



Seattle to Brussels
Network

INVITATION

BEYOND FREE TRADE: ALTERNATIVES FOR DECENT WORK

**A conference for European trade unions and civil society
organisations**

*Organised by War on Want, UK – WEED, Germany – WIDE, Belgium
As part of the Seattle to Brussels network*

In cooperation with UNISON, GMB, IGBau, UNITE, ver.di, CGIL, FIOM,
Solidaires, FSU, AK Europa, Velferdsstaten

Date: 12:00h 5 October – 17:30h 6 October 2010
Venue: Espace Jacquemotte, Rue Haute 147, 1000 Brussels

Lack of decent work is one of the main challenges for the trade union movement today, in the face of economic crisis and a globalisation that is putting pressure on working conditions, wages and social protections worldwide. But is it really possible to achieve decent work for all when governments continue to pursue free trade policies that put the rights of corporations far ahead of the rights of people and the environment?

This conference will explore the links between trade deals and neoliberal policies inside Europe that are undermining basic labour rights and promoting profits for big business at any cost.

Many trade unions are highly critical of free trade policies, most recently seen in the ETUC / TUCA statement in May that strongly condemned the current negotiations with Latin American countries, especially Colombia – notorious as the most dangerous country in the world to be a trade unionist. We will discuss the political opportunities and strategies to stop a deal with Colombia and to tackle trade agreements that threaten workers in Korea, Canada, India and Central America.

As the European Union revises its trade policies, there is a once in a decade chance to push for alternatives to a pure free trade agenda, so that trade helps us to exit the financial crisis in a way that promotes decent work and a social Europe. This conference offers an open space for discussion in the run-up to the next Joint Social Conference in March 2011. Join us and help to take a step towards a new kind of Europe in the world.

To register and for more information, contact:
Hélène Cabioc'h (helene.aitec@reseau-ipam.org)
Dave Tucker (dtucker@waronwant.org)

Please ensure that you register by 24 September so that we can send you travel and accommodation information.



AGENDA

Active translation in French/Spanish/English and lunch on both days will be provided

| <i>Times</i> | <i>Sessions</i> | <i>Speakers and discussants</i> |
|--------------|---|--|
| 1200 – 1300 | Registration | |
| 1300 – 1530 | Opening plenary: Linking neoliberal threats to Decent Work inside and outside Europe | Javier Moreno Sanchez (Global Progressive Alliance) <i>tbc</i> Raul Arroyave (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores CUT, Colombia) Larry Brown (National Union of Public and General Employees NUPGE, Canada) Josua T. Mata (Alliance of Progressive Labor APL, Philippines) Bheki Ntshalintshali(Congress of South African Trade Unions COSATU, South Africa) <i>tbc</i> <i>Chair: Dave Tucker (War on Want)</i> |
| 1530 – 1600 | Break | |
| 1600 – 1815 | Strategies to tackle current free trade deals I – issues This session will be in smaller facilitated groups to discuss the issues of: 1) public services 2) social dumping and migration 3) investment | Penny Clarke (European federation of Public Service Unions EPSU) Larry Brown (National Union of Public and General Employees NUPGE, Canada) Gisela Dütting (independent researcher, Netherlands) Jo Morris (ITUC gender consultant, UK) Marc Maes (11.11.11, Belgium) Ashim Roy (New Trade Union Initiative NTUI, India) Elisabeth Beer (Arbeiterkammer Wien, Austria) <i>tbc</i> |
| 0930 – 1230 | Strategies to tackle current free trade deals II – opportunities This session will discuss concrete proposals and strategies to mobilise against FTAs: 1) Colombia 2) Canada 3) India | Experiences of mobilising against FTAs will be shared by: Lee Changgeun (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions KCTU, Korea) Thea Lee (American Federation of Labour – Congress of Industrial Organisations AFL-CIO, USA) <i>tbc</i> Bheki Ntshalintshali(Congress of South African Trade Unions COSATU, South Africa) <i>tbc</i> |
| 1230 – 1330 | Lunch | |
| 1330 – 1600 | Plenary debate: A new vision of trade – what alternatives for Decent Work? | John Hilary (War on Want, UK) Martin Beckmann (ver.di, Germany) CGIL representative (CGIL, Italy) <i>tbc</i> Pierre Khalfa (Solidaires, France) <i>Chair: Pia Eberhardt (Corporate Europe Observatory CEO, Belgium) tbc</i> |
| 1600 – 1630 | Break | |
| 1630 – 1730 | Closing and next steps | <i>Chairs: Bruno Ciccaglione (Seattle to Brussels network)</i> <i>Felipe van Keirsbilck (Centrale Nationale des Employes CNE, Belgium)</i> |



This conference has been prepared with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents are the sole responsibility of War on Want, WEED and WIDE and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.