



EU IN CRISIS



Analysis, resistance and alternatives to corporate Europe

Saturday 5 - Sunday 6 May 2012
Maison des Associations Internationales, Brussels

Organised by Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) in cooperation with the Transnational Institute (TNI), and with the support of the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)

Saturday 5 May 2012	
9 AM onwards	Registration and coffee
10 AM	Introduction + Corporate Capture of EU since 1980s A short introductory session to welcome delegates, introduce the topics of the conference and to set the scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Olivier Hoedeman (Research and Campaigns Coordinator, Corporate Europe Observatory)• Fiona Dove (Executive Director, Transnational Institute) Facilitated by Pratap Chatterjee (Executive Director, CorpWatch)
10.45 AM	European Economic Crisis In-depth plenary session to look at the causes and impacts of the European economic crisis: financial deregulation, corporate lobbying power, European shock doctrine and austerity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Trevor Evans (Professor of Monetary Economics, Berlin School of Economics)• Mariana Mortágua (Economist)• Jan Willem Goudriaan (Deputy General Secretary, European Federation of Public Service Unions)• Erik Wesselius (Campaigner, Corporate Europe Observatory) Facilitated by Leigh Phillips Presentations from the speakers, followed by short informal 'whispering session' amongst delegates, followed by Q&A with audience

12.40 PM	<p>A perspective on the European crisis from the global south</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walden Bello (Senior analyst, Focus on the Global South + Member of Parliament of the Philippines) <p>Facilitated by Leigh Phillips</p>
<i>Lunch (vegan, provided) 12.55pm-2.20pm</i>	
2.20 PM	<p>Crisis and Democracy</p> <p>Plenary session to ask how the economic crisis has impacted upon democracy. How is democracy being weakened and undermined by the crisis? How do we refresh democracy to tackle the crises and fight back against corporate power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan George (Fellow, Transnational Institute) Jakub Patočka (Editor-in-chief, Deník Referendum) <p>Facilitated by: Lisbeth Kirk (Editor, EUObserver)</p> <p>Introductory remarks from the speakers, followed by short informal 'whispering session' amongst delegates, followed by Q&A with audience</p>
<i>Break 3.45pm-4.15pm</i>	
4.15 PM	<p>Resistance and Solidarity</p> <p>An inspiring plenary session to hear more about the 'European Spring', including the role played by trade unions and new movements such as the Indignados and 'Occupy' activists. What are the strategies and tactics different movements use? How can we work together more?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexis Passadakis (Council member, Attac Germany) Esther Vivas (Social Movement Research Centre, Barcelona) Jorge Fael (Deputy General Secretary, STAL - National Trade Union of Local Administration in Portugal) Brendan Young (No to the Austerity Treaty campaign in Ireland) <p>Facilitated by: Hilary Wainwright (Co-editor, Red Pepper)</p> <p>Presentations from the speakers, followed by short informal 'whispering session' amongst delegates, followed by Q&A with audience</p>
<i>Close 6.15pm</i>	
8 PM onwards	Proposal to meet for informal drinks at Parvis St Gilles
Sunday 6 May 2012	
9 AM	Arrival and coffee

9.30 AM	<p>Progressive responses - part 1</p> <p>Short plenary session to introduce some thoughts on progressive responses to the European crisis. The speakers will pull together the 'response' to the crisis from progressive and radical movements and present some ideas which provide inspiration for collective action. These presentations will reflect ongoing debates, including those discussed at a recent TNI / CEO seminar in February 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Storey (Lecturer, School of Politics and International relations, University College Dublin) • Miren Etxezarreta (Professor, Universidad Autónoma in Barcelona) • Thomas Wallgren (Lecturer, University of Helsinki) <p>Facilitated by: Kenneth Haar (Researcher, Corporate Europe Observatory) and Brid Brennan (Transnational Institute)</p> <p>Presentations from the speakers, followed by short Q&A with audience to answer clarificatory questions</p>
10.40 AM	<p>Progressive responses - part 2</p> <p>Six smaller working groups will discuss progressive responses to facilitate more detailed discussions. Each group will be asked to think about answers to the same three key questions, which will form the basis of the next plenary discussion. These questions will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most important demands we should fight for? Is there a consensus on them? • Are there reforms that represent problems for us – either because of political disagreements or lack of coherent responses – and how do we move forward? • What steps should be taken in the short term to build a common response? <p>Before the end of the session, the facilitator and rapporteur, with the agreement of the group, will complete a flip chart with the group's responses to the questions.</p>
<i>Break 12 noon-12.30pm</i>	
12.30 PM	<p>Progressive responses - part 3</p> <p>A short plenary session to discuss the outcomes from the working groups and to discuss collective next steps</p> <p>Facilitated by: Kenneth Haar (Researcher, Corporate Europe Observatory) and Brid Brennan (Transnational Institute)</p>
<i>Lunch (vegan, provided) 1pm-2.30pm</i>	
2.30 PM	Action planning sessions

	<p>Strategy and action planning via seven workshops on different themes. Each workshop will be facilitated by one or more organisations and will have an emphasis on hearing different country campaign experiences before looking at EU-level campaigning. Workshops will be informal and everyone will have the opportunity to present plans and proposals. Workshop topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next steps to rein in financial markets – coordinated by Somo, CRBM, Corporate Europe Observatory and Attac 2. Defending collective labour rights: trade unions and new movements working together – coordinated by FGTB, CNE and Corporate Europe Observatory 3. Resisting EU’s ‘Green Economy’ - a social and ecological way out of the crisis – coordinated by Transnational Institute and Ecologistas en Accion 4. No to the Fiscal Treaty and economic governance package: towards a democratic and social Europe – coordinated by Corporate Europe Observatory and Transnational Institute 5. Eliminating unfair debt, funding public services – coordinated by CADTM, Attac and Corporate Europe Observatory 6. Resistance to EU-driven privatisation – coordinated by Food and Water Watch, Council of Canadians, EPSU, TNI and CEO 7. Countering the corporate lobby – coordinated by ALTER-EU and Spinwatch
4.45 PM	<p>Another Europe is possible!</p> <p>A light-hearted conference wrap-up session, with an innovative way of collecting the next steps in EU-wide campaigning, together with inspiring calls to mobilise at important future events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Social Conference • Felipe Van Keirsbilck (ALTER Summit) • Firenze 10 + 10 <p>Facilitated by Pia Eberhardt (Researcher, Corporate Europe Observatory and Nina Holland (Campaigner, Corporate Europe Observatory)</p>
5.45 PM	Close

23 April 2012