



Sozialistische Jugend Österreich
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LETTER OF MOTIVATION MATTHIAS KRAINZ CANDIDACY FOR IUSY VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Comrades,
querid@s compañer@s,
chèr(e)s camarades,

Since the very beginning, internationalism and international alliances were at the core of any socialist and social democratic movement. Our international solidarity is more than humanity put in practice. It is also the profound understanding of our struggle towards an alternative to capitalism, towards socialism, is only possible if fought internationally. This strong conviction is also shared by many member organizations in YES and IUSY and other left movements from around the world. It is clear, that we sometimes do have our differences within IUSY. I strongly believe that its these differences, our diverse analysis and strategies within a common socialist understanding of the world laid out in our Global Political Manifesto and the honest discussions and the true exchange that emerges from it, that make IUSY and its work so precious. Alliances with progressive movements, which are not yet part of IUSY, are also of great importance to our work and struggle for more freedom, equality, solidarity and democracy.

Over the last two years I had the chance to meet, discuss and learn from comrades from all over the world. And although our political realities are often different, the limitations to the things we want to achieve, are not. If 150 years ago the International was at the heart of our political movements, it cannot come second today, in a world that is even more interconnected and depended on each other. The International must come first.

Most of my time and energy of the last two years went into the Political Economy Working Group, where together with many comrades from all continents, we have been developing a comprehensive strategical paper about economics, the Political Economy Programme. Bringing people, interested and passionate, together, learning from each other and creating these political spaces, I believe these are the core tasks of any member in the IUSY presidium. We have also organized two educational seminars on Economics, with multiple workshops on different topics related to the political economy. The first in Vienna (30th Sep.- 2nd Oct. 2016) where on an early Sunday morning we started the Political Economy Working Group and a second in Riga (18th-21st May 2017), where the objective was to provide all necessary tools and knowledge to enable the participants, to do themselves workshops on the respective topics. Too often economics is left to so called experts, who surprisingly often are white, old men. We want to open the debate to everybody, those suffering most, should be the once, that are heard most. The third project the Political Economy Working Group has been extensively working on, was the worldwide campaign against tax evasion. Which was successfully launched on December 1st, 2017.

There are few issues, where the need of international actions is more needed, than the fight against tax evasion. There is more wealth hidden offshore, in absolute and relative terms, than ever before. Multinationals, such as Apple, Google and McDonalds, the very wealth or the one 1% and criminal organisations such as the mafia or terrorist organisations, they all use the so called tax havens to avoid paying taxes, to increase their fortune and launder their money. But the Problem is not only about the unpaid taxes and the hidden criminal activities. Many countries tried to compete with each other by lowering their taxes on corporations and capital, leading to a taxation limbo and the respective tax base erosion.

We need to tackle the root causes of tax evasion! This we cannot achieve on a national nor regional level. Nor is it a struggle that will not be over in two or four years. But this should not hold us back. We are the youth. If we want to have tax sovereignty and tax justice, to create a more equal world, we need to tackle tax evasion!

This is why we worked on a worldwide campaign against tax evasion, carried by our member organisations and political allies. Let's put light on the shadows, let's give this issue the attention it deserves!

If you want to know more about the work of the political economy working group, join our Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/851664904970530/>

Although we are an International, there are some regions that are over and others that are underrepresented. Clearly this has to do with the availability of resources. It is just not possible that all IUSY member organizations meet a couple of times per year, at the other side of the world. But the engagement of our member organisations is crucial. An International is only as strong, as the participation of its member organisations is. If not everybody can go everywhere, we have to think how we can support each other, building more bridges, strengthening the union. IUSY is more than sharing with each other, what is going on in our

country and going places. IUSY is a necessity, it is the profound understanding that all humans are equal, that the world is not as it is by coincidence, but an expression of relations of power. These relations of power cannot be changed, if our struggle takes place, primarily on a national level. They can be changed, if we organize internationally, if we support each other and fight together. Our fight is one, for the good life for everybody, free from oppression and exploitation!

Socialist regards,

Matthias Krainz

Sozialistische Jugend Österreich – Socialist Youth of Austria