

# Another world is possible!

Profile Attac Germany



## What is Attac?

*„After persistent claims for more transparent negotiations made by globalization critics from Attac, the German Parliament is going to discuss this issue in the today's hearing ...“*

*„Due to the wide citizens' support for the referendum-petition initiated by Attac, the launch of Cross Border Leasing Project was undermined for the time being ...“*

*„More than 10 thousand participants taking part in the Anti-Summit organised by globalisation critical groups like Attac, became an impressive sign of international solidarity ...“*

Attac moves itself and the others. Attac is an organizational network and individuals who stand for the alternative to the neoliberal globalization.

*However:*

## What does „neoliberal globalization“ mean?

This concept implies complete opening of all national markets with almost no restrictions with regard to social, democratic and ecological control and regulations. All these widen the notion of „freedom“.

*The question is:*

## Freedom for whom?

The proponents of neoliberal globalization promise that unlimited opening of the markets will have a positive effect on the world economy. They believe that the more sectors of economy would be privatized the more people would be better-off. They refer to education, health care, water supply and many other things. But the question still remains: Are they right?

*And if not:*

## What are the effects?

The wordy promises from these proponents have remained just that. They have not come

true and have not been carried out. The gap between the rich and the poor within national societies and between the North and the South on the global level continues to increase. More and more people are living in poverty when the incomes of Transnational Corporations are constantly growing. In the meantime the neoliberal globalization is speeding up and extending the overexploitation of nature and environment. International financial markets are the engines of this development. Every day bankers and finance managers convert billions of Euros on the financial markets resulting in a harmful influence on the social processes.

*This is the reason why Attac is asking:*

## Where is democracy?

The WTO (World Trade Organization), the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank set economic rules without democratic legitimacy. Under these circumstances citizens' rights for democratic influence on decisions have become an obstacle to the profit-oriented interests, an obstacle that must be removed. Many negotiations are intentionally carried out behind the closed doors to keep them secret from ordinary and disenfranchised individuals. As a result, the interests of common people were seriously affected by the scale and the ramifications of agreements made behind closed doors.

## What does Attac want?

„People before Profit!“ is the most important slogan of the globalization-critical movement. Attac strongly believes that the list of primary political and economic goals should include improvement of living conditions, development of democracy and self-determination, effective protection of environment. Attac stands for an ecological, solidary and peaceful economic world order. The enormous wealth generated by the planet must be fairly distributed between all its peoples!

## What does Attac do?

Attac organizes educating and informing programs in order to develop contacts and remain active. It wants to give everyone the opportunity to form their own opinion of complex economic issues and to become Attac member. With the support of our 'expert teams' we intend to work out analytical materials and proposals which offer alternatives to the existing form of neoliberal globalization. They move forward their understanding of globalization - international solidarity from below. They encourage people to take part in the campaigns - international and local - to make people aware and to make their protests more visible.

## We are many - we are not enough!

Attac is looking for supporters. We believe that only a powerful movement can influence social development. Although every participant can decide itself how this support should look like: every regional group is glad to gain active supporters for both campaigns and discussions. Attac also pays for campaign expenses within the confines of its budget. We are very happy to invite new members to our network. We appreciate every contribution to our struggle for justice.

## Attac stands for:

- civil and peaceful conflict settlement.
- closing down of tax shelters.
- more effective taxation on financial incomes and big property.
- a solution to the debt crisis in developing countries.
- a world trade order which advocates for the interests of the developing countries and socially discriminated population groups, admits the priority of the environment protection and supports the international institutions that promote it.
- a democratic and socially-oriented Europe which takes care of people's needs and solidarity with other parts of the world.
- a democratic reform of public service system and the level of social protection that allows everyone the right to live in humane conditions. We stand against the privatization of public service offices and public service sector in general.
- a common system of old age insurance.
- a social and environment-friendly agriculture.
- the control and restrictions for the activities of transnational corporations and agglomerations of economic power.

## Attac Germany: Numbers and Facts

Attac or „Association pour une taxation des transactions financières pour l'aide aux citoyens et citoyennes“ („Association for the taxation of financial transaction for the aid of citizens“) was founded in France in 1998. Today Attac has more than 90.000 members in 50 countries.

Attac was established in Germany in 2000. Currently it has 200 regional groups with a total of about 20.000 members. These numbers are constantly growing.

Attac describes itself as a non-parliamentary movement and network which includes more than 200 member-organizations such as trade unions, one world centers, environmental organizations, christian associations, capitalism-critical groups and peace initiatives.

Attac's common platform for action is described in its declaration and program paper. It is a fundamentally grass roots democratic movement. This means that

Attac accepts a wide range of worldviews but there is definitely no place within the organization for rights extremism, antisemitism or sexism.

Twice per year Attac organizes plenary meetings for all the members supporting the organization. One of the tasks of the plenary meeting is the holding of elections to the coordination center which represents Attac at the international level and carries out day-to-day political work.

Attac's main office in Frankfurt assists the voluntary attac-colleagues at all ranks and levels, performs administrative tasks and serves as a main contact and information link.

One can find all the important dates, information about campaigns and events, current discussions, background reading, web-pages and contact details for workshops and regional action groups active in Germany, access to e-mail lists and many other things on [www.attac.de](http://www.attac.de).

## Contact

Attac Germany, Münchener Str. 48, D-60329 Frankfurt am Main  
Tel.: ++49 (+69) 900 281-10, Fax: ++49 (+69) 900 281-10, E-Mail: [info@attac.de](mailto:info@attac.de), Web: [www.attac.de](http://www.attac.de)