

Week of Action on Investment Treaties and for an Alternative Investment Regime 5 - 8 November 2011, Brussels

International investment agreements (IIAs), such as Free Trade Agreements and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), pose a threat to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, as well as to democracy and people's sovereignty. These agreements undermine the right of governments to regulate financial speculation and in favour of public interest, decent work, human rights, right to health and environmental sustainability. IIAs give transnational corporations extraordinary rights without any obligations. They allow corporations to make the world a global casino and sue sovereign states before secret and unaccountable international arbitration tribunals. Investors and law firms do not hesitate to challenge governments' social, economic and environmental regulations in private arbitration panels if these appear to reduce the profitability of their investments. ***It's time to challenge them back and push for an alternative system that makes investment an engine for sustainable development!***

OBJECTIVES

This 4-day event aims to **bring together social activists, campaigners and experts from all over the world** with accumulated experience of critical engagement with the current investment regime and the power of TNCs **and in order to articulate common strategies for campaigning and discuss alternatives that nurture popular mobilisation and that inform governments about real alternatives.**

In particular, we aim to:

- 1- Deepen the knowledge and collaboration on the international investment regime among activists/campaigners from Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, the US and Canada as well as with progressive investment lawyers and journalists.
- 2- Advance proposals for an alternative investment regime
- 3- Develop a global strategy to confront the proliferation of Investment Agreements (IIAs) and start scaling back investment rules.
- 4- Step up the pressure on MEPs and EC to promote a more balance EU investment policy
- 5- Sensitise the European media about the impacts of IIAs and the current financial crisis.

PROGRAMME

The first two days consist of an International Forum on Investment. The third and the fourth day are more outward oriented and include a public debate with the European Commission; advocacy with the European parliamentary; a press conference; and a workshop with experts.

5 and 6 Nov	7 Nov	8 Nov
* Forum on BITs and Alternative Investment Regime including: - presentations that will help to unpack the international investment regime - discussions with governments - parallel sessions on alternatives and campaigning	* Public Debate with European Commission on Investment * Press Conference * Session in the European Parliament	* Workshop with expert lawyers and activists * Lobby meetings with MEPs and National Parliaments

To indicate your interest in participating in the events, please fill in the form before 3 October at: <http://www.s2bnetwork.org/themes/eu-investment-policy/week-of-action-against-bits-and-for-an-alternative-investment-regime.html>

For further information, you can contact Bruno Ciccaglione (Coordinator of the Seattle to Brussels Network) at: bruno.ciccaglione@alice.it

The Week of Action is called by
Seattle to Brussels (S2B) network, Network for Justice in Global Investment (NJGI),
EU-ASEAN FTA network, Campaign against BITs and ICSID Latin America,
Hemispheric Social Alliance
Europe-Latin America biregional network Enlazando Alternativas