

Limit Free Trade, promote Cooperation!

“Deregulation, privatisation and free trade are the neoliberal formulas and trademarks of a global economic order that imposes a ‘development model’ in which the sovereignty of the Nation State in determining development and social policy is curtailed, and where popular resistance is met by repression.” (excerpt from the Call to Vienna)

This **Social Encounter** aims at pointing out the problematic developments that have been taking place in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe and at creating a new network of solidarity between North and South.

Continued liberalisation benefits a small number of enterprises while threatening the majority of the population. Thus, on the occasion of the EU – Latin America – Caribbean Summit, **we demand:**

- Independent evaluation of the consequences of free trade agreements!
- Cancellation of foreign debt of Latin American and Caribbean states!
- Protection of smallholder production systems on both continents!
- Food sovereignty instead of pursuit of export policies!
- More cooperation in the fields of politics and development!
- No de-industrialisation through reduction of tariffs!
- Recognition of the rights of peoples, especially indigenous peoples, who are fighting for autonomy!
- More transparency, participation and supervision of democratic processes within bilateral relations!
- Protection of the human rights as a priority over the pursuit of economic power!

We call on everybody to participate in the broad range of events and activities and to help building a better world. For essential information please see www.alternativas.at.

Make your Contribution!

There are various ways of supporting “**Linking Alternatives 2**”:

Brick Campaign

Professional and joint coordination, but also large financial support is required for the organisation before and during the Social Encounter. By purchasing and reselling symbolic “bricks”, you support: travel and accommodation costs of invited speakers, hall rents, interpreters, elaboration, production and printing of information materials and posters, expenses for secretariat etc.

You can purchase bricks for 5, 10 or 50 euros, either individually or by blocks. Just fill in your address and the word “Baustein” in the field “purpose” on the payment form and the bricks will automatically be sent to you!

Bank: PSK, account number: 92.181.504 (IBAN: AT 85 6000 0000 92 18 1504, BIC: OPSKATWW).

Organising (fund raising) events

Information activities are planned to take place all over Austria in order to

- communicate the essential contents of the Social Encounter,
- mobilise as many people as possible from all over Austria to come to Vienna in May,
- generate donations in order to be able to meet the financial needs.
- Contributions on our part include a multimedia presentation, artistic performances (dance groups, music,...) and speakers on various topics.

Support during the Social Encounter

For the days of the Social Encounter, we are looking for volunteers to support the organisation of this major event: stewards and stewardesses, translators, assistance to guests,...

Join in the building of relations between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean! (contact: www.alternativas.at or office@alternativas.at)



Another world is possible!

Social Encounter
Europe – Latin America – Caribbean

Enlazando Alternativas 2

May 10 to 13 2006

Social Encounter on the occasion of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean in Vienna

ENCUENTRO SOCIAL
América Latina, Europa y el Caribe



Background

In May 2006, the fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Vienna as part of the Austrian EU presidency. The focus of the Summit will be put especially on potential free trade agreements, e.g. between the EU and Mercosur, the EU and the Andean Community and the EU and Central America.

In recent years, social movements, religious groups, non-governmental organisations, workers' representatives and other members of civil society in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have opposed vehemently against the expansion of this neoliberal model. Since May 2004, when the first **Social Encounter "Linking Alternatives"** took place in Guadalajara/Mexico, social movements and organisations have united to promote bioregional activities to combat the neoliberal politics of governments.

Programme of the Social Encounter, May 10 to 13 2006

The Encounter is going to see activities organised by networks as well as independent activities. Two plenary events, a Tribunal, seminars and workshops on five topics and a closing manifestation are scheduled. Delegates from Latin American and European networks as well as prominent artists, church delegates and scientists are going to be invited to contribute to these activities, among them:

Eduardo Galeano, Uruguay; Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina; Blanca Chancoso, Ecuador; Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini, Guatemala and Johan Galtung, Norway.

Seminars and Workshops

The official Summit will take place on May 12. At the same time, events on the following topics will be organised as part of the Social Encounter:

- * Economic and social systems of neoliberal globalisation impacts in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean
- * Political dialogue between the continents
- * Types of cooperation in the field of development in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean
- * Regional integration alternative strategies to regional development
- * Militarisation and human rights

Tribunal

On May 10 and 11, the Tribunal will look into the business practices of selected European transnational enterprises in Latin America and demonstrate their consequences for the population. The Tribunal will start with a presentation of the political goals, the methods employed and the cases to be investigated.

Cultural events

Throughout the Social Encounter a large number of cultural events will be organised in various localities (music, theatre, dance, films, exhibitions).

Closing event

As a closing event of the Social Encounter, a manifestation with the motto "Unity within Diversity" is planned to take place on May 13, involving music, dance, statements, food and drink, information material and debates.

For more information on seminar contents, the Tribunal and localities for events see www.alternativas.at (from the end of March).

Blanca Chancoso (speaker of the indigenous peoples of Ecuador): "It is necessary to promote the exchange of knowledge, wisdom and experience between countries as well as between people."

Another World is possible! - Let's build it together!

We invite all those who sympathise with and participate in social and political organisations and networks, anti-globalisation movements, religious groups, trade unions, unemployed and landless people, indigenous people, artists and intellectuals of Latin America and Europe to come

to Vienna from May 10 to 13 2006

to join in the **Social Encounter** and participate actively in the discussions on a peaceful, democratic and socially just transatlantic alliance on the basis of the human rights and the right of self-determination of peoples!

Registration for "Linking Alternatives 2" starts at the end of March 2006 on www.alternativas.at

Contact:

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"Linking Alternatives 2" is organised and coordinated by the main sponsoring organisations in Austria

- ATTAC Österreich
 - Dreikönigsaktion der Katholischen Jungschar Österreichs
 - Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika – IGLA
 - Internationaler Versöhnungsbund – Österreichischer Zweig
 - Verein Südwind – Entwicklungspolitik
- in cooperation with more than 120 organisations in Austria, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.