

European Social Forum, Athens 07.-09.04.2006

Main decisions taken in the last European Preparatory Assembly (EPA) in Istanbul, 23-25/09/05

1. The dates of the 4th ESF have now been decided : April 2006, 7 to 9
The venue will be the old airport : with more than 2000 M2, it will permit to gather all events in the same premises.
In addition it takes half an hour from the centre of Athens to drive there.
2. After numerous exchanges and debates : an agreement was reached on the main principles and goals to build the programme:
 - building proposals for the Europe we want, in opposition to the conservative, antisocial policy which is implemented in Europe to day.
 - developing visibility of our concrete responses and disseminating largely.
 - facilitating convergence of European campaigns and initiatives
 - starting from the demands from participants to build the programme
 - ensuring enlargement of the ESF
 - encouraging debates, cross linkings between different groups and networks
 - finding an equilibria between visibility and diversity
3. Programm work will be organised around 16 thematic areas:
 - peace and war
 - Europe and globalisation
 - Immigrants
 - Racism, the far-right wing parties
 - Social rights, social common goods, public services
 - Precarity, poverty, exclusion
 - Employment, development, productivity
 - Environment, sustainability, energy, water
 - Democracy , fundamental rights, Europe and States
 - Economy in Europe
 - Education, culture, media
 - Feminism
 - Agriculture, farmers
 - Future of Europe
 - Strategy of “altermondialist” mouvement
 - Law enforcement and repression policies
4. Next EPA will stand in Vienna, on January 2006, the 7,8
Most of proposals of seminars, workshops, and of all kind of events have to be sent to the website or to the forum-list before that date : first step of the concrete programme work will be done there.
5. Most existing networks organized their own meeting, at Istanbul, before the EPA itself. Some of these networks have already listed their main proposals (it is the case for education). Our ESSF network has to make all its members aware of the necessity of providing proposals for Vienna. I intended, through my intervention (document enclosed) to reach two goals : first, point at the importance of research even for the ESF at large and not only for scientists and educators, second, introduce our future demand of seminars and workshops. (for exemple our INES proposals : which science for which Europe?, nuclear weapons in Europe, Europe as a leader of disarmament, nanotechnology and military research).