

Alter Summit

Der Alter Summit versteht sich nur teilweise als die Vorbereitungsgruppe für den gleichnamigen Alternativgipfel vom 7. bis 9. Juni in Athen. Das dortige Treffen stellt einen wichtigen Punkt dar, um europäische Bewegungen und Gewerkschaften zusammen zu bringen und schon in der Vorbereitung wird mit dem „Manifest“ ein Papier vorbereitet, das zentrale Motive und Lösungsansätze der beteiligten Gruppen zusammen bringt. Die weiter reichende Perspektive des Alter Summit ist es, einen europäischen sozialen Akteur zu installieren, darum zielt der Prozess bei der Vorbereitung und der Erarbeitung des Manifestes darauf, einen möglichst breiten Konsens zwischen Gewerkschaften und sozialen Bewegungen aus der EU zu erreichen.

Diese Ausrichtung wird von den am AS beteiligten Gruppen mit getragen.

Das Manifest konzentriert sich dabei auf wenige Punkte, die pointiert kritisiert und zu denen konkrete Gegenforderungen aufgestellt werden

- Schulden, (in erster Linie öffentliche)
- ökologische Transformation/Stop der Austeritätsprogramme
- sicheres und gutes Einkommen
- Bankenregulierung

Zur Zeit laufen bei einer Redaktionsgruppe Änderungsvorschläge von den beteiligten Gruppen ein, zum 5. März soll ein überarbeiteter Entwurf des Manifests vorliegen, der beim nächsten Treffen am 15./16. März in Brüssel diskutiert wird.

Von uns eingebrachte Änderungen:

ein weiterer Punkt Demokratie (Demokratisierung der Europäischen Institutionen, Gewaltenteilung, Beteiligung der Bevölkerung an legislativen Prozessen)

Trennung der bislang zusammen gelegten Punkte Transformation/Stop der Austeritätsprogramme

Transformation: als erster Schritt Investitionsprogramme v.a. in den vom Krisenregime gebeutelten Ländern, dann breiter gesellschaftlicher Dialog mit dem Ziel eines ressourcenschonenden Wirtschaftssystems.

Der englischsprachige Text des Manifests mit unseren Änderungsvorschlägen, Stand 24.2., folgt am Ende dieser Datei.

Beteiligte Gruppen:

Bis dato sind zahlreiche Gewerkschaften (deutsche bislang nur mit Beobachterstatus), NGOs, soziale Bewegungen und Initiativen am Alter Summit beteiligt. Dabei ist jedoch klar, dass weniger stark organisierte Bündnisse wie M15, Occupy-Gruppen und andere bislang kaum vertreten sind.

Schuldeninitiative Griechenland / GSEE

Beim Treffen in Athen Mitte Januar gab es zumindest einen kleinen Konflikt zwischen zwei Akteuren: die griechische Schuldeninitiative stellte sich gegen die Beteiligung der Gewerkschaft GSEE (Dachverband der Gewerkschaft von in der Privatwirtschaft beschäftigten), weil diese Gewerkschaft eine enge Vernetzung mit der PASOK, die zur Zeit

in der Regierung die Politik der Troika mit trägt.

ANHANG

Zusammenfassung des Manifests (Stand Dezember 2012)

Kernpunkte im aktuellen Vorschlag

Das im Dezember in Brüssel diskutierte Papier wurde in einigen Punkten bearbeitet und steht jetzt offen für die interne Diskussion. Beim Treffen am 13./14. März in Brüssel soll über die Änderungsvorschläge diskutiert und entschieden werden.

Als wesentliches Leitmotiv ist nun Demokratie an den Anfang des Papiers gerückt, wird aber nicht konkret ausbuchstabiert, weil keine Einigkeit darüber besteht, welche Form der Demokratie und vor allem, auf welcher Ebene Demokratie gestärkt werden soll – da ist selbstverständlich die Frage nach der Zukunft der EU aufgerufen.

I. Schulden

- im Ton deutlich schärfer
- Legitimität der Schulden wird in Frage gestellt,
- Rückzahlung der Schulden als unwahrscheinlich angesehen

Forderungen:

- Menschenrechte vor Schuldendienst
- Schuldenaudits
- Direktfinanzierung der Staaten durch EZB
- Aussetzen der Schuldendienste in den hochverschuldeten Ländern, solange die Bevölkerung nicht vor dem Abbau öffentlicher Dienstleistungen, steigender Armut geschützt und soziale Rechte nicht gestärkt sind.
- Einmalige Vermögensabgabe

II. Ökologische Transformation, soziales Europa

- Austeritätsprogramm führt zu massiven sozialen Einschnitten, eine kleine Gruppe profitiert

Forderungen:

- vollständige Umkehr der Maßnahmen, Entwicklung eines ökonomischen Modells, basierend auf sozialen und natürlichen Commons
- alle entsprechenden Verträge und gesetzlichen Regelungen stoppen
- Steuergerechtigkeit für alle Einkunftsarten und Geschäfte, Bekämpfung von Steuerhinterziehung und Steueroasen
- sozio-ökologische Transformation: massive Investitionen in diesen Bereich, Schaffung umweltfreundlicher, sozial sinnvoller Jobs von guter Qualität
- Stärkung öffentlicher Dienstleistungen, insbesondere Gesundheit, Bildung/Erziehung, Transport und Energie, öffentliche geförderter Wohnraum

III. gutes Einkommen für alle

die verschärfte Austeritätspolitik greift mittlerweile auch auf das Recht auf Kollektivverhandlungen über, die Ungleichbehandlung von Männern und Frauen wird

verstärkt

Forderungen:

- Freiheit zu Kollektivverhandlungen wieder herstellen; in Kollektivverhandlungen erzielte Ergebnisse, die aufgrund der Austeritätspolitik kassiert wurden, sind wieder herzustellen
- Entwicklung eines Europäischen sozialen Schutzsystems („European social protection system“) um soziale und ökonomische Rechte nach oben zu harmonisieren
- Mindesteinkommen (minimum income), das ein gutes Leben ermöglicht, Mindestlöhne in allen Ländern
- Geschlechtergerechtigkeit
- Recht auf gute Arbeit für jeden, die Arbeit muss aufgeteilt werden

IV Banken

Banken müssen der Realwirtschaft, der Gesellschaft und der Umwelt nützen

Forderungen:

- strenge Regulierung, die Spekulation mit unserem Geld verbietet
- Bankentrennung, Abwicklungsmechanismus/Konkursverfahren für Banken
- Verbot der Nutzung von Steueroasen für Banken und multinationale Konzerne, Verbot von außerbilanziellen Tätigkeiten und Schattenbanken
- genossenschaftliches, öffentliches Kreditsystem fördern und stärken
- Überprüfen der Garantien, die der privaten Finanzwirtschaft fälschlicherweise gemacht wurden

Manifest, englische Fassung, mit vorgeschlagenen Änderungen (Stand 24.2.2013)

Towards a people's manifesto[kape 1]

**Our urgent common priorities for a democratic,
social, ecological and feminist Europe**

working doc – Dec 2012

**Our democracy must roll back austerity
before their austerity destroys democracy!**

Our common goal is to reclaim genuine democracy in Europe. This includes equality, particularly between men and women; political, social and economic rights for all and democratic governments that take responsibility for protecting their citizens. We

emphasize the democratisation of every relevant decision on each political stage. We refuse the dictatorship of financial markets and demand that the peoples of European be freed from debt slavery and austerity.

I.

EUROPE IS RICH !

NO TO [kape 2]DEBT SLAVERY !

We'll not pay their debt! The origins of public debt are:

- decades of tax policies that have outrageously enriched a small minority
- the banking debacle and the bank bailouts
- interest wrongly paid to private banks
- corruption and big, unnecessary public works

In some countries, the problem is mainly the private debt resulting mainly from heavy borrowing for real estate purchases and reckless lending by private banks, combined with lowering or stagnation of real wages. (Labour has lost 10 points of GDP to capital over the past 30 years). All over Europe, public and private debts are suffocating peoples. No one still believes that these debts can or will be reimbursed. Furthermore, they are partly illegitimate.

Human rights come before debt service and human needs before profit

We demand a Europe-wide solution that stigmatizes no country and provides populations with lasting relief from the burden of [kape 3] debt, the blackmail of financial markets and the antisocial programs imposed by the Troika and the EU. We call for debt audits undertaken in each country by citizens to assess the share of debt which the society is able and willing to pay back.

Our common and urgent demands:

1. Stop the blood-letting of the most indebted European countries, if necessary by suspending repayments for as long as populations are not protected against worsening poverty, public services are not strengthened and social rights not consolidated.
2. In order to reduce present debt stocks to realistic levels, undertake an immediate, one-off wealth levy. Future illegitimate and excessive re-indebtedness should be avoided by fair taxation and good wages (see below).
3. The European Central Banks must lend directly to States. Private banks and EU member-states must be prevented from lending to states at far higher rates than they are themselves paying.

II.

ROLL BACK AUSTERITY!

[kape 4]

Throughout Europe, any honest observer can see that austerity does not work: it brings lower wages, dismantling of public services, decline of social protection and leads to heightened debts, deficits and unemployment. A small minority continues to enrich itself whereas 10% of the European population already more than 60% of the wealth. Austerity is the neo-liberals' tool of choice to destroy social rights.

We demand a complete reversal of these policies, and a new course towards an economic model based on the social and natural commons.

Our common and urgent demands

1. End austerity now : it is driving Europe deeper into recession. Immediately cancel or veto the treaties and regulations imposing austerity (the Fiscal Pact, the Six-Pack ...) . Future measures on EU and national stage have to be legitimised democratically and may not lead to further social separation. A program to strengthen social rights has to be launched as soon as possible. Social rights can not be negotiated and have to be regarded as the guiding principle of political decisions, especially in the countries under the Troika regime
2. Tax justice with a permanent, progressive taxation system applying fair rates on wealth, corporate profits, financial transactions ; and strengthening tax administrations in the fight against fraud and tax havens;

[kape 5]3 Discussion on « ECB » or « ECBs » : no doubt about the central importance of ECB, but nor all the EU countries are in the eurozone, and their own central bank has also a role to play.

4. Protect and strengthen public services, including health, education, transport and energy, public housing. These should be seen as common goods ensuring our social and economic human rights that cannot be privatized.

Iia NEW: Economic and ecological sustainability

The recent economic systems is characterised by a destructive exploitation of nature. Alternative models have to be discussed on a broad basis and to be developed soon.

Our common and urgent demands

- A social and ecological transition is the fitting solution as well to the climate and the ecological crisis as to the high unemployment. As a first step Europe should invest high amounts in this transition to create environmentally friendly and socially useful good quality jobs.
- Additionally, a social debate should be launched on an alternative economy to install a resources-saving economic system which is based upon broad democratic decision making inside the enterprises and the society as a whole.
- According to foreign trade, the EU and the member states comply with social and democratic minimum standards and they will take care that common goods are protected.

III. A decent income for all !

No to poverty, no to precarious work!

Neo-liberal policies lead to massive unemployment, wage cuts, deteriorating working conditions, and wage and professional inequality between men and women.

In the context of the crisis, these policies now go even further and are attacking labour rights, collective bargaining and the ability of workers' organizations to defend their members. They impose the principle of competitiveness in order to divide workers and increase profits while simultaneously weakening the level and quality of social protection for retirees, the poor, the sick and the unemployed.

We demand a society that provides every citizen with a decent job and an income that allows a dignified life.

Our common and urgent demands

1. Restore the freedom of collective bargaining and concerted action; restore collective agreements cancelled as part of austerity measures
2. Build a European social protection system, with upward harmonization of social and economic rights.
3. Establish a minimum income sufficient for a dignified life not depending on the current job situation of the individual[kape 6], and a minimum wage in each country (fixed by law or by agreement)
4. Institute genuine equality of both wages and career development between women and men
5. Reduce the working hours to give all job seeking people the possibility of a decent job with sufficient income.

IV. FOR ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY: PUT BANKS UNDER

PEOPLE'S CONTROL

The collapse of the private banking system is not an accident but the result of a system organised so that finance served shareholders and speculators almost exclusively to the detriment of the real economy. Governments have not merely authorised but encouraged this system:

- By consenting in recent decades to every demand of the finance industry including enthusiastic deregulation, the development of shadow banking and of subsidiaries in tax havens which contributed to the spread of toxic financial products.
- By privatizing many public or cooperatively-owned credit institutions formerly oriented towards financing useful regional activities.
- Governments' response to the crisis was to inject billions of euros to rescue banks at the expense of taxpayers and to provide the financial industry with unconditional

guarantees
thereby strengthening it even further.

- a massive redistribution of wealth from the poorer part of the society to the richer with as a result huge amounts of wealth searching for assets worth investing in, and what was found, inter alia, in mortgage securitisations made of mortgages which have been assumed by poorer classes.

We demand that banks serve the real economy, society and the environment:

governments and European institutions must stand up to the greed and impunity of bankers

Our common and urgent claims

1. Impose strong and enforceable regulations that prohibit banks from speculating with our money.
2. Break up the banks which are too big to fail. Separate commercial and investment banks; if investment banks then fail, allow them to fail in a controlled manner
3. Prohibit – for both banks and multinational companies--the use of tax havens. Prohibit shadow banking practices and any other form of concealment of off-balance sheet activities.
4. Give priority and incentives to collectively owned cooperative public credit systems
5. Review the guaranties wrongly granted to private finance.

IV A NEW: No to authoritarian reconstruction of the EU – democratic participation on each stage

During the Euro-Crisis, the European elites are pushing forward a neoliberal, authoritarian economic governance. The legislation and rule making is shifted to national and European executive institutions or takes place automatically as negotiated in the Fiskal Compact. Parliamentary decision structures keep being undermined in the national capitals as well as in Brussels. To stop this de-democratising process, we claim:

- strengthen the European Parliament, make all European legal institutions

accountable to the European Parliament. The recent empowerment of the executional institutions has to be withdrawn. The powers of the European institutions have to be restructured to ensure the separation of powers.

- The European Central Bank is accountable to the European Parliament, stakeholders from the civil society take part in the decisions on monetary policy. The predominant issue of the ECB, price stability, will be expanded by economic and financial stability as objectives of equal importance.
- Citizens' participation will be extended: the citizens' initiative on European level will be binding, people in Europe will be integrated in the legal process by developing participation processes.
- Bilateral treaties as the Fiscal Compact and the Memoranda of Understanding which are circumventing European primary legislation, have to be withdrawn.

Because we are citizens, not stakeholders or mere consumers

Because we demand democratic governments, not technocratic "governance"

Because we want a real democracy,
we demand citizen control over unelected officials and dictatorial European institutions

Because we do not want that Europe's prosperity relies on the exploitation of the rest of the world, we demand a fundamental rethinking of the trade policies of the European Union;

Because austerity leads to racism, fascism and sexism;

We build a unitary movement for a democratic, social, ecological and feminist Europe!

To support and strengthen the peoples' struggles against this Europe of inequalities, austerity and debt we gather forces around the above demands, by national and European actions culminating in the Alter Summit⁵ on 7, 8 and 9 June 2013.

calendar and information: www.altersummit.eu

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Venue of the Alter Summit must be confirmed by end of Jan 2013 ; probably Athens.