

**Notes from the Alter Summit meeting on 8th February**

**1 - Organizational issues**

* + **Legal body**

There is a proposal of creating an legal body (association, ASBL in Belgian law) for the preparation of the event in Athens in order to have a proper bank account.

As some reluctant comments asked, It should not be a political body, but an accountable tool under the control of the ASCC to gather the funds and sign contracts. It would not be used for hiring people. It could be dissolved after the Athens event.

* Felipe makes a draft document for the creation of such a body.

	+ **Staff members**

There is a proposal of hiring 1 to 3 people with different profiles.

* One half-time staff member on communication, in charge of coordinating the media work, website and social network issues, translation, and external and internal communication.
* One half-time staff member on networking issues, in charge of attending conferences, events, making links with organizations all around Europe in behalf of the AlterSummit.
* There could be one staff member hired for the follow-up of the organization of the event in Athens. Should be discussed by the Greek working group.

These staff members would not be representatives of the AlterSummit, but form a Secrétariat.

Some candidates were already proposed on the lists.

* Felipe, Myriam and Enrique will be responsible of hiring the staff on behalf of the ASCC, in the limits of the budget, and through agreements with organizations that would make the contacts.

	+ **Website**

Jason Nardi from Firenze 10 + 10 proposed to provide the AlterSummit website with tools the Italian developed in the preparation of Firenze.

It was agreed to accept the proposal, and to create an international webteam to manage the website with the Italian team.

* Karsten, Kenneth can try to find people to help. Frédéric can be part of the team. There should be a call for volunteers on the lists and by the organizations of the AS. Could be especially useful to find native speakers in English (Chris, Fred Leplat ?).

**2 - Budget**

* + **Expenses**

According to the Athens delegation and the Greek working group, expenses could be from 80k€ to 100k€, taking into account more than 50k€ for the organization of the initiative in Greece, and then wages and travelling expenses for the preparation.

* + **Revenues**

There should be various sources of revenue:

* Felipe informs the ASCC that there is already some foundations that will provide 40k€ for the organization of the event in Athens.
* There should be a call as soon as the bank account is set up, for organizations to contribute according to their financial means (from hundreds to thousands euros) with further information on the Athens initiative. With a 400€ average contribution of the hundred organizations of the AS, 40000€ could be raised through organizations contributions.
* Crowfunding initiatives should be taken through the website and a call for donations that could be circulated through organizations

In total, there should be the opportunity to raise from 80k€ to 90k€.

**3 – Report from the Athens delegation**

* + **Venue and budget**

Walter and Natasa present the notes from the delegation.

On behalf of GSEE and a lot of sectorial or regional trade unions, Zoïs explains that Greek trade unions definitively ask that the Alter Summit comes in Athens, and that they will give support for the preparation and organization. They only ask to the European network to care for the budget.

In terms of venue, there is the opportunity to have a big venue with 3000 to 5000 places, and 4/5 rooms for 200 persons, plus administrative offices.

The total cost for renting should be around 30k€. There is an opportunity to lower it to 24k€ if the contract is passed by an European organization.

With translation costs, solidarity funds and other expenses, the total cost for the event itself should be around 50k€ to 60k€.

There could be an individual contribution (fee at 5€ for example) and contribution from organizations which want to use rooms.

There is a discussion on the non-participation of the Greek debt audit committee. The conclusion is that the process is inclusive and open to organizations which agree to sign the AlterSummit call. Those which does not agree with it are of course free not to join in. It is strongly reminded that the very identity of the Alter Summit is to look for a respect full cooperation between movements and trade unions. If some associations don’t share this principle, they should not join the Alter Summit.

* + **Calendar**

There is a discussion on the calendar and the aim of the plenary session:

* For the ASCC, it would be better if the demonstration takes place after the plenary session. The Greek working group has to check the better option.
* The plenary could take place on Friday 7th June in the evening. It could be an introductive event, with the presentation of the manifesto as the result of the process of elaboration by the AlterSummit organizations (thus no discussions in plenary on the text), and a tool for further mobilizations.
The aim of the session could be to show that Europe supports Greece, that Greeks are struggling, and propose next steps.
* On Saturday 8th there could be discussions on struggles and next steps of the process with the participants in the morning. The demonstration could take place on Saturday afternoon, evening or even later if better.

There is an organizational working group set up to prepare the event and all technical and communicational issues with provisionally someone from Greece (to be decided in the Greek working group), Walter, Frédérique, Franco, Frédéric and Felipe for the moment.

1. **- Manifesto and amendment process**

There is a discussion on the process of amendment of the manifesto:

* Amendments from organizations, if possible already discussed in national AlterSummit platforms, are open until 24th February;
* From then to March 5th, a working group on manifesto gathers amendments, merges them if necessary, and present a consolidated text with visible amendments to prepare the discussion on March 15th;
* On March 15th, the General Assembly of the AlterSummit discuss amendments and on the basis of the discussion the working group drafts a version 2.0 of the manifesto;
* Second round of amendments till 15th May (deadline for the final text of the manifesto).

There is a working group on manifesto set up to gather contributions and prepare discussions in plenary on the amendments, with provisionally someone from Greece, Kenneth, Amana, Enrique, someone from France, someone from transform, Franco, and someone from Attac Spain.

There is a principle of keeping a balance between TU and movements approaches, and also the idea to make South European issues (including Greece of course) more visible while keeping in mind that the manifesto is an European text.

There could be a space on the website to gather national comments on the manifesto, and additional issues which are not included in the manifesto.

* + **Communication issues**

Several proposal for communication of the results of the Athens meeting are proposed by the delegation :

* Draft a press release on the fact that the AlterSummit will organize an event on 7th 9th June
* Draft a letter to organizations (basic information : the date, the place, the goals, the milestones for the discussion on the manifesto – Frédéric on the basis of the notes)
* Schedule production for communication material (before 8th March) – seen in the organizational working group

**5 – Mobilizations**

* + **National mobilizations**

Various mobilizations planned at national level in Spain (with the Social Summit in February and March), France (flexibility of labour market, demo on 5th March) and Greece (suspension of collective agreements and general strike on 20th February) amongst others.

These events (especially the GS in Greece) could be the occasion to have public expressions from the Altersummit (press releases?). In the same time, organizations should take the occasion to make the “promotion” of the process in the national struggles.

There is also the idea of calling the organizations of the AlterSummit to make solidarity actions on 20th february.

* + **European and international mobilizations**

Before the 8th March, two documents should be worked by the organizational working group: a flyer for the International women’s day and an updated version of the presentation leaflet.

For mid-March, two initiatives are taken by the ETUC: one decentralized action day on March 13th and one rally in Brussels on March 14th. There is also plans for a demo in Brussels by social movements and supported by some organizations of the AlterSummit, for a European spring.

The AlterSummit already stated that it supported the ETUC initiative. Organizations, initiators of the “European spring” and the ETUC will discuss a possible convergence of the initiatives, which would allow the AlterSummit to support and call for both initiatives.

**6 – Next step**

Next meeting will take place in Brussels on March 15th, and possibly on March 16th morning.

**To do list**

Organizational working group:

* Sets up a legal body ASBL for the AlterSummit and create a proper account
* Hire staff members (done by Myriam, Enrique, Felipe)
* Writes down a letter to the organizations summing up the decisions taken and the calendar and a press release.
* Writes down a letter for contributions of the organizations and makes proposal for crowdfunding initiatives (whenever the bank account is ready)
* Produces communication documents and organize translation before 8th March
* Builds the website with Firenze 10+10 tools and update it
* Makes more precise proposals for the calendar and the agenda of the event
* Also : makes proposals of public expression of the AlterSummit (PR or other)

Manifesto working group:

* Call for amendments till 24th february
* Gathers amendments and prepare the discussion on 15th March