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RISING INEQUALITY THREATENS OUR FUTURE

Over the past years we have witnessed rising inequality, which threatens our ambition of a society marked by egalitarianism and opportunities for all people no matter social status and background. As young social democrats we thus want to send out a clear message that we will no longer stand for this unhealthy development, where wealth is concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer elitist individuals.

To us there can be no equal opportunity without a healthy degree of economic equality. If you don't have the economic means to provide for yourself while finishing your education it is insufficient to have a formal right to education. Unlike liberalists and conservatives, we are critically aware of the fact that formal liberties are not enough. As social democrats we know that the so-called freedom preached by the right wing is nothing but a delusion.

But standing up against right-wing ambitions to enrich the elite at the expense of the rest of us is not enough. The right-wing politicians claim that the days of class conflict are long gone and that demands for equality and solidarity belong to the past. These years we witness right before our eyes that this notion simply is not true, as we see how youth throughout Europe suffer under an unequal distribution of opportunities due to social heritage, poverty and unemployment.

An egalitarian society must be achieved because equality, justice and moral are inseparable values. But egalitarianism is also economically sensible. Studies show that countries with a high degree of economic equality outperform other countries with greater inequality, with respect to growth and resilience towards economic crises. Thus, the liberalist notion that inequality can serve as a dynamic force for economic progress, is not only morally detestable, but plainly incorrect.

For this reason we call for an abandonment of the neoliberal austerity policies that has characterized the efforts of economic resurrection in the aftermath of the financial crisis, throughout the past years. Instead, we call for a new political era, where investment in human beings is held as the highest principle with a clear recognition that economic equality is necessary to create societies with strong economic performance and social cohesion.