

# **Social & Labour rights in times of austerity and deregulation: Strengthen and connect struggles in Europe November 25&26 – Brussels**

*During two days of plenaries and workshops, we will discuss the urgency of an ecological transition, the digitalisation and internationalisation of productive processes, the political and social impact of migration and the necessity to defend commons and public services. We will exchange views about our struggles and practices across Europe and try to define common axes for action. We will also debate how to confront EU policies and institutions from our national and local perspectives.*

The European Union – in accordance with most member states – continues imposing austerity and antisocial policies. These policies have serious negative consequences : millions of jobs have been lost, wages are frozen or cut, flexibility and precariousness are growing dramatically, health, social protection, public services and collective bargaining systems are being dismantled. Millions of young workers are forced to migrate from the periphery to the centre of Europe, with difficult access to housing and healthcare. In addition, fiscal avoidance, tax heavens and unfair taxation systems are weakening budgetary capacities of the states and institutions to respond to social and ecological needs.

Digitalisation and internationalisation are deeply modifying productive systems, challenging the strategies of trade unions and social movements. Moreover, the European Union and member states should invest billions for a fair transition, for jobs, for schools, hospitals and other infrastructures to respond to social needs and welcome the millions of refugees fleeing war and misery.

**But the future proposed by European elites** is not reassuring : proposals held in the 5 Presidents Report, the REFIT program or free-trade agreements under negotiation (TTIP, CETA & TiSA) will attack – under the pressure of public debt repayment and maintaining international competitiveness – the achievements of decades of workers' and popular movements' struggles.

We have shown different forms of resistance in the last years opposing these policies. But we have also been witnesses to an increasing repression and criminalisation of protest.

This context raises urgent questions :

**Which common strategies to change this context ? How to deal with EU power ?**

**Which collectives rights are necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century ?**

**Which common campaigns are we able to build ?**

**How to be stronger in our diversity ?**

*There are many alternatives : fair wages, less working hours for more jobs, access to public health, housing and education, clean air and water, but also more democracy, more solidarity and more liberties.*

**Please fill-out the online form to participate !**

**Initiator : Alter Summit Network**

# Participate in shaping the content of the Conference !

1. **Contribute by sending papers on related topics !**
2. **Participate in a working group ! (see below)**
3. **Pre-register for the Conference** ( -> On August 15, we will be able to confirm your registration)

## Working Axes

Working groups will present analyses and proposals during the conference  
The holding of the proposed working groups will depend on sufficient participation

1. **Change in working places:** productive changes (digitalisation, internationalisation) ; competitiveness ; TU strategies (organisational issues, collective agreements) ; industrial policies ; ..
2. **Fair ecological transition**
3. **Migrants, workers, precarious: all united!:** migration issues, gender, precarity, mobility, ...
4. **Commons and public services**

**Transversal questions** : Europe/Institutions/Treaties; Struggles and convergence; repression and democracy;...

## Written contributions

If you have already worked on these thematics and want to contribute to the Conference, please send us a written contribution. We will be happy to use them in the different working groups.

**Want to join a working groups, send a contribution  
or pre-register for the Conference ?**

**[Fill-out the online form](#)**

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**Join us in the next step !**

**16/17 June in Brussels for an expanded Alter Summit Assembly**

Start : 16.06 at 10:30, End : 17.06 at 16:30

**More informations : [info@altersummit.eu](mailto:info@altersummit.eu)**

# **WORKING GROUPS TOWARDS THE CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL & LABOUR RIGHTS Brussels – 25&26 November**

On 25&26 of November, Alter Summit organizes a Conference on Social&Labour rights in Europe. In order to prepare the content of this Conference, 5 working groups have been launched (4 thematic and one of coordination).

We are calling all interested people/organisations to participate to those working groups. Please contact [sebastian@altersummit.eu](mailto:sebastian@altersummit.eu) to join one or more of them.

The **MAIN TASKS** of the working groups are :

- **Elaborate a written contribution** before the Conference
- **Organize and moderate the workshops/plenaries** during the Conference
  - Elaborating a methodology for the discussions/debates
  - Finding key-speakers

They are coordinators in each working groups (see the underlined names below).

## **0. GENERAL DEBATES AND COORDINATION**

- Organize plenary debates : EU Power, Global strategy (centrality of social&labour), articulation
- General methodology
- Content of the Public event
- **Participants** : CNE, ATTAC-DE, Transform
- Mailing list : [coordination@lists.altersummit.eu](mailto:coordination@lists.altersummit.eu)

## **1. FAIR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION**

- Looking for connection points between ecological movements and labour movements
- Analyse climate policies in a social justice perspective
- Discuss concrete and existing proposals concerning transition
- **Participants** : Transform, Campaign for the Welfare State, ATTAC-DE, CEO, CGT, Solidaires
- Mailing list : [transition@lists.altersummit.eu](mailto:transition@lists.altersummit.eu)

## **2. CHANGE IN THE WORKING PLACE**

- Digitalisation and internationalisation
- Flexibility, outsourcing, uberisation, social dumping, freelances...
- Two aspects : industrial processes AND working relationship
- **Participants** : Solidaires, Transform, CGT
- Mailing list : [workchange@lists.altersummit.eu](mailto:workchange@lists.altersummit.eu)

### 3. UNITY IN WORKING CLASS

- Population categories used to pressure working conditions ; fragmentation of the working class ; inequality and discrimination ; Specific policies (migration)
- Protagonism, unity and equality
- Debates : alternatives and demands
- **Participants** : Ciré, MOC, Transform, Global Social Justice, ATTAC-DE, CISPM
- Mailing list : [unity@lists.altersummit.eu](mailto:unity@lists.altersummit.eu)

### 4. PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMONS

- Analysis of driven forces : commercialisation, new public management, free-trade agreements, European policies
- Alternatives : remunicipalisation, democratic control, self-organisation
- **Participants** : MOC, CIG, Campaign for the Welfare State, Global Social Justice, Transform, European Network against Health commercialisation
- Mailing list : [commonspublic@lists.altersummit.eu](mailto:commonspublic@lists.altersummit.eu)

### CONTENT FOR WORKING GROUPS

For deadlines and methodology see note annexed (AS-Working group Contributions)

But we need space for :

- **Exchanges on our different realities**
- **Debates and discussions about strategies**
- **Proposals of actions and campaigns**

### GLOBAL OUTCOME

**Minimum program, political platform, red lines, framework of demands and statements...** At the end of the Conference we are willing to adopt a document to support politically our futures actions and activities.

**Working group contributions will be the basis of such document !**