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Para: <joseiglesias@wanadoo.es>

Asunto: carta del van parijs!!!

Fecha: viernes, 09 de enero de 2004 1:28

Hola Jose:

Soc el Fernando, te envío la carta de respuesta del van parijs, si quieres le respondo yo, aunque preferiría que fueses tu o alguien que hable y escriba en ingles, de los economistas; también quería comentarte de que esta gente le fa mucho caso a quienes tienen de organizaciones hermanadas, que han compartido congresos, o tienen un vinculo pues como asamblea quizás les somos muy desconocidos, por lo que sería importante que desde vuestra parte mantengáis un dialogo con ellos, si pensáis que esta de mas plantearles este dialogo, por lo que comentamos, sobre sus intereses (subvenciones, becas, etc).. como queráis, lo que si, yo me estoy encontrando con una cantidad de gente que esta dentro del programa del Forum, que va del mismo palo, por lo que a veces creo que es una perdida de tiempo, pero es mejor informarles antes que suponer que ellos puedan llegar a saber algo, y si vienen que vengan con miedo e informados..

> Dear Assemblée de Résistències,

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> Many thanks for your thoughtful and informative letter.

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> BIEN's Committee was aware from the start that

> the Forum initiative was not uncontroversial. It

> nonetheless decided to trust its local partners -

> the Red Renta Básica and the Institut de Drets

> Humans - to assess, in the light of all

> information available locally, whether they

> consider legitimate the inclusion of BIEN's 10th

> Congress into the overall framework of the

> Universal Forum of Cultures.

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> Such judgements are not always easy to make, and

> we must all beware (as a Congolese student once

> vividly described the allegedly critical

> intellectuals indulged by his country's regime)

> of "having our mouths so full that it makes us

> unable to speak". But we have no reason to

> believe that our partners are politically naive,

> or sold out, or disloyal to their progressive

> ideals.

>

> However, we would be most grateful if you could

> keep them (as well as ourselves) well informed of

> any new argument or piece of information that

> might justify that this judgement be revised.

>

> Thanks again for your helpful letter.

> Best wishes,

> Philippe Van Parijs

> Secretary of BIEN

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> PS

> In my personal capacity, let me just add one

> short aside. Over the last few years, I have

> slowly become persuaded of the tremendous

> potential, for the promotion of the sort of

> causes you mention in your letter and which I

> share with you, of an intelligent alliance

> between the "embarrassing power of transparency"

> and the "transformatory power of hypocrisy".

> Providing freedom of speech is granted to and

> used by the sort of people the Forum aims to
> bring together and providing people like you play
> their essential specific role, the Forum provides
> a wonderful occasion for exploiting this
> potential, not despite but because of the type of
> public and private sponsoring behind it. In case
> these remarks sound too cryptic, I attach a
> recent paper (in English) and an even more recent
> interview (in French) in which this claim is
> spelt out.

>

>>Dear Mr. Philippe Van Parijs,

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>>We are writing to you because you appear among the personalities
>>invited to the "Universal Forum of Cultures" that will take place in
>>Barcelona from May to September 2004.

>>As representatives and members of numerous social movements that have
>>been acting in the city for long, we would like you to seriously
>>consider this proposal before accepting it, since there is certainly
>>more to this Forum than you have been told, or that certain people want
>>you to know. Knowing your political opinion and thought, we feel sure
>>you will be interested in knowing some other aspects of the Forum in
>>question.

>>By reason of the 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona underwent -to a greater
>>extent than other European cities- a fast steady growth, that
>>transformed the relatively small and provincial city it was into a
>>major European Union metropolis. This change is noticeable in both in
>>the urban structure and the social background of the population in the
>>city centre, the so-called Ciutat Vella (Old Town) district. This
>>district is quickly completing a gentrification process that will put
>>Barcelona at the level of other European capitals.

>>Forum 2004 is nothing more than a new chapter in such gentrification
>>process. Since preparations began, more than one year ago, many town
>>associations and personalities denounced its absolute lack of contents,
>>and the excessive stress upon building activity and urban changes. We
>>are witnessing how the extensive low-class barri (neighbourhood) of
>>Poble Nou, too close to the city centre, is almost destroyed. Its
>>inhabitants are being evicted from their houses without proper
>>indemnity and hundreds of old buildings are being pulled down, in order
>>to build a new and modern district called "22@," which will be
>>presented as the Forum 2004's "city of knowledge and technologies".

>>Needless to say, the majority of these new areas will not have a free
>>access, which will transform public areas into private ones and will
>>sacrifice middle class areas to the bourgeoisie. Forum developers claim
>>that debates will focus on Peace, Sustainability and Diversity. In
>>truth, funding comes not only from Aznar's Partido Popular government
>>(who, among other things 1) has participated as Bush's vassal in the
>>Iraq invasion; 2) is promoting a destructive and unpopular ecological
>>policy which includes disregarding Galicia Oil Spill disaster and river
>>Ebre transvasation and 3) has developed one of the most restrictive and
>>excluding immigration policies in Europe); but also from private
>>sources. These sources include major corporations who diverge so much
>>from the subjects of the debate, as to invalidate their very core:
>>Telefónica (responsible in a good part for the late crisis in
>>Argentina); Endesa (whose policies regarding the Mapuche people in
>>Chile include deportation and violence); Damm (one of the few companies
>>who chastised heavily those workers who took part in anti-war
>>demonstrations); Nestlé (no need to waste words about its promotion
>>policies to increase the use of condensed milk in Africa, causing child

>>malnutrition and death); Indra (the only non-US company who supplies
>>the US army), just to name the most famous ones. Barcelona's Neighbour
>>Association have stated they will not participate in the Forum, because
>>their presence there would have been purely formal, and their request
>>were being paid no heed. The Catalan Federation of NGOs have also
>>declined being in the Forum, as well as the President of Barcelona's
>>Centre of Contemporary Culture), Josep Ramoneda who, being one of the
>>main cultural promoters of the city, declared that there was "too much
>>money in the Forum" for it to have a proper cultural programme. Last
>>September, the Spanish Federation of Anthropologists denounced the
>>perverse use of the concept of "Culture" to justify a Forum whose sole
>>interest is an institutional self-celebration. Later on, several
>>organisations of architects used the word "urbanalization" to describe
>>what was being done in Poble Nou and in other barris affected by the
>>Forum 2004 building projects.
>>Not to talk about the programmes of repression and eviction over most
>>of the city's occupied social centres. Squatters have already been
>>alerted that they will not be tolerated during the event. The city must
>>be cleaned- up for the Forum, and many houses will be closed down,
>>among them 3 historical social centers (Les Naus, Casa de la Muntanya
>>and possibly La Hamsa), which have been working for Peace,
>>Sustainability and Diversity in the city for more than a decade.
>>We don't wish to bother you longer by expressing our anger caused by
>>this unpopular event that is being advertised as a new occasion for
>>people to "participate" in institutional activities, and which will
>>only be the apotheosis of the commercialization of culture. We are
>>asking you to take into account all this information and to consider
>>your participation in the Forum. We are not promoting any counter-Forum
>>(maybe the Forum itself will organize one!) because we think there is
>>no need to pretend we will be focusing on Peace, of Sustainability and
>>of Diversity, while we have been working on them for decades. There is
>>no need of a Forum to discuss these subjects, because they have been
>>approached by debates and cultural production, and we will continue
>>working on them during the Forum as well as before and after it. We ask
>>you please not to participate in Barcelona's 2004 Forum of Cultures.
>>One last thing: to prevent "breaking the line of consensus", Forum's
>>promoters declared they could not make any declaration concerning the
>>war in Iraq. Also, Aznar's Popular Party forbade three themes in the
>>Forum's debates as a condition for their participation: the Basque
>>Country, Afghanistan and Palestine. We can talk of war in abstract
>>terms, but not of real conflicts.

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