



Seattle to Brussels
Network

WTO Turn Around, No More Crisis

Change trade, not our climate

From 30th November to 2nd December 2009 – ten years after the “Battle of Seattle” and just days before the crucial UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen – the 7th WTO ministerial will take place in Geneva. It is designed to promote the extension of the WTO's powers and of free trade as a solution to the current global crises we are living through.

The neoliberal model of trade and investment, embodied in the agreements of the WTO as well as in numerous bilateral free trade deals, is one of the root causes of the global financial meltdown and the hunger, energy and climate crises. Yet governments continue to promote deregulation and liberalisation, with the European Union and its member states being one of the most aggressive driving forces of this approach. Contrary to the current mantra of regulation being recited by the EU, the push to conclude the WTO Doha Round and a range of bilateral and regional free trade agreements will lead to more liberalisation and deregulation of finance and the economy across the globe, to serve once again the interests of corporations.

Free trade and the WTO have denied family farmers around the world opportunities to improve their livelihoods. They have denied consumers access to affordable and healthy food for all. They have denied workers in the global south and in Europe more, better and decent jobs. They have denied citizens all over the world better access to high quality essential services. And they have failed to promote socially and ecologically sustainable development.

To overcome the global and systemic crises that are engulfing the planet, we collectively call for the construction of a new economic order; one that puts the satisfaction of basic human needs and the implementation and protection of all social, economic, cultural and political human rights at its centre; one that is based on models of production and consumption that respect the natural resource limits of the planet, promotes equitable distribution of these resources among people, and uses clean, safe and renewable energy. To achieve this, we must have an alternative multilateral trade and investment model; one that is just, sustainable, participatory and based on solidarity.

We call upon social movements, trade unions and civil society organizations in Europe to join us in Geneva and to engage in a week of action, starting from November 28th 2009, to say **“WTO Turn Around! No more crisis”** and **“Change trade, not our climate!”**

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www.s2bnetwork.org