

## **MARCH TO BRUSSELS FOR A SOCIAL AND DEMOCRATIC EUROPA - AUGUST 2015.**

***Proposal submitted by the Marches of Dignity, RAP and ATTAC Spain to the consideration of the Alter Summit members.***

The economic crisis in Europe has accelerated the imposition of neoliberal order based on the totalitarianism of financial power and the primacy of money over popular sovereignty, transforming citizens into clients. In this context, the pressures of the troika to impose its austerity policies try to crush the democratic will of the Greek people and deter similar projects in other countries.

The path opened by Greece is not only a challenge for the Greeks but for all European citizens who want to rebuild a new Europe grounded on principles of true democracy, justice and social cohesion. If we do not raise a big European movement right now, Greece can be slaughtered and the democratic illusion that grows up in other countries, like e.g. Spain, projecting credible prospects for political change, can be demoralized under a process of blackmail and the argument of unfeasibility.

Therefore, from the PUBLIC WATER NETWORK-RAP and from ATTAC Spain, we propose to organise a MARCH to BRUSSELS this summer, fostering the confluence of the movements that have emerged across Europe to face the crisis. A march in defence of essential public services, such as water and sanitation, health and education, the right to housing, decent pensions and care for dependents. A march to demand the dissolution of the troika, the end of the austerity policies, the launching of employment and the assurance of the social and labour rights. A march to demand a democratic reform of the European Central Bank, a progressive taxation, policies to eradicate the corruption and the closure of tax havens within the EU. A march to reject the TTIP and all kind of free trade agreements for the benefit of the corporations, claiming, on the contrary, for a Europe that guarantees women rights and banishes all forms of discrimination based on sexual identity, race, nationality, religion or other status.

More than ever, we need to integrate into our respective national agendas the firm intention of changing this Europe, making it clear that citizens, social movements, trade unions and parties that confront the troika austerity policies are not euro-sceptic but claim for another Europe. Only assuming this commitment to change Europe and making it credible from a strong citizen's mobilization, will we gain credibility to change things through the ballot box in our respective countries.

On the other hand, since the very moment that the march is agreed, there will be a momentum of political and social support for Greece.

We understand that this march should be organized:

- from strict and clear principles of non-violence;
- based on proposals and claims of the major social movements as the body content that will define the design of the Europe we wish;
- from a unitary spirit, in order to federate proposals and claims which have not general consensus but are not inconsistent with the objectives and claims that motivate the march.

We propose this action to take place throughout August to arrive in Brussels on the first weekend of September. This would take advantage of the holiday period so that thousands of people could participate in the different columns by means of scheduled shifts. The columns could be organized from the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spanish State), Italy, Greece

and the Northern countries, converging with France, Germany and other countries in the different itineraries. Last stage would be a massive gathering taking to the streets in Brussels. From the experience of other massive marches, as the Blue March and the Marches for Dignity, each itinerary should organize a string of acts and events.

We propose to open a list to be freely integrated by the movements, unions and groups that may wish to collaborate in organizing the march. However, we consider a flexible term until the beginning of April (expandable if necessary) before deciding on the feasibility of this project, assuming that only if we obtain a high level of support in different countries, the march will be carried out. Please send your opinions to [attacenaragon@gmail.com](mailto:attacenaragon@gmail.com)

It would be desirable to achieve an agreement by mid-April at the very latest on the basis of:

- A draft manifesto to be circulated and amended to reach a final text asap.
- A coordination committee to centralize the overall preparation work.

From mid-April to late May, local coordination committees would be established in the different EU countries, or at least in those where the initiative arouses good participation.

June and July would be the months of organizing each itinerary and registering in the various routes and sections.