

UK ESF Organising Committee 29 February 2004

Facilitators: Kate Hudson
Sarah Colborne

1. Minutes of 12 February 2004 – agreed.

Bank Account details:

Name: UK ESF Committee
Address for Affiliation fees: President NATFHE
27 Britannia Street
London
WC1X 9JP

Affiliation fees agreed:

Number of members	Affiliation fee (£)
0 – 50,000	250
50,000 – 250,000	500
250,000 – 750,000	1000
750,000+	1500

It was agreed that the clause below should be inserted in any paper regarding affiliation:

“No-one will be excluded from participation due to financial hardship, organisations unable to afford the affiliation fee can affiliate at a lower rate agreed with the UK ESF Organising Committee”

It was clarified that minutes of all meetings of committees would be circulated via email to all affiliates. Maureen O’Mara will be circulating an up to date list of affiliates shortly.

2. UK Proposal

A brief overview of the ESF history and potential value to the UK was given.

An outline of what was available in terms of space and facilities at Alexandra Palace was presented.

Further work had been completed looking at what might be available in the Bloomsbury area of London. This indicated that space for 11,000 people (20 seminars of 150 – 900 capacity) at a cost of £34,000 per day is available.

It was noted that registration fees would be liable for VAT and that Bank charges would range from 2-6% for payment with credit card.

Agreed registration fees:

In advance: £20 (unwaged)
£30 (waged)
£50 + delegate fee (organisations)

On the door: £30 (unwaged)
£40 (waged)
£60 + delegate fee (organisations)

It was also agreed that a daily rate would be available – level to be decided.

It was agreed to review the proposals to host the event on in terms of the variety of different sessions that could be organised on:

- i) Thursday – Friday – Saturday
- ii) Friday – Saturday – Sunday

More people supported the second option than the first.

It was agreed that space in the programme would be given for an Assembly of Social Movements.

It was agreed that the programme group would examine the shortening of sessions (general feeling that in previous events sessions had been too long). Shorter sessions would allow a wider range of topics to be discussed in the plenaries & seminars.

It was agreed that the issue of the Solidarity Fund being available to assist everyone with financial difficulties would be investigated.

3. Report from Programme Group

The Programme Group made several recommendations:

- That plenaries should have a maximum of 4-6 speakers,
- Diversity of speakers must be ensured,
- To not simply allocate speakers by national quota and instead, for example, 50% national quota and 50% by the European committee.
- More seminars to be provided.
- Cultural events would need to be better integrated into the programme.
- Duration of plenaries/seminars should not be strictly defined, but flexibility should be allowed.
- Other proposals include a separate women's day; and a specialist outreach group formed out of the UK OC.

There was general agreement that the World Social Forum theme "Another World is Possible" rather than an exclusive focus on Europe was preferable.

It was suggested that the programme should reflect the full breadth of the European Social Forum with plenty of space for debates.

It was agreed that the event's platforms should reflect Europe's and London's diversity.

It was agreed that the event should provide wheelchair access throughout, and address all other accessibility issues.

4. Expanding the network

There was discussion on the need to reach into diverse communities.

A trade union branch model resolution was circulated.

4. Culture programme

The representative working on logo designs offered to bring them to the next meeting.

It was suggested that the programme also include topics focusing on the politics of Culture, e.g. the commodification of culture.

It was suggested that there should be a contact point for Europeans wishing to contribute to the culture programme so that their initiatives are properly slotted into the programme.

The importance of involving high profile artists was highlighted.

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that the next UK OC meeting would take place on Thursday 4 March at 6pm and that the Programme Committee should be rescheduled for the Wednesday.

It was agreed to hold another UK OC meeting on Saturday 27 March outside London if possible. The Centre for the Study of Global Ethics at Birmingham University was offered (capacity: 80).