

## **Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones**

### *how they work*

If the INF Treaty arose, at least in part, from the campaign for a nuclear-weapons-free zone in Europe, then it acted as an important instrument against the threat that Europe could become an actual 'theatre' of nuclear war. Such a function is an essential component of NWFZ proposals. It has been suggested that the INF Treaty, in combination with the START 1 Treaty and 'Presidential Nuclear Initiatives' signed in 1991 and the 1992 Lisbon Protocol, combined – to all intents and purposes – to create a NWFZ in the Baltic States, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic,

Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. This combination of states composed the 'core group' of a NWFZ proposed by Belarus in 1990. The states in the core group have no nuclear weapons deployed within their boundaries. With the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the INF Treaty and Russia's response, this arrangement is under severe threat.

Threats to this arrangement are of some considerable consequence, not only due to the likely disestablishment of a quasi-NWFZ in and of itself but because NWFZ's carry the function of reducing risks of proliferation and escalation. The location of a quasi-NWFZ in the geographical periphery of Russia is of obvious importance and functionality.

The complementary nature of NWFZ proposals is important to emphasise. Any proposal for a new initiative for the creation of a European NWFZ should be seen as a specific measure in response to the proposed US withdrawal from the INF Treaty and not as an alternative to existing disarmament measures such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In fact, encouraging the creation of NWFZs is the responsibility of signatories to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

So the basis for the creation of a NWFZ in Europe is established, but what – beyond a response to the destabilising of the INF – could be its main objectives? The 2016 Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) working paper, *A Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zone in Europe: Concepts-Problems-Chances*, outlines a number of such objectives: 1. Security objectives in the narrow sense, 2. Political-symbolic objectives and 3. Adapting defence policies to the political situation in Europe. More detail is given within each of the three objectives.

The basis for a European NWFZ is clearly established. Can we build a network, movements and action to make one a reality? This is the task we have set ourselves. Join us!



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.

# News from Greece

Europe is at a difficult crossroads on the nuclear issue. The INF Treaty is dead but there is hope, for example, that the TPNW will soon be signed and ratified. So we are happy that the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation has revived European Nuclear Disarmament – END – to unite once more European people against this deadly threat.

In Greece, though there are no longer any nuclear weapons, the Souda naval base facilitates NATO's ships and submarines carrying nuclear weapons. Now there is a new danger, if the Insirlic base in Turkey were to close, that the USA nuclear arsenal could be moved to Greece.

As IPPNW and ICAN in Greece we work on three levels: education in schools and public, the media, and meetings with the government.

Using our medical prestige and knowledge, we educate the people about the nuclear danger through lectures in schools, municipalities, cultural unions and through articles.

We remember the history of the Anti-nuclear movement, honour the pioneers like Nikos Nikiforidis and Grigoris Lambrakis, and we use all the anniversaries to create events or publish articles in the press.

In collaboration with others, we use every opportunity to stage major events and to pressurize the government.

We collect signatures from the public in support of the TPNW and from MP's for the Parliamentary Pledge.

On Hiroshima day in 2017, we managed to add 35 more mayors in Greece, who have joined the "Mayors for Peace" network.

The "Peace Boat" has visited Greece twice and we organised their actions, in order to spread the message of Hibakusha testimonies and push for a change of vote at the UN.

In 2015 the representatives of Peace Boat were officially accepted by the president of the Greek Democracy, Mr Pavlopoulos. After ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Mr Pavlopoulos officially congratulated us and underlined the steady commitment of the Greek state against nuclear weapons.

The "Peace Boat" and Hibakusha delegation were accepted three times in the Greek Parliament – 2015, 2017, 2018 – and MP's from all political parties declared their commitment for a nuclear free world.

They were welcomed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs twice (2105, 2016). The Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras welcomed them at the Maximou Palace on June 6, 2018.

We are in contact with the Cypriot Minister of Foreign Affairs and parliamentarians in order to remind them of the promise they made in Munich last month (February 2019) to ICAN, that they will soon sign TPNW. We are not optimistic for several reasons. On March 22 2019 a meeting was held in Jerusalem between the leaders of Israel, Cyprus and Greece with the presence of the US Foreign Secretary about the protection of oil lines in the region against 'Turkish aggression' and a new US nuclear ship docked at the Suda (Crete) naval base.

We shall use the May 2019 European and Municipality elections to underline the nuclear danger, especially after the end of INF.

On April 22 (Panos Trigazis had the idea) PADOP will for the first time award the 'NN Medal' (Nikos Nikiforidis – Non Nuclear) to people who work for nuclear abolition.

Though we are not optimistic about a change of policy in Greece for our cause, we will keep reminding people of the lethal and urgent danger of the nuclear threat and push any government and all political parties to gain their commitment for a nuclear

free world, whilst hoping that there will be a better political moment in future.

There is always hope. When we all started to fight for the NPT and the other anti-nuclear Treaties, the political climate was worse, but we won. The urgent elimination of nuclear weapons is the only cure for this disease that threatens all humanity.

*Maria Arvaniti Sotiropoulou*  
President of the Greek Affiliate  
Representative of ICAN in Greece

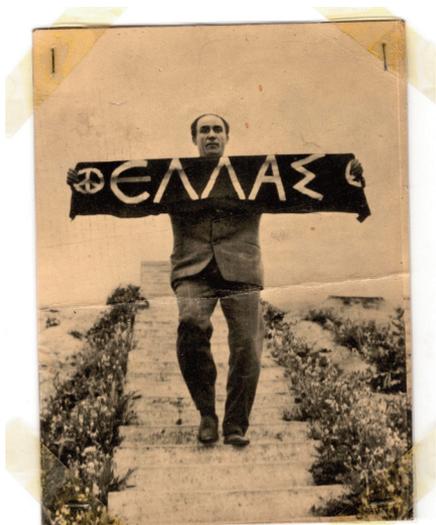
## Enough spending on nuclear weapons!

*News from France*

Mouvement de la Paix, a French non-governmental organization founded in 1948 is dedicated to promoting peace, opposing wars and nuclear weapons. It reiterates its opposition to the military programming law 2019-2025, which devotes 295 billion to an increase in the military budget. Concretely, from 34 billion to 44 billion per year, it brings this expenditure to 2% of France's GDP (which is of 2,200 billions), the highest increase in military spending. This represents an increase from 8.5% to more than 11.3% of the state budget (386 Billion/year). This is no less than 37 billion for the modernisation of the French nuclear force by 2025. "The cost of nuclear deterrence will double to 6 billion euros per year by 2030".

By modernizing its weapons and dedicating such an increase in its budget, France loses its credibility to prevent other countries from gaining access to nuclear weapons. These nuclear weapons are illegal, dangerous, costly, militarily useless and ethically unacceptable. All other weapons of mass destruction are prohibited. There is an urgent need to ratify the treaty banning nuclear weapons, which was voted in July 2017 at the United Nations.

Enough spending on these weapons of mass destruction! Mouvement de la Paix is strongly involved in the campaign against

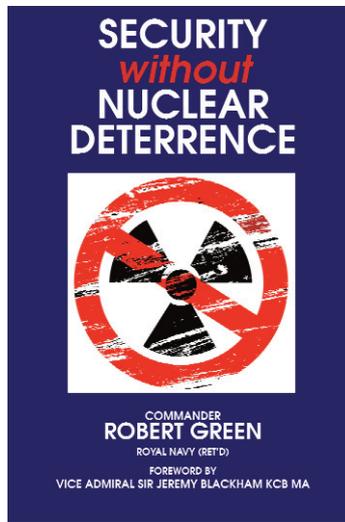


Grigoris Lambrakis

nuclear weapons, for instance by its participation in the celebration of the International Day of Peace 21 September. It is also “fighting” against militarization of space and against the arms trade with in particular the mobilizations against the Eurosatory exhibition, held every two years in June in Paris Villepinte.

What an honor for France if this country would renounce modernizing its nuclear arsenal and to commit itself to disarmament!

*Patrice Salzenstein*  
Mouvement de la Paix, France



*Security without Nuclear Deterrence*  
by Commander Robert Green RN (Ret'd)  
Available from [www.spokesmanbooks.com](http://www.spokesmanbooks.com)

## Authorising the Use of Military Force: ‘Legality’ of a Nuclear Strike

The UK Parliament’s Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee has set up an Inquiry titled ‘The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Authorising the Use of Military Force’.

The decision to use military force, whether alone or as part of an international coalition is taken by the British Government as an exercise of the royal prerogative power.

Parliament has no legal role in authorising the use of military force, however since 2003 Parliament has been asked on a number of occasions to approve the use of military force. This has led some to suggest that the convention governing the use of the royal prerogative has changed to require parliamentary approval. This inquiry will examine the constitutional underpinning for decisions to use military force.

As part of the Inquiry, a number of papers have been submitted and expert witnesses called. Amongst them are Commander Rob Forsyth RN (Ret’d), who has written a paper on the legal issues around the use of Nuclear Weapons. There is a particular question about who, in the event of a nuclear missile being fired, is legally responsible: the Commanding Officer of a Submarine, or the political decision makers?

In evidence to the Inquiry, Admiral West stated that legal responsibility for a nuclear first strike should rest with the political decision makers.

Such views are very significant indeed as the UK nuclear forces operate in a zone of ‘legal opacity’, to say the very least. The developing discussion and deliberations of the Inquiry are worth following in detail.

Further information can be found in *Global Tinderbox* [see advert] where a version of Commander Forsyth’s paper is published or at the Inquiry website (search “Public Administration Constitutional Affairs Inquiry”).

## International Seminar on Euromilitarism

Sunday April 14, 2019, 11 am to 5 pm in Amsterdam

A few weeks before the European elections, we want to debate a peaceful Europe. The theme is broader than the EU alone, but we want to start from an analysis of current politics to militarize the EU. The working language in the seminar is English. The seminar will consist of three sessions:

1. The road to a European army and the expansion of the EU into a world power. Speakers: Mark Akkerman (Stop Arms Trade), Roger Cole

(Peace and Neutrality Alliance - Ireland), Kathrin Vogel (Bundestag member for the Die Linke party)

2. The Atlantic counter-offensive. Speaker: Kees van der Pijl (em. Professor of international relations University of Sussex)

3. The action of the peace movement and peaceful alternatives such as an inclusive European security system. Speakers: Tiny Kox (Senator SP), Kees Nieuwerth (Quakers Netherlands). Interested parties are asked to send a message to [info@vdamok.nl](mailto:info@vdamok.nl) or [Oorlogisgeen.solution@gmail.com](mailto:Oorlogisgeen.solution@gmail.com). They will then be kept informed of news about this meeting.

## NATO: 70 years too many

As we head for NATO’s 70th birthday, it’s time to assess the nuclear-armed military alliance that came into being to ensure western military superiority during the Cold War. Most strikingly, during its first 40 years of existence – namely the Cold War, NATO embarked on no wars or military campaigns. Yet in the 30 years since the Cold War and the removal of its political and military rival, the Soviet Union, NATO has massively expanded territorially, changed its mission statement from a defensive to an aggressive posture and embarked on a series of wars, of which their intervention in Afghanistan is getting on for two decades long.

These activities have turned the end of the Cold War from a unique opportunity for new diplomacy and peaceful development into a new era of global tension, encircling Russia and China thereby creating the conditions for a new Cold War, tearing up international legal norms, notably around national sovereignty, and introducing bogus notions of ‘humanitarian war’.

A second NATO anniversary worth noting fell last week, on 12th March: twenty years since the first former Warsaw Pact states joined NATO. On that day, Hungary, Poland and the

Czech Republic signed up, and just days later they found themselves at war with their neighbour Yugoslavia. The war was illegal and brought devastating human consequences to what remained of Yugoslavia – including the legacy of toxic Depleted Uranium. It was also the first use of Tony Blair’s baseless justification for wars of intervention.

Forces.net, the armed forces news service is one of the few outlets to cover the anniversary of NATO’s expansion into eastern Europe, and makes some very valid points, noting that the first expansions in 1999 began a ‘seemingly unstoppable march of the alliance’s border towards Russia.’ Tellingly, the report also observed that while Russian actions in Crimea have renewed NATO’s focus on Russia, some have questioned ‘whether NATO’s expansion has provoked Russia and risked a new Cold War.’

That is the crucial question and as NATO is now expanding into Latin America, the implications of these developments need to be understood too. These are just some of the issues that will be addressed by the movement when the NATO summit takes place in London in December, where Donald Trump is expected to be present and CND is preparing for major protests.

**Protest: No to Trump – No to NATO – London Demonstration**  
Central London • December 2019

*Kate Hudson*, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, UK

[www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org)

## European Nuclear Disarmament: *A New Statement*

The INF Treaty, signed by Presidents Gorbachev and Reagan in 1987, bans all ground-based missiles – nuclear and conventional – with ranges between 500 and 5500km. It addresses the risk of ‘limited’ nuclear war, which sparked a Europe-wide movement of opposition and in favour of a nuclear weapons free zone in Europe, as expressed in the European Nuclear Disarmament (END) Appeal of 1980.

The END Appeal specifically sought the removal of medium range mobile nuclear weapons, deployed on Soviet territory and by the United States at bases in six European NATO member countries, in order to save the continent from becoming a nuclear battleground. It warned ‘we are entering the most dangerous decade in human history’. Appallingly, danger intensifies again. In January, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved forward the hands of the ‘Doomsday Clock’ to two minutes to midnight. As the year draws to a close, President Trump’s announcement drives the world nearer to the nuclear precipice.

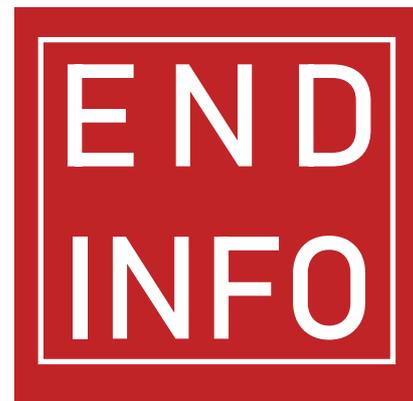
We call on everyone concerned with peace and security to join in raising the alarm over the likely consequences of scrapping the INF Treaty and to work towards the creation of more Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zones, including in Europe. These efforts will complement existing global disarmament initiatives, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, recently agreed at the United Nations.

### Endorse here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/aOKywzL4kw1q6LMb2>

### Recent signers of the statement include:

- Michèle Rivasi MEP, France
- Reiner Braun, International Peace Bureau, Germany
- Kristine Karch, Co-Chair International Network No to war - no to NATO, Germany
- Dave Webb, Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, UK
- Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security, USA
- Steven Rose, Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience, Open University, UK
- Jeff Hoffman, Tavolo per la Pace della Val di Cecina, Italy
- John Hallam, People for Nuclear Disarmament, Australia
- Peter Murphy, Secretary, Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition, Australia
- Takao Takahara, Peace Depot, Japan
- Gérard Lévy, Europe Écologie Les Verts (commission paix et désarmement), France
- E. Martin Schotz, MD, Coordinator, Peace Task Force, Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution, USA
- Andre Sheldon, Director, Global Strategy of Nonviolence, USA
- Mikael Böök, Finland



For more information on *END INFO* or *European Nuclear Disarmament* email [tomunterrainer@russfound.org](mailto:tomunterrainer@russfound.org)

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Global Tinderbox

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