

19 April 1999



**DECLARATION OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, SICEE**

Rome, 17 April 1999

Dear Comrade,

I am pleased to send you herewith for your information the Declaration adopted by the SI Committee for Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE, at a special meeting on Kosovo held in Rome on 17 April. The list of participants is also included.

Fraternal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Ayala', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Luis Ayala  
Secretary General

Meeting of the Socialist International Committee  
for Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE  
Rome, 17 April 1999

**DECLARATION ON KOSOVO**

The Socialist International Committee for Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE, meeting in Rome on 17 April 1999:

*recalling* the efforts and attempts made prior to March 24 by the international community to reach a politically negotiated solution to the situation in Kosovo;

*regrets* the failure of these attempts due to the positions taken by Milosevic and *condemns* his refusal to reach an agreement;

*strongly condemns* the deportations and forced expulsions suffered by Kosovo's civilian population at the hands of the military troops of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and affirms its support for all the efforts undertaken in response to the humanitarian emergency in the region, particularly in Albania and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

*reiterates* that every woman and every man must be respected, regardless of their culture, religion, nationality, and refuses any attempt to base the existence of states on ethnic purity;

*confirms* that the objective of the military action undertaken by NATO is to stop the violence and the ethnic cleansing carried out against the people of Kosovo and to open the way towards a negotiated solution to the conflict;

*reiterates* the position of the General Affairs Council of the European Union and *supports* the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which envisages halting NATO's military offensive based on the following conditions, that the authorities in Belgrade:

- immediately put an end to the repression taking place in Kosovo
- stop the activities of their military and paramilitary forces along with withdrawing from Kosovo
- accept unconditionally the return of the refugees and displaced persons
- accept a political framework of negotiation for Kosovo in conformity with the conclusions of the Rambouillet Conference
- accept an international military peacekeeping presence aimed at guaranteeing security.

*reiterates* - as affirmed by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union in Brussels on April 14, 1999 - that it is now up to the Yugoslav authorities to fully accept the international demands and begin immediately with their implementation; this would permit a suspension of military action by NATO and would pave the way for a political solution;

*welcomes* Russia's willingness to work for a solution to the conflict and *reiterates* the need to continue to include Russia in the search for such a solution on the basis of the proposal put forward by Kofi Annan;

*underlines* the need to implement consultative mechanisms for crisis management which would enable all of the countries in the region to be fully involved in the decisions taken by the international community;

*reiterates* that the functions and powers that the Yugoslav Constitution recognizes for Montenegro need to be fully respected;

*expresses* the need for all countries of the region to respect the principle of the inviolability of existing borders;

*denounces* the acts of repression against the media, personalities of civil society and the democratic political sectors in Serbia, and invites all Socialist International member parties to cooperate concretely to reactivate civic and democratic structures for the establishment of a democratic regime in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

SICEE *appeals* to all its member parties to work towards these goals, to contribute to the search for a political and diplomatic solution to the crisis, and to back every initiative which the United Nations and the Security Council, together with regional organisations, would consider useful to put into effect a political solution for Kosovo;

*highlights* the generosity with which Albania's government and its people have accepted and given shelter to thousands of refugees and *calls on* the citizens of all the countries in Europe to demonstrate their active solidarity with the Kosovar Albanians, supporting the work of the NGOs active in the region and *encourages* the European Union to continue to back efforts aimed at dealing with the humanitarian emergency;

*encourages* the European Union to take a strong political initiative aimed at strengthening democracy, economic and social progress and the peaceful co-existence of diverse ethnic groups, religions and cultures within these states, favouring the integration of the states of the region as a whole into the international community;

*asks* the European Union to strengthen its ties with the Balkan countries and to this end mobilise its economic and financial means for the reconstruction and development of the region;

*reiterates* its active solidarity with all the political forces in the Balkans committed to the affirmation of the values of peace, tolerance and democracy.

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## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

President of the Socialist International

Pierre Mauroy

Secretary General of the Socialist  
International

Luis Ayala

Co-Chair of the Committee  
(DS, Italy)

Piero Fassino

Co-Chair of the Committee  
(MSzP, Hungary)

László Kovács

ALBANIA  
Social Democratic Party, PSD

Pavli Zeri

AUSTRIA  
Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ

Albrecht Konecny

BELGIUM  
Socialist Party, PS

Etienne Godin

CZECH REPUBLIC  
Czech Social Democratic Party, CSSD

Miloslav Had

FRANCE  
Socialist Party, PS

Pierre Guidoni

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Social Democratic Party of Germany,  
SPD

Gernot Erler  
Christoph Zöpel  
Harald Berwanger  
Gisela Nauk

**GREAT BRITAIN**  
The Labour Party

Nick Sigler

**GREECE**  
Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK

Yannis Roubatis

**HUNGARY**  
Hungarian Social Democratic Party, MSzDP

László Kapolyi

**ITALY**  
Democrats of the Left, DS

Walter Veltroni  
Umberto Ranieri  
Nicola Zingaretti  
Roberto Cuillo  
Giovanni Magolini  
Victor Magyar

**ITALY**  
Italian Socialists, SI

Gianfranco Schietroma  
Luca Cefisi  
Giovanni Tozzi

**NORWAY**  
The Norwegian Labour Party, DNA

Tonje Westby

**POLAND**  
Social Democracy of the Republic  
of Poland, SdRP

Silvia Pusz

**PORTUGAL**  
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José Lamego

**ROMANIA**  
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Borut Pahor

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María Solanas**SWEDEN**

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Michel Thauvin

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Rob van de Water

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Friedrich Roll

International Union of Socialist Youth, IUSY

Umberto Gentiloni

**ALBANIA**

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Aleksander Andulaj  
Mustafa Mucaj**CROATIA**

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