

***The Role of the City in an Alternative Europe:***

***Towards Housing and Habitat Rights***

**Friday, May 5 2006 //h. 14:30 – 17:30 ///Athens, room E 302**



The seminar proposes a meeting with urban social movements, activist research groups, NGO's, local authorities, who are working on urban issues.

This meeting will provide and the opportunity to share our experiences, in order to:

- o encourage communication and partnership and to take concrete action (e.g. eviction-free areas, development of public housing service, participative urban planning), among the different urban stakeholders
- o to support the Peoples' Europe (amendments to the Constitution of the European Union, viability of social rights, allocation of structural funds to social policies like housing, opposition to selling off communal property and public services (Bolkenstein Directive/GATT-WTO)
- o promote the next steps with the aim of involving the different subjects (social organizations, researchers, NGO's and local authorities).

In this way urban social movements and inhabitants' associations, the local authorities and activist research groups would consolidate their positions as key players in issues regarding the urban conflicts linked to neo-liberal globalization, thus empowered to act singly or forge alliances, in order to obtain concrete results on behalf of the homeless and poorly housed people of Europe.



***Session one: The European urban and housing crisis***

- Inadequate housing in Europe: the structural instability of the inhabitants
  - The suburban crisis: a revolution against abandonment
- The role of the European Union in the urban and housing issues: norms, the Constitution, results
- Influence of neoliberal policies on the cities of geographic Europe: privatization and liberalization.

***Session two: Building an alternative***

- Partnership and conflicts between inhabitants and local authorities in the new urban planning
  - The initiative for the Right to the City
  - The European General States for housing and habitat rights

**Chairwomen:** Sylvie Lacroux, former director UN-Habitat Europe, Switzerland; Teresa Hoskyns, London Social Forum.

**Speakers :**

- Michael Edwards, UK
- Cesare Ottolini, coordinator International Alliance of Inhabitants
- Kostis Hadjimichalis, Initiative for the right to the city, Greece
- Teresa Hoskyns, London Social Forum, UK
- Bernard Birsinger, mayor of Bobigny and president ANECR, France
- Carine Clément, Soviets Co-ordination Union, Moscow, Russian Federation
- Imre Gajda, co-president Foundation Source of Life for the Defense of the Youngs, Hungary
- Vincenzo Simoni, general secretary, Unione Inquilini, Italy
- Francisco Caño, president Federación Regional Asociaciones Vecinos Madrid, Spain
- Silvia Macchi, Transform!, Europe
- Jacquy Tiset, international responsible for Confédération National Logement, France
- José Garcia Cebrian, Gerencia de Urbanismo del Ayuntamiento de Sevilla, Spain
- The Union of the Chambers of Turkish Architects and Engineers, Turkey
- Paolo Gangemi, National Department for Housing Policies PRC, Italy

**Organizers:** International Alliance of Inhabitants; London Social Forum, UK; Initiative for the right to the city, Greece; Transform! Europe; Association Nationale Elus Locaux Communistes et Républicains (ANECR), France; Soviets Co-ordination Union, Russian Federation.

**Languages:** English, French, Spanish, Greek, Russian, Hungarian

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