

## **“It is unacceptable that the troika sets up shop on the day of the European elections”**

*João Semedo, coordinator of Bloco de Esquerda presented a formal complaint at the National Election Committee (CNE) contesting the realization of a “Troika Summit” on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, day of the European elections, where Durão Barroso, Mario Draghi and Christine Lagarde are foreseen to be present. Bloco’s coordinator stated, “Portugal is not a banana republic” and accused the Portuguese Government of being an “accomplice of electoral maneuvering”.*

“It is unacceptable that the troika sets up shop” in Portugal, in the very same day of the elections for the European Parliament affirmed the coordinator of Bloco de Esquerda, João Semedo, referring to the conference “Monetary Policies in a Context of Financial Evolution”. This conference is scheduled to take place between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May in Sintra, bringing to Portugal figures like Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), president of the European Commission (EC) Durão Barroso and the director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde.

Bloco questioned the prime-minister about the realization of this conference and the euro parliamentarian Marisa Matias questioned Barroso and Draghi about the meeting in Sintra, “making it clear its intentions of conditioning” the electoral process “of a Member-State that has been subject to a intervention program” envisioned by the troika.

“Portugal is not a banana republic”, stated João Semedo to the journalists.

“There are 365 days a year. There is not a single plausible and good reason for this conference to take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May” highlighted João Semedo, accusing the Portuguese Government of being an “accomplice in this electoral maneuver” for knowing about the conference and doing nothing in order to postpone it.

The portuguese electoral law “is clear by stipulating that it is prohibited any type of propaganda that influences, directly or indirectly, the vote of citizens” on the election day and additionally, this “Troika Summit” is a “provocation” that deserves the attention of CNE.

The first forum of the BCE about central banks is scheduled to start on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, Sunday, with a reception of the ECB president, Mario Draghi, followed by a dinner where the general director of the IMF, Christine Lagarde.

## **The Government “celebrates” but hides the deals made with the troika**

“I have no doubt that the Portuguese Government is celebrating. But they have hidden from the Portuguese people, once again, the exact costs and the deals that were made with the troika on this 12<sup>th</sup> evaluation. The so called clean exit is not an exit and it is not so clean”, stated Bloco’s coordinator.

João Semedo insisted that the leader of the executive, Passos Coelho, reveal “today, as soon as possible”, all the accords that were “negotiated” with the troika for the near future.

“If these deals maintain hidden from the Portuguese people until the Election Day, naturally this is just for electoral purposes”.