

Minutes ICC Meeting, Lisboa 11/12 Dec 2009

Attendants:

Manuel, Agneta, Vitor, Reiner, Claire, Tobias, Hans, Andreas, Lucas, Arielle, Jean-Yves

Friday

Working Session 1

- Introductions by Reiner, changes to the agenda are jointly decided, Lucas Wirl is the minute taker (please send suggestions, changes, additions to l.wirl@gmx.net).

1. Evaluation of the Berlin Meeting in October

- Common tenor of the discussion was that the meeting was successful in terms of setting a political agenda and in terms of networking. The productive and friendly atmosphere was highlighted. Lessons from Strasbourg are being learned and the international network against NATO was being confirmed.

2. Different Events / reports on NATO

- Andreas informs on the actions along the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh. The next Parliamentary meetings will be held in Riga on 28th of June to 1st of July AND in Warsaw from November 12th-16th.
- Agneta informs on the Stockholm meeting (17 October).
- Valencia NATO base blockades / demonstrations (18 Nov)

3. Platform Paper

- The process of writing the paper was decided: Andreas will write a first draft (on the basis of Stuttgart Appeal, Declaration of Strasbourg, and Afghanistan Declaration; including military spending) until January. Throughout January the paper will be discussed among the ICC. Andreas will produce a second draft until mid February. On a telephone conference the second draft will be finalized.
- For the Portuguese groups it was suggested to produce a national paper.

4. Afghanistan

- Reiner informs on talks with Kate
 - Most likely the 28th of January will be the date for the International Afghanistan Conference to which Brown invites and which is hosted by UN. The conference aims at combining military and civilian means and so far invitations have only been sent to governmental organizations.
 - The British peace movement plans a demonstration on the evening of the 27th or on the 28th. A counter conference will be organized by CND and Stop the War Coalition.
 - Reiner suggests that the ICC co-sponsors the counter summit.
- Discussion
 - During the discussion the link between Afghanistan, NATO, and war was highlighted. The ICC has to engage in the debate and show that Afghanistan is NATO and that NATO is war.
 - Andreas hesitates in co-sponsoring the counter-conference since he highlights that a debate about solutions for Afghanistan needs to be led. This seems not to be

possible with CN D and Stop the War Coalition.

- Decisions
 - In general the ICC is willing to co-sponsor the counter- conference but wants to see program before making a decision. The final decision will be taken by Arielle, Tobias, Reiner, and Andreas.
 - An ICC paper on Afghanistan will be produced by Claire and Tobias. It should be finalized in mid January.
 - The ICC will provide a framework for a Press Statement on Afghanistan which can be used and adopted. Its main statement should be that Afghanistan is NATO and NATO is war. It will be finalized until Jan 12th by Reiner, Hans, and Lucas.
 - We will gather information on conflict resolution for Afghanistan. Files and links can be send to kongress@ialana.de. Additionally we will gather articles and information for a paper selection (send also to kongress@ialana.de). A one paged preface will be produced to inform on our aims.
 - Andreas will contact humanitarian aid organization in the context of January 28th.
 - In the preparations for the international Afghanistan day of action on 8-9th October 2009 the ICC will produce a poster for advertisement. It should be ready until the national NPT actions.

5. Conference in Tbilisi

- Reiner informs on the process of organization (a location for the conference might have been found; some basic funding is provided and there is a draft of the program which was mainly set up by Georgian groups), on NATO's geostrategic interest in the region, and on the involvement of a wide range of groups of different countries in the region. The conference is organized by seven Georgian groups and co-sponsored by the ICC.
- Discussion
 - In the discussion an involvement in the conference of the Ukraine is being stressed. Contentwise the conference should explicitly discuss the Georgian war including the role of Israel, NATO's and EU's interest in the region, as well as the role of the Western peace movement.
 - The ICC has to send a delegation to the conference. The program will be available in February.

6. NPT Conference New York

- Reiner informs on the events: On April 30th the counter-conference will take place at Riverside Church, Manhattan, on May 1st an international demonstration will take place. The ICC should organize one workshop on NATO and NATO strategy. The French and the German ICC members will work on the workshop which should include bases, arctic and space proliferation.
- A banner should be produced for the demonstration: "No to War – No to NATO".
- The ICC should engage in having a meeting with a high profile speaker.

Working Session 2

7. Meeting with Portuguese Groups

- Preliminary discussions
 - Maunel and Vitor inform on the process and content of PAGAN: it is an action and citizen based platform that aims at creating a broad, long-lasting anti-military platform. In the process of creating PAGAN a broad range of organizations have been invited but a communication problem occurred with CPPC. Up to now possible forms of actions which have been discussed include a demonstration, a counter summit and smaller actions. Among others for a broad mobilization the

- CPPC is of importance.
 - Arielle asks about Civil Disobedience and Agneta about female participation in PAGAN.
 - Reiner informs on meetings with Mario Tomé of Bloco and Sandra Benfica of CPPC. Reiner informs on her perspective of the communication problem and that CPPC also established a anti-NATO coalition.
- Meeting with Portuguese colleagues
 - After a round of introductions the building of a common force is being highlighted. The common ground that NATO needs to be abolished should be the basis of our common work. Furthermore the fact that we work together towards our aim is more important than the structures in which we collaborate.
 - Reiner informs that CPPC will be offered a seat in the ICC and Manuel and Vitor are encouraged to seek contact to CPPC and establish .
 - General discussion about the movements in Portugal and about the common actions and the process needed to successfully implement these actions
 - Action around the NATO summit should be demonstration, counter-conference, Civil Disobedience, and a camp. The demonstration shall be participative and shall be an event “for the whole family”. The camp is important for mobilization and education.
 - PAGAN’s limited resources concerning funding and mobilization are being stated. In order to surpass the limited mobilization a political debate about NATO needs to be established in Portugal and the media needs to be engaged. Our Portuguese colleagues should develop a Portuguese perspective on NATO which is based its cultural and historical heritage and engage all networks of Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean, Frontex, military. It is important to open the discussion about NATO to the global South.
 - The international counter summit should be organized by the ICC with the support of Portuguese coalitions. Gender balance should be of high importance. For actions of civil disobedience the ICC will be in close contact with Portuguese groups. Decentralized events should support the common actions (petition, spectacular, speaker tour, ...). A counter repressions working group should be established as well as a working group for the conference: Manuel, Reiner, Agneta, Claire, Tobias, Mario, Toni are willing to engage in such a working group.

8. Structural / Organizational

- Next meetings
 - The next ICC meeting will be held in New York around the NPT conference. It will include a telephone conference.
 - A second ICC meeting will be held in Portugal the latest by the end of June.
 - A third ICC meeting will be scheduled as soon as we have the dates and location for the NATO Summit.
 - Another ICC meeting may be held on the 17th and 18th of September.
- A Portugal Action Conference should be hold 10-12 weeks before the Summit.
- The Spanish movement should be engaged more. Everybody shall use their networks to get Spanish organizations “on board”. The Spanish network information should be gathered at IALANA (kongress@ialana.de).

Saturday

Working Session 3

- Continuation on Structural / Organizational
 - Missing names / Enlargement of the ICC
 - Arielle informs on a meeting with Sandra Benfica: CPPC agreed to try to organize common actions; Sandra will invite PAGAN for a meeting on Saturday, 19 December.
 - Annie and Claire will represent France.
 - Jana agreed to be in the ICC for the Czech Republic.
 - PAGAN's seat will be discussed internally.
 - It was agreed that new ICC members must engage and contribute: new ICC members should have a mandate of an international or national organization. Regional, national, political balance is a criteria.
 - Michael Youlton (Ireland) and Claudine Poulet (Belgium) are members of ICC.
 - Enlargement of our network
 - Reiner will establish contacts to Poland, Andreas to Women in Black, Belgrade, Italy will be postponed; Manuel, Claire, Arielle, Tobias will connect to Spain (Manuel will coordinate this); Agneta will gather contacts to Baltic States. The discussion will continue after the Tbilisi conference.
 - Homepage / Internet
 - Tobias / Andreas will plan a webpage and set criteria (multilingual); we need some funding (Reiner), Andreas will find a cheap technical solution. Lucas will set up a facebook group / account.
 - Finances
 - No more funds are available and everybody is urged to find funding.
 - A budget for Portugal needs to be set up for conference and demonstration, camp. The ICC will send a financial frame document.
 - Miscellaneous
 - A discussion about the Humanists was being held and whether the ICC should work with them. Clear statements about the nature of the humanist organization have been made. The ICC will not work with the humanist organization.

Working Session 4

- Another meeting with Portuguese groups was being held and general discussions about the actions followed.

Lucas Wirl, Berlin the 16th of December 2009