

Minutes of the 1st meeting of Blockupy's international coordinating structure in Frankfurt on January 25, 2014

Minute taker: Thomas (Attac/RLS)

Participants:

Thomas (Occupy, Germany), Hagen (No one is illegal, Germany), Britta (No Troika, Frankfurt/Germany), Sima (DIE LINKE, Frankfurt/Germany), Giorgio (Coordinamento Migranti, Italy), Eleonora (Precarious (Dis)connections, Italy), Julien (25S, Madrid/Spain), Nora (artist, Hamburg/Germany), Beppe (Globalproject.info, Venice/Italy), Gianmarco (Social Centers Coalition, Italy), H  l  ne (Attac France), Verv  ne (Attac France), Natassa (SYRIZA/European Left Party, Greece), Judith (DIE LINKE/European Left Party, Germany), Nicolas (Solidaires, France), Niklas (Antifa F/Ums Ganze, Germany), Moritz (Antifa F/Ums Ganze, Germany), Eberhard (Attac Germany), Thomas (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation/Attac Germany), Felipe (Centrale nationale des employ  s, Alter Summit Network, Belgium), Marie-Dominique (Attac Germany/Alter Summit Network), Sylvia (DIE LINKE/Lisa, Germany), Corinna (DIE LINKE, Germany), Pablo (No Troika, Occupy, Germany), Badra (Africa Refug  es Union, Germany), Bettina (revolutionary refugee movement, Berlin/Germany), Anna-Maria (revolutionary refugee movement, Berlin/Germany), Turgay (revolutionary refugee movement, Berlin/Germany), Toure Ali (refugee movement), Bance (refugee movement), Tresor (Afrique-Europe-Interacte), Geraud (refugee movement), Hanno (Interventionist Left, Germany), Jano (Interventionist Left, Germany) and others who arrived later

Planned activities, important events

1-2 April: Informal ECOFIN in Athens, demonstration in Athens planned

4 April: Call of the European Trade Union Confederation for a European demonstration in Brussels

15-16 May: European Council in Brussels (tbc), actions of civil disobedience in Brussels are proposed but have not been decided yet

End of May until mid-June: International Protest Hike of Refugees from Strasbourg to Brussels

Activists from Denmark and the Netherlands who were not present in Frankfurt reported that they can't organise bigger actions in May but that they want to mobilise for the protests against the opening of the new ECB building in autumn.

Decision about common days of action

Within the prolonged week of actions from May 15 until May 25 we will have three days where we will organise coordinated European actions:

Thursday, May 15: Possibly common European action of civil disobedience against the meeting of the European Council in Brussels

Friday, May 16: Blockades and other actions of civil disobedience

Saturday, May 17: This day suits best for big demonstrations and further mass actions of civil disobedience

Decisions about a common slogan and a call for actions in May

We will produce a brief call for the actions in May (not longer than one page). This call can build upon previous calls and manifestos from different networks.

We had a longer controversial discussion on the common slogan for this call. The following slogans were proposed:

Infinite solidarity – for a Europe from below
If this is supposed to be Europe, we are all refugees
Democracy – solidarity – commons
Democracy from below, by the people
Take Europe, from below
Europe is not for sale
Think Europe globally
Reclaim Europe – Egalitarian Europe
Austerity kills dignity
They want capitalism without democracy, we want democracy without capitalism
They want austerity without democracy, we want democracy without austerity
Blockupy is everywhere – for real democracy, against the Troika and against nationalism (against impoverishment)
Give us back Europe
Take back Europe
Time for austerity is over, now is the time for... #democracy, #solidarity, #commons/communing
The time of austerity is over – for real democracy and solidarity
Crossing the borders of austerity – think Europe globally
No more Europe without democracy
Fight the system now
Go for equality, dignity and social justice
Beyond the borders of Europe – democracy and solidarity from below
Make the troika history
Let's make austerity history
Solidarity beyond borders – make troika history – basta troika
Crossing borders in solidarity – building democracy from below
Solidarity beyond borders – building democracy from below

We decided to choose the following slogan:

Solidarity beyond borders – building democracy from below

We agreed that the following topics should be part of the brief call:

Who we are and who we call for
The critique of the neoliberal and authoritarian EU, the Troika and austerity
The necessity to think Europe globally (in an anti-imperialist and anti-racist sense)
The critique of capitalism
The significance of precarity and migration in present-day capitalism
Critique of nationalist, racist and neofascist forces and discourses
The significance of real democracy, solidarity and commons
Blockupy wants to connect existing struggles and to open up a space for new struggles and alliances

Working group for the call:

Eberhard (Attac Germany), Natassa (SYRIZA, Greece), Beppe (Globalproject, Italy), Giorgio (Coordinamento Migranti, Italy), Hanno (Interventionist Left, Germany), Ulrich (DIE LINKE, Germany), Eleonora (Precarious (Dis)Connections, Italy), Felipe (Centrale nationale des employés, Belgium)

Deadline for the draft: within ten days.
The call should be ready at the end of February.

Agreements about the international coordinating structure:

We agreed about the necessity of further face-to-face meetings as well as phone conferences or web conferences. We have to enhance our communication tools. In the meantime we will use the mailing list to continue our discussion. A continuity of the discussion and a high commitment of all participants is necessary.

Working group in order to enhance our communication tools:

Gianmarco, Hanno, Marita (tbc)

Moderating group to develop common plans of action for the three main days of action:

Julien (25S, Spain), somebody from the Alter Summit group, Giorgio or Eleonora + somebody from the German coordinating committee (this has to be clarified at the next phone conference).
The common elements, topics and forms of actions should be discussed further in order to find a consensus and to make the European character of our actions clear.

Next phone conference: first week of February.

Next face-to-face meeting: end of March.

Third face-to-face meeting: during summer (It was proposed to hold this meeting during the Attac summer academy in Paris, but there was no consensus. It was also argued that the meeting should be in Frankfurt in order to explore the situation on-site.)

Doodles will be set up.