

Marco Romiti
Console Generale
Consolato Italiano in Amsterdam

Friday, November 14th, 2008

Dear Marco Romiti,

We, Italian students, researchers and workers are here together to support the Italian General Strike, and the rising tides of mass demonstration which are spreading all over Italy against the approval of the "law Gelmini" (called after name of the Minister of Education).

This law is meant to give a major shock to the whole national education system. It includes:

- a consistent reduction to public investments for education system, (from elementary school to universities)
- the block of university employees' turnover: for 5 professors going in retirement just one will be replaced
- the possibility for universities to turn into private foundation, seeking for private financing

Berlusconi's Right and Prodi's Left alike treated education as a cost rather than an investment. These measures led to a radical shift of the role of public education. No longer public institutions for free circulation of knowledge, universities will become retail centers for the marketing of commodified knowledge. (marketing of commodified knowledge i don't know if it's clear, probably I will edit this last sentence)

The ongoing financial crisis, prepared after years of application of ideological market recipes, won't stop our governments to damage our common space. On the contrary, they're desperately hurrying up to enclose the few spaces of freedom left over, privatizing - alongside education - other public domains as health, art, crop seeds, water, urban public space.

But this is just the climax of a process which begun years ago, which took place not only in Italy. For more than a decade, propelled by the international neoliberal consensus, European governments started to think knowledge terms of standard 'Credit Transfers' and 'Accumulation Systems'. As the 'Bologna Process' made knowledge measurable, universities were called to enhance their 'productivity' and 'efficiency' and to compete one against

each other. The outcome of this process was decreasing the quality of knowledge, creating new forms of speculation over education with the proliferation in all Europe of several and expensive masters, re-introducing class barriers to knowledge access.

We won't let them to do so. We won't pay for their crisis.

We believe that knowledge is common, and everyone should be able to access it. We believe that human progress comes out of cooperation, and not out of competition.

Together with other people we're posing the basis for the counter-Bologna process. Right now, actions are taking place in London, Granada, Barcelona, Paris, Brussels.

The Movement of the Anomalous
Wave is sweeping through Europe

European Anomalous Wave,
Amsterdam