

Supplementary Materials

Full manifestos

Manifesto 1

November 12, 2016: Save the climate, Stop the oil

“One year ago, the COP-21 Summit produced the Paris Agreement, whose objective it is to stop the uncontrolled rise of the planet’s temperature, keeping the rise in average global temperature to less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Since then, 2015 was the warmest year on the record and 2016 will be even worse. Since the last climate Conferences of the Parties, each month was the warmest on record. The planet is boiling under the pressure of fossil fuels, of the heavy industries, intensive agriculture and livestock, and long-distances and transportation. The consensus around climate change and the huge danger that it represents for humanity, namely for the most vulnerable groups is slow to produce concrete results in an economy addicted to emissions and unregulated pollution. It is pressing to stop CO2 emissions and to prepare the geographic territories and populations for a new climate: hotter, drier, with frequent extreme climate events.

In Portugal, besides the action plans and strategies, concrete changes aiming to save the climate are still missing. To do so, one of the priorities must be to cancel all 15 concessions to exploit gas and oil along the Portuguese coast, from Algarve to Beira, from West to the Alentejo Coast. These concessions are an aberrant signal that there is a future for fossil fuel exploitation, contradicting the spirit of the Paris Agreement, which only a year ago had 191 countries agreeing to contain the rise in temperatures, which means stopping the exploitation of fossil fuels. There is no space for a coherent climatic politics with these contracts. It would be even harder to end these contracts if the government accept the free trade agreements with Canada (CETA - Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, to be signed on the 27th) and the U.S.A (TTIP - Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), which will involve an increase in the level of greenhouses emissions, as well as the privileges of big corporations.

As citizens and collectives, we want a country and planet in progress towards a new energetic paradigm, in compliance with human rights, that puts the interests of people and nature before the oil industry. We want another economy, free of concepts and practices that lead us to catastrophe.

On November 12, as the COP-22 Climate Summit is happening in Morocco, we will take to the streets in several locations of the country, to demand a serious answer to climate change and refuse hydrocarbon exploitation in Portugal.”

Signatories: ASMAA – Surf and Maritime Activities Association of Algarve, APVC – Coronado Valley Protection Association, Left Bloc, Open Camp, Climáximo, Climate Collective, Coopérnico Energy Cooperative, Clean Future, GEOTA – Environment and Territorial Planning Study Group, Portuguese League of Social Prophylaxis, Livre, Socialist Alternative Movement, Scorched Earth Movement, Porto Antifascist Nucleus, The Greens Ecologist Party, Petroleum Free Peniche, PAN – People Animals Nature, No to the Transatlantic Treaty Platform, Porto for the Environment, OGM free Porto, Preserve Algarve – Aljezur, Quercus, Sciaena, SPEA – Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds, Zeitgeist Portugal, Zero – Sustainable Terrestrial System Association.

Manifesto 2

April 29, 2017: No to oil drilling, yes to the future

“The election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the USA caused waves of resistance on several fronts, from human rights to gender equality, from public services to climate justice. Trump is a public advocate of fracking and coal. Meanwhile, he authorized the much-contested Dakota oil pipeline (Dakota Access Pipeline) and the Keystone XL gas pipeline, halted by the previous administration. Trump’s oil agenda has led to the “People’s Climate Movement in the USA”, the ones making the plea for the international demonstration on the 29th of April.

In Portugal, the government has sent mixed messages. On November 2016, in Marrakech, at the COP22, Prime-Minister António Costa declared that Portugal would be carbon-neutral by 2050. Two months later, the government gave GALP/ENI a license to proceed with an offshore gas and oil prospection next to Aljezur, ignoring the over 42 thousand people who demonstrated against the drilling, during the public consultation. The government cancelled two Portfuel contracts in Algarve, but 13 other petroleum concessions in Portugal have been kept. Meanwhile, most of the Portuguese eurodeputies at the European Parliament signed the free trade deal with Canada (CETA), which will promote an increase in fossil fuel emissions, as well as of the privileges of big companies.

Anthropogenic global warming is being caused by the high emissions of greenhouse gases, whose main source is the hydrocarbon combustion processes associated with the production and consumption of energy. The magnitude of greenhouse gases emissions has exceeded the planet’s natural capacity to remove those gases from the atmosphere.

The consensus regarding climate change and its enormous threat to ecosystems and human society, in particular to the most vulnerable groups within the population, is too slow to produce concrete political answers in an economy addicted to emissions and unregulated pollution.

To fight climate change, it is necessary to have a change that has a just energy transition as the ultimate goal, by gradually decreasing the use of dirty and risky fuels such as oil, shale gas, and coal, and at the same time refusing unsustainable solutions such as nuclear power and large dams. To do that, one of the priorities must be to cancel all 15 concessions to exploit gas and oil along the Portuguese coast, from Algarve to Beira Litoral, from the West to the Alentejo Coast. In our opinion, they are based on an unfair law. A coherent climate policy cannot coexist with these oil and shale gas contracts.

As citizens and collectives, we want a country and planet in progress towards a new energetic paradigm, in compliance with human rights, that puts the interests of people and nature before the oil industry. We want another economy, free of concepts and practices that lead us to catastrophe. On April 29, by joining the international People's Climate March, we will take to the streets in several locations of the country to demand a serious answer to climate change and to refuse the exploitation of hydrocarbon in Portugal.”

Signatories: Citizenship Academy; Litoral Alentejo for the Environment; Amnesty International; ASMAA – Surf and Maritime Activities Association of Algarve; Left Bloc; Open Camp; Citizens for Climate Pressure; Climáximo; Climate Collective; Coopérnico; Clean Future; GAIA – Environmental Action and Intervention Group; GEOTA – Environment and Territorial Planning Study Group; Hydrosphere Portugal; Livre; Socialist Alternative Movement; MIA – Anti-nuclear Iberian Movement; The Greens Ecologist Party; PAN – People Animals Nature; Petroleum Free Peniche; No to the Transatlantic Treaty Platform; OGM free Porto; Quercus – National Association for the Conservation of Nature; SCIAENA; Northern Teachers Union; Zero – Sustainable Terrestrial System Association.