



From 30 November to 2 December, a ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will be held in Geneva, one week before the Copenhagen summit on climate change.

The "liberalisation" policies followed in the past have long been shown to have failed. Their failure is more than ever obvious, in the midst of the current economic crisis. And still our leaders refuse to question these policies!

The MPEP and numerous other organisations launch an appeal to political parties, trade unions, alter-globalisation movements and other groups engaged in fair trade, environmental protection and aid for developing countries - and to all citizens - to make this WTO conference a mobilisation event on the scale of the demonstrations held 10 years ago, in Seattle.

Mobilisation in Geneva

28 november - demonstration
in the streets

29 november - debate forum

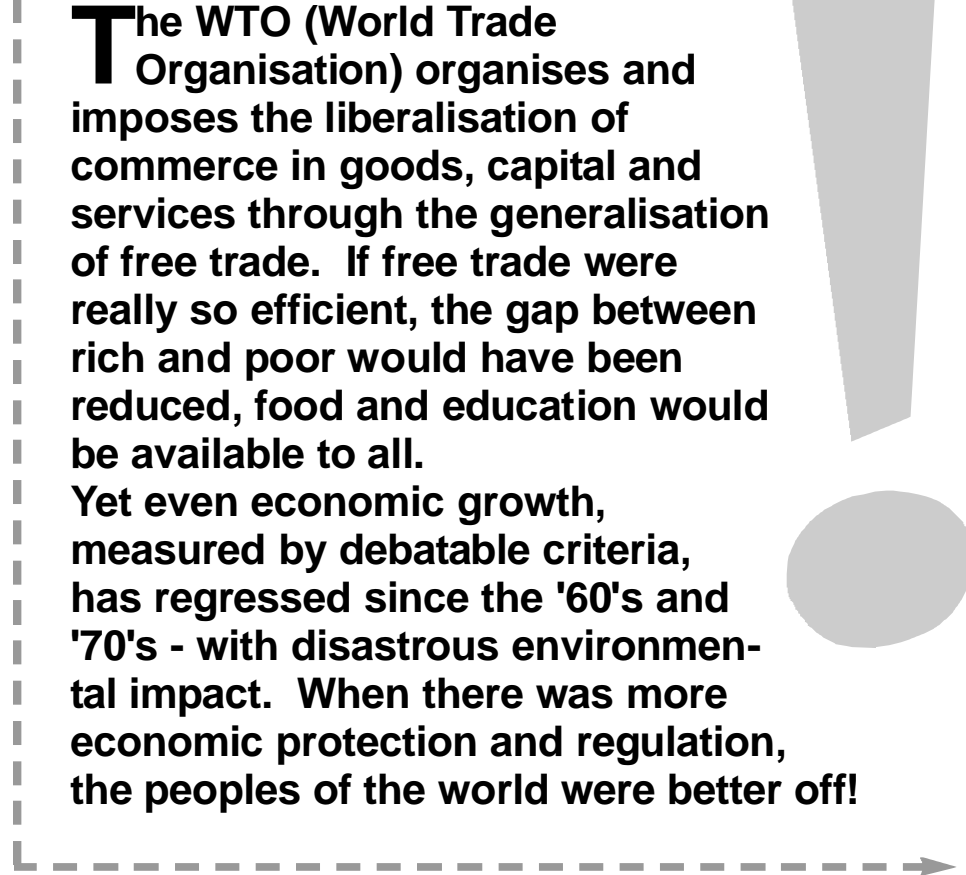
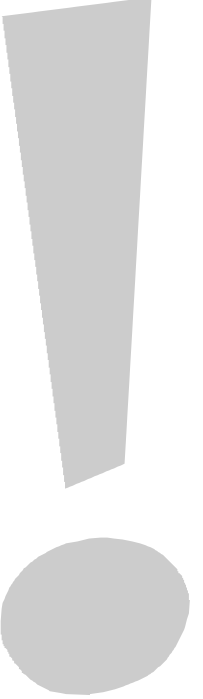
Geneva 28 and 29/11/09

**Action against
free trade**

**to stop
economic
war**

The WTO (World Trade Organisation) organises and imposes the liberalisation of commerce in goods, capital and services through the generalisation of free trade. If free trade were really so efficient, the gap between rich and poor would have been reduced, food and education would be available to all.

Yet even economic growth, measured by debatable criteria, has regressed since the '60's and '70's - with disastrous environmental impact. When there was more economic protection and regulation, the peoples of the world were better off!



Generalised "free" competition has led to lower salaries, forcing wage-earners into debt to maintain consumer spending : this is a major cause of the current economic crisis.

Ecological and social protectionism

The dominant economic dogma portrays protectionism as an absolute evil. This dogma must be challenged. Protectionist measures are necessary, not to impede trade but rather to end recession, stop relocations and reduce unemployment by rebuilding local economies - thus eliminating unneeded transport and easing our impact on the environment.

Imported products should be taxed according to the social and environmental conditions in their countries of origin, with import quotas on certain products and higher taxation for multinational firms which operate in countries with indecent working conditions, no social protection for workers and no restraint on industrial damage to the environment. The debts of poor countries must be cancelled. The industrialised world must acknowledge its ecological debt to them. Member countries of the European Union must revoke the mandate they have given the E.U. to negotiate on their behalf at the WTO - civil disobedience at European level!

The WTO has no connection with the U.N., so WTO negotiations have no consideration for the human, social and environmental values upheld by the charters of the United Nations and the International Labour Office (ILO). The WTO is dominated by a small number of rich countries defending the interests of multinational businesses. Unless they group together, the developing countries, especially the smaller ones, cannot afford to employ armies of experts for trade negotiations, and often they are not invited to meetings.

Preparing for application of the principles of the Havana Charter

In 1948 the United Nations held an international conference in Havana, establishing the principles for the creation of the International Trade Organisation (ITO). A Charter was adopted, stipulating that "the prevention of unemployment and under-employment (...) is also a necessary condition for (...) the development of international trade, and thus for the welfare of all countries."

With this aim, protectionist measures were authorised. Placed within the U.N. framework, the ITO was universalist in its objective of ending trade war - provoked by free trade policies - in favour of international cooperation.

Though 53 countries, including France and United-States, signed this ambitious project, the Charter was abandoned under pressure from the United States Senate. The MPEP proposes that the Havana Charter should be reexamined and adapted for the world of today.

The M'PEP presents the following proposals for debate :

1.- Withdrawal from the WTO, which is bankrupting the peoples of the planet

The World Trade Organisation is based on free trade policies which have proved harmful in both poor and rich countries, in terms of employment, standard of living, health, education... It contributes heavily to global warming and the destruction of biodiversity.

2.- Creation of the ITO with countries wishing to construct a new international order of cooperations

Withdrawal from the WTO must permit the creation of the ITO (International Trade Organisation), based on the Havana Charter of 1948, which views international trade as a mutually advantageous exchange, and not a competition pitting every individual against every other.

3.- Immediate protectionist measures for employment and the environment

International trade must be reduced immediately through unilateral acts of states, based on universalist principles - for employment, for wages, for the environment and climate. From north to south, from east to west.

Sign the on-line appeal

<http://www.m-pep.org/spip.php?article1503>

or contact an MPEP member to sign the appeal on paper

I WISH TO JOIN THE MPEP

First Name : Last name :

Address :

City : Postal Code number :

Email address :

Home telephone : Mobile telephone :

Man Woman Date of birth

Occupation.....

Membership fee : 30€ minimum 50€ 60€ 100€ more.....

Date..... signature.....

Return this form with a cheque to M'PEP :
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