

INVITATION TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ROUND-TABLE
Advancing a new regulatory regime for Transnational Corporations and Investment
Towards An International Peoples' Treaty

Thursday, September 5th 2013, 15.00-18.30
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
Room ASP 3G3

(Interpretation: EN, FR, DE, ES, NL, DA, EL, PT, SV, CS, LV, HR)

The impunity of Transnational Corporations (TNCs) to commit human rights violations and economic and environmental crimes along with the serious lack of Binding Regulation on their operations are issues emerging as a core agenda of social movements and civil society organizations across the globe as witnessed at the Vienna+20 Civil Society Conference held in Vienna from 25-26 June 2013. Despite Corporations being one of the root causes of the current global and European crises, Transnational Corporations continue to accumulate huge profits particularly from the accelerated drive to privatize, which is dismantling Europe's Public Services. The role of Transnational Corporations in economic and environmental crimes is well established, and yet these Corporations are not judged for those crimes and remain the key drivers of unjust and undemocratic policies (e.g.: Raw Materials Initiative, 'Green Economy', new trade and investment agreements devastating for Europe and the global South) and continue to dominate the policy space of governments in the UN, WTO and in the EU.

This Round Table aims to deepen the debate on Corporate Impunity, and introduce key elements in emerging alternatives to Reclaim the Public Interest and to end impunity of Transnational Corporations. Some of the primary topics of discussion will be: the creation of an International Peoples Treaty; the Call for a World Court/Tribunal on Transnational Corporations and Extra Territorial Obligations (ETOs); and a European Parliament register for lobbyists. Concrete proposals for the European Parliament and civil society joint actions in 2013-2014 will also be discussed.

The Round Table will be chaired by Mrs. Gabi Zimmer, President of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - European Parliamentary Group (GUE/NGL) with the participation of MEP's from several Parliamentary Groups and key actors of social movements, trade unions, affected communities, human rights and juridical experts. This event in the Parliament is convened by the GUE/NGL Group in coordination with civil society networks such as: Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power & End Impunity of Transnational Corporations!, Bi-Regional Network 'Enlazando Alternativas', TNI, ODG, Ecologistas en Acción, War on Want, OMAL - Paz con Dignidad, CADTM and Seattle-to-Brussels Network.

Please register sending your Personal Name, Surname, nationality, birth date, number of ID/Passport, before August 29th, to the following e-mail: hildevanderpas@tni.org

For those who need a badge to enter into the European Parliament, this will be ready on September 5, from 14:00 at our desk in the entrance Spinelli Building - Luxembourg Square side

Attached see the detailed program.

For more information see: <http://www.stopcorporateimpunity.org/>

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PROGRAMME

Introduction	15.00 – 15.15	
Framing the Forum	Gabi Zimmer - <i>President of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - European Parliamentary Group (GUE/NGL)</i> Juan Ramón Quintana - <i>Minister of the Presidency of Bolivia</i>	
Context and Background Rationale for Global Campaign and Focusing the International Peoples' Treaty	Brid Brennan – <i>Transnational Institute - Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power & End Impunity of Transnational Corporations</i>	
Session 1: Defending the Public Interest and Justice in the face of intensifying corporate offensives and attacks on social, labour and human rights		
15.15 – 16.00		
Challenges & new risks in the intensifying corporate offensive and deepening architecture of impunity (the global trade & investment regime - FTAs/BITs (e.g. the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), WTO Bali package, ISDS instruments & arbitration industry.	- Alberto Villareal – <i>Redes (Uruguay) - Network on Justice in Investment</i> - Member of Seattle to Brussels Network	Moderator: Gabi Zimmer - <i>President of GUE/NGL</i>
European Parliament and political parties responses - Defending the Public Interest	Helmut Scholz – <i>MEP of the GUE/NGL</i>	Moderator: Erika González – <i>Observatorio de Multinacionales en América Latina, Paz con Dignidad (Spain)</i>
	Yannick Jadot, Ska Keller, Judith Sargentini - <i>MEP - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (tbc)</i>	
	Richard Howett, Maria Badia i Cutchet – <i>MEP of S&D Group (tbc)</i>	
<i>Open Forum - Debate</i>		

Session 2: Constructing an International Peoples' Treaty on Binding Obligations for Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and a World Court to Judge their crimes and End Impunity

16.00 – 17.45

Introducing the proposal for an International Peoples' Treaty	Juan Hernandez Zubizarreta - <i>Profesor at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Spain</i>	<p>Chair: Helmut Scholz – <i>MEP of the GUE/NGL</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jan Willem Goudriaan, <i>European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) (tbc)</i></p>
<i>Human Rights and Labor Rights violations and corporate impunity</i>		
Case 1 – Mining / Extractive Sector	Rehand Desai - <i>Lonmin Support Committee, South Africa</i>	
Case 2 – Textile Sector	Amirul Haque Amin - <i>President -National Garment Workers Federation, NGWF, Bangladesh</i>	
Case 3 - Landgrabbing	- Paula Álvarez - <i>Grupo Semillas, Colombia</i> - Member of La Vía Campesina (tbc)	
<i>Extra territorial Obligations (ETOs) & Call for a World Court on Transnational Corporations</i>	Rolf Künneman - <i>ETOS Consortium & FIAN International, Germany</i>	
Case 4 – Privatizing Europe: the case of Greece	Maria Kanellopoulou – <i>Save Greek Water Campaign, Greece</i>	
Challenging Corporate Capture in the EU & UN	Olivier Hoedeman - <i>Corporate Europe Observatory Mandatory Transparency Register & Public-Public-Partnership</i>	
<i>Open Forum - Debate</i>		
Ways Forward 17.50 – 18.30 (*)		
<p>Challenges in Advancing the International Peoples' Treaty</p> <p>How to contribute to the International Civil Society' efforts from the perspective of the European Parliament?</p> <p>Which political initiatives are proposed towards the EP elections 2014</p>		<p>Gabi Zimmer - <i>President of GUE/NGL</i></p> <p>Josua Mata - <i>Alliance for Progressive Labour, Philippines</i></p>
<p><i>* A Video-Conference to link up with the Peoples Summit about G20 in Moscow is being arranged from 18.00-18.10</i></p>		