



Seattle to Brussels
Network

INVITATION

BEYOND FREE TRADE: ALTERNATIVES FOR DECENT WORK

A conference for European trade unions and civil society organisations

*Organised by War on Want, UK – WEED, Germany – WIDE, Belgium
As part of the Seattle to Brussels network*

In cooperation with GMB, IGBau, UNITE, ver.di, CGIL, FIOM,
Solidaires

Date: 12:00h 5 October – 17:30h 6 October 2010
Venue: Espace Jacquemotte, Rue Haute 147, 1000 Brussels

Lack of decent work is one of the main challenges for the trade union movement today, in the face of economic crisis and a globalisation that is putting pressure on working conditions, wages and social protections worldwide. But is it really possible to achieve decent work for all when governments continue to pursue free trade policies that put the rights of corporations far ahead of the rights of people and the environment?

This conference will explore the links between trade deals and neoliberal policies inside Europe that are undermining basic labour rights and promoting profits for big business at any cost.

Many trade unions are highly critical of free trade policies, most recently seen in the ETUC / TUCA statement in May that strongly condemned the current negotiations with Latin American countries, especially Colombia – notorious as the most dangerous country in the world to be a trade unionist. We will discuss the political opportunities and strategies to stop a deal with Colombia and to tackle trade agreements that threaten workers in Korea, Canada, India and Central America.

As the European Union revises its trade policies, there is a once in a decade chance to push for alternatives to a pure free trade agenda, so that trade helps us to exit the financial crisis in a way that promotes decent work and a social Europe. This conference offers an open space for discussion in the run-up to the next Joint Social Conference in March 2011. Join us and help to take a step towards a new kind of Europe in the world.



DRAFT AGENDA

Speakers to be confirmed – translation and lunch will be provided

<i>Times</i>	<i>Sessions</i>
1200 – 1300	Registration
1300 – 1530	Opening plenary: Linking neoliberal threats inside and outside Europe
1530 – 1600	Break
1600 – 1800	Strategies to tackle current free trade deals I – issues
0930 – 1230	Strategies to tackle current free trade deals II - opportunities
1230 – 1330	Lunch
1330 – 1600	A new approach to trade: towards an Alternative Trade Mandate
1600 – 1630	Break
1630 – 1730	Closing plenary and next steps

To register and for more information, contact:
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Please ensure that you register by 27 September so that we can send you travel and accommodation information.