

To all trade unionists: an invitation to the European Social Forum

Dear Friends,

A protest movement is growing across Europe. In March in Barcelona 500,000 people demonstrated against a Europe of capital and war. In the same month 3 million protested in Rome against Berlusconi and for trade union rights. Since then there have been general strikes in Greece, Italy and Spain against attacks on workers' rights. Across the continent governments are trying to privatise services, cut jobs, and roll back pension and welfare rights. The move to war has whipped up hatred and racism, and asylum seekers are under widespread attack. Meanwhile racist organisations like the National Front in France are seeking to capitalise on the misery caused by neo-liberal policies.

The European Social Forum, which will be held in Florence in Italy from 7 to 10 November, aims to help the movements of opposition grow. The call for the ESF came from the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January this year. It was attended by 70,000 activists from around the world.

The ESF has already received wide backing from trade unions in Italy and across Europe. As trade unionists in Britain we face the same attacks as our European brothers and sisters, and we have the means to oppose those policies and to organise for a more equitable world. Resistance to privatisation is growing in hospitals and schools, on council estates and in transport. Many trade unionists have taken part in recent demonstrations against the war in Afghanistan and Palestine.

We think it is important that as many British trade unionists as possible come to Florence, both to contribute and to learn. There will be discussions about combating racism and the drive to war, as well as the problems caused by our governments' obsession with the market. We want to build a strong movement for change across Europe that cannot be ignored by the press and politicians.

We are writing to you to ask for your support. First, we ask you to publicise the ESF in your organisation and sponsor as big a delegation as you can to Florence. Second, we urge you to affiliate to the English Mobilisation for the ESF so that we can publicise the event more widely and organise the broadest possible spread of delegations. Another world is possible!

Yours in solidarity

Billy Hayes general secretary CWU

Paul Mackney general secretary Natfhe

Mark Serwotka general secretary elect PCS (personal capacity)

Alex Gordon national council of executives member RMT

Kenny Bell branch secretary Newcastle City Unison

Candy Udwin deputy regional convenor London Region Unison

Tony Benn

Paul Foot

NO TO PRIVATISATION, RACISM AND WAR **Florence 7-10 November**

For more information on the ESF please go to www.fse-esf.org

This leaflet has been produced by the English Mobilisation for the European Social Forum.

For more information please go to www.mobilise.org.uk or phone **07930 307 815**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM

Please ask your trade union body to pass this resolution

- We welcome the organisation of the European Social Forum in Italy from 7 to 10 November 2002.
- We believe the ESF will be a unique chance for activists and trade unionists from across Europe to come together and discuss how to organise against free market policies, racism and war.
- We will send a delegation to the European Social Forum in Italy. We will publicise the ESF and encourage our members to go.
- We will support and send a delegation to the English Mobilisation for the European Social Forum.
- We affiliate to the English Mobilisation for the ESF
Organisations up to 1,000 members: £50.
1,000-5,000 members: £100
5,000-10,000 members: £250
10,000+ members: £500

Please make cheques payable to European Social Forum and send to English ESF, c/o World Development Movement, 25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR.

The following trade union bodies have supported the ESF so far:

Unison, Natfhe, CWU, London Region Amicus-MSF, FBU Eastern Command Group 3, Hackney NUT, Holborn GMB, East Finchley & Golders Green Aslef, Stratford No 1 RMT, London Region Unison, Northern Region Unison, South West Region Unison, King's College Unison, Leicestershire Health Unison, LFEPA Unison, SOAS Unison, Tower Hamlets Unison, UCLH Unison, Westminster Unison

