

Δ Η Μ Ο Ψ Η Φ Ι Σ Μ Α

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ΣΩΣΤΕ
ΤΟ ΝΕΡΟ

ΣΤΗ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
ΨΗΦΙΖΟΥΜΕ

ΟΧΙ στην ιδιωτικοποίηση του νερού
στην πώληση της ΕΥΑΘ

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Με τη στήριξη
των Δήμων της Θεσσαλονίκης



Kalimera!

Dear friends,

I could never imagine that I could be at this position, speaking in public about a water referendum in Greece. All these years, when we inform our citizens in Thessaloniki, we always used the example of Berlin and Italy, referendums that changed the water issue in these countries.

At this point I have to refer to the solidarity we had from others movement in Europe. We could n't do the campaign of SOSSte to NERO without the help of EPSU (financial support and delegation of foreign international observers), EWM, Berlin Wassertisch, Italian Movement, and so many others. Thessaloniki's referendum is the solid prove of solidarity in praxis!

Our trade union asked referendum first time on March of 2011, only a vote was positive then in the municipality's board.

This time, only a month after we created coalition against water privatization called SOSSte το NERO, we did it! The mayors of Thessaloniki, following the will of Thessaloniki's citizens, decided a referendum.

It is the first referendum since 1975, where we kicked out the king of Greece.

We know it is an unofficial referendum, we know that government pretends that referendum does not exist, but the political message is sent from 220.000 citizens.

Although they tried to underestimate the referendum, even and people from the movement, saying that left political parties supporting it, the result is clear like the spring water: the left parties took 80.000 votes to the euroelections, the referendum took 220.000 votes, people from all the parties voted for water, people who voted

to the referendum did n't vote to the local elections. It was a clear message to the government: NO to privatization of water, a message from the base of the people of Thessaloniki, and Thessaloniki –although is a place in Greece where major political facts happened such as the 1936 9th of May demo, or the revolutionary government on 1914, it is a castle for the conservative party.

I must mention that as you know, Greece at this moment is the experiment of Europe's economic policy. Because of this, a lot of issues are hot, like health, goldmines, garbage management, education, public television, beaches sell off. So it was really stressed for us to know that all these movements, all these people who are also struggling for common goods, are watching us. If our movement fail it would be very disappointing for all the other movements. We had the support of the mayors, and water is the only issue that supported from officials.

Another thing that we should mention is that referendum is an issue of Democracy. In our campaign, we were calling people to participate even if they vote YES to privatization. In a country where the people is terrorized from Troika and the government, it is very important to make this people to win the fear and participate to a democratic procedure. And it happened! Although a day before referendum government tried to stop it- the minister of internal forbid balboxes to be put inside the election centers, and also forbid the use of election lists- people reacted. They came and waited under a sunny day, to vote for water, and many of them stated that they came because of prohibition!

About the Supreme Court decision:

As a union we go against privatization and particularly against to the way that the stocks of EYATH transferred to TAIPED (HRADF), on 2011. The Court happened on June of 2013, and on November there was a leak to the press that Court is taking serious the anti-privatization thinking. Finally, last May, the decision published, where it makes clear that privatization of water must stop. The thinking of the Court steps on basic Constitution articles where the State must provide enough amount of clear water for drinking and sanitation to all the citizens. The decision invades to the core of the privatization issue, and makes clear that if the majority of the company pass to the hands of private sector, then basic common

goods for the people are in danger. So orders the State, to take back the stocks which had transferred to TAIPED, and return them to the Public. This is also a historical subject, till now; we knew that whatever transferred to TAIPED stays there forever, it is an one way transfer, since June, this is stopped, EYDAP's stocks returned to the State. The decision for water, is now a headache for electricity privatization, according to articles, government afraid that maybe the same thinking of Supreme Court will stop electricity privatization.

Future of EYATH:

We already started an internal dialogue in the company of how we could make our company better for the people of Thessaloniki. After all this support we owe to them to become better to our services. We have huge problems with the empty working positions, we need desperately staff, and we need it yesterday. EYATH can be a pole for the city. It gathered so many people to protect it, it can return this support with lower prices of water for poor families, with hundreds of new jobs with decent salaries, today except the 230 permanent employees there are about other 150 "rented" or from outsourcing, employees who take 500 euro when their provider receives 1500 for each one of them. The same amount of money goes to fewer people's pockets. This must change. It is a kind of modern slavery where people cannot make unions; do not have ordinary working rights.

We build a network with Athens's water and the municipalities water companies. We try to organize and make a project about the total water management in Greece. We know it is difficult, but we have to do it, we owe it to the people, we owe it to the society, we owe it to the next generations, we must secure public water for them.

Thank you!