



## REAL ALTERNATIVES

### European Congress for Change

European Parliament, Brussels

30 November 2011

Morning session: PSH 4B001 (building Paul Henri Spaak PHS, 4° floor , sector B, Room 001)

Afternoon session: ASP 1G2 (building Altiero Spinelli ASP, 1° floor, sector G, Room 2)

#### Participating organisations

European Alternatives, ARCI, Osservatorio Europa, New Economics Foundation, CGIL, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe, Migreurop, Democracia Real Ya, Nikos Poulantzas Institute, Institut Emile Vandervelde, FLARE, Observatoire des Extrêmes, La Centrale Générale - FGTB, Universidad Nomada, Amnesty International UK, Iniziativa Femminista Europea, Citizens for Europe, Municipality of Fyli, Open Democracy, La Confédération étudiante, Toxic Europe, Qui Va Payer, Basic Income Earth Network, Transform! Network, Cafe Babel, CIVILSCAPE, CIVES, ECAS, Open Society Institute, AFIES, Missione Sviluppo, Alliance internationale de journalistes, Transeuropa Network, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, Campaign Against Homophobia, Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer, Hungarian Europe Society, JEF Europe, Our society, Cercle des Voisins, Initiative Zivilgesellschaft, European Youth Forum, Il Fatto Quotidiano, CriticAtac, European Civic Forum, Animo young left, SEL, Il nostro tempo è adesso, CFJ, European House, Take the square, Si Rinnovabili No Nucleare, Permanent Forum of European civil society, CIME, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, L'apis coop, Upact, Greek Social Forum, ENNA, Legambiente Onlus, European house for culture, Oxfam Wales, La Confédération étudiante, Europanova, European Association for the Defence of Human Rights, Altramente, Think Young, Urban Pollinators

## OBJECTIVE

The Brussels Congress brings together activists, citizens and organisations active throughout the continent and sharing a common vision for rebuilding Europe. The Congress aims to clearly spell out that real alternatives to our social, economic, and political status quo exist, and to work towards the construction of a platform of transnational coordination to better bring those alternatives to fruition over the course of 2012 through a series of transnational campaigns, forums, and assemblies.

Engaging over 100 organisations, the Brussels Congress will be the occasion to work towards the construction of increasingly effective structures of European activism, in the context of the new European Citizens' Initiative and the growing awareness of the necessity of articulating political alternatives at a directly European and transnational level.

A process of convergence of European civil society, citizens, and social movements is long overdue, as is the demand for a profound democratisation of the European space based on participation, solidarity, and democratic control over the economy and finance.

The Congress will be divided in two parts:

**Which Europe:** presentation of a series of concrete proposals that could contribute to an alternative social and democratic Europe. The first part of the forum will contribute to network different European organisations working on common themes, discussing in particular how to guarantee truly transnational presentation and organisation of the political proposals presented.

**How to get there:** Discussion on what strategy to put in place for this umbrella group of civil society organisations to build an effective counter-power to political and financial elites, agreeing on priorities for work and advocacy in 2012. What level of coordination should we imagine between the different European revindications under preparation?

NB: It is **necessary** to register in advance (<http://europe.doattend.com>) to guarantee a badge to access the European Parliament

## AGENDA

**9.30 - 10.00: Real Alternatives: Process and methods**, with Lorenzo Marsili, Alessandro Valera

**10.00 - 12.20: Real alternatives: Campaigns under preparation**

There is already the vision and the necessary competences for a substantially different management of the European crisis. In this session we will present a series of concrete demands for an alternative that are already under planning to take the form of transnational campaigns or coalitions, followed by debate. Amongst these:

Labour and decent work, h10.00

**Towards a campaign against precarity and for a Europea minimum income**, with Maria Pia Pizzolante (Tilt), Nicols Eduardo Sguiglia (Universidad Nomada), Luca Scarpello (European Youth Forum), Klaus Sambor (Basic income earth network). Response by Pervenche Beres (MEPs S&D)

Civil liberties and citizenship rights, h10.50

**Access to detention centres for migrants** with Sara Prestiani (Migreurop). Response by Helene Flautre (MEP European Greens) and Marie-Christine Vergiat (MEP, GUE/NGL)

**Mutual recognition of existing same-sex unions** with Greg Czarnecki (KPH- Campaign Against Homophobia)

**European initiative for media pluralism** with Giovanni Melogli (Alliance international de journalistes)

Response by Judith Sargentini (MEP, European Greens)

Economy & Common Goods, h11.40

**Towards a European Charter of the Commons**, with Ugo Mattei

**New production models** with Anna Coote (New Economics Foundation) (TBC)

**Reversing privatisations: a European campaign on public water** with Enzo Bernardo (FpCGIL)

**Campaign on confiscation of goods of organised crime** with Vittorio Agnoletto (FLARE). Response by Sonia Alfano (MEP, ALDE)

Democracy and institutions, h12.40

**Towards a campaign for the democratisation of the Union**, with Nicholas Milanese

**13.00 - 14.45: Lunch and networking**

**15.00 - 16.00: Doing politics at a European level**

Interventions on different strategies and instruments to work politically at European level, including:

**Constructing democracy**, with Roberto Musacchio (Altramente)

**Instruments of European advocacy** (European Citizens' Initiative, relation with EP, etc.) with Tony Venables (ECAS)

**The experience of the European social forum** with Raffaella Bolini (ARCI)

**New transnational movements**, with Aitor Tinoco i Girona (Democracia Real Ya), Ovidiu Tichindeleanu (CriticAtac), Marco Furfaro (Tilt)

**16.00 - 16.45: Towards a European coordination**

Presentation of proposals for a concrete organisation of a European transnational coordination capable of structuring the multiplicity of planned European campaigns and serving as a space of exchange and development of political strategies for the construction of European coalitions.

Presentation of a calendar of action and transnational meetings for 2012 for such coordination.

With Nicholas Milanese and Franco Russo

**16.45 - 17.00: Conclusions**