

## Note on..... the Workers' Party Marxist-Leninist

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Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

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The Workers' Party Marxist Leninist was established September 15, 1994 in Rome following a split from the *Partito della Rifondazione Comunista*. Elected as General Secretary was Michele Panotti, by 24 votes to 30.

The Workers' Party ML looked for inspiration to an earlier age, to the Communist Party of Italy (1921-1943) while its programme was said to be based on Marxism-Leninism and Maoism. The Central Committee's first statement spoke of abstention, Marxist Leninist against the bourgeois government and opposes the line of the *Partito della Rifondazione Comunista* and the Party of the Democratic Left.

The second Congress of the Workers' Party Marxist Leninist held on 12-13 June 2013 saw the expulsion of one third of the members. Expulsion was said to be due to the creation of a reformist trend inside the Party, headed by Michele Panotti the Secretary General. Salvatore Di Stefano had created the Stalin Brigade faction to counter these "anti-revolutionaries". The Stalin Brigade comprised 7 members of the old Central Committee and more than 18 delegates and so were in the majority at the Congress. Brigade Stalin expelled Panotti and followers and June 13 saw Salvatore Di Stefano elected General Secretary (Provisional). At the Central Committee meeting of 15 June 2013, the newspaper *Brodza* changed its name to *New Democracy*.

Part of the criticism was that, virtually anonymous on the extra-parliamentary Left, the Workers' Party ML did not participate in elections and did not use the social-network. Under its new General Secretary Salvatore Di Stefano, the Central Committee approved the use of social-network for propaganda. The third Congress of the Workers' Party Marxist Leninist quickly followed on 24 July 2013 to legitimise the change of leadership. Salvatore Di Stefano was elected with 25 votes out of 25.

(For more information, go to the III Congress <http://pomlweb.blogspot.it/p/iii-congress-of-the-party-worker-ml.html> )

**It remained an unstable organisation and by October 2013** the majority of the Central Committee decided to join with the Socialist Unity and the Communist Party of Proletarian Unity to create the Socialist Workers Party joining the Fifth International associated with Bolivian leader Hugo Chavez.

The Secretary-General, together with a small group of activists, decided to go ahead and convene a new conference of what remain of the Workers' Party ML, that is, a dozen activists, who unanimously elected the new secretary of the party with a majority of 100%.

At international level, the Workers' Party Marxist Leninist expressed full solidarity with the Communist Party of Turkey, and the CC has decided to support the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Greece and the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Canada.

Their viewpoint on the positions of other Communist groups in Italy was succinctly listed as:

- Communist Refoundation: Borghese, revisionist, Trotskyite, neo-liberal and opportunist. No collaboration.
- Italian Communists: Borghese, revisionist, Trotskyite, neo-liberal and opportunist. No collaboration.
- Critical Left: Trotskyite, revisionist and opportunist. No collaboration
- Communist Workers' Party: Trotskyite, Menshevik,. No collaboration.
- PCI-ML: sectarian, fake Marxists Leninists. No collaboration.
- PMLI: Marxist Leninists and Maoists. Historical party has exalted Mao Tse Tung in Italy ever since. Compliments for their history and what they continue to do for an Italy red and socialist. Only the Communist Party recognized by the Workers' Party ML in Italian history and political tradition. Ready to work
- PC-Communist Left People: Yes rediscover Marxist-Leninist opportunism, to retrieve the electorate that the Communist Refoundation and the Italian Communists have lost. They claim to Marxism-Leninism and then enhance Chavez and Fidel Castro. No Collaboration
- Communist Workers: Marxist Leninists, Maoists, some adventurism; possible collaboration.
- Front of the Communist Youth: First juvenile criminal organization in Italy Marxist-Leninist enclosing all the young fellows of various Marxist-Leninists in a single organization. Possible Collaboration
- Red Militant: they are joined by People's Communist Left. No collaboration.
- CARC & (n) PCI: Marxist Leninists and Maoists. Possible collaboration.