

# Minutes from the first 2019 strategy meeting in Basel

## Saturday Afternoon: Plenary

### Questions

- \* What are perimeters for escalation strategy?
- \* Is it realistic to plan out and coordinate across Europe? Or is national decision making better?
- \* How many groups that are here have already idea of 2020/ talked about/ planned?
- \* How does our plan of escalation fits to the situation action groups find themselves in at the moment – and the other way around?
- \* How and when do we know that we are achieving massive disruption?
- \* Need to be thousands doing autonomous actions, not just demos? How to get them?
- \* What comes after 2020? what comes after „winning“ - how to proceed?
- \* What level of disruption is needed?
- \* What radicality does disruption have? How do we imagine?
- \* How can outside Europe groups join, connect, contribute? Is there space to add?
- \* What story do we tell? How do we tell it to get people?
- \* Disobedience necessary?
- \* What about repression and counter-mobi?
- \* How to relate to other groups actions? (including Social Media)
- \* Can we use the right-wing climate change denial to stick together with antifascist groups?

### What are we talking about when we're talking about strategy?

- \* Make clear what escalation means
- \* Talking about targets – do we want to move from targeting symbols to targeting a range of different infrastructure
- \* actions and demands
- \* if you don't agree about a single action, you don't have to – just by using the same channel it gives power
- \* can we live with different frameworks/ideological background (for instance are faith groups welcome? )

### Spectrum line: How prepared are groups feeling to rise up by September 2019?

- \* looks like most are more or less ready to kick off in September.  
statements „our plans are ready but our capacities are not“(from Spain), „there is a bunch of groups – the question is how much do they want to be part“, „Ende Gelände already has capacities but isn't working on frame work“, „escalation is already happening, in Switzerland definitely in October and January“, „stay grounded wants to contribute their actions for the coming year to 2020, we are in the time plan“, „in the Netherlands we are already working on mass protest in September anyway“, „XR Switzerland is declaring a rebellion in two weeks and we were rising in numbers super fast, so we are prepared“

## Saturday Afternoon: Working Groups

### Demands and Outcome

#### Demands:

- \* Fossil fuel demands? Ban on any new projects and/or expansion of existing projects. Extraction transportation or combustion of fossil fuels. => Next steps would be phase out.
- \* Free public transport.
- \* Regulation of the financial industry to deny fossil fuel vote.
- \* Local, regional, and national levels.
- \* How do we reclaim the financial narrative?
- \* Challenging exploitative systems and lifestyles?
- \* No By2020-demands. Leave it to groups to develop specifics, shared together on a platform. Use the shared space to collect demands (by whom by which deadline?)

#### Outcome:

- \* **Define success about rising up, not what we change!**
- \* Could there be shared /interconnected outcomes as a result of our plurality of demands?
- \* After the kickoff, there will be a noticeable response from the authorities.
- \* Popular public support as a measure? To radically measure the economy?
- \* Cancellation of fossil fuel projects.
- \* Making sure the system is changing fast enough through many faced escalation (more actions, alliances, targets)

### Intersectionality

- \* **common enemies** / false solutions(corporations? Politicians?)
- \* how to not act on someone's behalf?
- \* Going to other struggles actions/supporting them in their cause
- \* starting to work on a common frame => **narrative glue**
- \* **meet people where they're at!**
- \* Which societal groups are missing from the movement? => try to include them!
- \* Practical reaching out and building relationships (go drink a coffee)
- \* clear mission statements / following examples

### Escalation

#### Escalation before the 27<sup>th</sup>:

- \* To make escalation a reality and build up capacities for action, you could plan for at least one action of civil disobedience before September (for countries where civil disobedience never happens)  
Info: students in Switzerland (at least) want to go for civil disobedience; they're bored with demonstrations.
- \* Escalation is happening: we need to make it clearer among ourselves that we are escalating. This way, we'll empower ourselves, get to believe we can do this
- \* Civil disobedience is important but is not the only tool, so there's a need for coordination; escalation can be coordinating actions

## On the question of the 27<sup>th</sup> as a date to organize around (round of inputs):

- \* 27<sup>th</sup>: school strike by FfF, earth strike, other strikes planned: escalation through numbers!  
For the 27<sup>th</sup>, already serious discussions with trade unions to legalize the strikes (to avoid people getting fired, even if not finance them): Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden
- \* Best way to ensure the system collapses is to make a general strike happen
- \* 27<sup>th</sup> shouldn't be the day when everything happens/ let's not focus too much on trade unions. Go for a week of action rather? Symbolic civil disobedience to be clear that it's not anymore only demonstrations.
- \* 27<sup>th</sup> is actually great! By2020 is about linking up.

## How do we see that escalation is happening ?

- \* in numbers; ex with the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 27<sup>th</sup> of September
- \* big dates during which everything comes to a halt
- \* with a drastic increase in communication between our networks! Need to make it visible to ourselves that this escalation is already happening! And even more when things will start to come together. Action map + twitter.
- \* more coordination between different actions

## How can escalation happen ?

5 Ende Gelände type of actions in a year is not enough; need other tactics, but also more strength. However, a revolution would mean armies would be sent in; what is needed is huge political pressure to force the system to change.

### *Different ways to secure escalation:*

- \* increase number of actions
- \* build new alliances
- \* get more strategic in terms of targets

### *Tools:*

- \* knowing national and regional contexts, being strategic in terms of targets to be taken on by activist groups and which that the general population can rally behind, diversity of tactics as fundamental to attract as many people as possible
- \* knowing how to make your national system listen and give in by choosing the right tactics, but also knowing how your national/regional context influences the system as a whole.
- \* explaining the world we are fighting for will be key to get more people to join.
- \* find a balance between effectiveness of actions (as in directly blocking the system) and how much they can attract new people (music, dance, formats that can attract the more general public)

### *What does escalation mean?*

- \* not calling on bringing everything down but to disrupt in a way, that system has to change fast
- \* escalation can be scaling up actions, being more strategic, building alliances – depending on regional context
- \* how do we see escalation? - numbers, communicate more (also among ourselves)
- \* do we want to escalate in radicality with small groups or in numbers?
- \* Do we want to react short term onto ongoing happenings or do we want to plan long-term onto a date?

## **Sunday Morning: Timeline Discussion**

- \* Between April and May
  - we organize regional strategy meetings in order to
    - evaluate and develop action plans and capacity (regional timeline, type of action etc)
    - decide delegates and mandates for Vienna
    - consolidate commitments with regional partners
    - *decide* what to do from September on out
  - Outreach-Team will try to get in touch with XR, Earth Strike and Fridays for Future
  - Through monthly calls, we will collect proposals for the autumn and narrow them down to a coherent kick-off.
- \* In May, in Vienna, we:
  - decide on how to set (common) dates with XR, FFF, etc.
  - present regional proposals (also, international proposals like Oct 17-18 European Council meeting)
  - decide on communication strategy and press work (including social media)
  - do a civil disobedience training
  - decide on the kick-off in September: how does it look like & how does it relate to what is coming up
  - vote logo? (maybe this could happen before May?)
- \* Early September, we gather to finalize our discussions on:
  - clear picture of how disruption works throughout (also, communications here)
  - wrap-up our plans to get going
  - and also discuss how to react to reaction (criminalisation etc.)
- \* The kick-off will take place late September, and for many groups it will be Sep 27th, The Earth Strike.

## **Sunday Morning: Outreach Working Group**

- \* Next steps:
  - Key moments : April and May. Lots of outreach work needs to be done during these two months.
  - First call with working group around 8-10<sup>th</sup> of April
  - New members of the working group are up for “coaching” sessions, one-to-one calls.
  - Who can we go and coach directly, not online ?
  - How do we share the “coaching” work, who is up for it ?
- \* Need to map which regions are covered; after one-to-one calls or first working group call.
- \* Ideas:

looking into leftist festivals, use them to network. Also use alternative shops/  
bookstores etc. in cities you visit : look them up online beforehand.

starting doing some work in Latin America, however there will be a lag of a few months. September will be a really good opportunity to feedback on how far things got in Latin America.

## **Sunday Afternoon: Brainstorming**

- \* common elements needed: targets, tactics, action-forms (e.g. companies' Annual General Meetings from March to May)
- \* Rough timeline:
  - 27. September: Earth Strike, Fridays for Future
  - 18./19. October. European Meeting
  - 21. January: Davos
  - March-May: AGM's (May: Shell)
- \* What do we do in between big dates?
- \* Don't restrict ourselves to pragmatic proposals, let's keep thinking about what needs to be done
- \* Analyze region, targets and allies => coordinate and mobilize
- \* Do we want quick responses to events or do we want to plan long-term?
- \* Is civil disobedience the only way?
- \* Do we need civil disobedience to sabotage the system?
- \* By2020-press work
  - neither capacities nor legitimacy for European press work
    - => How is press work dealt with if we don't have a representative orga-team?
  - Proposals for press work? Core-messages? (to be discussed in Vienna)

