

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:

- 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.

Signatories

A-APRP (GC), Activisme_be, Agir pour la Paix, Associazione Culturale Antonio Gramsci-Bruxelles, Associazione Gramsci Bruxelles, Associazione nazionale partigiani italiani, AURILLAC FRANCE, Belgian Coalition 'Stop uranium weapons', Bruxelles Panthères, Centrum voor geopolitiek: Oorlog is geen Oplossing, Citoyen du monde, CNAPD, CND, Comité Surveillance OTAN, Democratic World Federalists, DSA, Forum Social Est Européen, Friedensbewegung bundesweite Koordination* (FBK), Friedenskreis Wanfried, G3W-M3M, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, Humans for Sanity, Informationsstelle Militarisierung (IMI), intal, International Network No to War - No to NATO, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), IPB, Jeunes Organisés et Combatifs, JOC (Jeunesse Organisée et Combative), La CGT, Le 100e Singe, le Mouvement Citoyen Palestine, Le Mouvement de l'Objection de Conscience de Nancy (MOC-Nancy), MJCF- Le Mouvement Jeunes Communistes de France, Mouvement Chrétien pour la Paix, Mouvement de la Paix, Mouvement de la Paix France, No to war, no to NATO – Montenegro, NOG20, Organizaciones Contra la OTAN y la Guerra, Parti Communiste (Wallonie - Bruxelles), Pax Christi Dallas, PCF: Parti Communiste France, PDA, MoveOn, 350.Org, People Over Pollution, Occupy Coachella Valley, Peace with Russia, Poésie Contre Les Armes, Quelle Ambiance Télévision, Quinoa, Rifondazione Comunista Belgium, SCI Projets Internationaux Asbl, Scientists for Peace Germany (NatWiss), Sinistra italiana belgio, Sunny Hearts Play School, Transitie Kapellen, Trident Ploughshares, Union for neutrality of Montenegro, Veterans For Peace, Vrede vzw, Vredesactie, WILPF Norway/IKFF, World Without Wars and Violence, Xun Biosphere Project

- 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.



May 25, 2017

Brussels

INVEST IN PEACE, NOT IN WAR!

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
 Agir pour la Paix
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 Mouvement de la Paix
 Mouvement Chrétien Pour la Paix
 No-to-War No-to-Nato Network
 Transform
 Vrede vzw
 Vredesactie

Location

Institut libre Marie Haps
 Aarlenstraat 11
 1050 Brussels
 Belgium

Train: Station Luxembourg
Metro: Line 2 & 6 - stop Troon

Bus: Bus E – AUDERGHEM Herrmann-Debroux – stop Ixelles Luxembourg & Bus 34, 38, 80, 95 – stop Luxembourg

Contact & registration

Info@stopnato2017.org
 www.stopnato2017.org

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

Program Stop NATO 2017, Brussels

09:00 Registration

13:00 Lunch

09:30 Opening of the Conference FLOOR: -1

Welcome by Naima Regueras (CNAPD, BE) & Kate Hudson (CND, UK)

14:15 Workshops II FLOOR: 2

09:45 Plenary Session FLOOR: -1

Why we need a world without NATO?

1. Wars of Nato Global Nato
▲ Nils Andersson (Author, FR)
2. NATO, EU militarisation, confrontation with Russia.
▲ Djordje Kuzmanovic (Spokesman La France Insoumise for defence & international relations, FR)
3. NATO, Military spending & Arms Industry
A Political Economy of the New Cold War?
▲ Kees Van Der Pijl (Oorlog is geen Oplossing, NED)
4. Nuclear arms & UN Treaty to ban nuclear arms
▲ Arielle Denis (ICAN, FR)
5. NATO and 'The war on terror'
▲ Maz Saleem (Stop The War Coalition, UK)

A.2. NATO and Russia - Do we need Helsinki?

Introduction: Wolfgang Gehrcke (MP Die Linke, DE)
 Comments: Yves-Jean Gallas (MVTPIX, FR)
 Moderator: George Spriet (VREDE vzw, BE)

B.2. NATO, militarization in the Mediterranean & the refugee crisis

Introduction: Mark Akkerman (Stop Wapenhandel, NED)
 Comments: Wali Ahmad (AF)
 Moderator: Carla Goffi (MCP, BE)

C.2. Military interventions & the peace movement

Introduction: George Berghazan (CSO, BE)
 Comments: Doug Weir (ICBUW, UK)
 Moderator: Ria Verjaaw (ICBUW, BE)

D.2. Media & war

Introduction: Lode Vanoost (Journalist DeWereldMorgen, BE)
 Comments: Leo Gabriel (WSF, AT)
 Moderator: Rachida Aziz (Le Space, BE)

11:15 Break

11:30 Workshops I FLOOR: 2

A.1. NATO Enlargement

Introduction: Marko Milacic ((Movement for the neutrality of Montenegro, MO). Comments: Joe Lombardo (UNAC, US)
 Moderator: Claudine Pôlet (CSO, BE)

B.1. EU-NATO relations

Introduction: Reiner Braun (IPB – NiN)
 Comments: Christian Pierrel (PCOF, FR)
 Moderator: Nicolas Bárdas-Féltoronyi (CNAPD, BE)

C.1. NATO, economic interests, arms industry, arms trade

Introduction: Luc Mampaey (GRIP, BE)
 Comments: Eric Brune (CGT, FR)
 Moderator: Bram Vranken (Vredesactie, BE)

D.1. Woman and NATO

Introduction by Ana Azaria (Femmes et Egalité, FR)
 Comments: Kristine Karch (No to War, No to NATO, DE)
 Moderator: Maggi Poppe (NVR, BE)

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 Wirl (INES, DE), Arielle Denis (ICAN, FR), Susi Snyder (Pax, NL) Moderator: Dave Webb (CND, UK)

11:30 | Special Session II: 2% military spending guideline: analysis and strategies in different countries - FLOOR: -1

Part I: What does 2% mean for different countries and populations? Panel
 Ingeborg Breines (IPB, NO), Jordi Calvo (Center for Peace Studies JM Delàs, ES), Tobias Pflüger (on Greece, Former EP member, DE). Moderator: Ludo De Brabander (VREDE vzw, BE)

11:30 | Movie Session "Shadow World"

Part I: screening of film - FLOOR: 1

14:15 | Special Session I: US nuclear arms in Europe Nuclear Weapons and how to disarm them? - FLOOR: 0

Part II: Strategy and campaigns in the countries – Panel
 Marion Kúpker (Büchel Atombombenfreis, DE) Pieter Teirlinck (VREDE vzw, BE), Jean Toschi Visconti (IT), Kate Hudson (CND, UK), Susi Snyder (Pax, NL), Moderator: Dave Webb (CND, UK)

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
 Ingeborg Breines (IPB, NO), Jordi Calvo (Center for Peace Studies JM Delàs, ES), Edith Boulanger (MVTPIX, FR), Chris Nineham (Stop The War Coalition, UK), Coralie Mampaey (CNAPD, BE). Moderator: Ludo De Brabander (VREDE vzw, BE)

14:15 | 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.

15:45 Break

16:00 Final Session: FLOOR: -1

How to delegitimize NATO? - Panel discussion with representatives of the peace movement:

Ann Wright (Veterans for Peace, US), Chris Nineham (Stop The War Coalition, UK), Piotr Ikonowicz (New Left, PL), Reiner Braun (IPB, No to war, No to Nato, DE) Claudine Pôlet (CSO, BE), Francis Wurtz (MVT paix, BE). Moderator: Kate Hudson (CND, UK)

17:30 Closing remarks FLOOR: -1

Ludo De Brabander (VREDE vzw, BE) and Claudia Haydt (European Left, DE).

18:00 Reception