

# ALTER SUMMIT

Nein zur Transatlantischen Handels- und Investmentpartnerschaft (TTIP)

TROIKA: Es reicht!

Gegen Nationalismus, die extreme Rechte und Faschismus

## ALTER SUMMIT KAMPAGNEN 2014

Die Mitgliederorganisationen des Alter Summit<sup>1</sup> beschlossen auf ihrer Versammlung in Brüssel am 18. und 19. Oktober 2013, sowohl selber Aktionen zu organisieren als auch Aktionen, die von Netzwerk-mitgliedern initiiert worden sind, zu unterstützen und zu stärken.

Dabei stützen sie sich auf die Prinzipien, die im Manifest der Menschen in Europa ([People's Manifesto](#)) in Athen bestätigt wurden (Juni 2013).

Dabei soll vorrangig gegen 3 Hauptgegner vorgegangen werden:

**1. Die TTIP oder die Transatlantische Handels- und Investmentpartnerschaft,**

die im Moment gerade ausgehandelt wird.

Diese strebt eine umfassende Freihandelszone zwischen der Europäischen Union und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika an. Die TTIP würde transnationalen Unternehmen erlauben, einzelnen Staaten ihre Forderungen aufzudrängen sowie demokratische Rechte und Regeln abzuschaffen.

**2. Die Troika (bestehend aus der Europäischen Kommission, der Europäischen Zentralbank und dem Internationalen Währungsfonds) und diejenigen Regierungen, die jetzt einen strikten Sparkurs verordnen, einschließlich des TSCG (Vertrag für Stabilität, Koordination und Regierungsführung - in Deutschland bekannter als Fiskalpakt).**

Wenn ganze Völker in eine Schuldenklaverei gezwungen werden, wenn nationale Haushalte stranguliert werden und wenn Gehälter und soziale Zuwendungen einbehalten oder gekürzt werden, kann dadurch die Krise nur verschlimmert und das europäische Sozialmodell zerstört werden. Dies ist das eigentliche Ziel des TSCG und des strikten Sparkurses.

**3. Der Aufschwung von nationalistischen und rechtspopulistischen Parteien (und in einigen Ländern neonazistischen Organisationen) sowie der Kontamination einiger traditioneller Parteien und Regierungen mit deren Gedankengut.**

Wir haben die Absicht, unseren Beitrag zu einer breiten Front gegen den Faschismus und Rechtsextremismus zu leisten.

Es ist offenkundig, dass die strenge Sparpolitik sowie die Kapitulation ganzer Staaten vor transnationalen Unternehmen und vor der Finanzindustrie zu den Ursachen für den Aufschwung der extremen Rechten gehören.

Zusätzlich zu unserer Priorität, uns gegen diese drei Hauptgegner zu stellen, werden die Mitglieder von Alter Summit weiterhin bei allen politischen Forderungen, die im Manifest der Menschen in Europa (People's Manifesto) dargelegt wurden, sich auszutauschen und zusammenarbeiten.

Verschiedene Aktionen werden wahrscheinlich

- anlässlich des Europäischen Gipfels am 19. und 20. Dezember stattfinden,
- vor den griechischen Präsidentschaftswahlen von Januar bis Juni 2014,
- sowie während der Wochen, die den Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament vorausgehen.

Alter Summit Organisationen werden alle Aktionen unterstützen und stärken, die von Mitgliedern des Netzwerks, vom ETUC [Europäischer Gewerkschaftsbund] oder von anderen Bewegungen oder Bündnisse geplant werden, die unsere Entschlossenheit teilen,

- ▲ das Transatlantische Freihandelsabkommen abzulehnen,
- ▲ die Troika zum Rückzug zu zwingen und der strikten Sparpolitik ein Ende zu setzen,
- ▲ Europa von der faschistischen Bedrohung zu befreien.

*Am 18. Dezember wird eine Pressekonferenz abgehalten werden [muss noch bestätigt werden], in der unsere Strategie und unser Aktionsprogramm vorgestellt und näher ausgeführt wird.*

<sup>1</sup> Das Alter Summit Netzwerk setzt sich zusammen aus 180 europäischen Organisationen, die beschlossen haben zusammenzuwirken, um ein ökologisches, soziales, feministisches und demokratisches Europa aufzubauen. [Mitgliedschaft](#) und [Arbeitsweise](#) sind abrufbar auf der Website [www.altersummit.eu](http://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](mailto:myriam@cadtm.org)

#### **Troika Party**

Contact: [the.troika.party@gmail.com](mailto:the.troika.party@gmail.com)

#### **Competitiveness Pact campaign**

Contact: [madeleine.drescher@attac.at](mailto:madeleine.drescher@attac.at)

#### **Blockupy**

Contact: [thomas.occupy@yahoo.de](mailto: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 destroying of any kind of free unionising, political and cultural organization of the working classes, the erasing of civic resistance and the doing away of any 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 worrying. Golden Dawn is a nazi gang which is implicated in tenths of criminal attacks to immigrants and refugees. Greek government still tolerates Golden 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 electoral success of a populist right are different phenomena however of the same societal pathology 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 and 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 represent 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 Antifascist Front in the fight against the far Right in all its variants.

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

That's why our movement is important. 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 feminist movements as well as all democratic forces to join in this fight as the Extreme Right also threatens the right of free expression of everyone who fights for a just and democratic society.

The fight against the extreme and neonazist Right is at once a social, political and cultural fight. It embraces the opposition against sexism, homophobia, 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 call for a broad international conference of high symbolic and political significance dedicated to the fight against right populism and neo-nazism in Europe, to be held in the second half of 2014. We also will hold preparatory 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 be facilitated by the working group which prepared the „Assembly on Far Right against Neo-Nazism” in close cooperation with the Coordination group of the AS.