

European Cross Networking Meeting on the Global Crises



The financialization of natural resources: Understanding the new dynamics and developing civil society answers to it

Paris, 28th and 29th of October 2011

Venue: AGECA, 177 rue de Charonne, 75011 Paris
Metro: Alexandre Dumas (Line 2) or Charonne (Line 9)
[See the map here](#) and [How to access the venue](#)

Context

In recent years civil society has focused on tackling financial speculation in food commodities, as it is regarded as one of the main drivers of food price volatility that heavily impacts small producers and the poor. Similarly governments have been discussing the issue in the context of the G20 focus on food security, but with marginal and contradictory results so far. At the same time, similar attention is being paid by governments to oil and other hard commodities speculation, where prices are even more volatile and the impacts on energy dependant countries are equally severe.

A systemic increase in financial speculation on commodities has emerged during this time, mainly driven by deregulation of derivative markets, the increasing involvement of investment banks, hedge funds and other institutional investors in commodity speculation and the emergence of new instruments such as index funds and exchange-traded funds. The work on food speculation and the focus on commodity derivatives markets, while crucial for the fight against poverty, is just one aspect of a broader trend that has resulted from the most recent financial crisis and is structurally affecting the global economy and natural resources management.

Financial deregulation in the last decade has for the first time in history transformed commodities into financial assets. What we might call “financialisation”, is thus penetrating all commodity markets and their functioning. Contrary to common sense and what civil society often assumes, financial markets are going deeper and deeper into the real economy as a response to the financial crisis, so that speculative capital is structurally being intertwined with productive capital - in this case commodities and natural resources.

Objectives of the meeting

Given this situation, we are organizing this meeting with the following objectives

- to get better insight and understanding of what is happening as regards financialization of natural resources
- to understand better the linkages between the different commodities (e.g. food and oil)
- to develop alternative visions/proposals (Global Public Commons as the basic alternative approach)
- to build links/networking between groups working on these different issues – within Europe and Europe/Global South
- to develop strategies for joint work and action, including towards the G20, Rio plus 20

We will work in particular on the following commodities/natural resources:

Food/Biomass/Landgrabbing; Oil; Water; Mining – Minerals (including coal) and Carbon/Biodiversity

For whom is this meeting?

The invitation to this meeting is to civil society organizations and social movements in Europe who are working directly on the issue of the financialization of natural resources, the impacts of these processes (e.g. landgrabbing) or on alternatives to it (commons, community based resources management). We will also bring a few persons from the Global South and Global North outside Europe to our meeting. We will also use the subsequent G20 mobilization in Nice from the 1st to 4th of November as a space to discuss with more representatives from outside Europe the issue of financialization of natural resources and civil society answers to it and to do more global networking.

FINANCIALIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES - AGENDA

Paris 28th- 29th October 2011

	<u>Friday 28th October</u>	Facilitator
9.00-10.00 Welcome Introduction of the participants, presentation and approval of the agenda		Alexandra Strickner (Attac Austria) Antonio Tricarico (CRBM) Fanny Simon (AITEC)
10.00-12.30 Financialization of natural resources Introductory discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Capitalism – Financialization of the economy: Dominique Plihon (Scientific Council Attac France)• Financialization of commodity markets: Jörg Mayer (UNCTAD)• Financialization of ecosystems: Silvia Ribeiro (ETC) Key trends, key questions, key challenges for us to look at		Antonio Tricarico (CRBM)
12.30-14.00 LUNCH		

	<p>14.00 – 18.00 Parallel Working Groups Oil, Food/Biomass/Landgrabbing, Water, Minerals (including Coal), Carbon</p> <p>Objective of the working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building a better understanding of what is going on as regards financialization in the respective sector and how different impacts/trends are linked to it - Mapping of key actors in the respective sector that push financialization - Mapping of key policies promoting it - Identifying links with other commodities <p>Resource Persons for the working groups:</p> <p>Oil: Tyson Slocum (Public Citizens)</p> <p>Water: Luca Martinelli, (Altreconomia, Italian Water Movement), Joby Gelbspan, (Stop Corporate Abuse), tbc</p> <p>Food/Biomass/Landgrabbing: Markus Henn (Weed) & Murray Worthy (WDM) & Renée Vellvé (GRAIN)</p> <p>Minerals (including Coal): Roger Moody, moneytometals</p> <p>Carbon/Biodiversity/Ecosystems: Silvia Ribeiro (ETC) & Larry Lohmann (Corner House)</p> <p>Coffee Break – included in the working Group time.</p>	<p><u>Facilitation Oil</u> Juliette Renaud, Les Amis de la Terre</p> <p><u>Facilitation Food/Biomass/Landgrabbing</u> Markus Henn/Weed & Murray Worthy/WDM</p> <p><u>Facilitation Water</u> Gabriella Zanzanaini (Food and Water Watch) Antonio Tricarico (CRBM)</p> <p><u>Facilitation Carbon</u> Oscar Reyes (Carbon Trade Watch)</p> <p><u>Facilitation Mining/Minerals (including coal)</u> Anne-Sophie Simpere</p>
	<p>18.00 – 19.00 Brief reports of the results of the 5 working groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share the major findings of the working groups - Developing a map which shows the links between the different commodities 	<p>Fanny Simon (AITEC)</p>

	SATURDAY 29th October	
	<p>09.00-10.30 How to break the current dynamic as regards financialization of natural resources?</p> <p>Inputs from different persons outlining key alternatives/strategies etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reclaiming the Commons: Geneviève Azam (Attac France) - Economic Degrowth and the need to set a limit on the use of natural resources: Tom Kucharz (Ecologistas en Accion) - Leaving oil in the ground: Ivonne Yanez (Acción Ecológica and Oilwatch Sudamerica) - Community driven resources management: Isaac Rojas (Friends of the Earth International) - Food Sovereignty/Democratic setting of prices (supply management): Gerard Choplin (European Coordination Via Campesina) - Regulation of Financial Markets: Myriam vander Stichele (SOMO) 	Juliette Renaud, Les Amis de la Terre France
	10.30-11.00 Coffee Break	
	<p>11.00-13.00 Working groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of alternatives and strategies already discussed to stop/revert the trend of financialization of natural resources - Developing proposals as regards what concrete joint actions/next steps – in particular with a view to G20, Rio plus20 	Same working groups and facilitators as day 1
	13.00 – 14.30 LUNCH	
	14.30 – 15.30 Sharing results of working groups	Hélène Cabioc'h (AITEC)
	<p>15.30 – 16.30 Joint discussion over proposed next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would be relevant for us all together? - Which joint demands? - Which joint actions? 	Alexandra Strickner & Antonio Tricarico
	16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break	

	<p>17.00 – 18.00 Final Conclusions</p> <p>Working Plan, Next Steps, Responsibilities, Communication</p>	<p>Alexandra Strickner & Antonio Tricarico</p>
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