

**UK ESF ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
BIRMINGHAM 27 March 2004

FACILITATORS: Emma Dowling (ATTAC UK)  
Milena Buyum (National Association Against Racism)

MINUTES: Helena Kotkowska (ATTAC UK)

Attended by:

Name:	Organisation:
Sue Jones	AMICUS
Emma Dowling	ATTAC UK Network
Milena Buyum	National Association Against Racism
Julia Brandreth	Socialist Resistance
Maureen O'Mara	NATFHE
Chris Tapper	CWU
Pete Ainsley	Camden UNISON
Phil Thornhill	Campaign Against Climate Change
Mark Holland	Birmingham Stop the War Coalition
Barry Gray	Cuba Solidarity Campaign
Teresa Hoskyns	London Social Forum
Elane Heffernan	Newham Refugee Forum
Philip Moore	University of London
Brig Oubridge	Big Green Gathering
Rahul Patel	London UNISON
Karen O'Toole	Socialist Resistance
Jonathan Neale	Globalise Resistance
Jane Loftus	CWU
Helena Kotkowska	ATTAC UK Network
Chris Nineham	Globalise Resistance
Mariangela Casaluci	Manchester Social Forum
Christina Purcell	Workers Power
Laura Sullivan	Spirit Matters / London Social Forum
Raymond O'Neill	GLA
Anne Kane	Abortion Rights
Graeme Chesters	Notes from Nowhere & Shifting Ground Collective
N. Saunders	Manchester Social Forum
Vanessa Anduotti	UoN WSF Net
Gareth Jenkins	NATFHE London
Richard Hatcher	Birmingham NUT
Alan Rae	AMICUS London Computer Staff
Massimo Deangelis	London Social Forum
Tina Becker	CPGB / Weekly Worker
Stuart Hodkinson	Red Pepper
Jeferson Assumcao	Mosaic of Books
Ana Paula Stock	Mosaic of Books
Chris Golby	
Dave Jones	

Dave Rogers	Banner Theatre Co
Rachel Hodgins	Revolution
Andy North	Birmingham NUT / Trades Council
Jayne Fisher	Friends of Ireland
Sarah Colborne	Palestine Solidarity Campaign
Stephen Bolt	London Assembly Against Racism
Vicki Morris	No Sweat
Holly Ashley	
Sofia Roupakia	
Hamish Campbell	Undercurrents
Bernie McAdam	Workers Power
Dave Ashcroft	Workers Power
Andre Spicer	
Joy McKnight	Revolution/Workers Power
J. Travis	Workers Power
Karen Leach	Birmingham FOE + Localise West Midlands
Hannah Worth	
Alex Gordon	RMT
Javier Ruiz	Indymedia
Jasmine Lail	Sumac Centre, Nottingham
Sam Hunter	
Maureen Connolly	Birmingham Women's Association
Taylan Sahbaz	Day-Mer
Veli Yadirgi	Day-Mer
Clive Walder	Socialist Party
Jenny Aulin	SAVO
Daniel Cooley	Ecostruction Ltd
Tom Unterrainer	Nottingham Stop the War
Peter Field	Manchester Social Forum
Alun Griffiths	Multitudes & Dissidence
Matti Kohonen	ATTAC UK Network
Rodrigo Nunes	FLUKE/GRUMO/WMB
Seth Atkin	NATFHE West Midlands
John Kelsey	BTUC / AMICUS
Ian Mitchell	SWP
Alan Freeman	CSF
Lynne Hubbard	Birmingham STW
Ralia Khatun	B'ham STW
Ger	Birmingham STW
Salma Yaqoob	Birmingham STW
Rianne Ter Veen	RESPECT member
Davy Serwell	Birmingham STW

## MINUTES

### 1. GREETING

Rahul Patel welcomed newcomers from Birmingham and gave a brief account of the background to the decision to host the ESF in London.

### 2. MINUTES OF LAST UK ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEETING (4 Mar 2004)

The minutes were agreed.

### 3. REPORT BACK FROM EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY MEETING (6+7 Mar 2004)

Chris Nineham and Javier Ruiz gave a brief outline of decisions that had been made:

- ESF to be definitely held in London
- Certain amendments had been proposed to the charter to ensure the openness of the process

AGREED: the amended charter was agreed upon.

### 4. 1) VENUE

REPORT BACK:

Although Alexandra Palace is the main venue proposed so far, there will also be need of some venues in Bloomsbury.

### 4. 2) ENLARGING THE NET:

REPORT BACK:

- Elane Heffernan from Newham Refugee Forum reported that, together with the University of East London, they are planning to hold a consultation meeting in April with other refugee groups. They hope to get 1000 free places at the ESF for refugees + visas to get people across.

- Alex Gordon: RMT have just provided a circular to go out to all their branches, with explanations + reassurances. They are also urging other unions to affiliate.
- Rahul Patel: UNISON London Region has already committed itself quite seriously to the ESF by pledging £50,000. They will also be writing to each of UNISON's 12 regions.
- Stuart Hutchinson from Red Pepper has already started a directory of groups, which can be sent to the Enlarging the Net Working Group.

AGREED: to involve as many parts of the movement as possible.

4. 3) ACCOMMODATION

REPORT BACK:

- Alan Rae reported that initial work on hostel accommodation (no of beds and rate per night) had been started and that the Kurdish Federation had agreed to begin a survey of families offering home-stay. Meeting of working group to be arranged.

=====

POINT OF ORDER:

There was a proposal to film the proceedings. NOT AGREED.

=====

4. 4) COMPANY

REPORT BACK ON LEGAL PROPOSALS:

- 1) Maureen O'Mara (NATFHE) put forward the proposal to create a Limited Liability Company, wherein liability will lie with the company, not the committee. It would be called the ESF 2004 London Limited Company and will need 3 directors.
- 2) Brig Oubridge put forward a proposal for a Company Limited by Guarantee, whereby the whole committee can be turned into a company.

AGREED: After a great deal of discussion, it was decided to accept Maureen's proposal. Articles of Association will be drawn up on Monday.

AGREED: No legal/financial discussion to be reported in newspapers.

PROPOSAL:

It was proposed that the directors be decided upon by the Co-ordinating Committee.

AGREED

#### 4. 5) CULTURE

##### REPORT BACK:

- An event has been organised: 21<sup>st</sup> century video.

##### PROPOSALS:

It was proposed that several new working groups be initiated:

- A finance + fundraising group. AGREED
- A communications working group. AGREED
- A transport working group. AGREED

#### 4. 6) PROGRAMME

##### REPORT BACK

A summary of decisions and progress so far.

- AGREED: The ESF to be held on 15, 16 + 17 October (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).
- AGREED: From 2 April – 15 July, organisations and networks can put in proposals for seminars and workshops. After 15 July, the merging process will start.
- Brief outline of subjects currently under discussion at the programme meetings: the number of plenaries that should be held at the ESF, whether this should be around 8-10 or more at around 20. Themes for the ESF are also being proposed, such as war, racism, and so on.

#### ADDITIONAL MATTERS

##### PROPOSALS:

- Next meeting to be held at LSE (if disabled access available). AGREED
- To change time of Coordinating Committee from 10am on Thursdays. NOT AGREED.
- Because all items on the agenda were not covered at the meeting today, it was proposed to have another Organising Committee meeting before the European Assembly in Istanbul, to be held on 13 April in the evening: venue tba. AGREED