

**END  
INFO**

# EUROPE

News, updates and information | European Nuclear Disarmament  
Issue 9 | November 2019 | Produced by the *Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation*

*UK Election ... December 2019 ... A European View ...*

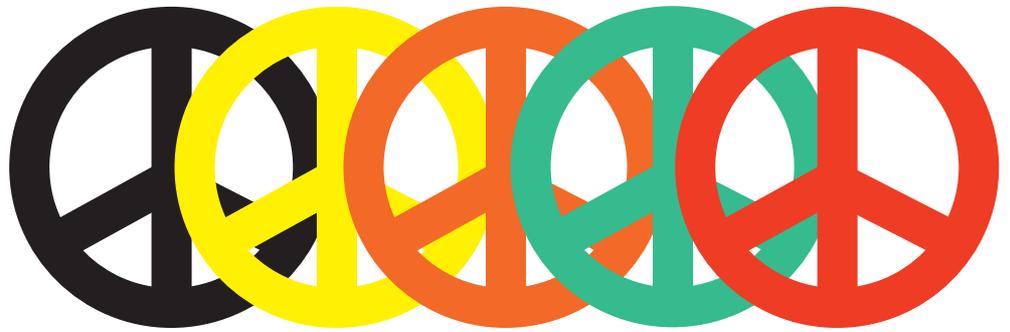
# A chance for peace and disarmament?

The United Kingdom is set to go to the polls on Thursday 12 December 2019. This will be the UK's third Westminster election in four years and the question of 'Brexit' looks set to dominate.

The relevance of this election for the peace and anti-nuclear movements, across Europe and globally, might not be obvious unless we consider the following points. First, the outcome of the poll will either be the continuation of Boris Johnson's premiership or his defeat. Second, if Johnson is defeated, the new Prime Minister will be someone with a life-long and very public commitment to peace and disarmament. That person is Jeremy Corbyn.

On the first: Johnson has explicitly aligned himself with the Trump Administration and its global agenda. A future Johnson government with a parliamentary majority will surely align itself more closely, cementing the 'Special Relationship' and giving the green light to ongoing military cooperation. In the context of a shifting 'world order', where the US is no longer the sole global power, this alignment and the consequent severing of European cooperation is significant. The stark choice is not between 'more of the same' or not, but between 'Global Trumpism' or not.

On the second: We should all hope that this election sees more anti-nuclear, pro-peace, candidates elected



from across the spectrum. For instance, the anti-Trident Scottish National Party looks set to increase its representation and Green Party MP, Caroline Lucas, will surely retain her seat. This is all to the good.

The outstanding feature of this election is the possibility of electing a prime minister who has spent his political life campaigning for peace. This possibility would likely end the prospect of close military alignment between the US and UK, would act as a restraint on future war plans and opens the possibility for a genuine dialogue on the peaceful settlement of disputes. In addition, it could open a genuine debate about the future of Britain's nuclear weapons, a debate where rational and peaceful voices would have a significant hearing. It would open, though not determine, the prospect of a re-think on the UK's role in NATO, the purpose of its armed forces and their future use. This would be a magnificent prize for the peace and disarmament movements.

In the European context, all of this

matters a great deal. Jeremy Corbyn and his supporters have pledged themselves to work on the European level: to cooperate and coordinate. A Corbyn government will have to find a democratic means to settle the 'Brexit' mistake and however it is settled, there will be a wide-ranging discussion about the UK's ongoing relationship with the rest of the EU.

Europe is re-militarising, NATO is a significant influence, questions are now posed about possible nuclear cooperation between EU states, the continent risks becoming a nuclear battleground in the aftermath of the sabotage of the INF Treaty and the ongoing, technologically super-charged, arms race. These challenges are as daunting as they are real.

A different government in the UK, one committed to an 'ethical foreign policy', could disrupt or hold back these developments in conjunction with similarly minded movements and political actors.

This is the chance that now presents itself. Let's take it!

# XR Peace

*Angie Zelter's plea of Guilty and her mitigation submission at Westminster Court on Saturday 19th October 2019:*

I had been arrested for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. This time I was glued onto the bamboo structure in Oxford Circus that was erected in the middle of the roundabout at about 9.30 a.m. It took roughly 3 hours to remove all the protesters and the structure. I was taken to Brixton police station again and then kept over for court the next day.

I plead guilty to all changes. As a British citizen I take full responsibility for all the damage our country has done to millions of people and for the continuing destruction of billions of other species on our fragile, abused planet.

I plead guilty of being involved in ecocide by simply being a UK citizen. I am guilty of engaging in prohibited protests, guilty of disrupting business as usual, guilty of conspiring with as many people as possible to continue protesting and disrupting.

I will not comply with any court orders as I cannot respect this legal system until the much more serious crimes of the Government, Corporations and Banks are dealt with. The impunity of the powerful 1% must stop.

There can be no real justice while the Government continues to breach the law by threatening mass



destruction and mass murder by deploying nuclear weapons and when the Attorney General refuses us permission to bring a public interest case against Trident.

There is no justice being done when the Government and BAe Systems continue to supply arms to Turkey and Saudi Arabia, thus breaching the Arms Control legislation and ignoring Appeal Court rulings.

There can be no justice when the UK military back up with violent armed force the exploitation of oil, gas, water, soil and humans for profit for the few, causing massive climate disruption. We cannot eat, drink or breathe money. The system must be changed.

The climate emergency requires us all to act nonviolently to create the changes necessary to protect all life on earth.

The district Judge who heard the case had already dealt with me twice before. In May for one of the April charges (blocking Parliament Square) and in October the previous week (blocking the Ministry of Defence), when the total was £511. She decided to give me a rather more hefty fine this time. The court costs, fine and extra fine for breaching the 9 month conditional discharge (from April) totalled £1,250!

I still have outstanding 2 'under investigation' and 1 criminal damage case for gluing onto the Supreme Court board that had been placed outside the front entrance to the Supreme Court. I look forward to doing a proper defence at that trial, but at least I am free for now.

You can get further information about the public interest case by going to [www.picat.org](http://www.picat.org) and of course much more information about XR Peace from the website at [www.xrpeace.org](http://www.xrpeace.org).

## US Nukes at Incirlik, Turkey

As reported in an earlier edition of *END Info*, the long-suspected presence of US nuclear weapons at Incirlik airbase, Turkey, is now an established fact. In the context of Turkey's invasion of northern Syria and its attack on the Kurdish population, together with the withdrawal of US troops, the question of this US base has been raised again.

The *New York Times* revealed plans to evacuate 50 B61 'Gravity Bombs' from the base, with a US Senator describing the bombs as being "held hostage" by Turkey, a fellow NATO member state.

There is now open discussion about Turkey attempting to acquire its own nuclear arsenal, something that poses direct risks in addition to risks of proliferation. Time for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East!

**THE NEW WORLD DISORDER**

**INTERNATIONAL COUNTER SUMMIT:  
NO TO TRUMP - NO TO NATO**

Saturday 30th November | 10am - 5.30pm  
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
London, United Kingdom

Organised by No to War - No to NATO, Stop the War Coalition & CND

[www.no-to-nato.org/counter-actions-in-london-nato-summit-2019/](http://www.no-to-nato.org/counter-actions-in-london-nato-summit-2019/)

Visit [www.russfound.org](http://www.russfound.org) for information on the work of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and for more on the END campaigns in the 1980s | Email [tomunterrainer@russfound.org](mailto:tomunterrainer@russfound.org) for more information about *END Info* and other work towards a European Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone and European Nuclear Disarmament

# Peace in the Parliament ... GUE/NGL Conference on European Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear disarmers met at the European Parliament on Thursday, 17 September, for a conference hosted by GUE/NGL MEPs Özlem Demirel (Germany) and Mick Wallace (Ireland). The conference, 'Nuclear Disarmament - how to make Europe and the World nuclear weapons free', was part of an ongoing, Europe-wide effort to get to grips with and plan action in opposition to the new nuclear risks.

Demirel and Wallace opened the conference by outlining the present situation and describing what role MEPs and the European Parliament as a whole might play in advancing peace and nuclear disarmament. The challenges, with which most readers of this newsletter will be familiar, are great. The majority of EU member states are also members of NATO; two current EU member states are nuclear powers; US nuclear weapons are stationed at air bases within Europe with the consent of EU states and non-nuclear states have resisted calls for them to sign up to the Nuclear Ban Treaty. At the same time the EU is being militarised 'from within', including moves towards an 'EU army' and talks of the possibility of nuclear cooperation between France and Germany.

Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Denis Halliday, spoke on the ongoing nuclear dangers posed by the legacy and continued use of Depleted Uranium. Moves to prohibit the use of DU for military purposes have been



Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Denis Halliday, speaking on the use and impact of Depleted Uranium



Left to right: Denis Halliday, Tom Unterrainer (BRPF), Özlem Demirel MEP (Die Linke), Mick Wallace MEP (Independent) and Ömer Furkan Özdemir (Kocaeli Academy)

resisted at the United Nations despite acknowledgment of their human and environmental effects.

Tom Unterrainer from the Russell Foundation spoke on the detail of the nuclear dangers facing Europe and explained the potential role of a European Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone as a path to achieving common security and preventing Europe from becoming a nuclear battleground.

Ömer Özdemir, from the Kocaeli Academy, spoke on events in Turkey, which has huge armed forces and significant military spending. Developments, including the Turkish invasion of Rojava, were raised.

Speakers in the second session addressed the question of what common strategies and actions could be undertaken. Ludo de Brabander (Vrede, Belgium) spoke about plans agreed at the September 14 meeting (see *END Info 8*), Peter Bastian (Anti-Nuclear-Initiative SOFA, Germany) spoke about ongoing anti-base protests and Kerstin Rudek (Don't Nuke the Climate, Germany) spoke about campaigning against the nuclear industry (see back page).

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and *END Info* welcomed the opportunity to take the peace movement into the European Parliament and hopes that such conferences will become an annual event. The need for a Europe-wide strategy of protest, policy and politics is pressing. It's great that our friends in politics are on the move!

## French/German Nuclear Cooperation?

France has pledged to extend its nuclear coverage to Germany in the case of armed aggression. The promise is implicit in the Treaty of Aachen signed between France and Germany in January 2019.

The Treaty was intended to cement plans for future reforms of the EU, including a French-German defense and security council intended as the decisive political body to guide these reciprocal engagements.

The Treaty is particularly significant in that its provisions seem to extend beyond NATO's Article 5. The new Treaty uses the phrase "by all means" when Article 5 states "such action as it deems necessary".



# Don't Nuke the Climate

Civilian cross-subsidies for military nuclear programs are fundamental. As nuclear expert Mycle Schneider states:

“The civil military overlap is primarily about mutual dependence of the military-civil nuclear complex. The military uses the same pool of engineers, specialists as the civil nuclear industry. The competencies at stake, security and concept studies, material and ageing problems are the same.” The World Nuclear Industry Status Report WNISR 2018

The case against nuclear power generation can be summarised in the following points:

1. Nuclear power is rooted in human rights violations and environmental racism: Indigenous people, people of colour and low-income communities are targeted for uranium mining and radioactive waste. Radiation harms women and girls at twice the rate as their male counterparts. And radioactive pollution indiscriminately

harms future generations, poisoning the environment for hundreds to thousands of years.

2. Nuclear reactors and the nuclear fuel chain produce vast amounts of lethal radioactive waste. The nuclear fuel chain is responsible for far more carbon emissions than renewable energy generation and improved energy efficiency. All reactors routinely emit radiation and radioactive waste.

3. Continued use of nuclear power will sooner or later lead to more Fukushima's, Church Rocks, and Chernobyl's.

4. Nuclear power is the costliest means possible of reducing carbon and methane emissions; its use crowds out investment in clean energy sources.

5. Use of nuclear power to reduce fossil fuel emissions would require an unprecedented nuclear construction program, beyond the capability of the world's manufacturers within an acceptable time frame.

6. Nuclear energy is the prior



condition for nuclear arms.

From a presentation given at the GUE/NGL conference. Slides available at: [www.bi-luechow-dannenber.de/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/bruessel17102019.pdf](http://www.bi-luechow-dannenber.de/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/bruessel17102019.pdf)

Kerstin Rudek,  
[dont-nuke-the-climate.org](http://dont-nuke-the-climate.org)

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## The Spokesman

Journal of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation

### Keep the Peace

*The Spokesman 143*

*Bertrand Russell 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

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*Keep the Peace*

The next issue of *END Info* will be published in the first week of December. Please send information, news items and reports to [tomunterrainer@russfound.org](mailto:tomunterrainer@russfound.org).

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