

## Summary of the results of the alliance meeting “Blockupy Beyond” on June 24, 2012 in Frankfurt am Main

Approx. 60-80 persons present; group make-up was similar to that of the preparation meetings (persons from attac, interventionist left, Occupy, the unemployed forum, no one is illegal, the Green youth, the Left youth ‘solid’, Die.Linke, and others)

Contents:

- A) Evaluation: what are the important questions that require our continued work?
- B) Results and plans

### A) Important points for discussion from the evaluation round

1. The preparation for Blockupy Frankfurt had only 2 ½ months, as we decided at the end of February 2012 to mobilize to action days in Frankfurt. This is a different timeframe than that of mobilizations such as the Nazi blockades in Dresden, or Heiligendamm for Block G8. However, we must assume that these timeframes and dynamics will not change significantly with respect to social and crisis protests. The development of the crisis is, on the one hand, highly dynamic and requires quick action, the social and crisis protests are also positioned differently than the Antifa field. This means that we are dealing with a problem of time, and that better preparation and analysis and, accordingly, better predictions of the coming events will not significantly change this issue. If we really want to react to crisis events and take advantage of possible windows of opportunity, we have to adapt to this situation and learn how to act within it.
  - a. *How do we adapt to this and what does this mean for our actions? A question that we have to work on, especially with respect to the European dimension of networks and common action.*
2. In this respect, it is also true that Blockupy Frankfurt was a success because – despite the short timeframe and the difficulty of setting a counter-tone in the media to the German mainstream interpretation of crisis – it was able to make Frankfurt as a banking metropolis, into a place of action against the ruling politics of crisis. Even if the weak mobilization to the action days must be considered, a new, action-oriented image was set in the crisis protests, as well as a lively dynamic and a capable alliance (which certainly needs to be made broader).
3. **General issue of weak mobilization for crisis protests.** We have to think about this. On the action days Thursday and Friday, approximately 2500-3000 people were in the city. This is relatively few. It was the number that we always considered to be the lowest amount during the mobilization. BUT: We should not consider and judge the mobilization to Frankfurt in light of the Anti-Nazi protests in Dresden or the Anti-nuclear protests in Wendland, but rather in light of the crisis protests that have occurred in Germany in the last three years. Only in this light does it make sense to judge. And in this light, the mobilization was not poor.
4. The total ban on assembly threw us into the cold – because it had the consequence that there was no kind of place to gather – neither as open space for all (even

those persons who did not necessarily want to blockade), nor as spaces that are necessary to carry out actions as was planned. Whether we must permanently adapt to the challenges of the “preventative security state” for the future remains open, but this means at least that we must take the question of (legal or other) places of assembly seriously and think about further alternatives.

A second point is also important here: in connection with civil rights groups such as the Committee for Civil Rights (*Grundrechtskomitee*), which took up the question of the ban on assembly, the mobilization on Thursday was “better”, because people joined our protest at Paulsplatz who otherwise would not have come to Blockupy. Also, the (Germany-wide) block against us in the media could then be broken through, so that the reporting turned in favor of Blockupy.

## **B) Results and agreements**

1. The Blockupy coalition wants to continue working together, because Blockupy is only a success to the extent that it was the “beginning” of a new protest. We can build on what we have learned from our experience in the coalition, but the coalition should become broader. How this is to be done and which steps, discussions and common actions are necessary remains to be figured out.
2. A kind of “conference weekend” shall happen in autumn in Frankfurt, and it should contain strategic exchange and action elements. The dates in mind are the weekend of October 13-14, but this is not a conclusive decision.

### **The conference should have the following functions:**

- It should be a step in the continuation of the campaign. Ideas should be developed or conceived: what are we doing in the spring? Some ideas have already been presented in this respect, but these must be talked about and discussed.
- The conference should have a consulting character – advice?
- It should be relatively open. It should also serve external communication.
- At the same time, meetings should also take place where political content is discussed – theoretical work should be done.
- It should contain an activist moment.
- It should not overstretch our strength and resources.
- International participation and inputs are important. We have to orient ourselves according to what our international comrades say and what is happening in their contexts.

These challenges are difficult to realize together. The task of further developing these ideas and drafting a concept for the conference was passed onto a coordination circle, which will begin by communicating via telephone conferences and email. Until the end of August, a basis for planning should be drafted and be presented to the coalition.

### **3. Legal questions**

After a first legal review of complaint possibilities against the ban on assembly, a focus was decided upon for complaints:

- a) complaints against the ban on assembly: The Committee for Basic Rights is filing a complaint on its own behalf and has good prospects for success. The applicant for the rave (an event that was applied for on Wednesday evening of the action days as a decidedly political action) is being asked to have the outlook for success of a complaint be reviewed by a lawyer; the complaint (and connected research/costs) will be carried by the coalition. We are taking distance from a complaint against the bans of the Blockupy events (all of the applications on plazas for the action days), because the outlook for success is not estimated to be high according to legal review. This means that certain complaints will be chosen for filing against the bans on assembly.
- b) In addition – with respect to those affected in the buses that came from Berlin – a complaint against illegally being taken into custody will be legally reviewed (in terms of administrative, civil and criminal law).
- c) In addition, there is an application for erasing data for all of the 1430 persons who were taken into custody (on the website). It remains unknown whether preliminary proceedings are ongoing/beginning, meaning whether criminal proceedings are pending. There is also an initiative to retrieve the many things that were confiscated by the Frankfurt police (via the NoTroika group in Frankfurt).