Call for international actions against the NATO Summit, Brussels, 2017

This year’s NATO summit will be US President Donald Trump’s first. It will be held in May at NATO’s brand new headquarters in Brussels, a city that hosts both NATO and the European Union - two institutions that co-operate closely on their military policies.

- NATO and its member states participate in illegal wars and military interventions, from Yugoslavia to Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Syria, the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. They contribute massively to international instability, fuelling the arms race and militarization. NATO remains committed to humanity’s biggest threat: nuclear weapons.

From summit to summit, NATO perpetuates, enforcing and extends its policy of war and domination.

And the world shows us the consequences: entire countries devastated; millions turned into refugees, facing terrible suffering and even death; environmental disaster; an increase in violent extremism and terrorism; military tension and confrontation; nuclear weapons proliferation and the increasing risk of a nuclear war.

And in response to these appalling consequences, NATO pursues even more militarism and war:

- All NATO member states are required to increase their military budgets, to 2% of GDP. At a time of economic crisis and austerity, that means stealing more money from social needs, education, justice, international development and environmental protection budgets – all of which are essential to build a more peaceful and stable world.

- NATO member states will have to spend 20% of their defence budgets on military equipment: warships, war planes, drones, bombs, technology and more. The powerful armaments lobby rubs its hands in anticipation. By fuelling the arms race, NATO makes a mockery of diplomatic mechanisms for conflict resolution.

- NATO is escalating tensions with Russia, deploying troops and weapons at its border and installing a missile defence system. All this boosts military development and prevents the construction of peaceful relations and mutually beneficial understanding.

- NATO and its member states multiply interventions outside their territory and increase their presence through worldwide partnerships and ‘coalitions of the willing’. They enlarge their economic, political and military domination, instead of investing politically and financially in the UN to achieve its goal of a peaceful, secure world.

- NATO extends its nuclear policies as a supreme ‘guarantee’ for the allies’ security, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of countries in the world are negotiating a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. In the meantime, US nuclear weapons in Europe – under the guise of NATO – are being modernised at a cost of many tens of billions of dollars.

We don’t want EU militarisation or the creation of a European superpower, as increasingly promoted by the EU leadership. Military closure of European borders is not the answer to the challenges of migration. Refugees are welcome.

NATO is the world’s most aggressive war machine. We urgently need a peace and sustainable development. We call on all peace-loving people and organisations to join the protests against the NATO Summit, in Brussels and worldwide. Let’s put pressure on our governments to invest in social welfare, not in war.

Our demand to our governments is clear: we must leave NATO and NATO must be dissolved.

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Signatories


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May 25, 2017

INVEST IN PEACE, NOT IN WAR!

NATO Counter Summit International Peace Conference

Brussels
On May 25th, NATO leaders will meet in Brussels for an important NATO summit and for the inauguration of the new headquarters. US president Donald Trump has announced a new sharp increase in US military spending and urges Europe to do so as well. The increase of the military budgets to the NATO target of 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will undoubtedly be one of the important topics on this summit. NATO and its member states will use the money to continue their participation in illegal wars and military interventions and to invest in non-military modernization programs. NATO is a danger to peace and security.

We resist! We don’t want more war for war! We want investments in education, health, job creation and solidarity.

We hope that this conference can contribute to our common resistance to militarization, and can serve as a platform for peace activists from all over the world to share their knowledge, thoughts, actions and ideas for strategies.

The StopNato2017 team

Stop NATO 2017

StopNato2017 is a Belgian and International peace platform that organizes the NATO Counter Summit with non violent actions, demonstrations, a conference, a peace camp and side events.

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Contact & registration

stopnato2017.org

V.L.J. De Brabander - Dok Noord 4F 203 - 9000 Gent

Program Stop NATO 2017, Brussels

09:00 Registration
09:30 Opening of the Conference
09:45 Plenary Session
   Why we need a world without NATO
   1. Wars of Nato Global Nato
      • Nils Andersson (Author, FR)
      • Jörn Jost (Spokesman for the Left in Germany)
   2. NATO, EU militarisation, confrontation with Russia.
      • Ole Steingrimsfjord (Spokesman for the Left in Norway)
      • Richard Stursberg (Spokesman for the Left in Norway)
   3. NATO, Military spending & Arms Industry
      • A Political Economy of the New Cold War
      • Kim Van Der Pauw (De Groot is Dead)
   4. Nuclear arms & UN Treaty to ban nuclear arms
      • Arielle Denis (ICAN, FR)
      • Nato and ‘The war on terror’
      • Max Saleem (Stop the War Coalition, UK)
11:15 Break
11:30 Workshops I
   A.1. NATO Enlargement
      • Introduction: Marko Milecić (Movement for the neutrality of Montenegro, NO)
      • Comments: Joe Lombardo (UNHAC, US)
      • Moderator: Claudine Pâlet (CSO, BE)
   B.1. EU-NATO relations
      • Introduction: Reiner Braun (IPB – DE)
      • Comments: Christian Piarier (CFP, FR)
      • Moderator: Nikolai Bórdás-Feltrany (CANP, FR)
   C.1. NATO, economic interests, arms industry, arms trade
      • Introduction: Lucampaoy (GRIP, BE)
      • Comments: Eric Bruno (COT, FR)
      • Moderator: Bram Venkaten (Vredessactie, BE)
   D.1. Woman and NATO
      • Introduction: Anna Asari (Femmes et Egalité, FR)
      • Comments: Kristine Krich (No to War, No to NATO, DE)
      • Moderator: Maggi Poppe (NVB, FR)
11:30 | Special Session I: US nuclear arms in Europe: Nuclear Weapons and how to abolish them? - FLOOR: 0
   Part I: General analysis of situation – Panel
   • Lucas Witt (INES, DE), Arielle Denis (ICAN, FR)
   • Moderator: Dave Webb (CANP, FR)
11:30 | Special Session II: 2% military spending guideline: analysis and strategies in different countries - FLOOR: 1
   Part II: What does 2% mean for different countries and populations? Panel
   • Ingeborg Brekke (IPB, NO), Jordi Colvo (Center for Peace Studies, NO)
   • Moderator: Dave Webb (CANP, FR)
11:30 | Movie Session "Shadow World"
   Part II: screening of film - FLOOR: 1
14:15 | Special Session I: US nuclear arms in Europe: Nuclear Weapons and how to abolish them? - FLOOR: 0
   Part II: Strategies and actions in the countries – Panel
   • Marion Kupfer (Bücher Atombombenfeinde, DE)
   • Jean Toschi-Vinciquarti (IT), Jean Hudson (CANP, UK)
   • Moderator: Dave Webb (CANP, FR)
14:15 | Special Session II: 2% military spending guideline: analysis and strategies in different countries - FLOOR: 1
   Part II: Strategies and actions of peace movements – Panel
   • Moderator: Dave Webb (CANP, FR)
15:45 Break
16:00 Final Session:
   How to delegitimize NATO - Panel discussion with representatives of the peace movement.
   • Ann Wright (Veterans for Peace, US)
   • Chris Ninham, (Stop The War Coalition, UK)
   • Moderator: Dave Webb (CANP, FR)
17:30 Closing remarks
   Lunch