



CIRCULAR GEN 7 2014

To all PSI affiliates
To all EB/SC/WOC members

Cc PSI Regional Secretaries for information

File Reference: RP/PCH/Washington Trade Summit
Contact Name: Daniel Bertossa Daniel.bertossa@world-psi.org

24 July 2014

Dear Colleagues,

**Invitation to PSI Global Trade Summit
Washington DC, 16-17 September 2014**

I am writing to invite you to PSI's Global Trade Summit taking place in Washington DC on 16-17 September 2014. I attach a draft programme for your information.

This trade summit, held in partnership with PSI affiliate the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), will bring together leaders of public services unions from around the world to discuss the threats posed to public services, democracy and workers by the new wave of aggressive trade and investment agreements.

PSI's Executive Board EB-146, which met on 24-25 June, discussed the threats posed by trade agreements such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) and endorsed an ambitious action plan. The Global Trade Summit is the first action from that plan and I will be writing to you in the future about the remainder.

The Summit will feature expert presentations and strategic discussions on the role played by multinational corporations in the new trade agenda, examine the results of 30 years of liberalisation and look for alternatives to the rigged system being aggressively promoted.

It will examine the way these agreements promote privatisation, undermine the sovereign rights of parliaments, elections and courts, include the controversial investor rights clauses and threaten public services such as health, water, energy, social services and other sectors.

It will be an opportunity for the leadership of the world's public sector unions to exchange information. Importantly, it will ask what needs to be done to create a fair and just system of trade for all.

With the participation of public sector union leaders from every continent, the summit will be a global event. It will be convened by myself and David Prentis, President of PSI and General Secretary of UNISON. IBT President James Hoffa will welcome participants from across the globe, including presidents and general secretaries of public sector unions from Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Arab countries, Europe and the Inter-Americas.

The second day will be devoted to lobbying the US Congress and speaking to the press.

As a working meeting, the summit has only a limited number of places. It will take place in English and Spanish. Because visa procedures can be lengthy, participants are advised to register quickly and to start visa application as soon as possible, as well as completing the ESTA registration procedure (see <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta>).

In general, participants will be expected to cover their own expenses. There are four union hotels within convenient walking distance to the IBT Headquarters:

- Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill <http://washingtonregency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>
- Liaison Capitol Hill <http://www.affinia.com/liaison>
- Washington Court <http://washingtoncourthotel.com/>
- Phoenix Park <http://www.phoenixparkhotel.com/>

To register for this event please return the attached registration form by 15th August to Pauline Chase at pauline.chase@world-psi.org.

For further information please contact Daniel Bertossa on Daniel.bertossa@world-psi.org.

We look forward to seeing you at this historic summit.

Yours in solidarity

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Rosa Pavanelli
PSI General Secretary

Enclosed:

- Draft programme dated 22 July
- Registration form