

**Invitation to a preparatory meeting of mobilisations
in May–June 2013 across Europe, towards Athens**

When : Thursday, March 14 at 7.30 pm

Location : Mundo B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels

Objective: Build on current initiatives of resistance towards a more common dynamic based on concrete struggles and initiatives taking place in several european countries in May-June, highlight the alternatives. Proposal of mobilisations taking different forms : Marches and convoys, occupy actions, public meetings...

Altersummit : caravans towards Athens !

Presentation

The Altersummit has already been able to bring together trade unionists, leaders of social movements and associations and policy makers to challenge the neoliberal orientation of European institutions and austerity policies implemented throughout the continent.

The decision to mobilize at the continental scale with the Greek people, its unions and social movements, by gathering in Athens on June 8-9 June will be a very important step in the creation of a "European social

movement" capable of imposing alternatives to the policies currently being implemented!

The experience of social and citizen's movements in recent years shows that we have to come together on common goals and initiatives of convergence, as we do in Athens in June, as well as to leave space for a plurality of initiatives and forms of mobilization allowing movements of diverse nature and experiences to really get involved and take their place in the current gathering. This plurality of initiatives is already a reality, as we see it with the initiatives taken against the EU summit in Brussels mid-March this year and in the planned Blokupy ECB (Frankfurt) at the end of May. From March on, to mobilize on the widest scale towards Athens, it seems important to keep the same heading and combine joint mobilization and specific initiatives.

Therefore, we want to propose the implementation of "caravans towards Athens" in May and June 2013! The goal is to start a dynamic that gives momentum to have a successful Altersummit, but also to project ourselves beyond in building a movement that is rooted in concrete struggles and has the will to act at the European level.

We want to pick up the tradition of "marches" and "convoys" or mobilizations by bikes that have often been used as tools of mobilization by social and citizen's movements in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Marches, convoys and caravans can fulfill several objectives:

They symbolize both the mobilization process in a period of time, by starting several weeks before the gathering in Athens, and the relevant geographical area - in this case Europe -,

They express in a symbolic way the solidarity between peoples and the common will to act against the policies imposed by the Troika,

They allow a concrete mobilization "in depth", including activists who can not go to Athens : caravans pass through various cities, allowing encounters with struggles and movements, press conferences, actions and public meetings,

They make visible, to a wide audience and alternative medias, the reality of the mobilization and the reasons at the source of it,

They enable activists' networks from different countries and backgrounds to work together, to better understand one another and to build together the social and citizen's european movement that we need.

The forms it can take :

- Start from local struggles that are taking place in different countries, for instance in France struggles for jobs, for housing, for labor law and the rights of unemployed people, choosing a few symbolic locations that could be departure points or stages for the caravans to discuss with people involved in the struggles, public meetings, solidarity initiatives,
- The solidarity campaign on health: on the initiative of the Greek students and workers in Paris, a social, political, financial and material solidarity campaign started in support of self-organised health centers. This can be a way of achieving local support initiatives, collecting ressources and creating discussions around

these forms of action, with possibility of « pairings » between places, aiming to bring a concrete help in Athens on June 8-9.

- The fact that initiatives take place in different European countries can be used to connect different movements in the perspective of Athens: Make a symbolic or more massive marches between Paris and Frankfurt, London and Paris, towards an Italian city ...

Distances and the relatively short time that separates us from the gathering in Athens will not allow us, except for short distances, to be walking or biking. Thus, most of the journeys will have to be done by bus or other motorized vehicles. But we could consider caravans starting in mid-May from different points in Europe to converge towards Athens early June, having traveled thousands of kilometers through dozens and hundreds of cities and places.

We want to highlight the initiatives of solidarity and concrete alternatives that are arising from the crisis but may prefigure longer-term alternatives for another Europe.

For this, a call supported by various associations, organizations would be very useful, including if possible Greek movements present in our countries ...

It is clear that such a proposal can only be achieved if movements from several countries in Europe get involved and "construct" these caravans!

It is also clear that this proposal should be done with the agreement of

Greek movements.

To exchange and see if this idea could become a reality we propose:

Meeting in Brussels

Thursday, March 14 at 7.30 pm

Location : Mundo B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels

Objectives :

To identify what we can build in common in may-june towards Athens :
Coordination of initiatives, for instance Blockupy action days in Frankfurt, implementation of marches and convoys, speakers tours, common communication...

Calendar :

- a preparatory meeting dedicated to the mobilization from local level, in march in Brussels (before the meeting of altersummit)
- indignados day on 13th of april
- beginning of local marches at the beginning of may
- subversive forum second week of may
- national events for exemple in Paris on 26th of may
- Blockupy action days on the 31th may - 1 June in Frankfurt...

...