



LAUNCHING DiEM25

9th February 2016, BERLIN

The Day's Program

DiEM25 will be launched on Tuesday 9th February 2016, at 20.30, at the Volksbühne Theatre, Berlin.

The day will begin with a one-hour press conference, at 10.00am, followed by three closed sessions (see below for details) involving speakers from all over Europe. These sessions will be filmed and uploaded soon after on the Internet. Their purpose is to kick start the conversation that DiEM25 is facilitating on how to put the demos back into Europe's democracy, how to address the various crises currently deconstructing Europe, and how to organise our political interventions in our localities, regions, countries and, of course, at the European level.

The MAIN EVENT will take place at 20.30 on the Volksbühne Central Theatre Stage.

10.00-11.00 PRESS CONFERENCE

11.00-13.00 Session 1

OUR FRAGMENTING EUROPE & DiEM's RESPONSE

Re-conceptualising the centrifugal forces, and multiplying divisions, tearing the EU apart: Refugees, Borders & Fences (Schengen), Fortress Europe (Frontex), Inequality-Poverty, Chauvinism, Nationalism, Insecurity

Several weeks ago, at a party congress in Karlsruhe, Chancellor Angela Merkel said that 2015 was "an incredible year, but very difficult to understand". It was indeed an "incredible year"!

- 2015 began with the enthusiasm of the Athens Spring and the New

Politics it heralded, but ended with its strangling as well as with the influx of more than one million refugees, new walls and fences etc.

- 2015 was marked by the Paris atrocities and its repercussions: the new police-states abolishing civil liberties and breathing great new powers into our surveillance/opacity/top-down 'culture'
- 2015 saw the deepening of an economic crisis that reinforces centrifugal forces tearing Europe apart, pushing the Eurozone deeper into the mire of low-investment and low-hope, while non-Eurozone member-states look elsewhere for solace and partners
- In short, 2015 gave birth to the hope of a New Politics as well as to a process of fragmentation.

It is crucial that, in 2016, the New Politics grows stronger as a bulwark against the forces of fragmentation. DiEM's first session is envisaged as a 'cognitive mapping' of the centrifugal forces tearing Europe apart, aiding and abetting nationalism, ethnocentrism, insecurity and bigotry.

If the 'conversation' envisaged by DiEM leads Europe's progressives to a common understanding of what occurred in 2015 and to a consensus of what we must do to arrest the process of Europe's fragmentation, *2016 can be an even more incredible year than 2015 was!* Session 1 is just the beginning of this conversation...

Session 1 – Introduction & Moderation: Srećko Horvat (DiEM, Croatia)

1. Baier, Walter (Transform! Network – Austria)
2. Buden, Boris (public intellectual / activist, Germany/Croatia)
3. Büllsbach, Daphne (European Alternatives / Germany)
4. Demh, Dieter (MP, Germany)
5. Fassin, Eric (Academic, France)
6. Guerot, Ulrike (European Democracy Lab, Germany)
7. Krempaska, Alena (Human Rights Institute, Slovakia)
8. Martin, Luis (Journalist, Spain)
9. Meddeb, Hind (Filmmaker/Journalist, France)
10. Morel Darleux, Corrine (Activist, Deputy for Rhône-Alpes, France)
11. Mezzadra, Sandro (Public Intellectual-Activist, Italy)
12. Negri, Toni (Public Intellectual-Activist, Italy)
13. Papastergiadis, Nikos (Academic, Australia-Greece)
14. Pisarello, Gerardo (First Deputy Mayor, City of Barcelona, Cataluña)
15. Richter, Angela (Theatre Director, Germany)
16. Sierakowski, Slavek (Krytyka Polityczna, Poland)
17. Tsomou, Margarita (Author-Journalist, Germany/Greece)

13.00-14.00 LUNCH BREAK

14.00-16.00 Session 2

DiEM's ECONOMIC ANALYSIS & POLICY FRAMEWORK

DiEM's Manifesto promises specific, rational economic policies that will pave the ground:

- for the re-politicisation/democratisation of money and power throughout the EU
- for stabilising the Eurozone's economy while allowing non-Eurozone member-states more breathing space within the EU
- for re-creating a vision of shared prosperity – essential steps prior to moving to the next phase of re-designing the Treaties in the context of the Constitutional Assembly DiEM is proposing
- for diverting idle savings into sustainable development
- for trade treaties (within the EU and between the EU and other blocs) that enhance, rather than restrict, democratic control over Europe's social economies
- for Europeanising four realms in which the crisis is raging (debt, low investment, banking and poverty) but in ways that boost the sovereignty of local, regional and national Parliaments

The session will discuss the process by which DiEM's policy proposals will transpire. Emphasis will be placed on

- investment-led recovery
- green technologies
- combating the culture of opacity and corporate take-over promoted by the TTiP rounds
- public and private debt within and without the Eurozone
- an EU-wide anti-poverty campaign
- the institutional framework necessary to achieve these objectives.

Session 2 – Introduction & Moderation: Stuart Holland (Economist, former MP, UK)

1. Allegretti, Giovanni (Author-Activist, Italy)
2. Angusto, Jordi (Economist, Catalunya)
3. Ayala, Jordi (Head of Finance Department, City of Barcelona)
4. Bayou, Julien (Green Party MP, France)
5. Feher, Michel (Academic-Publisher, France)
6. Ferrerio, Xulio, (Mayor of La Coruña, Spain)
7. Helfrich, Silke (Commons Strategy Group, Germany)
8. Ignasi, Candela, (Economist, Valencia, Spain)
9. Lalucq, Aurore (Veblen Institute, France)
10. McWilliams, David (Kilkenomics founder, Ireland)
11. Munevar, Daniel (Economist, Spain-Colombia)

12. Platsch, Daniela (Der Wandel, Austria)
13. Pogátsa, Zoltán (University of Western Hungary)
14. Raveaud, Gilles (Economist, France)
15. Urban, Hans-Jürgen (IG Metal, Germany)
16. Varoufakis, Yanis (DiEM, Greece)

16.00-18.00 Session 3

What should we (DiEM) do?

The post-2008, crisis-ridden, Europe generated a whiff of a New Politics across the continent. Public spaces were occupied (Occupy London, Puerta del Sol, Syntagma Square, Sarajevo's Teatro Valle) and turned into arenas of public debate, 'horizontality', direct democracy. These 'occupations' ran out of steam but their spirit was reincarnated in new political parties, like Syriza or Podemos, which began to 'occupy' the electoral-political space and even the political imagination of Europe's member-states. Existing political parties, like Britain's Labour, were energized also by this spirit. Municipalities (e.g. Barcelona, Valencia, Madrid) were swept up by the political energy of this New Politics. Meanwhile, a variety of pan-European networks (from the European Social Forum to Altersummit) had success in providing some 'infrastructure' for unifying these loci of New Politics.

However, in 2016, after significant defeats (e.g. the crushing of the Athens Spring), a new impetus seems necessary to imbue the New Politics with fresh energy, and to extend its limits by embracing millions of Europeans who noticed in 2015, possibly for the first time, that the EU is crumbling under a sinister mutual reinforcement between: (a) authoritarianism and (b) failed economic policies.

DiEM's purpose is to act as a bridge bringing together the movements that flourished before 2015 together with Europeans who were awakened in 2015 (e.g. by the Athens Spring) and who now see that the EU will either be democratized or it will disintegrate (with frightful repercussions for Europeans and for the world at large).

DiEM's aim is to provide existing movements and the new forces of progressive change with the 'infrastructure' necessary to build up the pan-European horizontal organisation necessary so that it becomes much, much more than the sum of its parts.

Session 3 will pose this question: How can we make this work? What should DiEM do?

Session 3 – Introduction & Moderation: Anthony Barnett and Mary Fitzgerald (opendemocracy, UK)

1. Celakoski, Teodor (Right to the City Movement, Croatia)
2. Dastoli, Virgilio (European Movement, Italy)
3. Horvat, Srećko (Philosopher, Croatia)

4. Köster, Elsa (Blockupy, Germany)
5. Lovink, Geert (Media theorist-Internet critic, The Netherlands)
6. Marsili, Lorenzo (European Alternatives, Italy)
7. Mesec, Luka (United Left Party, Slovenia)
8. Meyer, Judith (Activist, Germany)
9. Misik, Robert (Academic, Austria)
10. Nedeljkovic, Nikola (activist, Denmark)
11. Ogle, Brendan (Unite & Coordinator of Right2Water/Right2Change, Ireland)
12. Schiffer, András (LMP, Hungarian Green Party, Hungary)
13. Stratou, Danae (Visual Artist, Greece)
14. Van Keirsbilck, Felipe (Altersummit, Belgium)
15. Ventura, Christophe (Activist, France)
16. Wainwright, Hillary (Red Pepper, The Netherlands)

20.30-22.30 THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH



Democracy in Europe – Movement

Volksbühne Central Theatre Stage

Fifteen speakers, to be introduced by Yanis Varoufakis, and to be followed with a discussion with the audience.

Livestreaming address: <http://www.volksbuehne-berlin.de/livestream>

www.diem25.org