

ALTER SUMMIT

JUNE 7TH AND 8TH IN ATHENS !



The European Union has reached an historical turning point. After almost six years, the crisis in Europe is still deepening. It is even worsened by the austerity policies imposed by the European political leaders, along with the economic and financial elites. These policies result into a global attack against social welfare, social rights and democracy, causing more recession and unemployment.

All over Europe, social and citizen movements have raised against this historical neoliberal offensive. But these struggles have not been able, until now, to overthrow these "austeritary" policies: the peoples fight separately, and one by one they are defeated...

It is now high-time for social and citizen movements to converge beyond European borders, to fight together and to organize joint actions based on their own proposals. This is precisely what the Alter Summit is about.

The Alter Summit aims at bringing together all forces opposed to current unfair and dangerous crisis policies and to impose a U-turn in European policies. It is led by the social movements - national and European trade unions, social, citizen, feminist, eco-

logical movements - but also accept the political forces which support our demands, and personalities who support our appeal

are welcome. We are asking all organizations and politicians to fight with us if they share the spirit and the fundamental analysis summarized in our "Call" (see p2, p3).

The Alter Summit is a continuous dynamic of political convergence of European movements engaged in building a social, democratic, ecological and feminist Europe. But it is also a major event, organized in 2013 on 7th and 8th June in Athens, which should be a first step for the building of an European social movement.

During this event, we will publish a common manifesto, drafted with movements all over Europe, to stress our common analysis, alternatives and objectives to build this other Europe we all wish for (see page 4).

BUILDING A UNIFIED MOVEMENT FOR A DEMOCRATIC, SOCIAL, ECOLOGICAL AND FEMINIST EUROPE

ALTER SUMMIT

The AlterSummit was formed in March 2012. Its founders and supporters have come together on the basis of the "Call for an Alter Summit" (see www.altersummit.eu).

How we build the Alter Summit

The Alter Summit was born in the spirit of the European Social Forum: it continues the struggle for "another Europe", but it neither repeats nor replaces the ESF.

It's a semi-open network of organizations. All organizations are welcome, so long as they share the CALL and accept the working method (see charter on the website).

It is a network of organizations, not individuals. We call for the support of political personalities, but we do not want them to "represent" us, and we do not want political parties inside the network.

Excerpts from "the Call for an Alter Summit":

Today we are witnessing a major historical turning point in the European Union. European leaders are taking advantage of the crisis to impose a neoliberal order against the ideal of a democratic, social and ecological Europe.



"This "silent revolution" – as Barroso himself calls it – is a threat to welfare and democracy."

The face of Europe is changing with dire consequences for citizens and for the future of the European project itself. This "silent revolution" – as Barroso himself calls it – is taking place through unprecedented activism at the legal-institutional level: proliferation of rules on fiscal matters and wages, higher thresholds of requirement of these rules, tougher penalties and an increasing automatization of their implementation.



"Austerity policies are leading to a widespread recession. The social situation is deteriorating."

The Treaty on "stability, coordination and governance" stemming from the European Council of January, 30, 2012, toughens the austerity measures, at a time when the context of a crisis at least as severe as that of the 1930's, augmented by an unprecedented environmental crisis, instead calls for the preservation of jobs and public investment rather than toughening austerity measures. The European Commission will be entitled to compel the States in the exercise of such a central prerogative to democratic life as the budget, if it considers that policies do not conform to its vision or that of the ECOFIN Council.

"This crisis comes mainly from the greed of the banks, from financial markets, from the complicity or the laxity of political leaders."



In 2010 a second banking crisis began in Europe. Now, austerity policies jointly conducted in all the European countries are leading to a widespread recession. The social situation is deteriorating, and in some countries collapsing.

These developments are the most serious denial of democracy that Europe has experienced since the end of World War II. European citizens are subjected to punitive policies when everyone knows that this crisis comes mainly from the greed of the banks, from financial markets, from the complicity or the laxity of political leaders who were supposed to control them. Two decades of competitiveness are weighing heavily on wages and taxation...

We say "Enough"! We refuse these policies, they flout democracy, they have plunged Europe into a particularly severe economic crisis. They awaken xenophobic demons that the creation of Europe was in principle intended to eradicate. We want to improve the European social model and defend the people, not banks, corporations, and their main shareholders.

...Alternatives exist. We must change the balance of power and become strong enough to implement these alternatives and devise political processes in order to bring back the European project on the track of democracy, social and ecological progress. The alternative summit we call for will be a first step towards achieving these goals.



"We want to improve the European social model and defend the people, not banks, corporations, and their main shareholders."

ALTER SUMMIT

From Florence to Athens - A manifesto for the European movements

The Alter Summit process began in Spring 2012, and was officially launched in Florence on November 10th 2012, at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 1st European Social Forum.

It was then discussed with European personalities, academic networks and European organizations to organize an international event in Athens on 7th-9th June 2013.

From now on to Athens, national events will take place in various countries to prepare a wide mobilization for the Athens event.

In the same time, movements, networks and European organizations members of the Alter Summit will draft together a common platform, a "manifesto of the peoples", including shared analysis, proposals and an agenda.

This manifesto will be presented in Athens, in order to say out and loud that the destructive austerity policies are no fatality.

Alternative policies exist and should be taken to build the democratic, social, ecological and feminist Europe we all expect !



Join us now!

Groups and organizations supporting the Call for the Alter Summit and willing to contribute, to attend preparatory meetings or to support us financially are most welcome.

The fight for a democratic, social and ecological Europe concerns us all. The Alter Summit is a self-financed process, we need your support!

Individual donations are also welcome and can be made on our website.

Please get in touch:
info@altersummit.eu

Read more on the website:
www.altersummit.eu

Facebook:
Alter Summit

Twitter : @Alt_Sum

LET'S BUILD ANOTHER EUROPE

June 7th and 8th in Athens !

On June 7th and 8th, movements and organizations from all over Europe will attend to the Alter Summit in Athens.

This event will be organized, with the Greek social movement, by civil society organizations, trade unions, NGOs, with the support of personalities from all over Europe.

The Alter Summit in Athens will be a step forward in the building of more convergence between movements opposed to the current anti-social and anti-ecological policies promoted by European governments and institutions.

It will be a highly symbolic gathering, since Greece has been the laboratory of the destructive austerity and so-called competitiveness policies, but is also becoming the laboratory of the resistance against austerity and struggles for alternatives.

It will be the occasion to say loud and clear that the struggle of the Greek social movements is our struggle, and show the solidarity of European organizations and movements.

It will be also the occasion to present the Alter Summit manifesto, voicing the alternative proposals of the social movement against the crisis and to propose a common agenda of action.

This Summit of the peoples and its Manifesto will only have sense if citizens, organizations and movements from all over Europe take part in the building of the Alter Summit. And as the Alter Summit is a long-term process of convergence, Athens will be a first step towards the building of a real European social movement.

So join us, and spread the word!

Who supports the Alter Summit?

Many European personalities support the Alter Summit. Amongst them, Susan George, Andy Storey, Bernard Stiegler, Gaspar M. Tamàs, Ken Loach, Riccardo Petrella, Slavoj Žižek, Raffaella Bolini, Tariq Ali, Toni Negri, Elisabeth Gauthier, Jan Kavan, Jean Ziegler and many others.

More than hundred organizations are members (or observers*) of the Alter Summit process:

Austria (ATTAC-Austria, Austrian social forum, GPA *) Belgium (Association Culturelle J. Jacquemotte – ACJJ*, Attac-Belgique/België, C.N.C.D., CAE – Comité d'Action Europe, CIRE, CSC, Econosphères, FGTB*, FGTB – centrale générale, Global Social Justice, IW FGTB Wallonne, Masereelfonds *, MOC, Observatoire Social Européen) Bulgaria (CITUB *) Croatia (Right to the city, Subversive Forum) Czech Republic (Czech social forum *) Denmark (Transform Denmark, European Left Observer) France (AITEC, Appel des appels, Ars Industrialis, Association autogestion, ATTAC-France, CAC Collectif Audit Citoyen, CGT, Convergence de Défense et Développement des services publics, Economistes Atterrés, Espace Marx + Transform !, A.C !, Féd. de la Maison des Potes *, Fondation Copernic, FSU, IERPE, LDH – Ligue des droits de l'Homme, Roosevelt 2012, SNES – FSU, Solidaires, SUD BPCE *, Mémoire des lutes, Marche Mondiale des femmes France, Résistance sociale) Germany (ATTAC-Deutschland, Forum Soziales Europa, GEW *, IG Metall *, Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung *) Greece (Act up - drasi, AKOYA-Youth, Anti-cancer Volunteers Network, Antifascist Front of Holargos, Arsis/Anti-poverty Network, Attac-Hellas, Babels, Citizens in Action, World Volunteer Alliance, DIOTIMA, ADEDY*, Federation of Private Employees, FEANTSA, Federation of bank employees, Greenpeace Greece, GSEE*, Initiative for the Defense of Democracy and Society, Initiative for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Athens Labour Center, Diktyo, Network for the Support of Immigrants and Refugees, Nicos Poulantzas Institute, Open City Municipal Coalition of Athens, Panhellenic Medical Association, Radical Ecology, Rosa Luxembourg, Autonomous Intervention, Solidarity network of Kypseli, OLME*, Youth of Syn / NPI) Hungary (ATTAC-Hungary, MSZ OSZ) Italy (Altramente Scuola per tutti *, Another Road for Europe, Arci, CGIL, Firenze 10+10, Labour & Globalization, Transform Italie) Netherlands (TNI) Norway (Attac Norway, Norwegian social forum, Campaign for the Welfare State, LO i Oslo*, Nei til EU Norway*) Poland (Attac-Poland) Portugal (ATTAC-Portugal, CGT-P, Precarios Inflexiveis*), Romania (AD Romanian Social Forum, Cartel-Alfa, CSDR, FSLI), Serbia (USSS Loga *) Spain (ATTAC-Spain, CC.OO. *, ELA, ESK, Intersindical Valenciana, USO, CIG) UK (Coalition of Resistance, Red Pepper, TUC) Europe (AEDH, Alternative Trade Mandate Alliance, Friends of the Earth, CADTM, CEO Corporate Europe Observatory, ETUC *, EAPN, EPSU, ETF, ETUCE (CSEE), ETUI*, Euromemo, European Alternatives, Europe-Solidarity, Greenpeace Europe, ITUC/PERC, Marche Mondiale des Femmes – Europe, European Network against Financialization of Nature, PERC*, Praha Spring 2, S2B – Seattle to Brussels, Solidar, Tax Justice Network Europe, Euromarches, Transform ! Europe, ICAN International Citizen Debt Audit Network, Feminists for another Europe)