

TRIBUTE TO MICHELE RIVASI

"TOGETHER, WE WILL WIN!"

By associations, collectives, former politicians and elected representatives, authors, directors, etc.

Since the creation of the CRIIRAD in 1986 to her debut in politics, in 1997, as a National Assembly Member from the Drôme French department, to her fights at the European Parliament, Michèle Rivasi's commitments and courage to relentlessly defend transparency, access to information, right to know, and independent scientific expertise has had a tremendous influence on a huge generation of networks and activists in political ecology and environmental health.

These many individuals and civil society organisations, inspired by Michèle Rivasi's generous energy, freedom and pugnacity, speak with one voice in this letter – to salute Michele and her achievements. The signatories of this collective tribute testify to their commitment to carry out, together and tirelessly, these essential campaigns to fight for, in the service of living, nature and our fundamental rights.

Since her first European election in 2009, Michele Rivasi has continually put the voices and concerns of our citizens at the heart of decisions of the European Union over the course of her three terms as MEP Europe Ecology Les Verts (EELV). Her 15 years of struggle for a more transparent, sustainable and equitable world have been filled with dedicated and difficult campaigns, meaningful victories and moments of frustration at a political system sometimes too compromised by private interests.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AS ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Michèle, as you invited us to call yourself in easy-discussion, confronted the lobbies of agro-industry, nuclear, tobacco, wireless and pharmaceutical industry that poison us. She made the protection of the environment and public health her top priorities. In the face of the industrial deception and greed, Michèle never bowed in her quest for truth. Inventively and continually challenging including without hesitation the European Court of Justice to win the case and consolidating “right” in the service of “our rights” to live in good health.

Michèle also fought for whistleblowers and victims of health and environmental scandals, as she considered the truth has to prevail over the interests of a few. But this struggle has not been without obstacles, often meeting the intransigence of those who prefer to protect private interests and profits rather than the health of our fellow citizens.

POWER TO CITIZENS AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

In recent months, alas, bitterness and spite had taken over. Michèle denounced the loss of power of the European Parliament, which she observed in the face of the growing takeover of the Commission and the more nationalist visions of the Member States. Whether on the pesticide bans, the withdrawal of dangerous chemicals or the shortage of essential medicines, there was no progress. “The lobbies are winning!” you said, punching a fist on the table. Deploring the growing number of MEPs anaesthetised by their political party and forgetting

their role as representatives of European citizens in favor of games of power and complacency, Michèle had enough and told us so with her simple and powerful words! It is high time to give back power to citizens, to make their voices heard in the face of institutions that cultivate impunity and steal behind opaque decisions and dubious compromises.

Today, at the end of her three mandates of relentless commitment and her sudden passing, the strength of her courage and the path she carved encourage her fellow MEPs to continue her fights with determination. Michele was clear that the duty of elected representatives is never to forget that elected representatives are there to represent the people's interests and not private ones.

Michèle, you have listened, accompanied, supported and inspired us in all these years. Your genuinely fight for a better world doesn't end here. You were moving the lines. We will remain mobilized to defend the causes that have united us and that are important to us. Many of us have walked with you through the European corridors of power, campaigning for a more beautiful, fairer, healthier, more alive world... With you, everything became possible. We won't let go of anything. Together, we will win!