

UK ESF Programme Sub-Cttee – Thursday 18th March

Minutes of the meeting

Attendance

Dave Renton, London Socialist Historians
Alex Gordon, RMT
Fred Leplat, London UNISON
Jairo Diaz, CORAS
Anne Kane, Abortion Rights
Richard Hatcher, B'ham NUT
Sally Davidson, Soundings Journal
Laura Sullivan
Carlo Angeli, Babel
Alan freeman, CSE
Taylan Sahbaz, Day-Mer
Jonathan Neale, GR
Helen Kolowska, ATTAC UK
Tina Becker, Weekly Worker
Hiast, Basque Campaign
Hannah Griffiths, FoE
Sheila trigs, Women's International League for Peace
Les Levidov, CACC
Rachel Hodgins, Revolution
Jeremy Dewer, Workers Power
Brian Richardson, TGWU 1/524
Rahul Patel, London UNISON
Dave Hillman, Tobin Tax Network
Bernard Regan, Cuba Solidarity Campaign
Barry Gray, CSC
Pete Ainsley, Camden UNISON
Lee Brown, Student Assembly Against Racism
Louise Hutchins, NUS
Sarah Colborne, PSC
Maureen O'Mara, Natfhe
Georgios Karatsioubanis, Greek Social Forum

The following decisions were taken by consensus were:

1. A simple document explaining the difference between workshops, seminars and plenaries, the procedure for making applications, the procedure used in Paris and Florence and the timetable for the London ESF is to be produced to facilitate organisations making applications for workshops and seminars. Jonathan agreed to produce this document.
2. A standard form is to be produced for organisations making applications to hold workshops and seminars. Organisations would be encouraged to use this form but it would not be compulsory.

3. A list of optional topics would be listed on the application form so as to encourage events to be held within a certain range of themes.
4. The applications would be made known to other applicants through the e-mail or web-page of the UK ESF to encourage applicants considering events on similar themes to get in touch with each other as early as possible.
5. Applicants wishing to hold seminars and workshops would be encouraged to merge, change and maybe even abandon their events.
6. A proportion of the space (10%-20%) is to be kept free after the deadline of the 15th July so as to allow workshops and seminars to be held on topics that are deemed to be suddenly necessary prior to the ESF.
7. It was agreed to meet again on Thursday 25th March so start considering a list of themes so as to make recommendations to the UK ESF Organising Cttee on the 27th March in B'ham.

The following points were also made in the course of the discussion:

- General agreement that it is better to have a smaller number of plenaries and make workshops and seminars more integral to the event. Jonathan reported that the themes of the London ESF and topics for plenaries would be discussed at the Istanbul meeting.
- There is a ESF Programme meeting on the Friday in Istanbul.
- Need to be pro-active on applications for seminars and workshops to encourage mergers.
- How do we respond to the refusal of mergers??
- Tina introduced her document. People thought it was useful but too detailed at this stage.
- Should have e-mail on proposals listed on website. Need to have people dealing with particular themes/topics. Website cannot deal with this initially, but info should be circulated by e-mail newsletter.
- Previous ESFs: programme cttee made up of reps from various countries deal with mergers, etc... of seminars and workshops. Mergers cannot be left to UK Cttee as rest of Europe will feel stitched-up.
- Need to make it clear that there is no hierarchy or priority if submitting application for seminar or workshop early.
- Programme is an evolutionary process: people must be encouraged to change or even drop their proposals.
- Need to make difference of type of meetings between debates with counterposed views, and those where desire to move forward around common idea or strategy.