

THE CHARTER OF AMIENS

THE CONFEDERATION'S CONGRESS OF AMIENS CONFIRMS ARTICLE 2 AS FOUNDATIONAL OF THE CGT.

- ★ Outside of all political schools, the CGT groups together all workers conscious of the fight to be carried out for the disappearance of the salaried and of employers.
- ★ The Congress regards this declaration as a recognition of the class struggle which, on the economic plain, sets the workers in revolt in opposition to all forms of exploitation and oppression - material as well as moral - put in place by the capitalist class against the working class.
- ★ The congress clarifies - by the following points - this theoretical assertion.
- ★ In daily protest work the union pursues the co-ordination of working class efforts, and the growth of the well-being of workers, through the carrying out of immediate improvements, such as the diminution in work hours, the increase in salaries, etc. But this task is only one side of the work of syndicalism: it prepares complete emancipation, which can only be fulfilled by expropriation of the capitalists; it advocates as a method of action the general strike; and it considers that the union, today a resistance group, will be, in the future, a group for production and redistribution, the basis of social reorganisation.
- ★ The Congress declares that this double task, daily and in the future, flows from the situation which weighs on the working class, and which renders obligatory for all workers - whatever their opinions or their political or philosophical leanings - membership in that essential group that is the union.
- ★ In consequence, as far as it concerns individuals, the Congress asserts the complete freedom for each union member to participate - outside of his corporate grouping - in those forms of struggle that correspond to his philosophical or political concepts, limiting itself to asking him in exchange to not introduce into the union the opinions he professes outside it.
- ★ As far as it concerns organisations, the Congress declares that in order for syndicalism to achieve its maximum effect, economic action must be carried out directly against the bosses, the confederated organisations not having to involve themselves, as a union group, with parties and sects that can, outside and alongside, pursue social transformation in complete freedom.

Adopted by the 1906 congress of the CGT (France's biggest union at the time). The *Charter of Amiens* was one of the earliest declarations of syndicalism, recognising the existence of the class struggle and the need for a separation between the economic organisation and political parties.

Source: www.thesyndicalist.org.uk