

10 YEARS ON – MEETING
11th of January 2018 – Bruxelles

1) Our political message (10:15-12:30)

Kenneth introduced the point. Ideally, the aim of the day was to agree on the statement. This statement would be a political platform that binds us together. At a later stage, we'll need to come up with a shorter and popular statement (possibly an op-ed).

Franck continued the introduction identifying one possible tension/alternative: either to put the emphasis on the needed control over the financial system or to warn about the danger of the financialisation of the economy.

Then the session was opened to the floor. A series of comments was made.

See ***appendix*** at the end of this document for a rather detailed report of the comments.

It was asked whether it was clear to everyone that the call and the initiative were European (and not International). There was a general approval that it was indeed a European call.

A discussion took place about whether we wanted to include a list of demands. This would require getting specific and this would split us rather than unite us. At the same time, demands would certainly attract media and political attention.

It was pointed out that 'ten years after' was not accurate. Perhaps 'ten years on' would reflect better reality.

Then Kenneth identified 7 sticky points requiring more discussion.

1) The issue of the EU

Yes, it should be in the call, mentioned as one of the responsible of the crisis (after the other responsible factors/institutions have been briefly mentioned).

2) More positive vision

It was agreed the call should be edited with a new wording reflecting this more positive vision.

3) Demands

It was agreed they should not be included in the call but a list (or a pool) could be available somewhere. In the call, it should be mentioned however that we have solutions.

4) Jeopardy

We should make it more powerful in the call.

5) Our failures

There was no agreement on that point. Some wanted our group to reflect on how and why we failed ten years ago. Others were reluctant that this be included and made public in the call.

6) Democracy

It was not clear whether we all had the same definition of democracy. It was finally agreed that this point should be phrased as follows: mentioning the fact we want finance to serve the people and to stop the capture of decision making by finance.

7) The economic system

It was clear we are not demanding the financial system to be restored the way it worked before 2008. It should be mentioned that the crisis found its roots in the failed economic system. We need to add that not only the system failed but it's been reinforced in its flaws ever since 2008. Financialisation should be mentioned as well.

An effective to catch attention could be to emphasise the human impact of the crisis before pivoting to what will happen if we don't act.

The session was concluded with the decision to establish a **small editing committee** which would be responsible for including all the comments and change the wording where necessary. Participants applied later in the afternoon.

2) Session: Before September: setting the agenda (13:30h – 14:30h)s

What can be done before 15th September?

Run by Myriam (SOMO), Eleni and Friederike (ShareAction/ERIN)

This section has been open to participants to present what they already plan throughout the year as part of the project or linked to the issue. No discussion about this has taken place.

What's going on already? Use the contact email address to find out more or get involved..

- Popular book: explaining the crisis and ideas what should happen & change. Publication middle of May. Contact: mvanderstichele@somo.nl
- International network focused on G20 – meeting 27 & 28th March – possibility to get involved! Contact: [who?](#)
- Change Finance by Finance Watch: website will launch in June/July. Aim is to show the link between finance and issues such as environment, social, etc. Aline is writing a text on this and wants input from others. Aim to have it ready by end of Feb. Contact: aline_fares@hotmail.com
- Educational materials:
 - Attac Germany are preparing materials for schools, etc. People can get involved. Contact: Tim.Buettner@attac.de
 - Satoko from Transnational Institute: preparing an essay collection on how finance can serve the 99% & what a democratised system could look like. Contributions are welcome! Contact [Satoko](#)
 - ShareAction/European Responsible Investment Network (ERIN) hold regular webinars and calls to build our joint capacity on sustainable finance issues. They are open to all. Contact Friederike.hanisich@shareaction.org to hear about them.
 - Public banking platform: big gap in finance-related language. Myriam: book (mentioned above) can be translated to Spanish?
 - Aline launched a project on reclaiming public banks. Aim is to link up smaller initiatives in the UK, France, Belgium, etc. to a bigger European movement. Contact aline_fares@hotmail.com
- Veblen Institute are developing papers on trade policy & financial issues. Contact [Mathilde](#)
- The Transnational Institute are organising a global campaign with 200 organisations from around the globe. Contact [Sol](#)
- Asia Europe People's Forum will have a meeting in Ghent in mid-October. It's been 20 years since the Asian crisis. Contact [Andy](#)
- **Finance Watch holds webinars on these topics. Pablo suggests to link up social media/comms staff of our organisations. Contact [Pablo](#)**
- Press work
 - Attac Spain are writing articles for press coverage, to build people's awareness about the anniversary of the financial crisis. Contact [Cuca](#)
 - Robin Hood Tax Campaign UK will do press work on 10 years since Northern Rock on 22nd Feb. Contact [Tom](#)
- Political processes: some democratic processes are underused.
 - There's a democratic space in sustainable investment – how to get investors to take environmental and social issues into account. It's been a big year, e.g. a High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance was created; Myriam is part of this

group. There are lots of legislative processes that are important to follow, to complement external/outsider strategies. Contact eleni.choidas@shareaction.org to get involved.

- Specific EU policy-related things coming up:
 - How to link finance & human rights: 22nd Feb in Brussels
 - Eleni: we convene workshops in the parliament with different groups with different political parties. To raise awareness about our issues. MEPs really like to get the expertise. 31st workshop: second workshop with Socialists and Democrats, then with the Greens. Contact Eleni.choidas@shareaction.org
- Judith Benda, Parliamentarian from Germany: being in parliament doesn't mean you have the power. Make use of MEPs and Council of Europe. 1) Parliamentary tools – motions, asking for debates, to raise awareness. 2) Hearings – use the money of political groups to get CSO knowledge into parliament 3) Publicity – of public figures, ask them for support

What should be done?

- Myriam suggests that everyone should consider contacting journalists now
- Create a resource centre for different materials – suggested by Aline
- Map: to show what's going on near you – suggested by Aline
- Anne from FoE Europe: effects of the crisis outside Europe. Contact anne.vanschaik@foeeurope.org
- Create a list of available spokespeople: Contact asha@ashatharoor.com

3) Brainstorming on actions (14-16h)

We agreed to have centralized actions in different major European cities (capitals and financial centres) which are attractive for media coverage. These actions should be visually and symbolically linked. Along with this, there will be decentralised actions that can easily be done by local groups. The actions will take place on the 14th or 15th of September.

We brainstormed individually and by making phone calls, and then we collected ideas in the plenary. After this, we split into subgroups discussing ideas clustered in four different types of actions: Symbolic actions, more radical actions, events and “serious things” and web-based actions. Some possible slogans were a by-product of this. The subgroups identified interesting ideas, but so far no process has taken place to decide which type of action we will work further on. The working group on actions formed after the meeting will take this further and will work on concrete proposals.

A detailed list of action ideas can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V_lsbOoM8w30UUGOST8liT-ApXsqVxnpCrrwD7faOJw/edit#

4) How We Continue (16:20-17:30h)s

1. Platform Name → to be discussed by the Editing Group
2. Website:
 - speaking directly to citizens and developing links between finance and social goals
 - will not be lead by 1 org, will be collectively owned, fully shared, with equal

responsibility
- Finance Watch offered to help/start it, they already have resources, but there is timeline consideration
- to be done by Communications Group and Finance Watch

3. Coordination Group

- What does it entail?

- * bi-weekly conference call meetings
- * linked with WGs (1 rep from each WG)
- * 2 from ATTAC, 1 each from Fin Watch, Eurodad, FTT, 1 from the TU sector, CEO, PSI (?), Shonan, Sebastian, Pablo (?), AlterSummit
- * Discussing our Demands (?)
- * international outreach

- Shonan to initially set it up, mailing list and the group will decide who will Chair/Coordinate the Group

4. Working Groups

Editing Group – to create a sign-on document, (Frank, ATTAC Germany, Eurodad, Kenneth, Charlotte)

Sept. 15 – Cuca, Shonan, FTT +++ (Wilfried as contact group)

Communications – responsible for Storyboard, media work, etc., website (immediate task), archive key communications and common documents – Asha, Pablo, EAN, Shonan, Ludovic

5. Mailing List and Communications – FTT, ATTAC,

6. Next Meeting – mid-March (?), a few weeks after the publication of op-ed

7. National Coordination – outreach to broad local groups

London meeting, possibly in 2 weeks time
Germany
Austria
Slovenia

APPENDICE: DETAILED REPORT ON COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR ON THE DRAFT CALL

- The issue of democracy is missing although there have been democratic uprisings since 2008. Moreover, that would be a good way to tell our own story.
- It is problematic to use the expression 'sustainable development'.
- There should at least one sentence of the current environment for finance (QE...).
- The narrative should include: why the system is not working & what we want the financial system to deliver.
- The word 'back' on the last sentence should be deleted because we actually never had control over finance.
- The beginning of the last paragraph should be at the beginning of the call.
- If we want this to become a political issue we need to say it is about what it does to our daily lives. It is *not* a technical issue.
- The word 'malevolent' should be deleted.
- The dictatorship of the short term could be mentioned. It is the long term that needs to be taken into account by finance. [Possibly fits well with what we want finance to deliver]
- The text might be structured around a distinction between means and ends.
- 'We' should be made more concrete ('we who were evicted from our houses'; 'we who lost our jobs'; etc.)
- As much as possible, 'demand(s)' should be substituted with 'reclaim'.