

Minutes of the ESF UK Organising Committee

12 February, City Hall 5.30-8pm

The meeting was chaired by Maureen O'Mara (NATFHE) and Alex Gordon (RMT). The proposed agenda was agreed.

1 Minutes of the previous meeting (5 February) and matters arising

Bank a/c

It was noted that the application form for the bank a/c would be sent to the Co-op Bank on 13 February.

Affiliation fees

It was agreed that affiliation fees should be defined according to size and membership of the organisations and that the Co-ordinating Committee would develop a proposal for the next UKOC meeting.

UK ESF Organising Committee Statement

It was suggested that the statement be re-circulated following the agreed amendments at the previous meeting.

Logo

Noel Douglas (Movement of the Imagination) will have different possible designs ready to be presented to the Organising Committee in two weeks time.

Legal structure

Proposals for a legal structure are currently being considered by lawyers. A report will be made at the next meeting.

Kurdish Federation Paper

The Kurdish Federation paper referred to in the minutes of the meeting of 5th February will be circulated.

Establishment of Co-ordinating Committee

Jeremy Dewar proposed a constitution for the Co-ordinating Committee. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Right of exclusion

It was agreed that the Co-ordinating Committee would propose a code of practice and present it to the next Organising Committee meeting for approval.

2. Venue

A number of options were discussed with availability dependent on the date of the ESF being agreed by the next European Preparatory Assembly. It was agreed that a preferred option on venue and date would be decided upon once the Alexandra Palace feasibility study has been completed and presented to the Organising Committee.

3. Fundraising and 4. Registration

A discussion took place regarding differing registration levels. It was agreed that the Co-ordinating Committee will develop proposals for registration fees and that all members will consult their organisations over the appropriate levels.

A number of issues were discussed in relation to ensuring accessibility to the ESF, including negotiating for reduced price transport passes, disabled access and childcare. It was agreed that these issues would need to be addressed by future meetings of the Organising Committee.

5. Involvement of Political Party Representatives

It was noted that World Social Forum Charter of principles excludes representatives of political parties from participation in the process. The UK ESF Organising Committee is based upon acceptance of the WSF Charter of Principles. Representatives of political parties therefore cannot be delegates to the UK ESF Organising Committee.

Roberto Ferdinand from the Brazilian Council of the World Social Forum spoke of the purpose of the WSF process and clarified that any change to the WSF Charter of Principles would have to be agreed by the next WSF. He clarified that the WSF is a process involving organisations and social movements of civil society not delegates from political parties or governments. Members of parties can participate as representatives of organisations and social movements of civil society.

It was noted that the WSF website states that *"the governments that host the WSF events can be partners in organising them. Members of governments and parliaments may be invited to take part in a personal capacity, providing they agree to abide by the Charter of Principles."*

[http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/main.asp?id_menu=15&cd_language=2"]

In that context, it was agreed to invite the Greater London Authority to participate as a partner in organising the ESF in London.

6. Programme Group Meeting 16 February

It was noted that no consensus was reached at the final meeting of group set up on 12/13 December on proposals for ground rules and structure of the new programme group, which will hold its first meeting on 16 February at 5.30pm at Unison headquarters. It was agreed to refer the written report of the work of the previous group to that meeting.

7. UK ESF Organising Committee meeting 29 February

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Organising Committee will take place on Sunday 29 February at City Hall 12 – 4 pm. The purpose of the meeting will be to agree the proposal that to be presented to the European preparatory meeting.

A proposal to hold a future meeting of the UK ESF OC in Birmingham will be put to the 29 February meeting.

8. European preparatory meeting 6 & 7 March

It was agreed that the meeting will be held at City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday 6th March and from 10 am to 1 pm on Sunday 7th March 2004.

It was agreed that organisations will look into alternative venues for future meetings and send practical proposals, including capacity, cost, etc to the Co-ordinating Committee.