces of the country **since it radically changes the aim of production**, since it sets the needs of the society and not capitalist profit as a guide for growth.

Our plan of socialization, of social ownership of the means of production **liberates the main productive force, the worker** from the constraints of wage labour, of exploitation.

Under socialism, the workers, the employees, **will play an important part** in decision-making, in implementation and control of decisions. They will have a key role through their general assemblies, in each and every production unit, in each and every workplace and place of education.

In this superior type of organizing society, where the economy will be freed from the laws of the capitalist profit, **there can be centrally planned production** which ensures people's prosperity.

These theoretical positions have been confirmed by the historical experience of the 20th century. The first decades of socialist construction in Soviet Union have proven the possibility of putting the production process under conscious, planned social control.

October of 1917 revealed the superiority of central scientific planning for the development of the productive forces on the solid ground of working class power, of social ownership. The eradication of **unemployment** and **illiteracy**, the general, compulsory and free Education, the eight-hour workday, the leap of **space** exploration, the epic of converting an **industry of peace into an industry of war** before and during the World War II, are some of the significant examples of the first decades of Soviet power.

In order for us to perceive the significance of these accomplishments in the Soviet Union, we have to think about **the historical conditions under which those were accomplished**. The accomplishments of soviet power were accomplished under conditions of imperialist invasion, imperialist encirclement, permanent international threat and internal undermining of production. Soviet power also quickly covered the **enormous distance** that separated the pre-revolutionary, czarist Russia from the powerful capitalist states, such as the USA, Britain, and

Germany.

Someone will logically think: This being so, then why was socialism overthrown?

We could dedicate a lot of discussions only to this subject and it is worth reading the basic conclusions of the KKE that resulted from a collective assessment within the Party.

We can say, very briefly, that objectively the course of socialist construction **is not an easy thing**, it does not proceed smoothly and in a straight line. A number of **existing problems** that appeared in the 20th century, for example, **certain delays in the technological modernisation of industry** with negative consequences for the quality and efficiency of products, **were erroneously misunderstood** as inherent incapacities of socialist relations of production.

Especially after World War II, the Soviet Union **had to upgrading production and services** on the basis of a new, superior level of social needs. It had to solve this problem under conditions where



In 1975 the industrial production in USSR was much bigger than in Germany, France and Great Britain combined altogether.

there was a terrible loss of human life, from the most productive ages.

It was a particularly complicated problem, which concerned the **qualitative upgrading** of popular consumption products, the ensuring of **proportionate growth** among the sectors of production, **priority** in production of the means of production, the **expansion of automation** in many sectors of economy, the **necessary steps** that should have been taken to avoid the sharpening of the conflict between supervisory and executive labour.

During this crucial turning point, the solution needed to be given **with forward looking vision**, with the planned expansion of communist relations of production.

However, during the decade of the '50s, it was shown that **the theoretical dynamic had not been collectively mastered** in order to confront these problems in an effective way. There was internal party struggle within the Bolshevik Party, where the revolutionary forces stood up against the market supporters. Nevertheless, the steps of development of Marxist political economy of socialism **were insufficient** to tackle problems that concerned the prioritization of social needs and efficient planning for their satisfaction.

In the post-war period and especially after the 20th Congress of the CPSU in 1956, the road was wide open for overthrow, for a backsliding of history. Instead of **seeking** the solution to this problem **in a forward direction, towards the expansion and deepening of socialist relations of production, they sought a solution backwards, utilizing tools and relations of production that belonged to capitalism. The central supervision of the economic planning weakened.** Each and every productive unit **independently defined its own performance goals**, fragmenting

in essence, the overall aims of social production. **The market and commodity production gained ground;** income inequalities were increased; individual and collective ownership were strengthened, especially in the agricultural sector. The road was open for the victory of counter-revolution.

Nowadays, we know that the answer to the new problems which will arise from socialist construction **is not the return to market solutions, but the expansion and the complete dominance of socialist relations of production in the economy, scientific upgrading and the continuous adaptation of central planning** to the new requirements set by the new level of growth of social production.

Taught by historical experience, we gain a new revolutionary impetus, we march forward with revolutionary optimism in order to eradicate the cancer of capitalist ownership, to abolish exploitation of man by man.

Our revolutionary optimism is also based **on the great, new, objective possibilities** created by the contemporary era of the "digital economy" and the "4th Industrial Revolution", for socialist construction.

It is worth noting **that today we do not have the same technical and scientific limitations** that existed in Russia, in 1917 and in the Soviet Union of 1950, for the success of central planning and the deepening of the socialist relations of production.

Let's think of the possibilities that are provided by the **increase of labour productivity** so as to increase **free time** and to reinforce the creative content of labour, for workers that are the main productive force of each era.

We also have to take into account **the multitude of salaried scientists** that objectively belong to or approach the contemporary working class which did not exist in October of 1917.

Let's think of the new possibilities for scientific planning, to **take rapid and optimal decisions for complicated problems**, utilising modern possibilities **for rapid collection and intensive processing** of huge volumes of data and information that concern the needs of society as a whole.

Let's think of the new technological and scientific possibilities that exist to ensure not only **abundance but also the improvement of product quality**, for a rapid **improvement and control of production**, for prevention and **treatment of major accidents** that constitute a danger for thousands of people.

Another aspect concerns the **new possibilities of interdisciplinary research that will be free** from the chains of market competition, from the aim of ensuring capitalist profit; the possibilities of interdisciplinary research to **accurately predict ahead of time the future social needs and to define priorities**



for the economy.

Let's also think, within the context of socialist construction, of the impetus that the **creative development of Marxism will give to contemporary research and to the educational process in general**. On the one side, the knowledge of social categories and method of dialectical and historical materialism, which is absent

today from bourgeois scientific research to a great extent, can play a crucial role **in the development of thinking in every research process.**

On the other hand, let's think **how much new data and new research tasks** have arisen from the history of socialist construction and the overthrows of the 20th century for historical and economic research.

The overwhelming superiority of socialism, in comparison to capitalism, is also revealed from **the cohesive responses for the benefit** of the people, **which can be given for all crucial problems** that objectively arise from the new era of the "4th Industrial Revolution".

Socialism can respond to **thenecessary changes** regarding the content of labour, **the necessary mobility** of workers for new duties and type of work, in new sectors, **without living with the danger and fear of being unemployed, uninsured, without essential health care, as occurs under capitalism.**

On the basis of social ownership, central planning as opposed to the market jungle, it can shape and change **the distribution of labour and the scientific workforce in a scientific and planned way** as well as the means of production throughout the country, in every region, in every sector.

Socialism can ensure ongoing, requisite specialisation and retraining, the upgrading of knowledge and **workers' labor skills.** Socialism can unlock, **liberate their creative abilities,** because it brings them to the forefront of historical evolution for social liberation. It can utilise the **force of collective effort, the impetus of socialist friendly competition (Stakhanov).**

As we have seen, it can drive scientific research forward towards new innovative leaps for the satisfaction of social needs.

Socialism responded to those duties in the 20th century. From

pre-revolutionary Russia until 1975, the Soviet Union increased the number of scientists 100 times and they constituted the 1/4 of the global scientific workforce. The Soviet Union was **the first force, worldwide in terms of the number of inventions and patents and every year it produced more than 20%** of the new technical solutions that were registered at an international level.

Utilising both positive and negative experience, the new effort of socialist construction will be more efficient in the future.

The anti-people governmental policy for the “digital economy”

Question: *ND (New Democracy) claims that the bet of the era is to catch up with the train of the “digital economy”. They propagandize that they are playing the leading role in order to reinforce its utilisation, as at the level of the state apparatus, as well in order to offer more opportunities, especially for young people through the reinforcement of innovation and of entrepreneurship. SYRIZA is also on the same page.*

Is another governmental policy or a change of parties in bourgeois government sufficient, in order to overcome the problems that the youth faces today? And in order to respond to the aforementioned dilemmas that are set by the developments?

Answer: The government promotes that its policy is necessary so that Greece does not miss the train of the new technological revolution. The government claims that **its policy is self-evident** because all Member-States of the EU follow the same directives. It argues that its growth policy is beneficial for everyone; that it has neither an ideological underpinning nor a class-oriented character.

What does the government utilise in its communication?

It utilises the **crucial delay** in the modernisation of state services, which indeed causes problems for the popular strata. Think of the birth of a child, **the whole process that a parent has to go through** to register it, at the registry office, at the municipality, at the insurance fund. When somebody hears that a lot of services will be merged into a unique digital gateway, such as "gov.gr" which will be accessible via PC and cell-phone, he can easily become complacent, believing in the myth of "growth for everyone".

We can and we must reveal the deceptive bourgeois propaganda that "growth for everyone" is on the way. For that reason, it is necessary to **develop a broad ideological - political confrontation** which should reveal that the policy of digital modernisation proposed by the government is not class-neutral but, benefits the powerful business groups.

Concealed behind the declarations of ND for digital transformation, is the aim of utilising the new technological capabilities in order to implement in a more efficient and strategic way, the strategy of capital at the expense of the people. The prime minister highlights the obvious limitations of outmoded bureaucracy for communication purposes, **but hides the basic class-oriented aims** of digital state modernisation.

In the Health Sector, the electronic prescription aims to decrease the corresponding state expenditure at the expense of the popular family which means increasing so-called private expenditure.

In the Justice Sector, the electronic auction aims to decrease the possibility of an immediate reaction of the people's movement for their prevention.

The interconnection of individual services and Ministries aims also to reinforce the efficiency of state administration in order to implement anti-people governmental policy.

The **unified electronic system of business licensing** will be utilised within the current framework of new **discounts in terms of licensing and function**, in relation to the protection of residents, workers and the environment in order to facilitate investments.

In general, behind declarations about the digital leap of our country they conceal **the new, multifaceted state reinforcement of business groups**, with tax exemptions for applied research R&D, with reduced taxation for business income from intellectual property.

Behind the strengthening of **partnerships between enterprises, Universities and research foundations**, they conceal the complete control **of the choice of scientific research area**, of the flow and utilisation of scientific knowledge in production, by monopoly groups.

Respectively, the declarations for facilitation of worker's adaptation to the new conditions of the labour market, are translated as the demand of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) **that the worker should be adapted "according to the demands of each enterprise, of each client, and the market in general"**. SEV wants to convince us that flexible labour, intensification of labour, flexible working hours, abolition of every right to permanent employment are the results of new technology and not the result of its utilisation by monopoly groups.

SEV asks us to accept as normal the fact that the newly-offered job positions **will not only be temporary and short-term, but also one position will be distributed among 2 or 3 workers**.

However, we are fully aware uninsured labour, with starvation wages and exhausting working hours, **"zero-hour" contracts, "mini-jobs", "vouchers"**, are not the results of technology, but the results of the capital's desire to turn us into "fertilizer" for its profits.

SEV responds that there are **well-paid jobs** in the new

technology sectors for highly-specialized workers. What does SEV promote as a well-paid job? It considers that a salaried engineer, for example, a technician in telecommunications, is paid with a wage which is above minimum wage.

We respond that the last thing he needs, after 5 years of studies at polytechnic university and after **so much expense on the part of his parents**, after offering **such specialised labour** and after contributing to the high productivity of each business group that he should be pleased, satisfied **because he does not just earn the minimum wage**. Who are they fooling? The workers in the telecommunications sector could add more about the working conditions, the working hours, the intervention of the employers. They are aware of the fact that **the gap is widening between productivity and wages, in the telecommunications sector as well**.

The general tendency in all sectors is the **increase of exploitation and the decrease in the average wage**, the removal of working rights, in order to stave off the tendency of the rate of profit of the monopoly groups to fall. For this reason the people's discontent is increasing.

For that reason, the ruling class is utilising the new technological possibilities for **a further strike at the labour movement**. With the new law for Trade-Unions, ND demands that it should be ensured by **electronic vote that the 50% + 1** of the workers **agree** with a strike proclamation. ND wants to undermine **the General Assemblies, the force of collective decision-making**, which is the core of trade union function. ND tells us that the few cannot decide for the majority. And who says that? The Prime Minister that governs having the overall majority, while he has only gained 40% of the vote from those who voted, which represent only 57% of the registered voters; this means that he only gained less than

25% of the people's vote.

At the same time, the ruling class utilises technological changes so as to take away **workers' rights that have been won through labour law**. SEV claims that the new conditions weaken the typical criteria of employers' control regarding the **location**, the **time** and the **type of labour** of salaried workers, which are factors forming the preconditions for implementing labour law. SEV claims that the criteria of distinction between salaried labour and self-employment are no longer sufficient. A tough battle at the theoretical, scientific, and legal level will be required in order to highlight that the main criterion is whether the worker sells his labour power to the capitalist, regardless of whether he works from home, without defined working hours, by teleworking or whether he works from another city or from another country.

In conclusion, the governmental policy for the digital transformation of Greece, **serves capital**, which keeps us entrapped in the swamp of exploitation, insecurity about tomorrow, poverty, unemployment.

We are not in danger due to digital transformation; we are in danger because of its utilisation by capital. For that reason, we are taking a decisive step to reveal that this governmental policy is neither self-evident, nor something beneficial for all; **to reveal that the capitalist path of development is a one-way road only for capital**; to demonstrate that there is a radically different path that can utilise and develop new technology for the satisfaction of our needs. This is the path of socialism, of social emancipation, because real freedom can exist only in a society free of exploitation of man by man.

We open up this path of genuine overthrow in a militant way, supporting the spots of resistance and counterattack against bourgeois policy in every workplace, in every sector, in every

neighbourhood.

We fight against the content of bourgeois policy and not against the technological means and its achievements utilised by this policy. Of course, the problem is not the electronic prescription by itself and the digital medical record, but their utilisation in the framework of a system that converts medicine and Health itself into a commodity.

The problem is not the technological capability of someone to express his opinion in an immediate way and through the Internet, but the utilisation of this capability so as to undermine the General Assemblies and strike struggles of the labour movement.

All these new possibilities, in the hands of capital, are converted into a yoke, into new burdens for workers. For that reason all our militant efforts for signing collective labour agreements, a 35-hour workweek - 5-day workweek - 7-hour workday, the demand for stable work, for everyone and universal, public and free Health and Education, the abolition of tax robbery, the abolition of the strike-killer bill for trade unions, these efforts should aim at the actual culprits, the power of capital.

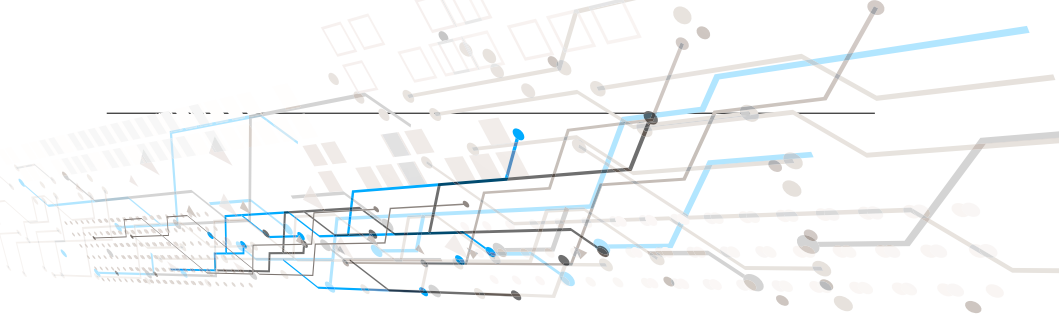
Dear friends,

Today, **we already have the knowledge and we will find the power** to confront our true opponent, to live a life without exploitation, in the contemporary era of the "digital economy". We, salaried workers, the self-employed, the young generation, we will put our mark on the developments, strengthening the KKE everywhere.

We can and we must organise our counterattack in order to move the Wheel of History forward.



Event of the 45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis



Intervention by Konstantina Tsioupra¹

We, the young communists, are not afraid of the new technology. The system is persuading the people that we are afraid. On the contrary, we need to use technology for the benefit of our life and future! So we can have more free time, so we can utilize it, so we can work decent working hours with labour rights, so we can enjoy education at the highest level.

The capitalist system, however, is trying in every way to ensure its power, the bourgeois class is trying to keep its power in its hands.

The system utilizes all the mechanisms and ways to prevent the youth -and not only the youth – from organizing the counterattack, the struggle for the overthrow of this system.

The perception that nothing changes, that this system is eternal, that communism is obsolete, that socialism failed and that it is an anti-democratic and unfree regime, these are some of the perceptions that lead in this direction.

These are connected to the distortion of history in order to be more convincing.

Besides, it is not a coincidence that NATO, the EU “is betting” a lot of money on programs that shape the consciousness of young people...

¹ Member of the Bureau of the Central Council of KNE

The European Parliament's attitude is revealing, when they didn't hesitate to pass a resolution which identified fascism with communism, which claimed that the USSR was a loyal ally to Nazi Germany!

Young men and women must and can deal with anything they hear and read in a critical and class-oriented way.

The determinant factor in order to be able to strengthen our struggle for a different type of society is the effort to conquer knowledge, to learn the truth, to find what is hidden behind the content which is written in school and scientific books. The new publication of the Ideological Committee of the the CC of KNE entitled "Counterattack. For a Society Without Exploitation, for Socialism" contributes in this direction.

We must not stand with our arms crossed facing anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. We reveal the truth; we confront every such attempt we may face in our classes, or every such attempt that may be promoted by other political forces.

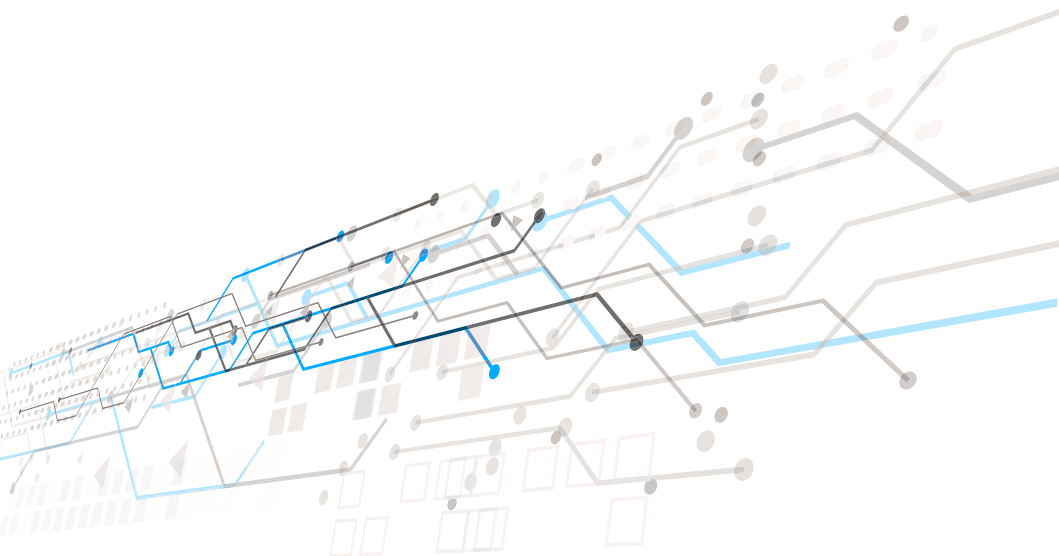
The struggle for comprehensive education at all levels of Education is a struggle to win the consciousness of more people on the path of confrontation and resistance. It is a struggle for the youth to not remain complacent. This is the reason that this struggle is a political struggle.

What is necessary today is to strengthen the struggle for the overthrow of this rotten exploitative system! To strengthen the struggle to demand all the contemporary needs based on the capabilities that exist today, against the government, the imperialistic mechanisms, generally the bourgeois state and its mechanisms.

It is important to open up the conversation widely in every place where young people are concentrated, for us to be those who help raise concerns about what has to be done

today! Young communists, those who don't compromise with the current bad situation, we must lead the organization of struggle in every area, in organizing demands for every issue that concerns the youth. We must lead so this compromising with less can end!

Because the era we live in is the era when we all should be living with more! This is the reason why our future is Socialism!





Event of the 45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis

THE “CHERNOBYLS” OF CAPITALISM, BEHIND THE MYTH OF “GREEN DEVELOPMENT”

Comrades and Friends,

We welcome you to the 45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis. The topic of our discussion is “The ‘Chernobyls’ of capitalism, behind the myth of ‘Green Development’ “.

It is a topic that came into the limelight after the recent catastrophic wildfires on the Amazon River, the launching of the American TV-series on the explosion in the nuclear power station that produced electric energy in Ukraine, the mobilization on September, 20th around environmental issues, the so-called “green economy” etc.

THE “CHERNOBYLS” OF CAPITALISM

Speech by Evi Georgiadou ¹

Question: *The nuclear accident was brought into the limelight again after the well-known American TV-series. Have similar accidents happened in capitalist countries and why don't we hear anything about them? What conclusions can be drawn from these accidents?*

¹ Member of the Health Department and the Environment Committee of the Economy Department of the CC of the KKE

Answer: In the recent period anti-communist and anti-soviet propaganda has been heating up, utilizing the TV-series of HBO on Chernobyl. The series includes numerous inaccuracies and misrepresentations. At the same time, the bourgeois staff don't show the large technological accidents that have occurred in capitalist countries, they try to hide their real consequences on health and safety from the occupational risk, industrial pollution and other hazardous factors, such as the exposure of the population to various radiation sources. **They attempt to conceal the true cause of all these, which is the capitalist system itself.**

In an area with facilities that manage hazardous substances (flammable, explosive and toxic) or at nuclear energy facilities, unless the necessary precautionary measures are taken, there is the danger of a Major Industrial Accident (MIA). We mean, for example, explosions and fires, toxic substance leaks into the atmosphere or a radioactivity leak. The consequences of such accidents are connected to a great number of casualties and injuries, not only immediate but also long-term, the cause of serious health problems to the population and the pollution of the environment.

The MIA that have taken place in capitalist countries are not shown, on the contrary with the case of Chernobyl, and they make specific attempts to conceal the main cause that leads to safety violations, as well as to technical weaknesses, lack of safety systems, insufficient maintenance, construction of facilities within a small distance from residential areas, important weaknesses in preparedness to effectively deal with an accident and in the protection and informing of the population. These lacks and deficiencies are not random. The production criterion for capitalism is the safeguarding of capitalist profit.

The spatial planning of a facility in relation to residential areas and neighboring facilities, the terms, under which it will operate and the safety measures it will take (e.g. safety systems, organizational precautionary measures, maintenance etc.) are defined by a cost-profit analysis for the capitalist and not by the satisfaction of social needs.

In the tables below some indicative basic information is mentioned on the massive technological accidents that have taken place in capitalist countries.



Seveso, Italy 1976, "Icmesa" Subsidiary of "RocheGroup"

Description: Large quantity leak of the extremely toxic carcinogenic TCDD (it belongs to the category of dioxins; it is very difficult to remove and it reaches the human organism through the food chain).

Consequences: Abortions due to the fear of teratogenesis,

dermatological diseases, burns, cardiac and respiratory problems, consequences to the reproductive system, memory problems, killing of 7.000 animals etc. Many studies, years after the accident, have proven that the accident is responsible for many cases of cancer.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Insufficient monitoring by the authorities, spatial planning of the facilities, safety systems, planning, non-observance of safety procedures, the population was not informed in due time.

Toulouse, France 2001

Description: Explosion at a fertilizer factory.

Consequences: 30 casualties, 2240 wounded, 5.079 people in need of special psychological support, material damages, consequences to the environment.



Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned):

Incompatible chemicals, too many contractors, small distance from a residential area - chain accident hazard (domino effect).



"Piper Alpha", North Sea 1988

Description: Fire on an oil production platform.

Consequences: 167 casualties.

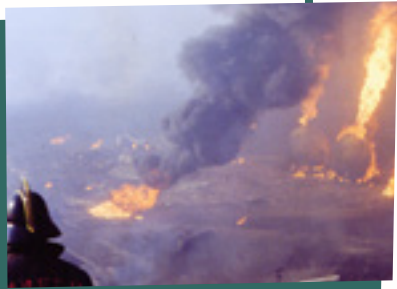
Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned):
Safety procedures, training.

San Juanico, Mexico City 1984

Description: Fire-explosions at the liquid petroleum gas tank farm (LPG) of the city.

Consequences: 650 casualties, more than 6.400 wounded.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Lack of safety systems, facility planning (safety distances), lack of emergency response planning.



Pasadena, Texas, USA, 1989

Description: Vapor cloud explosion at the High-density polyethylene (HDPE) facility of the company "Philips 66".

Consequences: 23 casualties, 314 wounded.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Safety procedure, safety systems, escape routes.





Bhopal, India 1984

Description: “Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL)” pesticide plant, leak of a large quantity of a very toxic gas (methyl isocyanate).

Consequences: Official government sources mention 3.800 casualties and 11.000 people that until today, face

health problems. Other sources even mention 20.000 casualties and 120.000 people with health problems (cancer, teratogenesis, respiratory problems, disabilities, sight problems, problems in the reproductive system).

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Insufficient maintenance, large quantity of hazardous substances storage, lack of safety systems, no safety measures were taken to resolve the problem, the residents were “abandoned to find protection on their own”, there was no emergency response plan.

Buncefield,

United Kingdom 2005

Description: Fire at an oil storage facility.

Consequences: 43 wounded, significant damage, 2.000 residents were evacuated to another region, consequences to the environment and health due to the dispersion of toxic substances.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned):

Insufficient maintenance, insufficient high-level monitoring system, safety procedures and systems.



Deep Water Horizon, Gulf of Mexico 2010

Description: “BP” subsidiary company, explosion - fire on the hydrocarbon extraction platform.

Consequences: 11 casualties, 17 wounded, enormous ecological catastrophe, very serious consequences to fishery, tourism and other sectors. International scientific

studies examine the long-term impact of oil spills on the health of the residents of the affected areas, and of the employees-volunteers that took part in the clean-up procedure. In some of the cases, research also focuses on the possibility of carcinogenesis. For example, high concentration of genotoxic substances in the air have been detected (even 4 years after the accident in the Gulf of Mexico), high heavy metal concentration in the blood, DNA damage, increased risk of skin cancer occurrence and hematological problems.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Safety systems (resister in the explosion, alternative energy resource, ATEX, emergency shutdown).

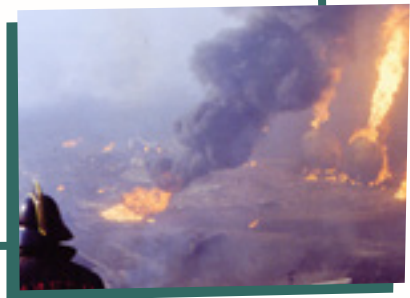


Texas, USA 2005

Description: Explosion-Fire at a “BP” oil refinery.

Consequences: 15 casualties, 170 wounded, serious damage.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Insufficient maintenance (in a previous inspection a problem had occurred and never was resolved), safety system planning, emergency response planning.



Enschede, Netherlands 2000

Description: Explosion at a fireworks depot.

Consequences: 22 casualties (four of them firefighters), 944 wounded, serious damage (damage to 2.000 houses)

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Storage of large quantities of explosives in the facility, safety distances (the facility was very close to a residential area).



Fucushima, Japan 2011

Description: Nuclear Power Plant, large radiation leak (7 on the nuclear accidents scale) after an earthquake - tsunami.

Consequences: Cases of cancer have already been recorded, along with casualties (leukemia, lung cancer in the employees responsible for restoration),

thyroid cancer in children, while the cancer cases are expected to increase within the following twenty years. Deaths of elderly people during the evacuation.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Safety systems (alternative energy system, prediction for an earthquake of this level), location of the facility, insufficient maintenance, the measures for the cooling of the reactor were not taken in due time, safety procedures, insufficient emergency response planning (e.g. there was confusion among the population, the evacuation did not take place in a timely manner, there was a difficulty in providing iodine tablets).

Three Mile Island, USA 1979

Description: Nuclear Generating Station, radiation leak (5 on the nuclear accidents scale).

Consequences:

- Symptoms right after the accident: “metallic taste and smell, hair loss, menstrual disorders, burning in the eyes, respiratory problems, skin problems, nausea - vomiting, diarrhea and hemorrhage of the digestive system, cardiac dysfunction.
- Published studies mention increased cancer cases in the area (leukemia, lungs etc.), while a recent study (2017) shows increased thyroid cancer cases related to the accident.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Complicated system, operator training, organization of labor, problematic accident handling (there was confusion among the population, the announcement calling for evacuation was made late, 28 hours after the accident official statements were made stating that “everything is under control”, later the comment was “things are more complicated”. Schools were closed and there was an inducement to the people to stay safe at home, children and pregnant women should stay at least 5 miles away from the accident area, the evacuation was not obligatory, no iodine tablets were given out).



Basel, Switzerland 1986

Description: “Sandoz” facilities, fire, while attempting to extinguish it, tons of chemicals were thrown into the Rhine River.

Consequences: Huge ecological catastrophe.

Highlighted issues (indicatively mentioned): Lack of retention basins for the fire-fighting water.



About Chernobyl

Question: *How did a major accident like this of Chernobyl occur in a socialist country?*

Answer: Particularly for the case of the Chernobyl accident, it should be noted first that the HBO television series contains a number of inaccuracies and distortions and is a part of the general anti-Soviet anti-communist campaign. For example, aspects of this misconception is the negative portrayal of the **enormous heroic task of cleaning up the accident site** (more than 500,000 people were involved in the cleaning works), of the rapid evacuation of the local population from a large area, as well as the exaggeration of the impact of the accident.

The television series, for example, reports 93,000 casualties as a result of the accident, a number that has nothing to do with reality. **According to the official reports of World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations, 28 workers who participated in the cleanup died within a few days after the accident.** A relevant report of WHO in 2016 mentions that 11,000 cases of thyroid cancer had been reported in the population of the surrounding countries, citing the accident as the main cause. According to another relevant report in 2006, 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer were indicated and the proportion of those who survived these cases reached 99.75%. Other effects have also been documented such as increased possibility of appearance of cataract cases among clean-up crew workers, psychological impacts, etc.

What is concealed, or negatively portrayed by bourgeois propaganda, is the effectiveness of the initial evacuation the day following the accident concerning the 50,000 residents of Pripjat city that **took place within 3.5 hours using 1,200 buses**

and 200 trucks. Let us compare, for example, what has not been done for the evacuation of the population in the region of Mati in Greece or the delay and confusion created within the population regarding evacuation in the event of other accidents (e.g. nuclear accidents in the USA and Japan, Bhopal, Seveso, etc.). The authorities' concealment of the danger and the lack of information in other cases of accidents in capitalist countries are supposedly presented as "avoidance of pressure" on the population.

The self-sacrifice and heroism of those involved in the effort to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl accident is presented as a result of extortion. The enormous project of rapidly evacuating the Chernobyl population by providing housing, healthcare and work, as well as the enormous cleaning and restoration work at the site of the accident, **shows socialism's supremacy, although it was already in a period of retreat.** This particular period, during which the counter-revolutionary overthrow was underway, is directly related to the failures and the possible causes of the accident. The full identification of the deeper causes of this accident has not yet been determined by the historical and scientific research that needs to be continued. We should certainly appreciate that we are referring to the Gorbachev period, where the central management of the economy, in general central planning and workers' control, was being systematically undermined. The ground was favorable for a serious breach of safety regulations in order to achieve some goals, or even for sabotage. But in any case, the images presented in the television series has nothing to do with reality. For example, the well-meaning viewer can only laugh at the ridiculous portrayal of operators who didn't know the instructions for such accidents and were reading the

manual as the accident was in progress in order to find out what to do...

On the other hand, bourgeois propaganda does not highlight the consequences and causes of nuclear reactor accidents in capitalist countries, and especially the major nuclear accidents in Fukushima, Japan, in 2011 and in Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, USA in 1979. The accident in Japan is considered to be very serious (at the highest severity scale) with high radioactivity leakage. Cancer cases and casualties among restoration crew workers, thyroid cancer in children have already been documented, and cancer incidents are expected to increase within 20 years. It is characteristic that concerning the accident in the USA in 1979, very little information has been revealed and it is alleged that it did not have a significant impact on the population's health. However, published studies have reported increased cancer incidents in the area, while a recent study (2017) shows increased thyroid cancer associated with the accident. Regarding the nuclear accidents in Japan



Cleaning works at the site of the accident.

and the USA, it has been recorded that there was confusion in the population in the early days, no immediate evacuation had been carried out, etc.

Growth and energy technology selection forwhom?

Question: *After these accidents, would the abandonment of the use of nuclear power be a solution?*

Answer: All technologies and forms of powergeneration have both advantages and disadvantages. The issue is who owns, who controls, the energy sources and the means of production and with what criteria he makes decisions. The safety of using a technology depends on many factors related to intrinsic preventive measures, preventive measures to avoid creating hazardous situations, maintenance, safety systems, emergency planning, organization of labor, use of the land, environmental protection measures etc. **Under capitalism, what technical and organizational measures will be taken, depend on a cost-benefit analysis based on the profitability of capital.** Planning is done in an anarchic way by every capitalist enterprise. There is no effective state control. Even safety regulations themselves are more flexible.

In the hands of capital, for example, even the setting up of wind farms often leads to excessive occupation of forest land, lack of funds for landslide risk, it becomes an incentive for arsons, and there are public health risks from overhead and underground electrical energy networks, fire danger, disturbance of groundwater and surface water balance etc.

In addition, the criteria for chosing the one or the other technology must be integrated into the overall needs. For

example, the need to reduce energy dependency, to utilize domestic resources for each country, etc. should be taken into account. We should not choose what needs we shall sacrifice for the sake of the profit. It is no coincidence that in the socialist countries there was energy supply for the households at -20°C.

In the context of the capitalist path of development, where the design of production and the operation of facilities is based on capital profitability, the exploitation of all forms of energy cannot guarantee the protection of workers, residents and the environment. Only under socialism, where the criterion of growth is the satisfaction of all social needs, can there be people's prosperity and technological and scientific progress can be exploited for the safety and health of the population and the protection of the environment.

That's why the dilemma of "yes or no to nuclear power" is fictitious. **The production of nuclear power in Greece in today's sociopolitical conditions, where the motor force of capitalist profit is dominant, it cannot** fully utilize the following factors for the benefit of the people's interest:

- Domestic sources (water, lignite, wind energy, oil deposits)
- Technical requirements to ensure maximum safety and health protection for workers and the population as well as for the environment (suitable positioning, plant power capacity, latest technology generation, safety systems, safe operation and maintenance, etc.)
- Mutually beneficial international agreements involving the transfer of know-how.

In the context of the liberalized energy market of monopoly competition and imperialist wars, nuclear energy production (as well as the introduction of energy sources, technology or the export of waste) is generally carried out in conditions

unfavorable to public safety and public consumption.

Equally fictitious is the dilemma "yes or no to the extraction of hydrocarbons".

The use of nuclear technology in Greece, the extraction of hydrocarbons and any form of energy technology in general, should be judged through a complete state energy production plan for the benefit of the people's needs. **The safe utilization of all forms of energy** to meet people's needs (energy dependency reduction, inexpensive people's consumption, environmental protection, workplace and public health and safety, etc.) **can only be guaranteed** in the context of social ownership of the entire energy sector, of scientific central planning, of working class power.

THE “GREEN ECONOMY” AS A CAPITAL'S PROFITABLE WAY OUT

Speech by Antonis Rallatos ¹

Question: *The green economy, green development, Renewable Energy Sources, also known as ‘renewables’, are presented as the only way out for the sharpened environmental problems, gaseous pollutants, climate change, (with or without quotes), the global warming, etc. Do you agree with that approach?*

Answer: At a global level, at international summits, international organization meetings such as the UN, as well as in international imperialist alliances and unions (EU, NATO, World Bank, OECD, IMF, etc.), the so-called climate change and the strategy to confront its consequences constitute a basic element.

Its emergence, the intensity and the size of the problem, the cause of any type of deterioration, the impacts and their confrontation, exist openly within the scientific debate at an international level with different and even opposing relevant opinions.

According to the scientific research of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and to different models, the temperature on Earth may increase by 1.4 - 5.8°C during the period 1990 - 2100. However we emphasize that an important percentage of uncertainty prevails at the level of scientific prediction given the expected climatic changes in the future, and their consequences.

¹ Member of the Agricultural Policy section and the Environmental Group of the Economy Section of the CC of the KKE

Aspects of the developments at the international level

The resurgence of the debate on the so-called “climate change”, is taking place in conditions marked by a slowdown of the international capitalist economy, with a possibility of an outbreak of a new international crisis. On this ground, competitive interests are developing in a rapid way, along with contradictions and profitable areas at the international level such as the “Green New Deal” that appeared for the first time in 2008.

The role of the capitalist states and their international imperialist alliances is being upgraded in order to confront climate change, definitely in favor of the interests of the multinational monopoly groups that support and are already promoting business activity towards a “green economy”, utilizing “climate change” as a strong political-economic weapon.

The “green” economy appears to be a very charming, new, motor force of the world economy which “is gasping for breath” nowadays, and thus they consider it as the way out for capitalist growth, in the name of confronting climate change. Many present themselves as defenders of the “protection of the planet”, the environment, Renewable Energy Sources, “clean” energy. Investments are increasing and they are particularly profitable, while resulting in the absolute deterioration of class-social contradictions, in the intensification of exploitation, of poverty etc.

As we can see in the table, 2015 was the record year of investment in soft energy technologies that attracted \$348.5 billion.

THE INVESTMENTS IN RENWEABLE ENERGY SOURCES (in billions of dollars)			
	WORLDWIDE	EUROPE	CHINA
2010	239	113,4	39,6
2011	279	122,9	47,4
2012	257	89	61,7
2013	234	60	62
2014	273	62	87,8
2015	348,5	48,8	102,9

Source: Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st century

Dear comrades.

In these conditions, inter-imperialist contradictions are being expressed and sharpening along with the debate around “climate change”, where the competition of the US, Germany, China, Russia, France, the EU as an imperialist alliance and other strong capitalist centers and predatory alliances prevails.

The disagreements and compromises between imperialist centers, expressed at all international meetings, reflect the sharpening of monopoly competition, the inter-imperialist contradictions for control of the markets, while exploiting the problems of environmental pollution created by them, at the expense of the people’s interests and the countries that are weaker within imperialist distribution.

The inter-state agreements for the enforcement of “clean” technologies have the additional capitalist profit as a motor

force on the basis of capital exports, market control by monopoly groups, the advantageous position of strong states in the formation of international standards and agreements.

In reality, the capitalists and their states are not concerned about the environment, the climate and people's lives. Every proposed "solution" has negative consequences, because it is tailor-made for profit, while at the same time it drastically increases the cost for the peoples (e.g. "green power" is 5-10 times more expensive). It intensifies worker exploitation and in the end, it has extreme consequences for the environment, either talking about funnels burning fossil fuels, or talking about investments in "green renewables" that require thousands of acres of mountains and forests for the installation of new networks the indirectly pollute the environment and are run on toxic batteries.

The Rio, Johannesburg, Kyoto, Paris **"resolutions" on the climate and the environment did not prevent death, thirst for millions of people, famine, epidemics and natural disasters, as well as their consequences from imperialist wars.**

The inter-state capitalist agreement of the Paris Summit as well as the other international agreements, were formed after disagreements, contradictions and compromises of imperialist centers. They were expressed in the determination of goals, control mechanisms, funding allocation, implementation schedules. They utilize climate change as an opportunity for the multinational groups and a profitable penetration into new markets, for control of the markets and regions and their redistribution, for acquiring stronger positions that will ensure their profitability. In the name of the pursuit of a healthier planet, they draw a veil over the multinational groups' attack against the working class and the popular strata who are the

daily victims of intensified capitalist exploitation and the meat for their cannons. Such agreements, like the subsequent one in Madrid, will most probably lead to a dead-end.

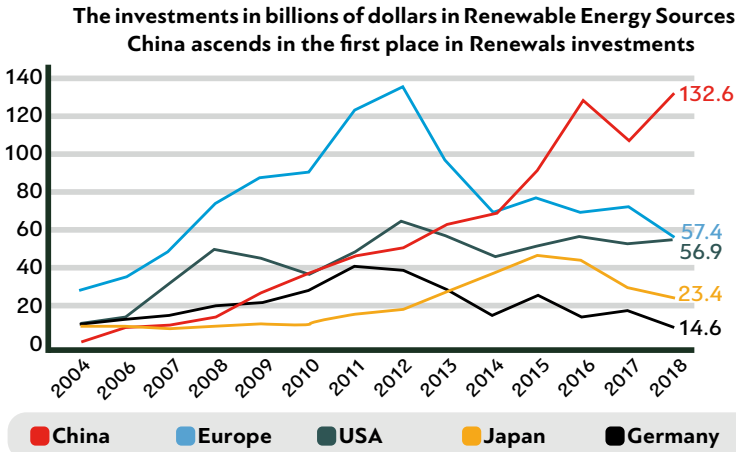
At the international level, the inter-imperialist contradictions are also expressed in the discussion around climate change, mainly:

- Between the oil producing countries and the oil consuming countries that have divergent interests, as well as within countries, like e.g. between the oil monopolies and the “green economy” monopolies.

For example, the “aggressive turn” towards Renewable Energy Sources as a basic strategy of former President of the US, Obama, expresses an aspect of the general conflict between the sections of American monopoly capital (oil and natural gas multinationals) and is connected with ensuring the industrial and technological supremacy over China, the EU, Japan, as well as the energy “decarbonization” of the US from oil. These contradictions are expressed and reflect the preferences of the oil multinationals in favor of Trump, who supports the oil groups.

China has put forward the ambitious goal of achieving supremacy in the promotion of “green” energy over the EU. In 2015 China announced a five-year investment plan of hundreds of billions of dollars per year, for the construction and development of a renewable energy sources infrastructure. Nowadays they find themselves in the first position regarding renewables investments.

The stance of Russia concerns the pursuit of the Russian bourgeois class to ensure the conditions for the improvement of its position in the international market, exploiting its comparative advantages of self-sufficiency in liquid and gas fuels, as well as its geopolitical position in the sensitive-for-



Russia zone of Central Asia and Caucasus, where the American advance deprives it of vital space.

- **The conflict is also expressed by the emissions trading system, which is utilized for the increase of monopoly group profitability.**
- **The inter-imperialist contradictions are also expressed by the competition for “food security” which is already underway in the Arctic region.**

The European Union

The **EU** is at the forefront of the issue of climate change and in international imperialist coordination. It has voted for all the agreements and treaties. It plays a leading role in the formation of relevant policies and promotes the enforcement of world-binding targets for pollutant reduction and the creation of an emissions market for all the OECD countries.

This stance of the EU is connected to the acceleration of the transition to a low-carbon emission the economy and one of “clean” - “green” energy with the encouragement of investments in new technologies, in Renewable Energy Sources and a circular economy, thus implementing its strategic goal, **namely to become a world leader in the “green energy” sector**, to further widen the market of relevant commodities, while **ensuring the profitability, the competitiveness of the leading European monopoly groups** in the sharpened international competition.

At the same time, it attempts to reduce its dependency on imported fossil fuels, to increase the share of Renewable Energy Sources in energy production and at the global level, to expand its military potential at the level of *“EU security of energy supply”* and the *“risks linked to climate change”*, and concern inter alia the *“deterioration of the threat of social and political strife”*. For that reason it considers that *“climate change also entails security in political dialogue, the prevention of confrontations, development and humanitarian action and strategies for the risk of disasters”*. On this basis, within the context of the G7 and the UN, it supports taking the necessary response measures.

The conditions formed in the emissions market, since 2018 have led to an increase in the number of voices who consider that a world emissions stock market can constitute a more effective and economical tool for the reduction of emissions and for the achievement of climate goals.

The **World Bank** is particularly interested in the promotion of large investments for “clean energy” especially in Africa and Asia.

Greece's Role

Greece, as a member-state of the EU specializes and implements its strategy. In this framework, all the bourgeois governments (ND, PASOK, SYRIZA) have been historically implementing this strategy, **promoting the development of the Renewable Energy Sources (renewals) in favor of the respective multinational companies, resulting in an increase in the cost of electricity for the people**, as was admitted in the report of the Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection of the Parliament.

For Greece, the compliance with the decisions of the Paris Summit concerns electricity production that determines its energy independence. In the name of the demands for reducing the CO₂ emissions of the Public Power Corporation (PPC), the replacement of cheap, local lignite with the more expensive, imported natural gas as a strategic fuel for power generation is aimed for, because it is "environmentally friendly".

The "energy disengagement from lignite" satisfies the demands of investing or interested in investing business companies in power generation stations of natural gas that were not able to compete with the lignite stations of PPC S.A., which produce cheaper electricity, and request from the governments an increase in the contribution of natural gas to the fuel mixture for electricity production that will lead to an increase the price of KWh production. With this regulation, the introduction of private capital into the electricity sector is achieved along with the harmonization of Greece with EU strategies.

The Bank of Greece (for the promotion of a sustainable financial system), along with the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, Piraeus Bank, the Hellenic Federation of

Enterprises, the Greek Tourism Confederation and other big business companies, have been the ones leading the effort to adjust to climate change in Greece.

Furthermore, the National Bank and Piraeus Bank follow the developments in the measures to face climate change and promote investments in Renewals, in the construction sector for energy efficient buildings, in the insurance sector, organic farming, bio-fuels, the Food and Beverage sector, Telecommunications, Tourism.

The government of ND, just like all the previous bourgeois governments and bourgeois parties have done in great accordance, claim that the path towards “green” energy, the turn towards a “green” and circular economy, energy efficiency and addressing climate change, the overall change in the Greek production model, can lead to “just” development in favor of everyone. They participate in the formation of an environmental and general strategy of competitiveness of the EU, the dominant class, in the emissions trading system; they



The resolutions on Climate and Environment ultimately aim at ensuring the profitability of the monopoly groups.

"fight" under the flag of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises for a radical turn to Renewals, attempting "disengagement from oil and fossil energy resources", they actively participate in the general imperialist plans.

The government of SYRIZA formed the "National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy" in 2016. The government of ND, stepping on the National Plan of the SYRIZA government, is preparing a long-term strategy within the EU framework, a plan for climate and energy that is expected to be submitted in the period to come, that will serve as a compass of the state and private individuals aiming to facilitate the attraction of more investments, the acceleration of the "disengagement from lignite" of domestic electricity production and the strengthening of the role of Greece as an international energy hub.

Their common goal is to promote the strategic interests of the monopoly groups of Greece and EU that operate in the profitable sector of the climate change "economy", the environmental strategy of the EU. All together they cloud the fact that the cause that exacerbates all environmental problems is capitalism.

Only socialism can ensure the protection of the environment

Question: *The protection of the environment is considered by many to be a matter that concerns us all. Shouldn't a common political solution by all political forces be sought, since the negative consequences will burden all the inhabitants of Earth?*

Answer: The exacerbation of the environmental problems, the failures and the compromises of the imperialist centers with the international agreements and treaties, **reveal the**

one and only truth that man, human activity, his labor and knowledge, scientific and technological advances are not to blame for climate change, the greenhouse effect, ozone “depletion”, enormous destruction of the environment, lack of clean water and healthy foods, diseases that claim the lives of millions of people every year, constant degradation of the environment, the increasing expansion of shantytowns, the increasingly frequent and painful consequences of weather phenomena against the poor popular strata that destroy the plant and animal wealth, infrastructure, the monuments of world cultural heritage.

The one to blame is imperialism, the capitalist system that is decaying and can carry even the whole planet into destruction. This is the background for the military imperialist war invasions of the USA of the EU and their allies in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Asia, Africa and Ukraine, competing with Russia and China, that lead millions of impoverished people into becoming refugees, and not climate change like the political officials of the bourgeoisie and their imperialist associations claim so.

The KKE assesses that addressing climate change is a political problem of class interest conflict. Any climate change, the protection of the environment cannot be addressed independently from the motor force of production, the path of development every society follows.

The very nature of the capitalist system that gives birth, reproduces and worsens the environmental problems, the constant pursuit for greater profits for ensuring more powerful geostrategic positions that will safeguard them. **The action of capital, the multinational monopolies, on the one hand sharpens the specific problems and on the other,**

entrap the effort to solve them within the framework of commercialization and capitalist relations of production in general.

Under capitalism, the progress of science and technology is in the hands of the capitalists who provoke catastrophic consequences for the working class, nature and ultimately society. The increase in workers' exploitation, the plundering of the labor force are accompanied by the over-exploitation of natural resources, by competition for the ownership and control of the wealth-producing resources, by imperialist invasions and wars. The solution to the problems in favor of the peoples cannot exist within the framework of the capitalist path of growth.

Capitalist growth that ultimately depends on ensuring the profitability of investments, presupposes exploitation, the plundering of wealth produced by the workers, the plundering of their rights, the environment, the natural resources of land and their use in the field of investments. The so-called climate change constitutes one more effort to manage the huge environmental problems from the point of view of the interests of monopoly capital in the name of the "clean"- "green" economy and entrepreneurship.

The KKE highlights that only the overthrow of the decaying capitalist system in Greece and all around the world, the socialization of wealth and the means of production, working class power, the development of economy based not on capitalist profit but on the satisfaction of the people's needs, can ensure a planned, stable, conscious and balanced impact of the working man on nature, on environment.

It demands large and concentrated means of production to be put under social, workers' control; to operate within the

framework of central scientific planning that can mark a course of such criteria.

With these preconditions, the maximum utilization of the domestic wealth-producing resources and raw materials, of water and wind force for electricity production can be possible, which will be based on the inexpensive, domestic energy sources, applying modern technologies for capturing and processing pollutants, recycling, which can and must operate in a friendly way towards the environment and man, without compromising the future of Greece.

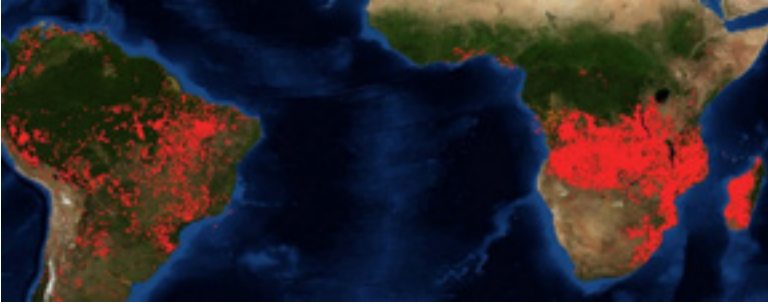
Energy planning, industrial policy, the construction of infrastructure at all levels etc.; presuppose unified state mechanisms of managing people's ownership, of distributing resources and the labor force, distributing the wealth produced based on central planning.

Under these conditions, the protection of the environment can be ensured in favor of the people.

This is why the KKE is calling upon the working class to organize its struggle; to regroup the workers' trade-union movement; to lead the social alliance, on the path of rupture and overthrow of the power of capital that constitutes the cause of the worsening of life itself and the sharpening of environmental problems.

On the occasion of the great fires in the Amazon River rainforest

The greatest danger for the Amazon River rainforest was and still is the increasing over-deforestation for extracting wood, turning it into agricultural crops for example soya, access to mines, construction of hydroelectric dams and roads, cow breeding etc.



NASA satellite images depicting with red color the fires during the period of the great destruction in the Amazon River rainforest.

Photo caption: NASA satellite images depicting with red color the fires during the period of the great destruction to the Amazon River rainforest.

20% of the rainforest is already gone. If deforestation continues at the same rate, there will be no trees in 27% of the rainforest by 2030.

While thousands of fires were incinerating the Amazon River rainforest, a NASA satellite image was showing that Africa too... was burning, to a much greater extent! Sub-Saharan Africa, from Angola, Congo, to Tanzania and Zambia, was all red exactly because there were huge fires there!

Just on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd of August 2019, 6.902 fires were recorded in Angola and 3.395 in Congo contrary to 2.127 in Brazil. Meaning, over 10.000 fires were recorded within 48 hours in sub-Saharan Africa, contrary to the approximately 2.000 in Brazil! The fires in the sub-Saharan Africa concern the tropical rainforest of Congo, which is considered the "second lung of the Earth" after the Amazon River rainforest, covering 3.3 million square kilometers! The silence around this destruction in relation to the Amazon rainforest, demonstrates

the contradictions, the feasibility and the interests behind the situation that is being shaped in the Amazon River rainforest.

Overall, no one can claim with scientific accuracy that the fires in the Amazon River rainforest are due to climate change. It is just utilized in the direction of assimilating the peoples and public opinion into climate change when, as a poster circulating on the internet makes it very explicit in its context, **“NO ES FUEGO. ES CAPITALISMO” – “IT IS NOT THE FIRE. IT IS CAPITALISM”**



Event of the 45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis

PHOTO CREDITS

45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis

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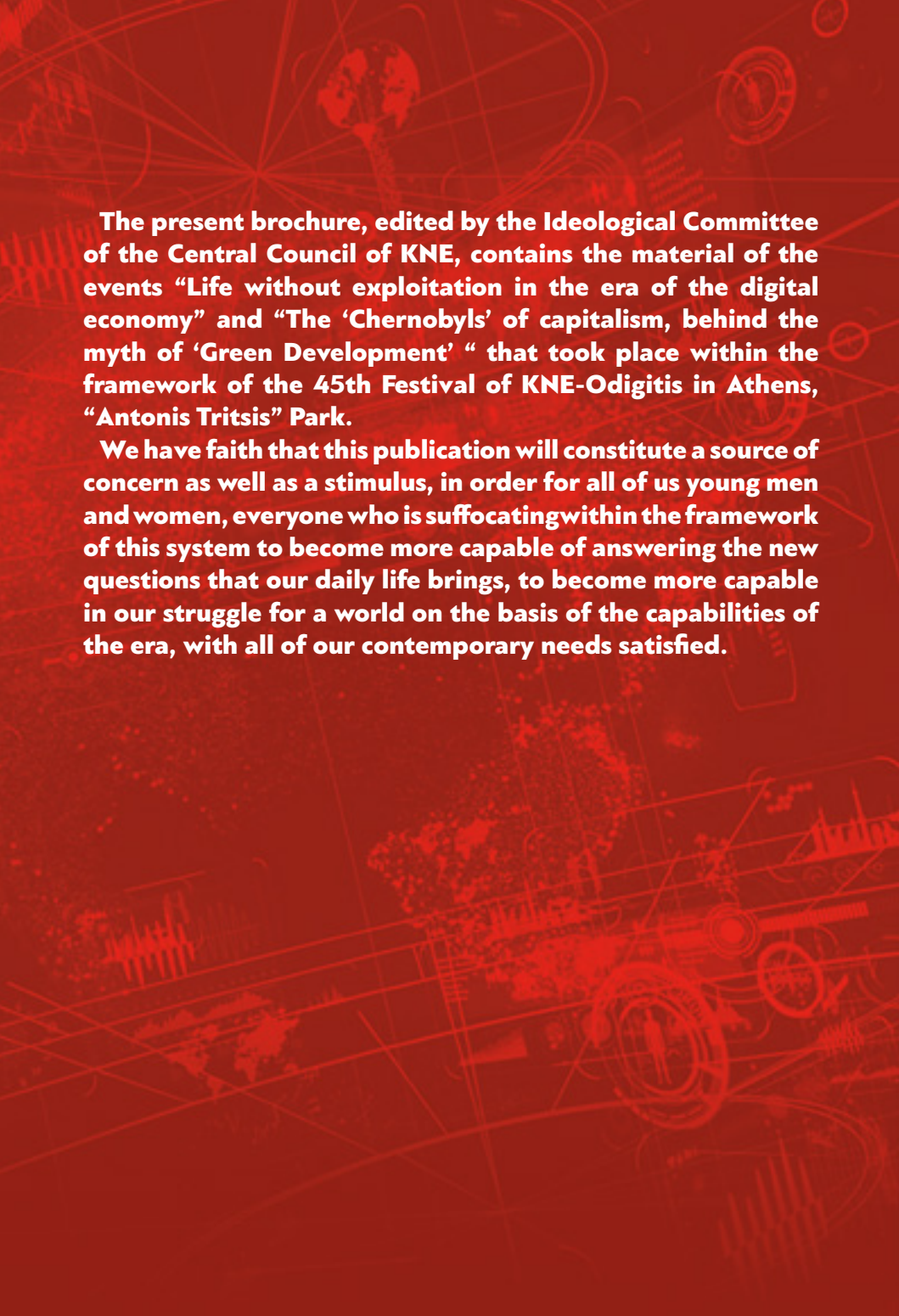
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**Life without exploitation
in the era
of the “Digital Economy”**

**The “Chernobyls” of capitalism,
behind the myth
of “Green Development”**

The background of the page is a solid red color. Overlaid on this are various white and light red geometric and organic patterns. These include thin, intersecting lines forming a grid-like structure, several concentric circles, and a stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines. There are also some abstract, cloud-like or smoke-like shapes in a slightly darker shade of red. The overall aesthetic is technical and modern, possibly representing a digital or scientific theme.

The present brochure, edited by the Ideological Committee of the Central Council of KNE, contains the material of the events “Life without exploitation in the era of the digital economy” and “The ‘Chernobyls’ of capitalism, behind the myth of ‘Green Development’ “ that took place within the framework of the 45th Festival of KNE-Odigitis in Athens, “Antonis Tritsis” Park.

We have faith that this publication will constitute a source of concern as well as a stimulus, in order for all of us young men and women, everyone who is suffocating within the framework of this system to become more capable of answering the new questions that our daily life brings, to become more capable in our struggle for a world on the basis of the capabilities of the era, with all of our contemporary needs satisfied.