

European governments must take action to reverse the WTO ban

Statement by Attac Europe

Attac Europe condemns the last minute decision to block dozens of civil society experts and campaigners from the WTO Summit. The decision, apparently made by the Argentinian Government for undisclosed reasons, is unprecedented in recent WTO history.

Observers from across the world had their previously approved accreditation withdrawn by the WTO yesterday. Many European groups are among them, including Global Justice Now, Transnational Institute and 11.11.11. Senior WTO officials have said that they didn't know the reason for the decision despite frequent requests for information from Argentina's government. Many of the organisations have participated in summits since the WTO was founded.

If the WTO or its host governments are allowed to pick and choose which civil society representatives can attend the WTO, it makes a mockery of our independence and our ability to hold the WTO and our governments to account. It prevents public debate, discussion and challenge. And it leaves campaigners in the host country more vulnerable in their own work to challenge their governments and the WTO itself. The WTO must urgently develop a mechanism for ensuring the independent representation of civil society representatives.

We call on European parliamentarians to challenge this decision at the highest level. We call on Argentina to reverse its decision on these exclusions.

We call on the WTO and the G20 to urgently reconsider their decision to hold their upcoming summits in Buenos Aires until the government has reversed and explained their decision.

Attac Austria

Attac France

Attac Germany

Attac Hungary

Attac Ireland

Attac Spain

Attac Wallonie Bruxelles

Global Justice Now (Attac UK)

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