

Response to the questions, assembly on the Troika and economic governance

Thomas Coutrot (ATTAC-France)

A) Experiences of struggles in your country and movement against the Troika, austerity and the neoliberal policies of economic governance.

- Which campaigns and strategies have you been doing in your country so far?

unitary campaign against the Fiscal Pact (TSCG) in september 2012 (meetings in various cities, national demonstration on september 30th, 80 000 participants)

- What are positive and negative experiences as regards achieving your objectives?

the campaign has received a wide coverage by the media, but the leading role was of political parties (Front de gauche), unions and civil society organisations staying behind; the Treaty has been ratified by the French Parliament in october; the mobilization did not continue;

- What are obstacles and challenges as regards the objectives of your campaign/struggles?

- to define objectives that are understandable for most people and seem realistic or attainable;

- to have parties and social movements to cooperate fairly.

B) With a view to strengthening our struggles and to work towards campaigning against these policies united across Europe - what are concrete ideas and proposals to move in this direction that you would like to bring to Athens and discuss/share with the others?

- What are ideas for strategies?

coordinate mobilizations against neoliberal reforms enforced by the Commission at national level (e.g. Pensions reform in France in september 2013) within the framework of European austerity policies : exchange of informations , organization of European public meetings in each country, common dates for action days,

- What are challenges or obstacles we have to address in your view? What are potential ways of addressing those?

The main challenge is the difference between countries regarding the rythm of reforms, mobilization agendas, etc

A first step would be to establish a previsional calendar of national and European events and dates; when national mobilisations cannot be wholly synchronized, we could try to organize "supporters events" in other countries in support of a national mobilization.

More ambitiously, we could try to establish a permanent European-wide process of elaboration and citizens involvement (e.g. European tribunal of austerity, European Convention against austerity and for democracy, etc...)

- What regional and/or local differences for carrying out those strategies do we have to take into consideration ?

- What resources are needed for these strategies (communication, money, people, etc.)

common understanding