

ATTAC HELLAS PRESENTATION – HISTORY AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ATTAC HELLAS is an Association founded on November 21, 2001 and it is part of the European Attac Network (EAN) since its beginning. Two of the meetings of EAN have been held in Greece, in 2003 and in 2011.

Since the beginning of the crisis of the public debt, which started in Greece in late 2009, this topic has been the main concern of the different actions by ATTAC Hellas, primarily participation in the different demonstrations and rallies in Greece, analyzing the causes of the crisis and its implications, promoting public debate in Greece and abroad through articles, interviews and participation in meetings in Greece and abroad.

During the past 12 months Attac Hellas activities have been influenced by the different events happening in Greece (January's historic victory of SYRIZA, negotiations with the Troika, culminating with the OXI at the 5th July referendum, which rejected the ultimatum of the Troika of June 25th, the conclusion of an agreement on July 13th and the signing of the Memorandum in August, followed by the elections of September 20th).

In order to inform the EAN and public opinion abroad Attac Hellas has participated in many meetings in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Tunisia in the past 12 months.

In Greece ATTAC Hellas participated in the Committee for the Truth on Public Debt, formed by the President of the Greek Parliament, through a delegate (Thanos Contargyris), who contributed to all the economic chapters of the Preliminary report issued in June 2015 and coordinated chapter I (on the origin of the debt).

In parallel various interventions by way of articles and interviews in the media (mainly foreign) have been made during the period. This included radio interviews or debates (France Inter, France Culture, RTS, Algeria Radio 3, Europe1), TV interviews (iTele, France24) and articles in newspapers (Politis, Humanité, Telegramme Bretagne, ...) or blogs.

Attac Hellas also contributed to the mobilization of movements across Europe on the Greek crisis in June and to the preparatory meetings in Tunis in April, in Athens in May and June, together with other Greek organisations (Transform, Solidarity4all, Greek members of Blockupy and AlterSummit, EuroMemo Group).

Some of our members have further participated in mobilization of public opinion on the TTIP in Greece and attended demos in Athens and Paris on this topic. Currently a conference in Athens with some MEPs is in preparation for November.

Certain of our members are following the actions concerning COP21, where questions such as GMOs, privatization of water, the Hellas Gold activities in Halkidiki are of special interest. These Attac members are also involved in the protection of traditional seeds and soil as Common Goods

Democratic issues are of particular interest to our members, advocating for more democracy, direct democracy, changes in the Greek constitution and claims for a European

Constitution inspired by the Swiss constitution conceived by Capodistrias and Spinelli's proposals for a European constitution in the 1980s.

Other 2015 initiatives in Greece involving one or more members of ATTAC-Hellas include: participation in the debate on democracy organized by the Hellenic American Democratic Association, with a paper entitled "Thinking Clearly about Direct Democracy"; promotion of the "Appeal of Greek Germans and German Greeks" launched by the German university professor Juergen Link, culminating in a videoed interview with the mayor of Aegina in which the mayor expressed his support for the Greek response to the Appeal; organization of a meeting entitled "Has the European Union been a bad idea", with screening of videos of a parliamentary speech by Yanis Varoufakis and part of a paper by European federalist and former deputy head of the European Parliament's Athens office Ioannis Coccalas.

The latest developments in domestic Greek politics, with the split of the SYRIZA party after a new wave of austerity measures imposed on the Greek Government through a 3rd memorandum, provoked a lot of discussion. However this does not affect the commitment of all members to Attac Hellas, as a space of reflection and action offering a unique bridge with all social movements at the European level. A common belief and unity around the pillars of Attac principles and positions, elaborated by the EAN, continue to be shared by the small but active group of Attac Hellas, currently concentrated in Athens and Egina island.