



Around Europe

Quaker Council for European Affairs

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Support the Declaration on the 60th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Members of the European Parliament Intergroup for Peace Initiatives have tabled a written declaration which reads:

Written Declaration on the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki tabled on 10.05.2005 by Gisela Kallenbach, Jill Evans, Caroline Lucas, Tobias Pflüger, Jean-Luc Dehaene and Ana Gomes

The European Parliament,

having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the first atomic bombs used in wartime were dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th and on Nagasaki on August 8th 1945,

B. whereas the Register of Deceased Atomic Bomb Victims holds 237 062 names of whom 5 142 were added on 6 August 2004,

C. whereas this death toll warns us to beware the utter inhumanity of atomic bombing and the horror of war,

D. whereas every year the City of Hiroshima holds a Peace Memorial Ceremony to console the souls of those who were lost due to the atomic bombing as well as to pray for world peace,

1 Sends this declaration as a message to support the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

2 Reaffirms the determination of the European Parliament to work for nuclear disarmament and calls upon the European Union to do its utmost to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used again,

3 Calls upon Members of the European Parliament to encourage Mayors in their constituencies to join the Mayors for Peace,

4 Decides to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the EU Presidency and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and candidate countries.

This declaration needs to be signed by as many MEPs as possible before it is then sent to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in time for the commemorations in early August. If the declaration is signed by at least half the Members of the European Parliament, it will be considered to be an official declaration of the Parliament as a whole.

Please contact your MEPs and encourage them to sign it. Please let QCEA know what response you get.

This information is also available on the QCEA website at: <http://www.quaker.org/qcea/intergroup/declaration10052005.htm>

(See page 2 for information on how to contact your MEPs)

Martina Weitsch

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Pointing the way forward

European leaders gathered in Warsaw this month for the 'Europe Summit of Heads of States and Government' but in the Castle of Warsaw another event was taking place: the second European Youth Summit. The participants were international non-governmental youth organisations, national councils and the European Youth Forum.

The Summit argued for the importance of young voices in participatory democracy. The Council of Europe and the EU were called upon to improve relations between young citizens and public authorities by a 'European Youth Campaign' enabling young people to act.

The Summit provided an antidote to 'Fortress Europe' and the rise of fascist parties across Europe in recent years. Stressing the role of the Council of Europe, the participants saw diversity and inclusivity as a way of ensuring a peaceful and democratic Europe. Highlighting 'the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance', diversity was cited as 'a crucial element in building European unity'. Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis said that young people were driving forward the Council's agenda on globalisation and democracy. Is this a sign of hope for the future of a tolerant, inclusive Europe?

For more information:

http://www.coe.int/t/dcr/summit/youth_summit_EN.asp

<http://www.youthforum.org/en/>

The Council of Europe is offering the Young Active Citizens Award to a local/regional project working on the participation and citizenship of young people. 2005 is the European Year of Citizenship through Education so the submissions should be 'concrete examples of educational methods and tools which are used for promoting young people's active citizenship, and raise awareness of European citizenship.' The applicant should be a youth organisation/network or a local or regional authority and the projects should be carried out by, with and for young people between 16 and 30. The deadline is 30 October 2005.

For more information:

http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Youth/2._Priorities/award.asp

Charlotte Wetton

International Peace Walk 26 July - 9 August

For Mother Earth is organizing an international peace walk next summer. The walk will mark the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of participants are expected. **For Mother Earth** urges the nuclear powers and NATO member states to work towards a treaty for a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons, as laid down in the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The approximately 250 km long walk will start on Tuesday, 26 July, in the peace town of Ypres, and will end at the secret NATO nuclear weapons base at Kleine Brogel, passing via NATO Headquarters in Brussels. The walkers will appeal to the mayors of towns and cities along the route, to ask for their active support for the international emergency call of the 'Mayors for Peace'. At Kleine Brogel, a peace camp will be held from 6 August, the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, until 9 August, the day of the commemoration of the Nagasaki nuclear bombing.

More information on the work including the route and practical details can be found on the **For Mother Earth** Website at:

http://www.motherearth.org/walk/index_en.php

Sign up to the QCEA e-mail list

Keep up to date with the work of QCEA by joining our mailing list and receiving a monthly e-mail update.

Join the list at:

<http://lists.quaker.eu.org/mailman/listinfo/qcea-supporters>

Contacting your MEPs

Contact details for MEPs can be found on the Europarl website at:

http://www.db.europarl.eu.int/ep6/owa/p_meps2.repartition?ilg=EN&iorig=home

UK MEPs' contact information can also be found on the European Parliament UK Office Website:

http://www.europarl.org.uk/uk_meps/MembersMain.htm

You can also contact UK MEPs by using:

<http://writetothem.com/>

If you need any help with contacting your MEP please contact the QCEA Office.

What is Security Sector Reform?

While there is no agreed 'universal' definition of Security Sector Reform (SSR), for the purposes of this article we shall consider it to be the current and/or planned changes of security practices within a given state. The goal of these reforms is to create a democratically run, accountable and efficient Security Sector within a state. The Security Sector includes the armed forces, paramilitary units, the police, the intelligence services and the civil authorities mandated to control and oversee these agencies. Reforming the Security Sector helps reduce the risk of violent conflict and is therefore important in Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management. As the website of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development www.oecd.org notes "*Security in all its dimensions is fundamental to reducing poverty, protecting human rights and achieving the Millennium Development Goals*".

A Glossary of terms relating to SSR can be found online at: <http://www.gfn-ssr.org/glossary.cfm>

Current SSR Work of the EU

The EU is currently involved in a wide range of SSR initiatives. On 2 May 2005 the Council of the European Union established a mission to provide advice and assistance for SSR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The mission codenamed "EUSEC RD CONGO", is taking place in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The aim of the mission is to contribute towards the successful integration of the Congolese Army and will involve experts being assigned to key positions in the Congolese administration.

Further details on the EU mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be found at:

http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=909&lang=en

More information on EU Missions is available on the Council of the European Union Website at:

http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=268&lang=en&mode=g

Member States also contribute to SSR activities. For example the UK Government, through its Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), funds the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform (GFN-SSR). GFN-SSR serves as a resource for the UK Government as well as other global partners to provide research that facilitates policy development and capacity building for Security Sector Reform initiatives.

Further Information on the GFN-SSR is available from: www.gfn-ssr.org

Information on the GCPP and the UK Government's work on Conflict Prevention can be found online under the Policy Section of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Website: www.fco.gov.uk

What Needs To Be Done

SSR is one of the practical examples where the EU needs to improve its implementation of joined-up policy and practice. The work of the EU in SSR and other civilian crisis management work can only have a sustainable impact if it is linked with other instruments. For example development, diplomacy, human rights and democratisation processes.

The EU also needs to effectively engage with NGOs and Civil Society. Often on the front line in conflict situations, NGOs and Civil Society have a wealth of knowledge to share with the EU.

While the need and benefits of the EU co-operating and communicating more effectively with NGOs and Civil Society are recognised by the 'EU Action Plan for Civilian Aspects of ESDP' (available online at: http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=278&lang=en&mode=g) there is still some way to go as there is no formal mechanism for regular exchange of information and expertise and the EU.

QCEA, as a member of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), works to encourage the European Union to enhance its civilian capabilities to intervene in and manage crises and to assist in long-term peacebuilding, including its work on SSR.

The latest EPLO policy paper on "*Generating Civilian Capabilities: Moving Beyond Crisis Management to Peacebuilding*" is available from the QCEA website at:

www.quaker.org/qcea/archive/eplomarch05.pdf



Help Support QCEA

QCEA relies on your support to carry out its work expressing a Quaker vision in matters of peace, human rights and economic justice in the European political context. Individuals can help support QCEA by:

- subscribing to Around Europe (€22/£16 per year)
- by becoming an Associate Member (€40/£32 per year)
- Groups and Quaker Meetings can help support us by becoming a Supporting Member (€95/£65)

Information on Subscriptions and Membership is available from the QCEA Office or by visiting:

www.quaker.org/qcea/subscription.htm

Donations are always welcome, and provide very valuable support for our work. Donations can be made directly to QCEA or via national support groups. Information on Donations is online at:

www.quaker.org/qcea/donate.htm

More information on how to get involved in the work of QCEA and how to take action on the issues we work on is on our website at:

www.quaker.org/qcea/takeaction.htm

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Renewal date:

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Cost per year:

- **Around Europe:** £16/22 euros (25 euros outside Europe).
- **Associate Membership** (includes **Around Europe**, Annual Report, other publications and invitations to conferences) : £32/40 euros (45 euros outside Europe).
- **Supporting Membership:** 95 euros/£65 (please ask for more details)

Payment (*receipts will only be issued if requested*):

Belgium: in euros, to IBAN: BE68 0001 4998 4834, BIC: BPOTBEB1, or by Belgian cheque only, payable to 'Quaker Council for European Affairs', or by credit card (quote number, name, expiry date, address; we acknowledge; you are billed in your home currency. Recommended method for those outside Europe.)

Deutschland: über das Konto der Jahresversammlung: Rel. Gesellschaft der Freunde (Quäker), Postgiroamt Hannover, Konto 128 16-300, BLZ 250 100 30 (mit Vermerk QCEA).

Nederland: via de Vereniging Vrienden v.d. Quakerraad voor Europese Aangelegenheden: Giro 2538685 VVQREA Waalre.

UK: by cheque payable to 'QCEA British Committee' sent to John Green, 3 C Hillcrest, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2JA.



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