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, enforces 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 yet more militarism and war:

- 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 arms 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 allied' 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.

Signatories

A-ARPP (JOC), Attiviste de l'A4, Assemblee Diverse, Brussels, Bruxelles, Assemblee Nationale Partiariosi Italian, AURILLAC FRANCE, Belgian Coalition "Stop uranium weapons", Brussels Paritaires, Centrum voor geopolitiek Oorlog is geen Oplaging, Chayyim du monde, CHAPP, CND, Comité surveillance OTAN, Democratic World Federation, DFA, Forum Social Européen, Friedensbewegung bundesweite Koordinierung (FBB), Friedenskreis "Worried", OWM-MMM, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, Humanas for Sahy, Informationskette Militärführung (IM), Intl. International Network No to War - No to NATO, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), JOC (Jouvene Organdonat et Combatifs), JOC (Jouvene Organdonat et Combatifs), La COT, Le 1000e Singe, la Mouvement Croyant Palier, Le Mouvement de l'Objection de Conscience de Nancy (MOC-Nancy), MUFN: Le Mouvement Jouvene Communautés de France, Mouvement Christian pour la Paix, Mouvement de la Paix, Mouvement de la Paix France, No to war, no to NATO - Montenegro, NCD29, Organisateurs Contre la OTAN et la Guerre, Parli Cambrides (Wallonie - Brussels), Pax Christi (Dal Fin), Pax Christi (Dal Fin), Pax Christi France, PDA, MoveOn, 350.org, People Over Polakos, Occupy Costalhes Valley, Peace with Russia, People Contra Las Armas, Quelle Ambiance, Quimper, Rifondazione Comunista Belgium, SQ Projets Internationaux Arxi, Scientists for Peace Germany (NoWar), Shintoismo italiano belgio, Sunny Heats Play School, Translilce Kapeliten, Trident Roughshores, Union for neutrality of Montenegro, Veterans For Peace, Vrede vzw, Vredesactiviteiten, W2PEF Norway/IKF, World Without Wars and Violence, Xun Blasphere Project

May 25, 2017

INVEST IN PEACE,
NOT IN WAR!

Brussels

NATO Counter Summit International Peace Conference
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 nuclear modernization programs. NATO is a danger to peace and security.

We resist! We don’t want more money 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.

With the financial support of

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IPB
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Mouvement Chrétien Pour la Paix
No-to-War No-to-Nato Network
Transform
Vrede vzw
Vredescoalition

Location

Institut libre Marie Haps
Aarlenstraat 11
1050 Brussels
Belgium

Train: Station Luxembourg
Metro: Line 2 & 6 - stop Troon
Bus: Bus E – AUDERMHEM Herrmann-Debraux – stop Ixelles Luxembourg & Bus 34, 38, 80, 95 – stop Luxembourg

Contact & registration

Info@stopnato2017.org
www.stopnato2017.org

Program Stop NATO 2017, Brussels

0900 Registration

0930 Opening of the Conference FLOOR-1
Welcome by Noémie Regnaud (CHAPD, BE) & Kate Hudson (CND, UK)

0945 Plenary Session FLOOR-1
Why we need a world without NATO
1. Wars of Nato Global Nato
   • Nik Anderson (Author, FR)
2. NATO, EU militarization, confrontation with Russia.
   • Dong-Ju Kwon (European Policy Center for Defence & International Relations, FR)
3. NATO, Military spending & Arms Industry
   A Political Economy of the New Cold War
   • Kevin Van Der Pijl (Corresponding editor, NCP)
4. Nuclear arms & UN Treaty to ban nuclear arms
   • Arielle Domb (ICAN, FR)
5. NATO and ‘The war on terror’
   • Max Sacken (Stop the War Coalition, UK)

1115 Break

1130 Workshops I FLOOR-2

A.1. NATO Enlargement
Introduction Marko Milec (Movement for the neutrality of Montenegro, MNC), Comments: Jos Lombardo (INHAC, US)
Moderator: Claudine Pilet (CSO, BE)

B.1. EU-NATO relations
Introduction: Paul Bern (IPS – NHR)
Comments: Christian Pernel (FCP, FR)
Moderator: Nicolas Baudès-Feltrinelli (CNAPD, BE)

C.1. NATO, economic interests, arms industry, arms trade
Introduction: Luc Maupas (CRIP, BE)
Comments: Eric Bruno (CGT, FR)
Moderator: Bram Vranken (Vredescoalition, BE)

D.1. Woman and NATO
Introduction: Ana Azzoto (Renew the Integral, FR)
Comments: Kristina Karak (No to War, No to NATO, DE)
Moderator: Maggi Poppo (NVB, BE)

1130 Special Session I: US Nuclear arms in Europe: Nuclear Weapons and how to disarm them - FLOOR:0
Part I: General analysis of situation – Panel
Lucas Vrh (NES, BE), Arielle Domb (ICAN, FR), Sari Sniard (Pax, NL), Moderator: Dave Webb (CND, UK)

1130 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 Bråthen (IPS, NO), Jordi Colvi (Center for Peace Studies, Jordi Colvi, ES), Tobias Pflüger (on Greece, former EP member, DE), Moderator: Luisa De Brabandere (Vrede vzw, BE)

1130 Movie Session “Shadow World”
Part I: screening of film - FLOOR:1

1300 Lunch

1415 Workshops II FLOOR-2
A.2. NATO and Russia - Do we need Helsinki?
Introduction Wolfgang Gehrik (IPD Die Linke, DE)
Comments: Yvonne Gallichon (MVTAPF, FR)
Moderator: George Springer (Vrede vzw, BE)

B.2. NATO, militarization in the Mediterranean & the refugee crisis
Introduction: Mark Alkerman (Stop Wrapsheadland, NED)
Comments: Wolfram Almold (AF)
Moderator: Carlo Giolti (MCP, IT)

C.2. Military interventions & the peace movement
Introduction: George Berghofer (CSO, BE)
Comments: Doug Waiz (CJUW, UK)
Moderator: Río Verjová (CJUW, BE)

D.2. Media & war
Introduction: Lode Vandoost (Journalistk Vitte Morgen, BE)
Comments: Leo Gabriël (WSF, AT)
Moderator: Rashidu Artis (Le Spree, FR)

1415 Special Session I: US nuclear arms in Europe: Nuclear Weapons and how to disarm them - FLOOR:0

Part II: Strategies and campaigns in the countries – Panel
Marion Kupfer (Bündnis Atomkammern, DE), Pieter Tielkink (Vrede vzw, BE), Jean Tochli Vlasacir (IT), Kate Hudson (CND, UK), Sari Sniard (Pax, NL), Moderator: Dave Webb (CND, UK)

1415 Special Session II: 2% military spending guideline: analysis and strategies in different countries - FLOOR:1

Part II: Strategies and actions of peace movements – Panel
Ingeborg Bråthen (IPS, NO), Jordi Colvi (Center for Peace Studies, Jordi Colvi, ES), Edith Coulounier (MVTAPF, FR), Chris Nijenhuis (Stop the War Coalition, UK), Corinna Maupas (CNAPD, BE), Moderator: Luisa De Brabandere (Vrede vzw, BE)

1415 Movie Session “Shadow World” - FLOOR:1

Part II: Discussion on international arms trade and global arms industry with Andrew Feinstein (Former MP ANC, ZA), author of Shadow World.

1545 Break

1600 Final Session: FLOOR-1
How to delegitimize NATO - Panel discussion with representatives of the peace movement
Anne Wright (Veterans for Peace, US), Chris Nijenhuis (Stop the War Coalition, UK), Javier Roca-Rozas (No Left, FI), Keeser Braun (IPD, No to war, No to NATO, DE), Claudine Pilet (CSO, BE), Francis Wiart (VVT vzw, BE), Moderator: Kate Hudson (CND, UK)

1730 Closing remarks FLOOR-1
Ludo De Brabandere (Vrede vzw, BE) and Claudia Haydt (European Left, DE)

1800 Reception