

ALTER – EU



CONFERENCE

*“Ending corporate privileges and lobbying secrecy in the EU
Challenges & strategies for future campaigning”*

Brussels, Belgium, 9-10 October 2007

Preliminary Conference Programme

Day 1 (9th October)

08:30 / 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 / 09:45 **Welcome Speech** by William Dinan, ALTER-EU Steering Committee

09:45 / 11:15 **Opening Plenary Session** The ALTER-EU challenge 2010 – curbing corporate political power in a democracy-deficient Europe

Facilitator: America Vera Zavala, Attac Sweden (*t.b.c.*)

Speakers

Susan George, Attac France (*t.b.c.*)
“The global reach of corporate political power”

Claude Turmes, European Parliament (*t.b.c.*)
“Social Europe vs corporate Europe”

George Monbiot, The Guardian (*t.b.c.*)
“The geo-politics of corporate power”

Robert Weisman, Multinational Monitor (*t.b.c.*)
“Corporate influence in US politics”

11:15 / 12:00 **Q&A**

12:00 / 13:30 **Lunch**

Day 1 *(cont)*

13:30 / 14:15 **Plenary session:** The European Transparency Initiative (ETI) and beyond

Facilitator: Magda Stoczkiewicz, CEE Bankwatch Network *(t.b.c.)*

Speakers

Paul de Clerck, Friends of the Earth Europe *(t.b.c.)*
“ALTER-EU and the ETI battle”

Hendrik Vos, University of Gent *(t.b.c.)*
“The need for more transparency in EU policy-making”

14:15 / 14:45 **Q&A**

14:45 / 16:30 **Thematic workshops – Policy specific examples**

Mariano Iossa, ActionAid International *(t.b.c.)*
“Global Europe, a corporate strategy for Europe’s competitiveness in the world”

Andy Rowell, SpinWatch *(t.b.c.)*
“Climate policy and the corporate manipulation of environmental concerns”

Jan Willem Goudriaan, European Federation of Public Service Unions *(t.b.c.)*
“Bolkestein directive – corporate interests vs public services”

16:30 / 17:00 **Coffee break**

17:00 / 18:30 **Thematic workshops – Essential campaigning “tools”**

Erik Wesselius, CEO *(t.b.c.)*
“Researching lobby groups and access to documents”

Uli Mueller, LobbyControl *(t.b.c.)*
“Exchange of ideas and experiences for lobby watchdog organisations”

Aidan White, European Federation of Journalists *(t.b.c.)* and John Chapman, National Union of Journalists *(t.b.c.)*
“The corporate capture of European media – selling corporate messaging as independent news”

20:00 / 21:00 **Dinner**

Day 2 (10th October)

09:00 / 10:30 **Opening Plenary Session** Campaigning strategies – sharing experiences and approaches to campaigning on challenging corporate political power & irresponsible lobbying

Facilitator: Thomas Wallgren, University of Helsinki (*t.b.c.*)

Speakers

Jorgo Riss, Greenpeace EU Unit (*t.b.c.*)

“Lessons from REACH – Brussels’ most extraordinary lobby endeavour”

Alexandra Strickner, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (*t.b.c.*)

“Lessons from the Seattle to Brussels network – building synergies between national and European campaigns”

Brigitte Alfter, Brussels correspondent of the Danish daily Information (*t.b.c.*)

“The lessons from the campaign for transparency around Common Agricultural Policy funding”

Pieter Hintjens, Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure (*t.b.c.*)

“Lessons from the FFI campaign against EU software patents”

Pia Valota, Associazione Consumatori Utenti, Italy (*t.b.c.*)

“Lessons from the fair-trade movement”

10:30 / 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 / 12:00 **Q&A**

12:00 / 13:15 **Lunch**

ALTER – EU Assembly

13:15 / 15:00 **Strategy Workshops** – Laying the foundations for future ALTER-EU campaigning

15:00 / 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 / 17:30 **Presentation of the work-programme, discussion and adoption**

19:30 **Dinner at a Restaurant in Brussels**

A public debate with the Vice President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas, is also envisaged for the 11th of October. The time and location of the event will be made known as soon as the event is confirmed.