

ALTER SUMMIT

NO TO THE TTIP
TROIKA GO HOME!
EUROPE WITHOUT FASCISM

ALTER SUMMIT CAMPAIGNS 2014

At their Assembly in Brussels on 18-19 October 2013 , the member organisations of the Alter Summit¹decided, according to the principles affirmed in the [Peoples' Manifesto](#) launched in Athens [last July] , to organise actions as well as to support and strengthen actions initiated by network members in order to oppose as a priority three principle adversaries.

1. **The TTIP or Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership** now under negotiation, which seeks to establish a comprehensive free trade zone between the European Union and the United States of America. The TTIP would allow transnational corporations to impose their demands on States and to abolish democratic rights and rules.
2. **The Troika** (the European Commission, European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund) and those governments that now impose austerity policies, including those of the TSCG or Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance. Forcing peoples into debt slavery, strangling national budgets and blocking or reducing salaries and social allowances can only worsen the crisis and destroy the European social model. That, in fact, is the real objective of the TSCG and of austerity.
3. **The rise of fascist parties (and in some countries, neo-nazi organisations)** as well as contamination of some traditional parties and governments with the ideas of the extreme right. We intend to contribute to a broad front against fascism. It is clear that austerity and the capitulation of States to transnational corporations and the finance industry are among the reasons for the rise of the extreme right.

In addition to opposing as a priority these three major adversaries, Alter Summit members will continue to exchange views and cooperate on all the common political demands set out in the Peoples Manifesto.

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Various actions will probably take place on the occasion of the European Summit of 19-20 December, prior to the Greek Presidency from January to June 2014 and during the weeks leading up to the European parliamentary elections. Alter Summit organisations will thus endorse and strengthen all actions scheduled by network members, by the ETUC [European Trade Union Confederation] or by other movements or collectives that share our determination to

- > refuse the Transatlantic Treaty
- > force the Troika to retreat and put an end to austerity policies
- > free Europe from the fascist threat

¹ The Alter Summit network is made up of 180 European organisations which have decided to act together to build an ecological, social, feminist and democratic Europe. Its [membership](#) and [procedures](#) are available on the site www.altersummit.eu

ALTER SUMMIT

TRANSATLANTIC MARKET : an antisocial and antidemocratic project

Stop the negotiations

1. What is the « Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership » (TTIP)

Is it a trade agreement to be negotiated between the European Union and the United States. In February 2013 the United States and the European Union announced their intention of negotiating a free trade agreement in order to create a transatlantic market. But is not a political and transparent initiative, for two main reasons:

First **this project has been instigated by powerful business lobbies!** Second, the United States and the European Union have been negotiating behind the scenes for years with the aim of setting up a transatlantic market.

Worse: the **Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)**'s members also include elected representatives (American and European) who become the mouthpiece for the multinationals. One notable example is the MEP, Vital Moreira (a Portuguese socialist) who chairs the (Parliamentary) Committee on International Trade, where he very faithfully relays the multinationals' points of view: more rights for investors and big private companies, less in the way of solidarity, social welfare and a quality environment for people.

In the name of democratic, ecological and social values, the Alter Summit wants, on one hand, to inform everybody on what is in preparation in secret, and, on the other hand, to initiate a campaign of popular mobilization in order to stop these negotiations

2. What can be the consequence of the TTIP?

Scheduled for 2015, this plan involves: new transatlantic institutions, such as the Transatlantic Economic Council, that act undemocratically (no parliamentary debate, unelected representatives) in order to influence a growing number of political decisions, and foster the harmonisation of much European and American commercial and security legislation, while the European diplomacy is increasingly aligned with that of the USA in the promotion of a world governance based on market standards.

In concrete terms, the transatlantic market is taking shape via dozens of political agreements between the United States and the European Union (and, in some cases, the national parliaments) relating to all areas of life: work, health, food, etc. For instance:

1. The transatlantic market is standardizing everything needed for the free movement of commerce (goods, services, investments, etc.) on both sides of the Atlantic, by making it a priority to develop 'free competition' and competitiveness. That means that **financial markets and multinational companies have more and more freedom to act within an ever-wider geographical area.**

2. Through this geographical extension of economic competition the transatlantic market favors **corporate mergers/acquisitions, giving multinational firms ever-greater control over the economy and finance** (the 500 biggest enterprises already controlled half of all world trade in 2005!) **to the detriment of many small and medium enterprises and independent firms.**

3. The transatlantic market **threatens the political independence of local councillors**. For one thing, it increases the **financial power of the multinationals**, whereas some of them are already as powerful as some states (for example, Toyota is richer than Israel, Wal-Mart is richer than Greece, Exxon is richer than Austria, etc.). Secondly, the transatlantic agreements choose not to harmonize social, fiscal or environmental standards, thus creating competition between legislative systems, which in turn promotes dumping... to the detriment of public funds, working conditions, pay, health and people's well-being generally.

4. By increasing the power of the financial markets and the multinationals over local political bodies, the transatlantic market **threatens to intensify the privatization of public services and social security**. Universal access to essential services (education, transport, culture, etc.); the right to a decent pension; affordable health care; minimum, unconditional unemployment benefits and welfare ...

5. A multinational can attack a country through a special jurisdiction which would substitute for the rules and international public law, especially if a firm considers that a social, sanitary or ecological rule would prevent it from becoming established in a such or such country or from selling its products. All these jointly won social victories, for which generations have fought, are now endangered. **Therefore, the transatlantic market will make a large swathe of the population considerably poorer**, and create even more downward pressure on pay and working conditions.

The transatlantic market also aims to extend the competitive market logic to the whole world, thus giving the multinationals an **unlimited right to exploit people and natural resources**. The transatlantic market will thus play its part in worsening poverty and 'North/South' inequalities while at the same time **seriously damaging ecosystems, biodiversity and the climate**. In so doing, it will increase the numbers of climate refugees, push up the prices of basic commodities, and mortgage the future and the well-being of future generations.

6. It is not by chance that the transatlantic market fulfils the requirements of multinational firms, when we know that for example 8% of members of the European Parliament belong to a lobby that defends the multinationals' interests.

7. Far from being an area of freedom for all, **the transatlantic market includes some significant security measures**, to uphold the right to intellectual property, on the one hand, and to operate closer public surveillance, on the other. The United States and the European Union are establishing **judicial, criminal and police agreements that seriously infringe the very principles of democracy** and basic human rights. Transatlantic security legislation can be used **repressively against trade unions, NGOs and social movements**.

8. Transatlantic dynamics carry on the European single market process, and in so doing develop it, **backed up by national governments** which, all too often, cover up their responsibility by hiding behind the European authorities. All the same, the national authorities are not powerless to act, as is proved by their vetoing of the European Commission's decision to authorize imports into Europe of chemically treated American chicken (chlorinated chicken).

In conclusion, the transatlantic market:

- strips politics of its sovereign powers for the benefit of the market.
- favors private business interests to the detriment of the democratic, social, environmental, health and humanist concerns which, to us, are fundamental values.

3. What can we do against the TTIP?

Our denunciation of the trade agreements between the United States and Europe should certainly not be regarded as narrow anti-Americanism. Our aim is in fact to call into question the treaties which, from the Single European Act (1986) to the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), have strengthened the Europe of the markets to the detriment of the Europe of the peoples. The transatlantic market will enable this process to move up a gear, when in fact, we urgently need to reverse!

Numerous voices already are being heard which oppose to this project of a big transatlantic market. The Ecologic Institute and BIO IS, appointed by the European Parliament, alert on the risks that could make run the project of transatlantic agreement to the food safety and to the quality of the environment. In North America and in Europe, numerous trade-unions, farmers' organisations as well as NGOs have taken a stance against this project.

The Alter Summit joins all these protests. It intends to contribute to the failure of this anti-democratic treaty which plans the levelling down of social, sanitary, and ecologic standards.

We disapprove of the transatlantic market (and similar European or American plans involving other countries). We want our political leaders to take a clear stance against this plan and to put an end to it by demanding that the European institutions (Council, Commission, Parliament):

- challenge the international agreements granting increased powers to private firms and the financial markets (through the geographical extension of 'economic freedoms'),
- strictly separate political representatives from business lobbies, as having political leaders governed by purely private interests is in itself unacceptable,
- give democratic guarantees of electoral legitimacy and transparency for the debates and decisions relating to the operation or establishing of institutions (European, transatlantic, world),
- pass legislation granting human, social and ecological matters political priority over market standards and commercial demands, This requires regulation and public control of the activities of the multinationals and the financial markets,
- abolish security legislation which infringes fundamental and democratic freedoms.

For social equality, for the protection of the environment, for healthy food, for real accessible public services to all, for democracy,

LET US MOBILIZE TO STOP THE NEGOTIATIONS

ALTER SUMMIT

INITIATIVES AGAINST THE TROIKA FOR ALL

In the Alter Summit celebrated in Greece (7-8 June) a people's manifesto was approved by nearly 200 organizations from all over Europe representing a wide political spectrum. The document outlines our urgent common priorities for a democratic, social, ecological and feminist Europe: End debt slavery, roll back austerity, reject poverty and precariousness and make banks serve the public interest.

Based on these common pillars, the Alter Summit decided in the last general assembly celebrated in Brussels to set three main priorities for 2014: the influence of the Troika in the EU economic governance, the TTIP, and the raise of Far-right and neo Nazism.

The influence of the Troika does not only reach the EU's peripheral countries under its direct control. The logic and the discourse under which the Troika operates influences all the EU member states, all forced at different levels to privatize the public sector and the common goods, and to weakening labour rights. The debt crisis created by the bail out of the finance sector first, and the call for a more "competitive" European economy later, served as arguments to implement this neoliberal agenda. However the root cause of the crisis, an unregulated finance sector, has not been tackled.

The level of resistance against the Troika like policies has been impressive at the national level, especially in the PIGS countries; however the coordinated response at the European level has only resulted in sporadic days of action. As a result the neoliberal agenda has not only been implemented but also institutionalized at the EU level through a series of new treaties and legislation.

What to do?

Traditional and new social movements have been working for years towards the construction of a genuine pan-European movement. The Alter Summit is the most relevant example of such, however other processes such as Blockupy and Agora 99 have also created spaces where new generations of activists propose and create new forms of politics.

These days different initiatives are being developed, aiming to roll-back the role of the Troika in the EU economic governance and to provide alternatives. In all of them one or various members of the Alter Summit are engaged in their development, we call you to consider joining forces with them:

International Conference for the abolition of debt

Contact: myriam@cadtm.org

Troika Party

Contact: the.troika.party@gmail.com

Competitiveness Pact campaign

Contact: madeleine.drescher@attac.at

Blockupy

Contact: thomas.occupy@yahoo.de

ALTER SUMMIT

STATEMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON FAR-RIGHT AND NEO NAZISM

68 years after WW II and the defeat of fascisms we see in almost all parts of Europe the soar of a new extreme Right. But the most disturbing fact is that we also experience on the right of it the rise of forces which are openly neonazist and which in some cases are linked with mass movements of an overtly racist, violent and antisemitic character. They aim at the detroying of any kind of free unionising, political and cultural oranisation of the working classes, the erasing of civic resistance and the doing away of any right right of difference.

In France, Switzerland, and Austria, right-wing parties known for racist and nationalist platforms have gained ground. Germany's neo-Nazis are seeing a renaissance as well.

The electoral rise of Golden Dawn in Greece is extremely worrynig. Golden Dawn is a nazi gang which is implicated in tenths of criminal attacks to immigrants and refugees. Greek government still tolerates Goldean Dawn and its terror.

Nowhere in Europe has a nascent fascist movement made greater inroads than in Hungary, where the far-right Jobbik party (**Movement for Better Hungary**) has staked a hold on the hearts, minds of Hungarian youth and won 17 percent of the Hungarian Parliament in 2010.

The rise of neonazism and the elecoral success of a populist right are different phenomena however of the same societal patholgy as they reflect the profound political crisis in Europe.

Influence and extremism of this Right of the Right differs from country to country. However the generalized application of draconic austerity policies in Europe with devastating economic, social ad cultural effects Europe results in that the rise of the extreme Right in its different types become a common characteristic in European societies. The austerity programs of the EU and the IMF and the way in which they are implemented negate the democratic rights achieved in the nation-states and the national dignity of the concerned countries. However nationalism always has proven as a trap.

The conclusion we have to draw is evident: To the extent that the rise of the extreme Right and neonazism do not reperesent exceptions but a general trend we have to cope with them as a European problems. We therefore appreciate initiatives as the „Antifascist Manifesto” which calls for a European Antiscist Front in the fight against the far Right in all ints variants.

The rise of the extreme Right reflects as well a weakness and the lack of credibility social democratic, ecological and feminist alernative with a European perspective as demonstrated in the manifesto of the European people.

That's why of our movement is imporant. Historical experience proves, that defending the social, economic, democratic, ecological rights of the people is the most effective instrument in fighting the extreme Right. Reversely we call all trade unions, social, ecological and feminsit movements as well as all democratic forces to join in this fight as the Extreme Right also threatens the right of free expression of erveryone who fights for a just and democatic society.

The fight against the extreme and neonzist Right is at once a social, political and cultural fight. It embraces the opposition against sexism, omophobia, anti-semitism and anti-islamism and against any kind of fundamentalism trying to deprive human rights and the right of difference.

We need to fight right wing extremism as well on the ground, in the neighborhoods, in the states and at European level. *As for the latter we will to call for a broad international conference of high symbolic and political significance dedicated to the finght against right populism and neo-nazism in Europe, to be held in the second half of 2014. We also will hold prepararatory conferences in different European regions in the first semester. One of these conferences will take place in Budapest and providing the the opportunity not only for political discussions but also for public visibility.*

As all these efforts take place in the frame of the Alter-Summit the coordination will facilitated by the working which prepared the „Assembly on Far Right anragainst Neo-Nazism” in close cooperation with the Coordination group of the AS.