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Globalising  
Gender Equality  
and Social Justice

## Invitation

### Expert Workshop: FTA-Negotiations between Europe and India

**Date:** Monday/Tuesday, 27/28th April 2009

**Venue:** Heinrich Böll Foundation, Schumannstr. 8, 10117 Berlin, Germany

## Background

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Both the EU and EFTA are currently negotiating Free Trade Agreements with India. The negotiations on the EU-India FTA started in 2007. They were scheduled to be concluded by the end of 2008 but were delayed. The negotiations on the EFTA-India FTA started in 2008 and are approaching the fourth round. The plan is to conclude the FTA by the end of the year.

The FTAs are expected to have detrimental effects on livelihoods, the environment, labour conditions and human right, particularly women's right in Europe and even more so in India. Key issues related to civil society concerns are

- a general lack of transparency in the negotiations
- far reaching symmetrical tariff elimination
- the inclusion of services, especially retail and financial services
- intellectual property rights
- the Singapore issues, especially investment and government procurement.

The expert workshop aims to bring together civil society activists and critical researchers from Europe with members of the Indian Forum on FTAs. Jointly strategising on the EU-India and the EFTA-India FTA is expected to provide opportunities for mutual learning, strengthening the network of European NGOs working on the FTAs with India, and developing common lobbying and campaigning activities.

## **Preliminary programme**

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### **Day 1: 10-19h**

Sharing information

- state of affairs of current negotiations
- past, current and planned activities

Presentation of recent studies on the FTA negotiations

- general assessment of the potential impacts of FTA in India and Europe
- case studies on gender impacts, supermarkets and impacts on Indian retail sector and financial services

Identifying key problems and key concerns

### **Day 2: 9-13h**

Developing joint strategies

## **Practical information**

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### **Registration**

Vera Weghmann (WEED), vera.weghmann@weed-online.org or #49-(0)30-275 82 615 (please register until 18 April 2009)

A more detailed programme and directions to the Böll-Stiftung will be sent out prior the workshop.

### **Admission and funding**

No admission will be charged. If you need funding to cover your travel expenses, please contact the organisers.

### **More and updated information on this website:**

<http://www.weed-online.org/themen/2311670.html>

The workshop takes place in cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung.