

REAL WORLD ECONOMICS

8 February 2016, CREA Amsterdam

PLAN B and DIEM-25

New Perspectives For



The wider context

Anti-austerity protests

- mass demonstrations
- marches
- square protests
- assemblies & experiments with new forms of democracy
- strikes
- actions of civil disobedience
- new social movements
- new political left wing parties/platforms

and new transnational left-wing alliances

- Firenze 10+10
- Alter Summit in Athens in 2013
- Blockupy Frankfurt
- Initiative for a European Spring
- Initiative 'Founding Europe anew!'
- Agora99
- Conferences of the Euromemorandum Group
- Strategy Meetings in Amsterdam, Brussels
- Campaigns against TTIP/CETA

“Plan B” versus “DIEM-25”?

- Two “new” but different pan-European initiatives
- Competitive projects?
- Reinforcing each other?
- Commonalities/overlaps?
 - both proceed by summits and manifestos
 - both more or less left-wing
 - strong top-down character, building on prominent figureheads
 - highly intransparent
 - not yet fully-fledged programmes and strategies: work in progress!
- Differences?
 - involve to some extent different groups of people
 - time lag of 2 weeks
 - have a different focus:
 - +/- progressive nationalism vs. an EU federalist solution
 - broad agenda versus democratizing the EU institutions



- a pan-European initiative for a series of summits about the future of Europe
 - 1st in Paris: 23-24 January (300+ participants)
 - 2nd in Madrid: 19-21 February
- driven by Oskar Lafontaine & Jean Luc Melenchon
 - Plan B as a back up for Plan A (re-negotiate the EU Treaties)
 - manifesto published in September 2015
 - Signed by well known left wing politicians/scholars: Joseph Stiglitz, Ken Loach, Noam Chomsky, Ada Colau, Susan George
- Programme for Madrid Summit:
 - social/labour rights
 - alternative international trade/investment regime
 - public and private debt
 - migration: alternatives for Fortress Europe
 - euro as a joint currency and European governance
 - environmental crisis
 - Plan B must be feminist

<http://planbeuropa.es>



<http://www.diem25.org>

**Democracy in Europe
Movement -- 2025**

- driven by Yannis Varoufakis
 - manifesto published in January,
 - Plan C (or return to Plan A)
 - for a “broad based” and “open” grass roots social movement
 - Inauguration at the Volkshausbühne in Berlin, 9 February
- One simple agenda:
 - rethink the EU and democratize EU institutions by 2025

Step 1: transparency (immediate priority)

Step 2: a constitutional assembly (mid-term)

Tentative agenda:

 - a proper European Parliament, sharing powers with national parliaments, regional assemblies and municipal councils
 - respect for national self-determination

Discussion

- Utterly naïve? Doomed to failure?
- Democracy as unifying rationale for left-wing convergence?

Chasms in Europe's left:

- a disparate set of struggles with a plurality of agents
- different degrees of indignation
- no shared understanding of the trenches and the tactics of how to chart an alternative future for Europe
- mainstream, statist left \leftrightarrow new horizontalist, radical social movements