

The European/International Network of Solidarity with Ukraine and its outreach to Latin America

Within the European Solidarity Network with Ukraine (RESU), the question has been raised as to whether it should be transformed into an international network; in short, the aim is to formalise the fact that it is not solely European. Formalise, because in practice it has already been expanded to include a few individuals and groups from the Americas. At first glance, this should not be a matter for debate.

For the Solidaires Trade Union Federation, if comrades from other continents have not deemed it necessary since 2022 to create continental networks of solidarity with Ukraine and prefer to join a network that is becoming international, we simply have to take note of this.

But this is an opportunity for us to draw attention to the motivations behind this proposal, more than four years after the creation of the RESU. This proposal follows the international anti-fascist conference held in Porto Alegre at the end of March. To reiterate what has already been said on numerous occasions, as early as January 2026, within the French committee of the RESU:

The Solidaires trade union did not take part in this international anti-fascist conference, for two main reasons:

- firstly, the fact that it was convened by the PT, the PCdoB and the PSOL. The fact that party organisations participating in and/or supporting the Lula government were convening this initiative did not inspire enthusiasm, particularly as, among the eleven scheduled conferences, there was nothing planned regarding the responsibility of left-wing governments for the rise of the far right;

- on the other hand, and this is more directly related to the RESU, because on the issues of war, imperialism and popular resistance, there was never any mention of Ukraine or Russia, neither in the call for participation nor in the eleven scheduled conferences. Consequently, we considered that this initiative had no connection with solidarity with the Ukrainian resistance. That said, we made it clear that we had no opinion to offer on the fact that RESU organisations were taking part in this meeting, as each is free to do so for the initiatives it wishes.

The organisers' decision to highlight representatives of a French organisation known for its lack of support for the Ukrainian resistance was unlikely to heighten any regrets regarding our non-participation.

We decided not to undermine the French RESU committee when it was agreed within the committee that the presence of comrades from Ukraine and the RESU in Porto Alegre was a good thing, in the name of a consensus that did not exist (and not only because of representatives from the Union syndicale Solidaires). As far as we are concerned, both before and after, it is clear that this initiative was not about supporting the Ukrainian resistance. To understand the context, we share the views of the representatives of the International Committee of the Fourth International: "In fact, our organisations [of the Fourth International] – in particular the MES, a tendency within the PSOL that is particularly strong in Rio Grande do Sul – made up a large proportion of the participants: on the one hand, this is a source of pride, but on the other hand, it reflects the fact that the struggle for unity, for the building of a mass movement alongside reformist organisations and trade unions, still remains to be waged¹."

We are returning to this subject today because this dynamic, which we believe is detrimental to joint activities within RESU, continues. We will not debate whether it is positive or not that a few dozen people who were already convinced took part in a workshop (out of 150) with comrades from Ukraine at this conference attended by several thousand people; nor the fact that the Ukrainian resistance and Putin's regime are still absent from the final declaration.

¹ <https://inprecor.fr/la-conference-antifasciste-et-anti-imperialiste-de-porto-alegre-grandes-avancees-defis-et>

But the circumstances in which opening up to Latin America has become a matter of course for many raise questions: this is explicitly a continuation of the Porto Alegre movement and is based on links with one of the internal factions within the PSOL, the MES. That a section of a Brazilian political party supports the Ukrainian resistance is obviously not open to criticism, quite the contrary; that in 2026, we are pretending to discover that there are trade union and political forces in Latin America, and particularly in Brazil, which hold these positions is annoying: this has existed for four years; and not only in terms of positions but also in terms of related practices.

- Within the French committee of RESU, and more broadly within RESU itself, we have had the opportunity on several occasions to explain the joint work we have been carrying out through the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles with our comrades from the Central Sindical e Popular Conlutas.

- Since 2022, these comrades have taken part in three trade union convoys to Ukraine, both in terms of people travelling there and in terms of financial and material solidarity.

- CSP Conlutas organised a campaign for water launched by the KVPU miners' union in Kryvyi Rih. This campaign was launched at the last CSP-Conlutas congress in 2023 and continued with actions in São José dos Campos, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Mariana, São João del Rey and São Paulo, attended by a representative of the miners' union.

- They invited representatives from Ukrainian trade unions to their congresses, where they spoke before an audience of 3,000 people.

- CSP-Conlutas organised a campaign in Brazil for the release of two social movement activists, Denys Matsola and Vladyslav Zhuravlev, who were taken prisoner of war at the start of the large-scale invasion in 2022 in Mariupol.

- Since the start of the large-scale Russian invasion in 2022, CSP-Conlutas has regularly taken part in the monthly demonstrations organised by the Ukrainian community in São Paulo.

- Furthermore, comrades from CSP Conlutas have organised several local activities: talks during the start-of-term events at several universities, debates within trade unions and the popular movement, as well as online activities with activists in Ukraine.

In short, since 2022 we have known that there are 'non-campist' forces in Latin America, and particularly in Brazil, who have been taking action for the past four years; surely the least we can do is to prioritise building on their work? This would be a source of effectiveness, though certainly without claiming to resolve the question of '*building a mass movement*' through this means alone; it would be a sign of a shared determination to continue building internationalist solidarity with the Ukrainian resistance together.

The recent article by Alfons Bech, trade union coordinator at ENSU, is also highlighted as opening up prospects for a future we can build together. What is the conclusion of this article? It is this: « *Porto Alegre has shown that it is possible to come together and fight side by side. The Fourth International, the MES-PSOL, the LIS, the PSTU-LITCI, the UIT-CI, Democracia Socialista de Puerto Rico, La Aurora... as well as other political organisations and revolutionary journals are united in their support for Ukraine. Most of them took part in Porto Alegre. Would they agree to work together to organise an anti-fascist conference in Europe centred on common ground, where the struggle against all forms of imperialism, the freedom of peoples and the united front of the working class would serve as the common reference point?* ' As far as we are concerned, if we participate in ENSU/RESU, it is to build and/or amplify actions of solidarity with the Ukrainian resistance (and Russian dissidents opposed to the war, the trade union forces of Belarus in exile, etc.). Hence our confirmed decision not to participate in discussions regarding initiatives that do not fit

within this framework. What constitutes an initiative that does not fit within this framework? It is, for example:

- an initiative whose call to action mentions neither Ukraine nor Russia,
- an initiative whose organisers confirm that these words and topics are deliberately omitted in order to win over certain organisations,
- an initiative that does not include any plenary session dedicated to Ukraine or Russia,
- an initiative whose final text mentions neither Ukraine nor Russia.

That said, it goes without saying that every member of the ENSU and every member of the French RESU committee is entirely free to participate without this interfering with ENSU/RESU activities and meetings.

That said, given that this meeting continues to be discussed in the meetings and discussions of RESU and its French committee, it should be added that, with hindsight, the presence at the conference of an agent of influence from the Islamic Republic of Iran—whose flag adorned a podium—and the applause received for his speech, even while this dictatorial regime had just murdered more than 30,000 Iranians, revealed the specific political ‘limits’ of the anti-imperialist and anti-fascist struggle that the organisers had set out – limits to which, moreover, Russia, in their view, was in no way subject, since it was not mentioned anywhere in the various statements.



This stands in complete contradiction to support for workers, women, and all those who, both at home and in exile, have been fighting against this regime for years. It is unacceptable to the comrades of Socialist solidarity with the workers in Iran, for example; it runs counter to the work carried out within the inter-union movement, both in France and internationally.

Returning to the European Solidarity Network with Ukraine and its French committee, we believe it would be beneficial for activities to refocus on direct solidarity actions—both those already undertaken and those yet to be carried out—at national, local and sectoral levels:

- by continuing to organise specific campaigns;
- by continuing to organise or co-organise events to raise awareness of the Ukrainian resistance (publications, debates, films, etc.);
- by supporting other campaigns or initiatives (by other groups, the inter-union alliance, etc.).

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