Defender 2020-No to War

» Join the protest against NATO's war games «

Defender 2020 - NATO's war maneuver against Russia

"Defender 2020" is one of the biggest war maneuvers since the end of the Cold War.

7,000 soldiers pius 7,000 con la onal Guardsmen are involved. The biggest transatlantic deployment of troops for 25 years, 20,000 US soldiers and their war materials are being brought across the Atlantic to Europe in one fell swoop.

28,000 of the 37,000 are Gls. 20,000 are from the USA, 8,000 are already in Europe and another 9,000 are from 16 NATO countries and also from Finland and Georgia. A total of 18 countries are involved altogether. The Bundeswehr is participating in the Defender-Europe 20 exercise with up to 4,000 soldiers. This means that Germany provides the second largest troop contingent.

The exercise is a war maneuver of the US Army, which is centrally controlled from the US Army Headquarters Europe in Wiesbaden (www.eur.army. mil). The new Joint Support and Enabling Command of NATO in Ulm, which is currently being set up, EUCOM in Stuttgart and the US Air Base in Ramstein are also involved. The various contingents involved come primarily from the NATO states and so it can be spoken of as a NATO maneuver. The 16 participating NATO members are: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Estonia, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, USA.

In NATO's propaganda for Defender 20, the United States is referred to as playing a central role in NATO policy, in an attempt to show that this war alliance is still functioning - at least as an instrument of deployment against Russia.

Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and especially Germany, are the central areas for the maneuver as it pushes towards the borders of the Russian

7,000 soldiers plus 7,000 US Nati- Transfers by air to airports in Berlin, possibly Bremen, Hamburg, Cologne/ Bonn, Frankfurt a.M., Munich, Nuremberg and Ramstein are also planned.

> Internationally, seaports in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany and the inland ports of Bremen, Duisburg and Krefeld will play a major role in the transfer of materials.

Transport by road is planned along a west-east axis via Düsseldorf-Hannover-Magdeburg - Frankfurt in the north and via Düsseldorf - Mannheim - Nuremberg - Dresden - Görlitz in the south. A north-south transport route is intended to go through Bremerhaven -Hanover - Frankfurt - Mannheim.

Rest areas along the journey are planned in military centres in Rheindahlen, Augustdorf, Burg, Lehnin, Oberlausitz, Garlstedt, Stadtallendorf and Frankenberg (Saxony) and also other US installations in Germany.

Within Germany, the Bundeswehr is providing support within the framework of the Host Nation Support agreement and this will therefore be based on the requirements of the US. The German Armed Forces Base provides up to 1,500 soldiers for Defender 20 support services alone and which, according to current planning, will be provided at 13 locations. These include the establishment and operation of three Convoy Support Centers in Garlstedt, Burg and Upper Lusatia, as well as the construction of a tank facility at the Bergen Military Training Area.

Central relocations are being carried out with Deutsche Bahn, which gives military transport priority over civil traffic. Chaos and confusion, traffic jams on motorways and disruption on railway lines are inevitable.

In addition, there are also maneuvers Pacific will take place and light ones in

in Lithuania and Latvia and a transfer of troops from there to Germany and Poland. Altogether there are supposed to be seven different, networked and interlocking war maneuvers.

The military education and training is also international. Soldiers from Denmark and Italy are coming to Bergen in addition to the German and US soldiers. Other soldiers from Poland, Lithuania and Germany are in Grafenwöhr. Polish and Baltic soldiers train together with Germans at the Russian western border.

The biggest war exercise takes place in the immediate vicinity of the Russian and Belarusian borders: "Saber Strike" in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland with 18,000 soldiers from 19 countries. In addition, there is, "Astral Knight", an exercise of the US Air Force, which includes air and missile defenses at various locations. F-35 stealth bombers and B-52 long-range bombers are also taking part in this exercise.

The size and location of the maneuvers is a provocation to Russia and carries the risk of a possible direct confrontation between NATO and Russian military formations.

Also, the timing was not chosen at random. The maneuvers will include the 75th anniversary of the final liberation of Europe and especially Germany from fascism, mainly by the soldiers of the Red Army. Marking a historically forgotten date with a nod to a former ally who carried the main burden of the liberation of Europe from fascist tyranny, with more than 27 million dead.

This large-scale maneuver, this provocation, against Russia is to be repeated every two years. In the years between, large-scale maneuvers in the



Kienitz Gedenkfeier | © Bernd Mewes

Europe. Here, too, the thrust is clear. While across the continent there is concern and discussion about containing life-threatening environmental destruction, the largest destroyer of the environment, the military, is practicing its rituals unimpressed.

These maneuvers are also part of the comprehensive militarization of societies in Europe. The population becoming more accustomed to war and war preparations.

Protest and resistance are necessary, and they are being prepared by the peace movement in many communities and places along the route. Education and vigils, demonstrations and actions of civil disobedience will form a unity of resistance against this aggressive warmongering policy.

Kristine Karch, Reiner Braun & Lucas Wirl, steering committee international network "No to war - no to NATO"

Defender 2020:

An Exercise in (European) **Military Mobility**

pean Parliament. There he was one of many to be questioned about Defender 2020, a military exercise that aims to deploy 20,000 troops directly from the United States throughout the European continent to Russia's borders (with an overall number of 37.000 soldiers participating). Stoltenberg claimed that "the exercise is important, because it will show the ability of the United States to support and to protect Europe if needed [...] by sending a clear message to any potential adversary."

This "peace through strength "rhetoric is as old as it is dangerous, because it further increases the tensions between Russia and the West. The maneuver also contributes to the further militarization of the European Union – it is meant to be the first huge stress test for the "Military Mobility" which seeks to guarantee the rapid movement of troops on the European continent.

NATO's strategy vis-à-vis Russia rests on the ability to deploy a large

n January 21, 2020 NATO number of troops to its eastern frontier. Secretary General Jens Stol- Yet the United States has repeatedly tenberg appeared before the argued that the European infrastruc-Foreign Affairs Committee of the Euro- ture and logistics are unable to ensure the rapid deployment of troops. Therefore, this theme has become one of the focal points of the recently intensified cooperation between NATO and the European Union.

In a Factsheet on "Military Mobility", the "European Parliamentary Research Service" writes: "Currently, training and the movement of military assets across the continent is severely hampered by the lack of appropriate infrastructure and cumbersome customs procedures. This strategic weakness in European defence cooperation is being addressed by means of action on military mobility: an action plan by the European Commission, a project and commitment under permanent structured cooperation, and a key action for EU-NATO cooperation. Military mobility is meant to ensure the seamless movement of military equipment

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Demonstration against the Munich Security Conference 2020 © Helmut Käss

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more information:

www.no-to-nato.org/defender-2020

Defender 2020: An Exercise in (European) Military Mobility

» continued from page 1

across the EU by reducing physical, legal and regulatory obstacles."

In its "Action Plan on Military Mobility", published in March 2018, the Commission pledged to "identify the parts of the trans-European transport network suitable for military transport, including necessary upgrades of existing infrastructure (e.g. the height or the weight capacity of bridges)." It further envisioned "additional financial support for these projects in the next multiannual financial framework."

In the same month, the first projects of the "Permanent Structured Cooperation" (PESCO) were launched - among them is the "Military Mobility" project, led by Germany and the Netherlands. According to the EU's program description, it "aims to enhance the speed of movement of military forces across Europe." Another PESCO project that is also under German leadership is the "Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operations", which is, according to

logistic planning and movement as well as to deliver common standards and procedures, that will greatly improve the EU's and NATO's capability to conduct even the most demanding missions."

In line with the "Action Plan on Military Mobility", the Commission proposed that 6,5 bn Euros be specifically dedicated to "Military Mobility" in the next EU Financial Framework (2021-2027), while simultaneously proposing a slight decrease to civilian infrastructure budgets.

It is this context, in which Defender 2020 shall play a vital role, as Heather Conley, director of the Europe Program at the "Center for Strategic and International Studies", pointed out, when she said the exercise will "help identify the 'bugs' in the European commercial logistics networks, which range from space to commercial rail systems to Chinese port control of select European ports."

Therefore, a major goal of Defender

the same source, "expected to enhance 2020 is to "improve" – read: militarize - Europe's civilian transport infrastructure as a key element in a New Cold War that nobody will win, if it ever turns hot.

> Özlem Alev Demirel, MEP GUE/NGL





Demonstration against the Munich Security Conference 2020 © Kristine Karch

Governments make war exercises, workers strike to stop war business

A mobilization started at the port of Genoa by the harbour workers has stopped the loading of war materials heading to Saudi Arabia and destined for the war in Yemen. Similar struggles have been held in other European ports.

These international strikes are one of the most concrete and effective actions against the European war industry and militarization.

Gregorio Piccin, Rifondazione Comunista - European Left, Italy It is obvious that Russian generals are thinking over options for defense in such an environment and adjusting their future actions in case of military aggression against them. Unfortunately, the situation in the sphere of international security is getting worse. The risk of a largescale war is increasing. However, not everyone understands the consequences. The patience of nuclear Russia was enough for German politicians. Let's hope that this patience will be enough for all countries.

Lukas Ramonas, author of the Baltic Word, Latvia



I am an active supporter of your anti-NATO position. I am strongly against military exercise Defender Europe 20 in Latvia and in any other country. To make my position loud I sent an open letter to Latvian Media, which was published www.change.org/p/latvianministry-of-defence-we-are-against-theexpansion-of-the-meža-matskevichimilitary-training-ground-in-latvia

Alvis Petus, Latvia



Participation in Defender 2020 means NATO states defend the right of US-American forces to contaminate drinking water, groundwater, rivers, soil, and air throughout the continent. The Status of Forces Agreements between the US and European states give the US this right. It is the duty of people who love the planet to resist such authoritarian foolishness.

Pat Elder. World BEYOND War, USA



Anti Defender Action in front of the Berlinale 2020 | © Elke Zwinge

Geo-strategic impact of Defender 2020

Let's be clear: Defender 2020 (DEF20) is not about defense it all about war and mobilization for war - on an global scale.

¬he stated goal of Defender is to simulate a confrontation with an (near-peer adversary) and to demons- gerous but thankfully over and fortrate the ability of the USA to "project" gotten in a year's time. No, in future United States' appreciation for multithe Pacific as we will see later on. In other words, Defender is about Russia and China

With regard to the concrete steps taken within the framework of DEF20, in addition to the transport logistics, it is also explicitly about cross-border combat and combat preparation, as can be seen from the task description for the Bundeswehr which was sent to the leaders in the Defense Committee in the German parliament: "Combat, combat support and leadership - in Germany, Poland and Lithuania", are explicitly mentioned there as priority areas for the participation of the armed forces. It is therefore not surprising that the enhanced forward presence (eFP) battlegroup, currently led by German soldiers, in Lithuania is an integral part of this mobilization.

The new NATO command center in JSEC (Joint Support and Enabling Command), situated in Southern Germany (Ulm), is included in the large maneuver of the Combined Defender exercise. It can be assumed that the JSEC will practice what will be its central role in NATO in the future: the coordination of transatlantic mobilization against Russia. In addition, the European Command of the US Armed Forces (EUCOM) in Stuttgart-Vaihingen is expected to take on important tasks.

Unfortunately, Defender 2020 is not almost equally strong opponent a one-time event that would be danpower" across the Atlantic and across the Defender exercise will be repeated every year – not only as a transatlantic maneuver, but also in parallel in the Pacific region. The maneuvers are scheduled take place every year as heavy and light maneuvers. While the 2020 maneuver in the Pacific will only be a so-called light maneuver, the transatlantic maneuver will be extensive. In 2021 the Pacific maneuver will be the heavyweight one and Europe will be host to the Light version of the exercise.

> The maneuver is to break new ground on many levels, and a space component is also to be integrated into the joint exercise by the US and NATO forces. According to the U.S. military they are planning to deploy a first prototype of the TITAN (Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node) during the multinational Defender-Europe 20 maneuvers. This technology relies on numerous sensors and uses artificial intelligence to manage the multitude of data collected. Among other things, it should be possible to discover hidden enemy targets. Titan is said to enable soldiers to exercise command of missions in a complex, multi-domain battlefield. In addition, other technological approaches such as machine learning, robotic systems or sound weapons will be tested.

> The political and ecological impact of the Series of Defender exercises will

be tremendous. Nevertheless, European governments cooperate willingly and eagerly. For the German government, DEF20 only underlines "the national cooperation" and the "clear commitment" of the United States to "Europe's security". It can be doubted whether such saber rattling really brings more security - on the contrary, there are fears that such maneuvers will increase the risk of war in Europe and in the Pacific region. That is why it is necessary to prepare decentralized, nationwide and European campaigns by the peace movement and hopefully numerous allies.





Poland is one of the main countries supporting defender 2020. Many exercises are on our soil. More than 2000 soldiers will be part of the training. The maneuver destroys the environment and it is expensive. We want a Poland of peace. We will protest against the militarization of our country.

Pjotr Ikonowicz, Poland



The manoeuvre represents a provocation to all those fighting for peace and against the consequences of climate change. There must be an end to the blind transatlantic entourage leading to ruin.

Torsten Schleip, Bundessprecher Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft – Vereinigte KriegsgegnerInnen(DFG-VK)



No to Defender

"Europe Defender 2020" is a huge maneuver with 37.000 soldiers including 20.000 soldiers from the US, the biggest deployment of *US forces since the end of the Cold War.*



France and NATO: Macron's smokescreen continues

Since the French President declared that NATO is "brain dead", NATO has not been an issue in France, be it in official speeches or in the press. We only learn from US sources and NATO information that the French army will participate in Defender 2020. As a peace movement, we are the only ones to inform the French public. What is the meaning of French participation? Which troops will take part and what role will they play? Enough lies and information withheld! France has no business with an aggressive NATO! Get out of NATO! Dissolution of NATO!

Alain Rouy, Mouvement de la Paix, France / Collectif français NON à l'OTAN

Call to Citizens of NATO Countries, **EU** and Russia

We are part of the SICK planet Earth. We do not have planet B! We need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but not to increase it during military games! NATO exercises on the border of Russia are a danger with unpredictable consequences for the region with nuclear weapons. An accidental mistake by one of the parties in the region may launch Armageddon. The politicians of NATO and Russia are trying to make us enemies 75 years after the Second World War. We are Friends, not Enemies!

Oleg Bodrov, physicist, ecologist, Chairman of the Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland, Russia

lthough Defender began at the end of January, the main events happen in April and May. NATO troops from 18 countries will be involved. The maneuver is a huge military exercise in order to strengthen the readiness of NATO troops and it is justified by the alleged aggressive policy of Russia. With this maneuver, NATO wants to demonstrate its military force. It's obviously directed against Russia, even if the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg denies it. "Defender" is a part of NATO's dangerous expansion strategy towards the East. It's quite the opposite of what is needed. Instead of reducing the political tensions, this exercise is aggravating the conflicts we are already facing. Furthermore, from an ecological point of view this maneuver has to be condemned. It heavily damages the environment and undermines all the efforts to reduce the CO₂ emissions which are necessary for combatting climate change.

The timing of "Defender" in April and May is itself a provocation. The 8th of May will be the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Germany and Europe from fascism. This was decisively achieved by the Red Army and the sacrifice of millions of Russian soldiers and civilians. Ideologically "Defender" Europe. The European Left reaffirms

is a part of the current attempt to distort history and deny the important and decisive contribution of Russia, i.e. the former Soviet Union.

"Europe Defender 2020" is not defending Europe. On the contrary. It seems to be more a preparation for war and not a contribution for peace as it is proclaimed. Defender, which will be the biggest maneuver in 25 years, and is a political disaster; we don't need more military exercises but rather a new initiative for disarmament and peace to overcome the current situation, which is characterized by growing military conflicts worldwide. The European Left definitively condemns this maneuver as an aggressive act which will increase political tensions instead of reducing them.

The unconditional commitment to peace and disarmament is one of the quintessential elements of the politics of the Left. We strongly support all the activities against this war-maneuver, and we call for a broad manifestation to reject it. It's time for a strong peace movement. We need an alliance as broad as possible. The European Left demands a stop to the arms race immediately, opposes the increase in military spending and supports all cultural and civic cooperation leading to peace in

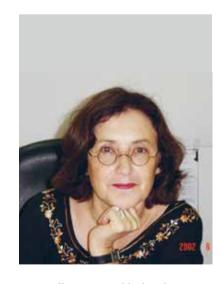
its opposition to permanent structured cooperation (PESCO). We request a initiative for a new policy of détente. NATO is not an organization defending the interests of the Europeans. We don't share Macron's politics, but he is right when he calls NATO "brain dead". The NATO strategy doesn't correspond to the actual requirements for peace and sustainable development, but is instead dangerous. We are convinced that we need a new collective security system, which also includes Russia.

Heinz Bierbaum, President European Left



» Actions of civil disobedience against Defender 2020 are needed & important. I call on international peace movements to act.«

MAIREAD MAGUIRE



It is totally unacceptable that the world's resources, natural, financial $and \, intellectual, are \, being \, misused$ for military purposes. The military actually makes us less safe, by the enormous greenhouse gas emissions, the radiation and pollution. We cannot allow the military to be an exception to international climate agreements. we must move the money to tackle the real security issues such as the threat to the very survival of humanity and the planet, be it by climate change, environmental degradation, excessive inequality or nuclear weapons.

Ingeborg Breines, Norway



NATO, which should have been disbanded when the Warsaw Pact was dissolved, continues to carry out wars and organize maneuvers in many countries, pushing towards the borders of Russia and resurrecting a new "Cold War". I believe that NATO should be disbanded and should be made accountable and make restitutions to the millions of people. Actions of civil disobedience against Defender 2020 are needed and important. I call on international peace movements to act.

Mairead Maguire, Novel Peace Prize Laureate, Ireland



99.9 per cent of citizens of the US have no clue that the new "Cold War" against Russia is manifesting in the largest U.S. military war practice in Europe than in more than 25 years. many in the U.S. will question why the U.S. is having provocative actions against Russia such as these big war games on their border when U.S. President Donald Trump seems to be such a good friend with Russian President Putin. This question brings into the focus the need of the U.S. bureaucracy to have an enemy in order to justify its huge \$680 billion military budget.

Ann Wright, IPB, Veterans for Peace, USA



There is almost no information about US Defender Europe 20 in the Finnish media. According to the Ministry of Defence, Finland is not directly involved in the exercise. But Finland is participating in a couple of the smaller exercises included in European Defender. The most important are the "Estonian Spring Storm" and "Saber Strike" exercises. This is a clear strategy to avoid protests and open debate. Democracy is succumbed to military rule!

Ulla Klötzer, Women for Peace, Finland



Do the US and NATO want to catapult Europe back to the Cold War era? Defender 2020 is a large-scale provocative war game. They claim that this gigantic military build-up will serve our security. In reality it will increase tensions and provoke a dangerous arms race with Russia. We are in urgent need of effective mea $sures\ and\ policies\ to\ prevent\ climate$ change. Army forces are emitting greenhouse gases on a massive scale. A huge waste of money we need to stop!

Ludo De Brabander, vrede vzw, Belgium

Appeal from Leipzig: "No to NATO war maneuvers – yes to peace, détente and disarmament" (Extract)

Launched by the alliance against Defender 2020

... During transport, there will be severe restrictions on road and rail traffic along the transport routes. The Bundeswehr has agreed a priority rule with Deutsche Bahn AG for all military transports. ...

The size of the maneuver and the location along Russia's western border represent a provocation to Russia. The maneuver involves the danger of a possible direct confrontation between NATO and Russian military units. The timing was not chosen at random either: 75 years after Europe's liberation from fascism, mainly by the Red Army, German soldiers are marching again on the Russian border. With Defender 2020, the USA, Great Britain and France send a historically forgotten signal to the former ally from the anti-Hitler coalition. ...

In the "2 plus 4" treaty of 1990, the basis of German unification, it was agreed that only peace should come from German soil. ... We stand up for these goals and say resolutely: NO to NATO war maneuver Defender 2020 ...

We will demonstrate for this everywhere before and during the maneuver - non-violent but powerful. On the streets, squares and bridges, the affected train stations, in front of the military training areas - in Germany and internationally. With a vigil relay along the entire route, legal action and actions of civil disobedience - creative and diverse. ... Go with us on the streets, protest where you work and live! Peace needs movement let us start with this defENDer!

Extract Appeal from alliance in North Rhine Westphalia against Defender 2020

... All over the continent, people are demonstrating against life-threatening environmental destruction and for the containment of climate change. While young people are demanding their future, the largest environmental destroyer and climate killer, the military, continues to practice its rituals unimpressed. Preventing this oversized maneuver would be a first small step in the right direction. ...





Ja zu Frieden mit Russland, Entspannungspolitik und Abrüstung!

Support from Trade Unions

Support from ver.di organizations

The **regional executive board of ver.di North** supports the Leipzig call: "No to NATO war maneuvers – yes to peace, détente and disarmament" and demand:

- ▶ Détente policy and political conflict resolution instead of military Confrontation
- ▶ Cooperation with Russia in a common European house
- consistent disarmament and redistribution of the funds released

The **district executive of ver.di Stuttgart** decided to support the Leipzig declaration "No to NATO war maneuvers – yes to peace, détente and disarmament" against Defender 2020.

Extract Appeal DGB Nord

... On the one hand, the maneuver is intended to test the transfer of large combat-strong units from the USA ... to NATO's eastern flank, and on the other hand to demonstrate NATO's military superiority.

From the point of view of the trade unions, instead of this confrontation, a policy of détente and cooperative relations with Russia will be the order of the day. Just as in the Charter of Paris 1990 was formulated by all European states – including Russia, the USA and Canada: "The age of confrontation and division of Europe has come to an end. We declare that our relations in the future are based on respect and cooperation." ... we demand: No German participation in NATO's confrontation course against Russia. ...

Extract Appeal EVG Berlin

The declared aim is to ... "test strategic readiness and reinforcement" - i.e. the smooth transport of troops and weapons to Russia's western border.

The EVG in Berlin is against this major maneuver, which other countries might interpret as preparation for war. We fear ... a new spiral of armament. ... we are also against the planned increase in the arms budget. The EVG Berlin therefore demands that German participation in this maneuver be stopped.



With 20,000 US troops coming over for these massive war games, this is the US's largest deployment to Europe in over 25 years. With 19 states involved totaling 37,000 troops, this is an extraordinary provocation. We must mobilise to oppose it – and raise public awareness of the dangers it presents.

Kate Hudson, CND, UK

Excerpt of the Rostock Extinction Rebellion's declaration

... For us, the connection between a peaceful system and successful measures against climate change is obvious. In addition, the maintenance and training of the military in times of peace is an immense environmental burden that has no basis of legitimacy. The military operation Defender2020 is an unreasonable burden on ecosystems that are already vulnerable...

Actions and Schedules

March and April regional actions for information, vigils at military installations and possible blockades

21.03.	Duisburg Demonstration against Defender 2020
	and the transport through NRW and elsewhere.

10. 04. – 13.04. Over 100 Easter marches in Germany.

24. 04. - 25.04. 75th anniversary of the Day of Encounter in Torgau (regional focus Saxony-Brandenburg with

supra-regional support).

Action on the Oder-Neisse peace border.

08.05. Liberation Day (75th anniversary) Participation in local actions, among others at the EUCOM in

Stuttgart.

09.05. Victory Day supra-regional demonstration at the Bergen military training area, the tank farm from

Defender 20, DFG-VK Bicycle Tour Upper
Palatinate with US training grounds Grafenwöhr

and Hohenfels.

13.06. Actions around the "Day of the German Armed

Forces" should be under the slogan "Stop NATO maneuvers DEF 20!"



Demonstration against the Munich Security Conference 2020 | © Helmut Käss

CONTACT: