

The climatic change is speeding on Let us speed up the struggle for a conscious organization of the social production

“Thus at every step we are reminded that we by no means rule over nature like a conqueror over a foreign people, like someone standing outside nature - but that we, with flesh, blood, and brain, belong to nature, and exist in its midst, and that all our mastery of it consists in the fact that we have the advantage over all other beings of being able to know and correctly apply its laws.”
(FRIEDRICH ENGELS, Dialectic of Nature)

In November 2012 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has announced that in 2011 the concentration of greenhouse effect gases in the atmosphere has arrived at a record level. According to given out data, between 1990 and 2011 the climatic warming differential caused by the greenhouse gases is increased of 30%. The raising of the medium hearth temperature and the resulting climate modifications can be devastating.

One of the principal greenhouse gases is the carbon dioxide (CO₂). Is estimated that from the beginning of industrial age (the middle of XVIII century), the amount of CO₂ released in the atmosphere is of about 357 billion of tons.

The concentrations of methane in the atmosphere - coming of the melting of *permafrost* in Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Siberia - have reached record levels in 2011, with 1 813 parts per million: the 159% with respect to the pre-industrial levels.

According the meteorological statistics, the years 2001-2012 have been the hottest years registered from 1850. The extension of Arctic ice has reached a new minimum. The ice pack thawed in a worrying pace, pointing out the profound changes occurring in the oceans and in the biosphere.

Among the phenomena characterizing the 2012 were the heat waves that hit the Northern hemisphere, particularly in the USA and in Europe. Besides, Russia had the hottest summer of its history, after the one of 2010. The Northern regions of Brazil were hit by the worst drought of the last fifty years.

In July 2012 the images taken by satellites have shown that, in few days, the Polar ice-cap covering the greatest extent of Greenland had almost completely melted. It was an unprecedented fact, connected with another event observed in the isle: the detachment of gigantic icebergs from the Petermann glacier. For the scientists both the phenomena are the consequence of a heat cloak hitting the Arctic region. Besides these phenomena, the planet has suffered the droughts, the floods and the waves of an uttermost cold.

Towards the point of no return

All these phenomena are the more and more wide manifestations of a process, the climatic change of the planet, which is developing under our eyes at a speed higher than the one foreseen by the scholars of the environment.

According the scientific community, the increase of the average temperatures of the earth's surface, registered in the last ten-years periods, is most probably due to the increase of the greenhouse gas emissions, as the CO₂, derived from the utilization of the fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gases, that nowadays are supplying about the 85% of the world energetic requirements), and the deforestation.

According to the model accepted by the Inter-government Commission on the Climatic Change (IPCC) of the UNO, the point of no return of the climatic changes will occur with an

increase of the average global temperature higher than 2 °C (3.6 °F) with respect to the pre-industrial level. Owing to the level of the present emissions, the critical limit showing the irreversible climatic change will be reached, if the things will not change, within thirty years.

The more this limit will be approached, the more the process of climatic change will be out of the human control capability, and some chain reactions will be primed with catastrophic consequences (for example, the thawing of polar ices, the rising of the level of the seas, the desertification, and so on).

The climatic change is only an aspect of a wider ecological crisis, which includes other aspects, as the oceans acidification, the destruction of the ozone stratum, the infringement of the limits of nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, the breaking off of the waters cycle, the deforestation, the loss of the biodiversity, etc.

All these manifestations of the ecological crisis derive from the transforming activity of the human being, from the productive process and its consequences. This activity aiming to satisfy the human needs, an activity that *“it is an eternal nature-imposed necessity, without which there can be no material exchanges between man and Nature, and therefore no life.”* (MARX, *Capital*, Vol. I, ch. 1), not develop itself in abstract, but inside the society, inside some specific relations that men establish between themselves and the nature.

The breadth and speed of the environmental transformations show that the cause of the problem has to be found in the present economic structure.

The causes of the ecological crisis

Undoubtedly the greatest responsible for the situation of degradation of nature is the capitalist mode of production, characterized by the endless search for profit and accumulation, and therefore impelled by a predatory logic towards man and nature.

In our epoch the capitalistic monopolies, arisen on the base of the concentration of production and capitals, exploit heavily their workers, sack the peoples, plunder the natural resources and produce boundless and indiscriminate quantities of commodities in order to gain the highest profit, careless of the consequences of their activity on the population and on the nature itself, making of the latter a garbage heap.

The real spring of the capitalistic production is the immediate profit, which accomplish itself in conformity of the laws that capital imposes on the society in order to increase itself unceasingly. And this means the production and sale of an always growing mass of commodities, and on the ecological ground this is equivalent of an increase of the degradation.

Capitalism, in its stage of monopolistic development, is a machine tending constantly to a saturation of the markets and to the overproduction; a machine producing commodities with a programmed obsolescence in order to increase the sales, and huge quantities of useless, harmful and luxury commodities for a minority of rich people; a machine characterized by the economical waste, the enormous military and unproductive expenditures, the parasitism. The irrationality and inefficiency of this dying system causes the utilization of huge quantities of energy and natural resources, the production of a mass of waste that the environment can not absorb.

Notoriously, capitalists take care only of the more immediate practical results of the production, not of the long-term effects on the society and nature, that are neglected or placed into the background. The social and environmental costs are not productive of a surplus-value for capitalists; therefore, according to the logic of capital, there is no reason for bear them.

Instead of following the warnings of the scientists, monopolies are ready to take advantage of the environmental damages induced by themselves, if only they could obtain new profits (for example, they take advantage of the thawing of the *permafrost* in order to extract methane, or of the melting of polar ices in order to open new commercial routes, etc.).

With the increasing of the production and capitalistic accumulation, and with the profit increasing, is shrinking the «ecological space» that enables the life of the mankind and of many

other species. The general law of the capitalistic accumulation is, at the same time, the general law of the increasing environmental and human devastation.

The bourgeois States promote the interests of monopolies and refuse to check seriously the environmental devastation. For example, the USA, that with their 4,5 % of the world population are responsible of the 16,3% of the greenhouse gas emissions, never ratified the Kyoto protocol. The Copenhagen Agreement failed. Presently, there is no significant global action to let in the ground the fossil fuels and reducing the emissions; no country has adopted an energetic politics capable of assure the safety from the climatic viewpoint. And is much improbable that such politics will be adopted in the next years, owing also to the increasing demand of energy of the emerging capitalistic powers, as China, India, Brazil, etc.

To reduce the emissions of more than one point per cent yearly is impracticable for capitalism, because it would worsen its crisis. All this demonstrate that a politics aiming to avoid dangerous climatic changes is incompatible with the laws of capitalistic economy.

The bourgeoisie - rather than propose and apply a radical and immediate reduction of the emissions - accepts the climatic change as an ineluctable fact deriving from its mode of production.

The consequences of the climatic changes caused by capitalism are made more ruinous by the cuts of the expenditures for the social protection, by the existence of millions of people without a house, by the misgovernment and unaptness of the government representatives at a central and local level.

General crisis, ecological crisis, economic crisis

The ecological crisis is an aspect of the more wide general crisis of capitalistic system, which hits the totality of the world imperialistic system and encompasses all the aspects of the existent mode of production (economy, politics, ideology, culture, moral, etc.). This crisis of the structure and superstructure of the bourgeois order is worsening on all its sides.

Each aspect of the general crisis of capitalism is interdependent and influences the other aspects, that are connected, mutually conditioned and acting in a reciprocal manner.

Two examples of this vicious circle:

- a) In the last year we have seen the agricultural and alimentary crisis, owing to drought in the Midwest (USA), in South-West Europe and in Africa; owing to monsoons in Asia; and owing to decreased fertility of animals. This has caused the rise of the prices of maize, soya, rice, sugars, corn. The FAI medium index is augmented of 6%. The consequences have been: the increase of hunger, especially in the countries poorer and dependent from imperialism (1,3 billions of persons live with less of 1 euro daily; heavy problems for farmers, for little and middle breeders, for fishers in difficulty because of the exhaustion of resources, etc. These problems reverberated on the economic crisis, prolonging it and sharpening it.
- b) The difficulties deriving from the economic and financial crisis put into the background the adoption of plans and programs aiming to prevent the environmental damages, because "too much expensive". In order to put again in motion the motor of the growth, monopolies drive to a production more based on the fossil fuels rather than on sources of renewable energies. The consumption of coal swiftly increased in the short economic recovery of 2010-2011, and the emissions along with it. The economy based on the private property of the means of production is destructive of the environment in the periods of crisis as well.

General crisis, ecological crisis and economic crisis interlace, interact and feed mutually. They have a one and only origin, the capitalism, and in order to find their solution is necessary to overcome the contradictions and errors of the present society.

The false answers of the bourgeoisie

The bourgeoisie is aware of the grave environmental problem and tries to offer some answers capable of not to call in question the capitalistic mode of production.

A first bourgeois proposal - suggested by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992 and repeated by the Factor 10 Club in the "Declaration of Carnoules" - is aiming to comprise in the prices of commodities the "environmental" costs. For example: industries do cause damages to the environment with their activities, but they don't want to bear the "unproductive" costs necessary to prevent, reduce and repair these damages. According the supporters of this proposal, industries should include these costs in the price of commodities, and utilize the proceeds for ecological aims.

This position - that vents upon the consumers the crimes of capitalists - is much criticized, because it's not difficult to find cases in which is impossible to go back to the previous situation. Moreover, this proposal do not resolve some questions, as the exhaustion of the natural resources.

On the contrary, capitalists like very much this proposal and are ready to foster it, because it entails the increase of their trades. That's just how it happens with the so-called "green label" or with the "biological products" that in many cases are sold at more expensive prices, although their production cost is lower.

A variation of this first proposal lies in making the industrialists pay the cost of the environmental damages caused by their activity. In this way, the more rich and powerful capitalists can buy the "right to pollute" determinate zones.

A second proposal is the "sustainable development", that lies in offering to the nature the opportunity of producing again the element removed. For example, if you cut a tree, plant two of them.

The theorists of the "sustainable development" don't call in question the logic of the ever increasing production of commodities, of the unbridled consumers' culture. They pass over the problem of the bounds that the laws of nature and the limitations of resources impose to the process of economic growth. They think that the technological progress itself will allow the solution of all problems. But the technique can not be released from the relations of production. Capitalism subdues it to its requirements, not to ones of environment and of social welfare. Moreover, in the optics of the sustainable development in capitalism, one meets with the paradox of a constant and endless development in a world of finite resources.

A third bourgeois proposal is the "decrease". Its supporters invite the bourgeoisie to decline, to slowly retire, to enrich with measure, to lose some privileges, maintaining nevertheless the political power, the society divided in classes, etc.

Even though they know that the most of pollution is caused by the production of manufactured articles, they never attack the capitalistic monopolies, their uncontrollable search of maximum profit. They never call in question the fundamental problem of the private property of means of production, but speak only of the reduction of consumer goods.

According to the supporters of the decrease, the responsible of the present situation is not the dominant class, but the "mankind", blamed as culpable like this. They think that is possible to persuade the capitalists to limit their growth; they dream the return to forms of pre-industrial production, ending in an escaping utopia.

Capitalism, based on the formula D-M-D' - to buy in order to sell, exploiting the wage-earning work in order to increase the capital - cannot consume a minor quantity of energy and resources, cannot do without fossil fuels, cannot sell a minor amount of commodities, cannot utilize in a planned manner the human capacities and the natural resources, under pain of its existence. It's just the unbridled competition among capitalists that prevents them from curbing the accumulation machine.

Owing the failure and the utopian nature of bourgeois ecological receipts, is necessary a scientific and class-founded approach to the problem of climatic change.

The bases of a solution

In the present epoch the productive forces have reached such a development and such a social character that they cannot stay any more in the narrow limits of the bourgeois production relations. These relations hurl the society in the disorder, impede the solution of the manifold social, economic, environmental problems, sharpen all the present contradictions.

The bourgeoisie is incapable of a rational utilization of the productive forces and hence cannot resolve the environmental problem. The solution is prevented by the capitalistic relations of production, based on the exploitation of man and nature.

The capitalistic accumulation, that increases constantly the richness operating like capital and its concentration in the hands of powerful monopolies, throws in the misery the working class and devastates the nature, driving to the break-down the ecological hearth system.

The starting-point for a solution of the ecological problem is therefore the intelligence of the fundamental contradictions of the present mode of production, that are at the basis of that "*revolutionary transformation of the whole society*» (MARX AND ENGELS, *Manifest of the Communist Party*) aiming at destroying the present production relations and at creating new relations corresponding to the character of the productive forces.

Clearly, these contradictions do not develop in abstract, but inside some general conditions of production that are "physical", natural conditions, in terms of natural limits of the ecosystem, geologic and climatic conditions, natural resources, capacity of environmental absorbing of waste, limits imposed by the physical laws.

The ecological crisis is the manifestation of the inner contradictions of capitalism as far as concern the relation man-nature. In order to resolve these actual contradictions, is indispensable and urgent to overthrow the present mode of production through the social revolution of proletariat and socialize the means of production (lands, forests, waters, underground, raw materials, means of transport and communication, etc.).

Without the social property and the social control of the sources of energy and of fuels, of the energetic systems (production, transmission, distribution and consumption of energy), without the socialist nationalization of industries, cannot exist a solution of the energetic and environmental problem.

Capitalism is an historically out-of-date system, ecologically unsustainable, incapable of coming out of its general crisis, menacing the biosphere and the survival of the mankind, and at a same time is a system ripe for its substitution by a superior social regime: the proletarian socialism, first phase of communism.

Only socialism can realize a fully conscious organization of the social production, in which the society will produce and distribute according to a plan, will regulate rationally the material exchange between the human beings and the nature, will restructure the economy on the base of the utilization of renewable energy.

The historical evolution and the environmental conditions render more and more necessary this new and higher social order: The means for the creation of an economy and of a world in which the life is in harmony with the natural laws, do exist. But they can be applied only through the radical and profound transformation of the economic structure.

Therefore the working class and the oppressed peoples must act as soon as possible in order to overthrow capitalism by means of the revolutionary struggle.

Only socialism can protect the ecosystem and protect the mankind

Undoubtedly the abandon of consumer society model, of the invasion of commodities that not satisfy the needs of the human being in his relations with nature, the elimination of the monopolization of the social development, the reduction of the working-day, can occur only in a more elevated social and economic order.

Without the dictatorship of proletariat on the worldly scale - that can accomplish itself only as the result of the victory of proletarian revolutions in single countries or in groups of countries and of the union of the proletarian republics - ; without the direct passage to socialism of the countries of advanced and medium developed capitalism (not certainly with the "market socialism" that brings inevitably to capitalism!); without a profound transformation of the structure of society, it's impossible arrest and reverse the destructive course of a system governed by the law of maximum profit, and the consequent environmental devastation.

Socialism is the only equalitarian and sustainable system that can create a social structure in which the mankind can unify and utilize its capacities in order to forestall the environmental catastrophe and assure its own survival and development.

Socialism, with its project of abolition of the exploitation of man and nature, with the planned and rational use of technological development and with the global cooperation, is the only system that can assure the natural equilibrium, protecting and developing the most important knowledge and conquests of the mankind.

In socialism the man-nature relation is radically transformed, because the production has no more the aim to attain the maximum profit feeding the consumer's culture, but the purpose of satisfy the material and cultural necessities, not superfluous and artificially induced, of the human being.

Socialist economy replace man in the center, his real needs, his well-balanced relation with the ecosystem which is suffering because the heredity of capitalism and must be re-equilibrated by many generations.

The development in socialism

The concept of development in the socialist society has a meaning utterly different from that of the capitalistic society. In the new social system the needs are different from the needs induced and manipulate by the necessity of valorization of capital. Not only the levels of production, but also the levels of consumption are planned.

In the socialism the knowledge is utilized in order to ameliorate the productive systems, not to accumulate profits and wealth to the benefit of monopolies detaining the brevets.

From this point of view, the problem of development of the productive forces will consist in:

- a) a renewal of the productive basis on the ground of renewable energies;
- b) a development of new technologies and machines with a minor consumption and better energetic efficiency, more lasting and reliable;
- c) elimination or re-conversion of the obsolete or polluting plants;
- d) saving of energy and human work, saving of raw materials, reduction of the materials of consumption and of waste;
- e) use of biodegradable or re-cyclable materials;
- f) priority to the renewable energies (solar, eolian, tides, hydric, geothermic, biomasses, bio-gasses) in all sectors, from the production to the commerce, from the transports to houses;
- g) drastic diminution of the intermediate and artificial costs;
- h) development of the bio-building work and of systems of thermic isolation and of efficient lighting;
- i) development of hydrogen as energetic vector;
- l) recycling and recovery.

The concept of welfare in the new society

The welfare in the new social order is not comparable with the false consumers' comfort and with the immoderation, the waste and luxury characterizing the bourgeois life-style.

The wealth indicator will be not the growth of the volume of commodities and consumption, but the reduction of the time devoted to the material work, the social and environmental quality of the produced goods, their value-in-use in terms of the satisfaction of the real and fundamental needs of the labouring masses, the structural eco-compatible characteristics of the produced goods, their durability, reparability and recyclability.

The social welfare will be measured in terms of reduction of working hours and of assured employment, of social and health services free and of high quality; in terms of a polytechnic and humanistic education, of more days of holidays and rest, of a brought forward pension system, productive and social safeness, lesser pollution, lesser traffic and stress; houses, libraries, cinemas, theaters, science and art, mass sport and recreation, with elimination of class privileges, with efficient administrations, wide social reserves, protection of the natural environment and of cultural goods, etc.

Certainly the new socialist societies have to resolve problems that the first experiences of socialism had to resolve in different way, because the different historical conditions.

Will be necessary a more complete and rational organization and dislocation of the social production: an approach to the sources of raw materials and the consumption zones, a solution to the problems of industrial waste, a reduction of the use of water, a development of research and innovation, the adoption of rigorous prescribing rules, etc.

Likewise will be necessary the complete collectivization and rationalization of agriculture: cooperation, advanced technical management, crops rotation, use of varieties requiring a minor addition of natural resources, utilization of traditional, ecologically efficient cultivations, supported by the modern agronomy, throwing down of pesticides, poisons, etc. In this sense the new society will have to re-industrialize, re-mechanize and innovate industry and agriculture. And to this purpose will have to pour the greater part of investments.

The system of transports will be collectivized and modernized as well: concentration of all forms of transport in the hands of the socialist State in a one and only planned system, drastic reduction of the road transports, rational solution of the problems of mass mobility with the strengthening of public transports, the decongestion of the metropolitan traffic, the city-country re-equilibrium, etc.

The environmental question in the society of associated producers is strictly connected to the question of the real democracy, of the conscious participation, of the cultural growth of the labouring masses. Only the socialist regime - founded on the mass organizations of proletarians and of the other workers and on a really collective program - can assure this connection. Will emerge the fundamental role of the non-alienated worker, ruler of the new society.

A conclusion

The society cannot more live under the domination of capital, and the existence of bourgeois class reveals itself as incompatible with the existence of human society and nature.

So, in order to come out from the global ecological crisis and to start a true social and ecological reform it's necessary the world proletarian revolution and the instauration of socialism, first stage of communism, in which *“socialised man, the associated producers, are rationally regulating their interchange with Nature, bringing it under their common control, instead of being ruled by it as by the blind forces of Nature; and achieving this with the least expenditure of energy and under conditions most favourable to, and worthy of their human nature.”* (MARX, *Capital*, Book. III, ch. 48).