


UNITY

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Freedom's just another word

TENS of thousands are expected to hit the streets of Manchester on Sunday the 1st of October calling for the Tories to get out of office. The drive now should be about building unity of the working class. That unity should be about the Ireland of Ireland as well as unity within the labour movement in Britain. The unity also means examining real reasons why the Left voted to get out of Europe, ignored by the media.

The EU is committed the privatisation of public services and the interests of big business at the expense of workers' rights. Some pro EU groups recently have complained that we will lose the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and that we will also lose the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). It should be pointed out that the ECJ is indeed an integral part of the EU whilst the ECHR is not, it was established in 1959 by the Council of Europe (not to be confused with the EU).

When campaigning against the Lisbon Treaty in 2008, Gerry Adams said. "There has been dismay at the recent European Court of Justice Judgement in the Laval case which upheld the right of a Latvian company operating in Sweden to import Latvian workers to do the job at Latvian rates

By Lynda Walker

rather than compelling them to pay Swedish rates. The recent Ruffert ruling bans public authorities from putting conditions respecting collective agreements on the award of public contracts." What has changed since then? Nothing.

The ECJ has made judgements about workers rights, four of which are, Laval, Ruffert, Luxemburg and Viking, they affect the right to strike and the right to the going rate for the job. According to the ECJ, industrial action amounts to a "restriction on a contractors freedom to provide services under article 49 EC Treaty".

In some cases these judgements specifically affect migrant workers. In the case of the Viking Ferries/cruiseferries judgement Finish seamen were sacked and an Estonian crew was employed on lower wages. The Finish workers announced their intention to strike but Viking said industrial action would infringe its right to "Freedom of Establishment" which is basically the Single Market.

The Single Market is the 'four freedoms', free movement of goods, capital, services and labour." Essentially this enables capitalist enterprises to move their finances

and services to where ever it best suits their companies and profits. As for "free movement of labour", this is a "forced" movement of labour, of those who cannot find employment in their own countries. In order to escape poverty they move to other countries and accept lower wages. This is not a racist explanation it is the reality.

What has been missed out of the loop is not related to the EU, is the right of asylum seekers, refugees, and those from the former British colonies to enter into the UK.

The British Governments racist policies come into play here. We note with interest that SF intends to hold a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference this year; however the Labour Party Manifesto put forward by Jeremy Corbyn will not be compatible with the Single Market.

These are some of the reasons why communists, trades unionist in the RMT, NIPSA, ASLEF and the GMB; who are anti-racist and pro-working class oppose the EU.

And we demand that the money that is not paid to the EU must be spent on health, welfare and community services. We wanted a better future, now is the time to fight for it.

Editorial

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Is Trump to be relied on ?

ONCE again the Bombardier Belfast plant is in the news for the wrong reasons. The 95 proposed redundancies, part of a previous cost cutting decision, are now a sideshow compared to what may be coming next.

The US company Boeing has accused Bombardier of receiving subsidies from the Canadian government allowing it to sell its CSeries planes at below-market prices. The fact that British Prime Minister Theresa May has spoken to US President Donald Trump, probably seeing this as part of the so-called special relationship, has, not surprisingly, raised some eyebrows. It will seem to some people that this 'special relationship' with the United States has now become one with the DUP since the deal between them and the Tories.

However pleas to Trump to intervene, on Bombardier's behalf, may well fall on deaf ears as he was elected on a ticket of America first which means supporting their industries even if it is at some other country's expense.

May and her new-found friends in the DUP should take note of the recent sanctions imposed on Russia at the US's instigation which basically mean that any European company supplying parts for Russia's export gas pipeline, known as Nord Stream, will themselves face sanctions.

It is no surprise that the US whilst issuing these threats has had Trump gallivanting round Europe offering sales of liquefied natural gas (LNG) with some success, especially with the former Socialist states, no surprise there. Trump's antics have upset the President of the European Commission Jean Claude Juncker to such a degree that he commented, "We will respond with counter-measures if need be, hoping that this is not actually necessary. We are willing to take up arms if need be."

Many people would want to know what he meant by the last line of his comments. The US Department of Commerce will be making a decision on September 25th whether to impose duties against Bombardier.

If that happens will Trump intervene on Bombardier's behalf ?Odds are against it.

**Belfast Central
Branch Meeting
Wednesday
27th September
5.30pm
CPI Premises**

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