

# European elections: BüSo makes reconstruction the campaign focus

by Ortrun Cramer

Ironically, most expectations on the European elections held on June 13, in all member states of the European Union, are that voter participation will be at a record low. Campaign workers and candidates of the parties across Europe have complained about a lack of interest in their campaigns by the population.

In view of the fact that the election campaign took place during a war conducted by NATO forces on European soil, for the first time since the end of World War II, this lack of interest appears to be paradoxical. However, almost none of the political parties made a campaign issue of the war and the more pressing question of the necessary economic reconstruction after the end of the bombings. Thus, questions of European economic integration or other issues addressed by the parties — mostly in extremely lame campaigns — were of little concern to the public.

The election campaign waged by the German Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) and its co-thinker parties and organizations in other European countries that are all part of the LaRouche political movement internationally, stood in profound contrast to others' empty campaign slogans, posters, and TV advertising. BüSo's intervention presented a comprehensive alternative economic policy: In posters put up all over the country, the party demanded "Peace through Development," and the implementation of the Eurasian Land-Bridge program. This "New Silk Road," which had been promoted in Germany by BüSo chairwoman and leading candidate for the European elections, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, would provide the overall framework for economic reconstruction of the Balkan countries devastated by the war, which was the central demand of BüSo's campaign.

In a short address to voters which was aired four times between May 21 and June 7 on the two national state-controlled TV channels in Germany, Zepp-LaRouche had focused on the need "to overcome the terrible war on the Balkans immediately by an economic reconstruction program for all of Europe, since not only the Balkans, but also Europe is destroyed economically today." She indicated the models that the reconstruction program must be based on: "Therefore, we must implement today, for the Balkans and for Europe, the same policy that was characteristic for the reconstruction after the Second World War, which made possible the German

economic miracle," she said. This "characteristic policy" was elaborated in a leaflet circulated by BüSo candidates and campaign workers: A new Marshall Plan, combined with the establishment of a financial institution like the postwar German reconstruction bank, the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, which provides credit for the large-scale infrastructure projects, such as those needed for the Balkans. More than 100,000 leaflets were distributed during the last 12 days of the election campaign in Germany. BüSo's co-thinker parties and organizations — which, with the exception of European Labor Party (EAP) in Sweden, were unable to run candidates in the elections — circulated the same appeal throughout Europe.

Among the rather meager coverage that the media gave to the European election campaign, there was one broadcast on the "small parties" in the race, aired by the national all-news station "Phoenix." In this broadcast, Zepp-LaRouche spoke on behalf of her party. "We condemn the conscious bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade," she stated, warning that those responsible for the bombing "seem to want to unleash a Third World War" which might become similar to the Thirty Years' War. "We are fighting for a peaceful solution, because the reconstruction of the Balkans can be the chance for an economic recovery. We must develop eastern Europe, but with that, we serve our own interest, through the new expanding markets along the New Silk Road."

As BüSo's leading candidate, Zepp-LaRouche addressed many public events organized by the party in the last two weeks of the campaign. She spoke in Hamburg, Hanover, Berlin, Munich, and in two events in rural districts in the southern state of Bavaria, in Kirchweidach and Pfaffenhäusen. In each meeting, she was joined on the podium by the party's regional candidates. Other public events were addressed by other leading party representatives in Frankfurt, Duisburg, Stuttgart, Dresden, and other cities. All events were well attended by members and supporters of BüSo, but also by many voters attracted by the campaign. The depth and intensity of discussions during those meetings went far beyond what the party had seen in previous election campaigns. Also, because of the turmoil which the war in Yugoslavia had created in the activities of the other parties, the discussions shook the minds of many voters, and made them much more

receptive to new ideas. Ironically, the parties who spoke out strongly against the war in Yugoslavia, were the communist Party of Democratic Socialism and the conservative Christian Socialist Union in Bavaria — while the Green party's leadership, traditionally considered "pacifist," was most outspoken in support of the war. This support had prompted many Green party chapters to refuse to do any campaigning during the election.

In her presentations, Zepp-LaRouche challenged her audiences to reflect on "how it could occur, that there is war in Europe." She detailed the program for a New Bretton Woods system, laid out by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and the full scope of the Eurasian Land-Bridge development program, as the only way out of the crisis. Voters have to understand, that the fundamental reason for the war in the Balkans lies not in Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic, "but rather in the global financial crisis," she stressed.

### **A reason for optimism**

In the public meetings in Hamburg, Hanover, and Berlin, Zepp-LaRouche was joined by Marivilia Carrasco, chairman of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement in Mexico, one of BüSo's international allies. Carrasco told people "how important your activities here in Europe, to build a New Bretton Woods system, are for our countries in Ibero-America, which are already in an economic downward spiral. Many countries are now close to a civil war." Nevertheless, Carrasco stressed that she is "optimistic" about the situation, because the LaRouche movement presents an alternative, which is regularly covered by many of the leading newspapers in Mexico and other Ibero-American countries.

BüSo's campaign also was supported by the president of the Schiller Institute in Russia, Prof. Taras Muranivsky, who addressed a public meeting in Frankfurt on May 29. He reported about a recent conference in the Russian State Duma (lower house of Parliament), where LaRouche's ideas of physical economy had been the subject of debate among high-level economic experts from Russia. Concerning the Balkan war, Muranivsky stressed that Milosevic was used as a pretext, to economically destroy southeastern Europe. "It seems, that the financial oligarchy tries to solve its problems with bombs," he observed.

BüSo's intervention, however, was not only a response to the pressing economic and financial crisis of Europe. In her televised address, as well as in all of her public statements, Zepp-LaRouche stressed that Europe and Germany, whose machine-tool capabilities would play a key role both in the reconstruction of the Balkans and the building of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, must return to the Classical roots of its culture and educational system. "The quality of our products always depended on a good education in the framework of the Humboldt education system," she explained. And, it was in this sense, that she appealed to the voters to "act as real citizens of the state."

## **Peace through development for the Balkans**

*The Schiller Institute is circulating a worldwide call for a "Marshall Plan" for the Balkans, as part of an overall Eurasian development program. In last week's issue, we published the text and a selected list of signers. The following are among the people who have signed since our last issue went to press.*

### **United States Congress**

John Lesinski, former U.S. Representative, Dearborn, Michigan

Clair Callan, former U.S. Representative, Fairbury, Nebraska

Mervyn Dymally, former U.S. Representative; chairman, Congressional Black Caucus, California

Byron Johnson, former U.S. Representative, Englewood, Colorado

### **Poland**

Prof. Aleksander Krzyminski, former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; professor, Warsaw School of Economics

Dr. Jerzy Oledzki, former Vice-Minister of Education

Jozef Fraczek, senator of Polish Republic

Jozef Gruszka, deputy of Polish Sejm (Parliament)

Stanislaw Kalemba, deputy of Polish Sejm

Janina Kraus, deputy of Polish Sejm

Miroslaw Pawlak, deputy of Polish Sejm

Ryszard Stanibula, deputy of Polish Sejm

Wojciech Zarzycki, deputy of Polish Sejm

Ewa Borzymowska, ROP (Movement for the Rebuilding of Poland)

Czeslaw Domaradzki, Christian Democratic Labor Party

Jerzy Czeszko, Awat (Optoelectronic company)

Henryk Krakowiak, "Pioneer" (Society of Pensioners)

Dr. Zygmunt Krolak, former government adviser, Warsaw School of Economics

Kazimierz Maksjan, Polish Patent Office

Wieslaw Olichwier, Parliamentary Club of PSL (Peasants Party)

Prof. Tadeusz Przewozinski, Society for Free Education in Poland

Jozef Skura, Society for Free Education in Poland

Dr. Jerzy Stefanski, Awat (Optoelectronic company)

Jolanta Sypien, Schiller Institute, Warsaw