



III Meeting of the International Trade Union Network of Solidarity and Struggle. Madrid, 25th-28th January 2018

Following our latest newsletter with the call, we are now writing with regards to the preparations for the III Meeting of the International Trade Union Network of Solidarity and Struggle, which will take place in Madrid between the 25th and the 28th January 2018.

We remain convinced that there must exist a combative trade union network that serves as a shared international tool for unions who practice and fight for a trade unionism that is anticapitalist, self-organising, democratic, environmentalist, autonomous from employers and governments, internationalist and willing to struggle against all forms of oppression (sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia).

This III Meeting shall be built by all of us so that we can truly call the decisions that we make ours. Before we reach them, however, there are a number of things that need to be organised regarding travel arrangements, meals, accommodation, as well as, most importantly, the schedule and the methodology for debates.

THEMES

In order to start preparing our debates and search for common themes on which we can all work together our proposal is that we resume the themes and texts that were agreed on in our meeting at Campinas in 2015.

1.- Self-organisation:

www.laboursolidarity.org/Por-un-servicio-publico-construido
www.laboursolidarity.org/Los-capitalistas-nos-cuestan-caro-135

2.- Women:

www.laboursolidarity.org/La-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y
www.laboursolidarity.org/Por-el-derecho-de-las-mujeres-al
www.laboursolidarity.org/La-crisis-economica-capitalista

3.- Migration:

www.laboursolidarity.org/Las-migraciones-el-empleo-y-el

4.- Repression:

www.laboursolidarity.org/No-a-la-criminalizacion-de-las

Versions françaises : www.laboursolidarity.org/Rencontre-internationale-2015

Texts for debate in relation to any of these themes will be welcomed. Moreover, we will open a fifth theme:

5.- Colonialism and its consequences. As part of this theme we can address issues such as homelessness, *quilombolas*, the movement of black people and African descendants...

SCHEDULE

The deadline for the submission of preliminary texts will be 8th October 2017

We will then open a period for debate within each of our organisations.

The deadline for the submission of opinions, comments, questions, qualifications, as well as expressions of support and rejection on those texts will be the 3rd December 2017. New texts will not be accepted at this stage.

TEXT FORMATTING AND LANGUAGES

Texts can be sent in Libre Office, Open Office, and Wordy. The use of tables or strange formats such as subindex, internal hyperlinks, or footnotes should be avoided. We suggest that you use Arial size 11 and recommend that texts are kept within a two-page limit so that they can be more easily read and translated. We ask each organisation to provide versions of the text in at least two of the following four languages: French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. We would ask any organisation that is unable to provide those two different versions of the text to anticipate the submission so that our team of translators can work on the text. Unfortunately and despite our wish to do so, we cannot guarantee that Arabic translations will be provided. Should any organisation be able to provide this it would be most welcomed.

DEBATE SESSIONS

During the sessions debates should focus on the texts presented in October and the commentaries sent in December. We all need to be very strict with this so that debates do not take too much time and we can reach proposals for consensus texts on each theme. The conclusions of each session will then be sent to the Plenary (the meeting of all organisations) for them to be assessed and, if appropriate, provisionally or finally approved.

SESSIONS

Sessions will start on Thursday at 1pm and will finish on Sunday at 12pm
Later on we will circulate a more concrete schedule proposal with the suggested hours of each working session.

EXPENSES

It is the wish of all the people involved in the organisation of the meeting that assistance is as wide and plural as possible. We are also aware of the individual effort that travelling and assisting to this meeting will involve, and also of the economic effort that it will represent for many organisations.

The use of meeting rooms, translation arrangements, accommodation for 3 nights and meals for 4 days add up to 170€ per person. We do not think it would be right for a group of trade unions to assume all costs so that the rest of the participant organisations are exempt. Neither we think we should rely on state subsidies of any kind. Everyone should take on his/her own expenses and effort.

However, both CSP-Conlutas, Solidaires and CGT think it would be appropriate to create a fund so that if any organisation is utterly unable to cover the expenses this would not prevent it from participating. We will thus chip in for the creation of this solidarity fund and suggest that all organisations, particular European ones, for which travelling will be cheaper, to contribute 100€ per person on top of those 170€ so that the fund can grow. Please let us know whether you need economic support or will be able to afford the costs and in the latter case if you can also make a contribution to the fund.

ATTENDEES

In order to make the appropriate arrangements for the reception of all attendees we will send you a form later on so that you can provide us with all relevant information in this regard. At this stage we understand that you will not be able to tell us the exact number of participants that will come from each organisation, but we would much appreciate if you could let us know what your estimate is. We are expecting c. 250-300 people and any significant variation from that range would make the arrangements more complicated.

COMMUNICATION

We have created a specific email address to deal with all issues related to the meeting:
3encuentroRSISL@cgt.org.es

<http://www.laboursolidarity.org/Appel-du-Reseau-international-de>