

Dear Friends!

Two years have already gone by since the first congress of the European Humanist Regional. Two years of life, of work, and the permanent and active struggle to humanise the Earth especially society and mankind!

This task, introduced many centuries ago by old philosophers and modernised by Silo in the seventies of the last century, this task is very simple and pure but very difficult to put into practice.

Why simple? Because it includes the idea of love, friendship, joy and solidarity, freedom and all the basic principles of normal, honest and interesting life. Nothing exceptional or artificial. Life without violence, without pain and poverty, without blood. Pure and simple.

And why is it difficult to make this happen if everything is so natural and human? Is mankind an animal without heart or intellect? Without affectionate emotions and self-determination? Why do we live in this situation and not in a better one? Why is social life so difficult? Why do poor people make up the majority of humanity in all ages?

And now across the whole world what prevails is not humanism but rather dramatic social and political differentiation.

Throughout these two years, life on the planet in general has got worse, more than it has got better. New difficulties and demands are appearing, new obstacles for humanisation. We must understand this negative tendency well in order to concentrate all the energy of the struggle, in order to organise all the forces and to prepare new generations of practical humanists.

In Russia, now, the situation is very difficult. We have new negative tendencies and some types of reactionaries. I speak of political censorship, the limitation of democracy in general and the freedom of the press. I speak of the increase of poverty and deepening of social polarisation. I speak of the grave problem of terrorism and violence, of drug taking and criminalisation. We, all democratic and humanist groups, struggle against these negative tendencies, but the powers that be continue their practice. This means that new contradictions in social life are forming and the future will not be all rosy.

In many European countries the situation is all too contradictory. People and powers live like dogs and cats. They do not understand one another, they have contradictory and opposite values and interests.

The social struggle continues, but in new forms not as brutal and bloody as before. The anti-globalisation movement grows but does not have a clear orientation or an appropriate philosophy. It is a spontaneous, emotional and very radical movement, of a social anarchist type.

We, humanists, carry out another type of protest and alternative struggle. Our line is more correct and has a big future. Together we can defeat them, but the struggle will be difficult, hard and prolonged.

Friends! In the name of all the humanists of Moscow and Russia, I would like to pass on to you a brotherly greeting to the Second Congress of the European Regional.