



## Challenging the EU's military response to migration

### In brief

When human beings are driven from their homes by war or by other horrific circumstances, many of them find no way to rebuild their lives other than by coming to the EU, even if they have to risk their lives in order to do so. In 2015 we have seen an increase in the number of people making dangerous boat journeys across the Mediterranean to reach EU soil. In May 2015 senior ministers from the 28 EU national governments agreed to respond to the situation by sending a joint fleet of warships. The objective is to prevent migration by intercepting, seizing, and destroying the migrants' boats, and possibly also by destroying boats that are in harbour or on shore. It is disturbing that the EU national governments are willing to resort to military force, and to leave the migrants without help. QCEA calls for a rejection of militarism, and for a more humane approach.



Migrants in a boat on the Mediterranean. Photo credit: Noborder Network. Creative Commons licence CC BY 2.0

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### People in need

A group of desperate people, crowded onto a small, vulnerable, unseaworthy boat, trying to make their way across the Mediterranean to the safety of the EU – it is an unforgettable image of our time.

Human beings are fleeing from [the war in Syria](#), from the [brutal dictatorship in Eritrea](#) (where a recent [UN report](#) found that torture and arbitrary executions are widespread), and from other wars, persecutions, and extreme hardships that are driving them from their homes in Africa and the Middle East. Once away from their homes, it is not easy for them to build new lives for themselves. Developing countries may lack the resources to support them.



*“A broken, tender community contains many individuals who have found that place in themselves where they can be still ... where love has broken apart the bounds of the ego.” – Margery Post Abbot, To be Broken and Tender*

For many, given the present global economic inequality, the only hope is the relative prosperity of the EU. As they have no safe way of reaching the EU, they take unsafe boats across the Mediterranean. This involves going to an area of the Mediterranean coast where law and order have broken down (usually Libya, where there is currently a [civil war](#)), paying the so-called “people smugglers” who control the boats, and then trying to sail to somewhere in southern Europe (usually Italy or Greece) – with the danger of drowning if the boat capsizes on the way.

In spite of the danger, an increasing number of people are making this journey. [According to the UN](#), 219,000 migrants arrived in the EU by boat in 2014, with a further 137,000 arriving in the first six months of 2015. There have also been [many deaths](#): in 2014 alone, 3,500 migrants drowned.

### The EU's military response

On 18 May 2015 a meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of the 28 EU Member States [approved](#) a joint military response to the situation. This response is known as [EUNAVFOR MED](#), which is short for “European Union Naval Force – Mediterranean”.

EUNAVFOR MED is currently being carried out by a small fleet of warships under the command of an Italian rear-admiral. According to an [official press release](#) dated 28 July 2015, the fleet consists of one Italian ship (the flagship), one British ship, and two German ships, supported by two planes (one provided by France, and one by Luxembourg) and three helicopters (one from the UK, and two from Italy). The composition of the fleet will vary over the course of the operation.

The plans for EUNAVFOR MED divide the operation into three phases:

- Phase 1 (the current phase) involves gathering information on the people smugglers.
- Phase 2, if it goes ahead, would involve intercepting, boarding, and seizing the boats used for migration.
- Phase 3 would involve destroying the boats, possibly including boats that are in harbour or on shore.

It is not yet clear whether phases 2 and 3 will go ahead, especially as boarding, seizing, and destroying boats may – depending on the circumstances – be against international law. In an attempt to get around the legal issue, Federica Mogherini (the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs) has been [seeking a mandate from the UN Security Council](#).

### Challenging EU militarism

An important question to ask is: Why do the EU national governments regard it as appropriate to use military force to prevent the migration of desperate human beings? It is deeply disturbing to see our national governments responding to migration in this way. Their response is a continuation of the long-term trend towards [the militarisation of the EU](#) – the process whereby military approaches have become increasingly normalised within the EU institutions, at the expense of non-military approaches.



*The Cavour*, the EUNAVFOR MED flagship  
Photo credit: Armando Mancini  
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The official line ([as stated by Federica Mogherini](#)) is that EUNAVFOR MED is an operation against people smugglers, and not against migrants. Yet can we be confident that migrants will not be killed in the process? There is also the risk of provoking increased violence in Libya. Khalifa al-Ghweil, a senior member of one of the factions in the Libyan civil war, has already [threatened to retaliate](#) against any EU military interference in Libya or in its waters.

Moreover, the practical effect of the operation – were it to succeed – would be to cut migrants off from the protection that they desperately need. Do our national



governments suppose that stranding a large number of migrants in Libya is an acceptable outcome?

#### A better way

QCEA calls for a more humane approach to this issue – an approach based on a recognition of our shared humanity.

*Why do the EU national governments regard it as appropriate to use military force to prevent the migration of desperate human beings?*

First, our governments should adopt a policy of the kind advocated by the [Conference of European Churches](#). Rather than preparing to resort to violence to prevent migrants from coming to the EU, our governments should recognise migrants' needs – offering them safe routes into the EU, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Anyone in need should be offered protection. The EU Member States should provide this protection together, as a shared enterprise, so that the responsibility does not fall disproportionately on Italy and Greece.

In the unequal global society in which we live, it is unethical for a relatively wealthy part of the world, such as the EU, to withhold help from people in need. While providing protection to hundreds of thousands of people may seem a daunting task, it must be remembered that over half a billion people currently live in the EU. We have wealth to spare, while the migrants have almost nothing. Can we not offer them our welcome?

Apart from this, the EU should do more to tackle the problems that are driving so many people from their homes in the first place. Cooperation between EU Member States is essential, as the EU can achieve more by acting in unity than the individual Member States could achieve by each acting alone. EU national governments [spend roughly half a billion euro per day](#) on “defence” – they could redirect some of this money to projects that promote conflict resolution, peacebuilding, human rights, and sustainable development. The EU does not have to be a military power to make its presence felt in the world.

*Tim Harman*

## Building collaboration on armed drones

The European Forum on Armed Drones (EFAD) is an informal interest group that was set up in Brussels earlier this year to support people working on issues relating to [armed drones](#) (remote-controlled flying robots that carry weapons). QCEA is taking an active part in EFAD's activities.

At the time of writing (August 2015), EFAD has thirty members, most of whom are staff at non-governmental organisations. Countries represented on EFAD include Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and the UK. EFAD has had two meetings so far, in [March](#) and in July – both were held at Quaker House (QCEA's office in Brussels), and were chaired by Tim Harman of QCEA. Members who could not come to Brussels in person were invited to participate over Skype. A third EFAD meeting is planned for October.

EFAD is still at an early stage in its work. Its members are currently pooling their knowledge to form a clear picture of the political situation in Europe with regard to armed drones. There are also plans to establish a joint EFAD policy position, and a joint EFAD advocacy strategy. Once this groundwork has been done, EFAD members will be in a stronger position to work together to influence European policy on armed drones.

For further information on armed drones, please see the articles by Tim Harman in the [February-March 2015](#) and [April-May 2015](#) editions of *Around Europe*. If you are involved in advocacy or campaigning on armed drones and you would be interested in joining EFAD, please contact Tim Harman at [<tharman@qcea.org>](mailto:tharman@qcea.org).

### Sign up for QCEA action alerts!

QCEA issues occasional calls to take action to influence European policy on peace, human rights, sustainability, or economic justice. Email your topics of interest and country of residence to [office@qcea.org](mailto:office@qcea.org)



“When we truly encounter the human spirit we partake of the eternal.” – J. Duncan Wood

## Castle or Community? Quakers' role in building the new Europe

In December, QCEA and Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) will be holding a [joint conference](#), under the title: “Castle or Community? Quakers' role in building the new Europe.” The title is left deliberately broad to provide space for Friends from all across Europe to develop a vision for Europe together, through a strengthened Quaker community.

Exploring our hopes and fears for Europe, along with our current concerns and ongoing projects, should help to find the unique contribution of Quaker values and witness to the process of reforming Europe. The conference participants should take the lead to shape the event; the projects and ideas that inspire you, the problems that you think need tackling, and the networks that will help you get there will be our central interests. Similarly, as QCEA embarks on a process of transition, the concerns of European Friends will be vital in shaping QCEA so it can best serve Friends across the continent. The title of the conference refers, perhaps rather simplistically, to polar opposite conceptions of Europe: castle or community. Although the answer to the question may

seem an obvious one, there are many questions that still require answers.

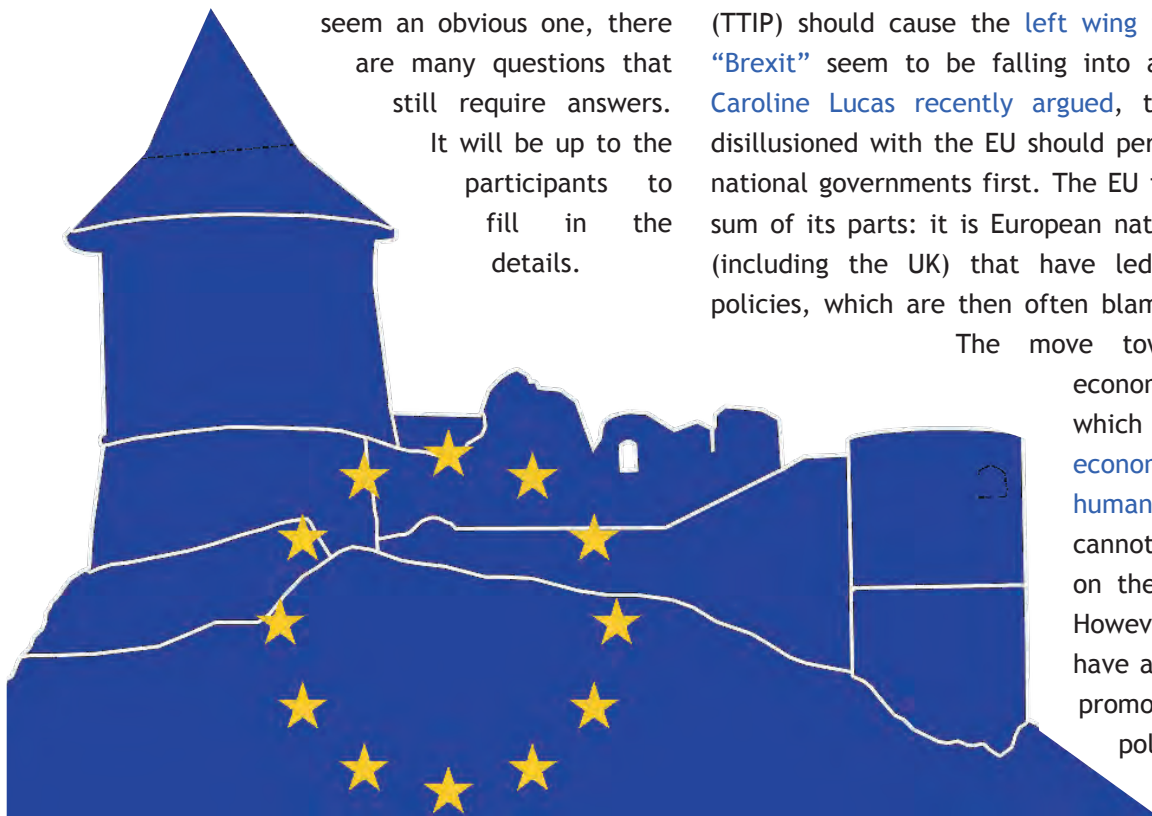
It will be up to the participants to fill in the details.

### Addressing the “castle” mindset

Recently it has seemed that Europe, and the European Union, have been particularly susceptible to a certain self-interested insularity, which can be compared to a castle pulling up the drawbridge to the outside world. The [wall that the Hungarian government](#) is currently building on its border with Serbia to [reduce migration](#) is a near literal example of this attitude, but it is far from the only example. The European Council's militaristic response to the migration crisis in the Mediterranean (see above) is another example related to migration. The recent and ongoing Greek crisis has exacerbated divisions as deeply unpopular policies are imposed, contrary to the will of the majority. This conflict, and the recriminations that have flown back and forth seem a world away from the founding values of the European Coal and Steel Community: peace based on solidarity and cooperation.

Some of the responses have displayed similar isolationist tendencies. Those in the UK suggesting that the treatment of Greece or the ongoing negotiations on the Transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP) should cause the [left wing to advocate for a “Brexit”](#) seem to be falling into a similar trap. As [Caroline Lucas recently argued](#), those on the left disillusioned with the EU should perhaps look to their national governments first. The EU is fundamentally a sum of its parts: it is European national governments (including the UK) that have led the support for policies, which are then often blamed on “Brussels”.

The move towards neo-liberal economic orthodoxy, which seems to value [economic growth above human well-being](#), cannot be blamed solely on the European Union. However, the EU does have a huge potential to promote progressive policies (as it has done in the past).



The European Castle. Image provided by [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)



Perhaps, rather than boost Euroscepticism, recent events should spur a campaign for progressive reform of the EU.

### Community is a process

Building and reforming community is an altogether more challenging - and rewarding - process than cutting ties. It is easy to turn away when events are not going as we would like, but acting to reform not just the political structures of the EU, but our conception of Europe is the best way to create lasting change. Regardless of the issue of EU membership, we are all neighbours. Countries like Norway and Switzerland that are not part of the EU are still fundamentally tied to it and its members, and are significantly affected by its decisions, but without any opportunity to shape those decisions (see page 12).

[QCEA's recent briefing papers](#) address the potential consequences of a UK withdrawal from the European Union. The papers make the clear point that an exit is not a simple choice between integration and isolation. If any Member State leaves the EU, it will not drift off into the Atlantic; it will simply redefine its intricate web of connections and relations with other countries. Remaining part of the community and reforming these connections to be more in line with our values may be

difficult, but it will certainly be more effective than cutting connections.

It is also crucial to maintain good relations within Europe, in order to foster and maintain a cohesive community. [Hate crime](#) has a major impact on European communities, often provoking and exacerbating broader conflicts within society, and even war. We know that [only a tiny proportion of hate crime](#) is reported to public authorities in Europe, indicating that there is still much work to do, to strengthen our communities.

In this spirit, the conference in December aims both to build the European Quaker community and to give us a platform to reform Europe as a whole, working to build a true European community. In true Quaker style, the conference should be more about how we can, and already do, act to build the European community we want to see, rather than simply talking about the issues. Ideally the conference will just be the start of action in the longer term. If this participative, active model appeals to you, send in an [application form](#) (which can be found at [www.qcea.org/home/events/conferences](http://www.qcea.org/home/events/conferences)) by 30 September. We look forward to welcoming you all in December.

*George Thurley*



The conference could help build a strong community of politically active European Quakers. Photo credit: QCEA



## Plan to spend development aid budget on military equipment

Some Member States are calling for EU missions to directly supply arms directly to local military groups in conflict affected countries. [Article 41](#) of the Treaty on European Union (which underpins EU cooperation) requires EU military activity to be funded by payments from Member States on the basis of the size of their economies, rather than from the EU budget. Some Member States are currently arguing that European budgets for Official Development Assistance (ODA) should be used to fund military operations. Article 41 does not apply to these development budgets, allowing them to be spent on military missions or on the supply of arms.

The argument of these Member States (including Britain and France) is based on the false assumption that military intervention always helps to provide a more secure environment for development activity to take place. ODA already includes provision for funding limited military involvement in peacekeeping, disarmament, and preventing use of child soldiers. Many European citizens have supported campaigns to ensure their governments spend [0.7% of Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) on development assistance. They did not do this for European heads of government to redefine development spending to include military capacity development and supporting the arms trade.

The debate began with a German proposal in 2013 called 'Enable and Enhance' that aimed to strengthen state military forces, primarily in Africa. Mali has been one of the main countries under discussion. It already has an EU mission training military units. This is sadly ironic, as one of the factors that triggered the Mali crisis was an influx of military equipment from Libya after the fall of the Gaddafi regime. In April 2015 the EU-African Union summit agreed that the supply of arms to African governments was an important part of creating stability. European governments are keen to reduce the risks of violent extremism, secure future energy supplies, and ensure strong governments that will help to reduce migration towards Europe.

So far, [proposals developed by the European Commission to supply military equipment](#) exclude the supply of 'lethal' equipment such as firearms and explosives. The clear voice of opposition from the small number of peacebuilding organisations in Brussels has been so strong that it has been referred to in the Commission proposals. QCEA has expressed its concerns in person and in writing to the Commission officials working on these proposals.

If you are concerned about this, please write to your Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), referring to the Commission proposals known as the 'Joint-Communication on Capacity-building' that was sent to Parliament on 30 April. To read QCEA's alternative proposals for how to build real security through peace capacity-building, read our recent blog 'Military train and equip policy will not bring peace' at [qceablog.wordpress.com/2015/06/12/train-and-equip](http://qceablog.wordpress.com/2015/06/12/train-and-equip).

*Andrew Lane*

HEALTH  
THROUGH  
PEACE

Former QCEA colleague Chris Venables is now the programmes and finance manager at Medact, a charity for health professionals. They are organising a two-day forum at Friends House, London, on 13-14 November 2015. The title is 'Health through peace: challenging war, militarisation and global insecurity'. To find more details and to register visit, [www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org).



## Restorative justice is missing from Europe's hate crime toolbox

Over the last year *Around Europe* has regularly featured articles about hate crime and far-right politics. Following the murders at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in 2014, and the attacks in Paris and Copenhagen in January 2015, the European Union is looking again at what it can do to prevent anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crime.

In October 2015 the European Commission will hold a large conference on how the EU can promote tolerance within Europe, and specifically how it can reduce anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crime. As part of the preparation for this event, QCEA has submitted a 12-page report, *Hate crime against racial and religious groups in the EU: prevention and restoration*. QCEA argued that the confinement, isolation and negative influences that come with prison often make it more difficult for offenders and the wider community to transform their prejudice and hatred into acceptance and love.

By contrast, many victims, offenders and communities would benefit from restorative justice solutions, that challenge hateful attitudes more directly.

Restorative justice brings together all those involved in, or affected by, a crime; in an inclusive dialogue that explores what happened, why, and how the offender(s) can repair some of the harm. It puts the needs of victims at the centre of the response to crime, whilst also being more likely to increase the offender's understanding of the harm they have caused, reduce their prejudice, and reduce the chance that either they or their peers will re-offend.

Evidence of the benefits of using restorative justice for hate crime is increasing. For more information see the [electronic version of this publication at QCEA.org](#) for links to research by [Mark Walters](#), Co-Director of the [International Network for Hate Studies](#), and the University of Leuven's [FP7 project ALTERNATIVE](#).

*Andrew Lane*

## Restorative justice conference in Serbia

Serbia has one of the worst prison overcrowding problems in any of the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe. In May QCEA met with Nataša Vučković, a Serbian MP and member of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE). She is a member of PACE's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and was the author of their resolution on Alternatives to Imprisonment in 2013. At the meeting QCEA was asked to contribute international speakers for a conference that aimed to identify practical proposals to extend the use of restorative justice (RJ) in Serbia, and thereby reduce the use of imprisonment (a form of retributive justice). The proposals will be considered by the Serbian Government.

The first two requests made to experts within our network were successful. Marian Liebmann, a Quaker from Bristol and author of 'Restorative justice: how it works', offered to speak at the conference. Marian trained 180 victim-offender mediators and 50 trainers

in Serbia during 2003-6 and was pleased to be able to return to Serbia. Deborah Mitchell of RJ Working, and a Quaker from Marazion, was able to use her contacts to find another international speaker, this time from Bulgaria.

Conference participants were mainly judges, prosecutors, and social workers. Marian gave presentations on the benefits of RJ and on practices in the UK and other countries in Europe. She reported that RJ in Serbia has not developed significantly since she last worked there in 2006. However, a few projects have continued, particularly one prison scheme. By attending the conference she was able to bring together and re-inspire several Serbian RJ practitioners who had come to meet her there.

The conference was funded by the European Union as part of efforts to improve criminal justice in Serbia, which is expected to join the EU in 2021.

*Andrew Lane*



“As Friends, we need to develop our spiritual lives so [as] ... to speak to 'that of God' in those with whom we come in contact and to point out to them by our lives as well as our words that there is a power and a spirit within them that can make war impossible.” – Pacific Yearly Meeting

## A clear focus: rebalancing the economy and the natural world

For QCEA, the circular economy is primarily about the environment, and rebalancing [the relationship between the economy \(a human construct\) and the natural world](#). For other commentators, the circular economy is about [increasing Europe's economic competitiveness](#). This view is based on an analysis of the European Union's economy contrasted with the economy of the United States, and that of China. We're told that the EU can't compete with either of these powers on cheap labour, or easy (and therefore cheap) access to natural resources. Based on this comparison, the argument goes that the best way for the EU to retain its competitive edge is to be the world leader on [resource efficiency](#). This line of thought assumes that economic competitiveness, by whatever method, is essential.

For many [companies](#), the circular economy is just another way to increase their competitiveness, through cost-cutting measures. The economic benefits of making the transition to a circular economy are often presented as cost savings for businesses, as reuse and recycling results in less of a need to use virgin raw materials. The European Commission's impact assessment estimated that [the original legislative](#)

[proposals](#) could have saved €630 billion per year for European industry. Various [national studies](#) cite comparable figures. These figures are eye-catching, but they should not be the sole measure of the circular economy's success. These figures do not prioritise the benefits the circular economy could bring for our environment, or for society. Thus, it is important that the objective of the circular economy remains to make

our economy and our consumption sustainable, rather than simply boosting European businesses.

The importance of the circular economy is easier to comprehend if we perceive these innovations as more than just another route to financial gain; it is a necessary response to the urgent crisis of dwindling resources and

ballooning consumption, and part of a wider movement to address how human activity impacts the Earth. Although the circular economy deals with economic systems, and can bring monetary advantages, its goal must remain the sustainable use of natural resources. The circular economy certainly has the potential to improve the fairness and sustainability of our economic system, but, for that to happen, its focus must be clear.

*George Thurley*



Concentrating on cutting costs will not create a sustainable economy. Photo credit: Howard Lake. Creative Commons licence.

### What is the circular economy?

- The [circular economy](#) is an economic model named to contrast with the linear take-make-dispose system we currently use.
- It aims to get the maximum value from natural resources, and to use less of them.
- This requires changes across the entire economy.
- It uses a range of tools to get the most out of products and resources, such as: sustainable design, [reuse](#) (redistribution), [durability](#), repair, and upgrade.
- Recycling should be the [last resort](#) in a circular economy; products should only be recycled when their individual materials (such as plastic, metals) are more useful separately than as part of the product.

*For the latest on TTIP visit the QCEA facebook page*





## Are free-trade agreements compatible with environmental protections?

At the same time as the European Commission is working on a new circular economy proposal, it is negotiating multiple free-trade agreements, notably TTIP. There is a strong fear that these free-trade agreements will not be consistent with some existing EU policy areas: legislation that is necessary to protect people, society or the environment, can also be described as a "barrier to trade" in the context of free trade. When there are differences between EU and US legislation, it seems likely that it will be easier to agree to lower the standard than to require both parties to achieve the higher standard. Thus, the higher standard is perceived as a barrier to trade, and should be removed. Environmental and social campaigners fear that TTIP will lead to European environmental and social legislation **being diluted** in order to enable US businesses to access EU markets.

One particular policy area often mentioned as a constraint on global trade is energy legislation.

With free trade between the EU and Canada and the US, where tar sands oil is refined, comes the threat of **Canadian tar sands oil entering European markets**. This would put it in competition with renewable and other, less climate-damaging energy sources. The potential conflict between free-trade agreements and the EU's climate and energy targets is obvious.

The perceived need to bulldoze all so-called barriers in TTIP's way also risks denying European citizens a choice, by making it much harder for them to make informed, sustainable decisions. Taking tar sands oil as an example, there are some who might argue that identifying that as the source of the fuel is a trade barrier, which unfairly discriminates against producers and refiners of tar sands oil, in Canada and the USA. There are already reports of pressure regarding labelling of products under TTIP. Clear and transparent

information is one of the best ways for citizens to be able to make active choices about the sort of products, and the sort of economy, they want to support.

### The circular economy and free-trade agreements

One way to develop a circular economy is to provide clear information about the source of the materials in products, along with details on how to repair or reuse it. This enables people to make an active choice to buy more sustainable products. Thus we know that free-trade agreements could jeopardise people's ability to know the sources of their products. More widely, those campaigning for a circular economy proposal to create

a sustainable economy would be justified in being concerned about free-trade agreements. While the European Commission is proclaiming its enthusiasm for the circular economy, it is also negotiating

trade deals that could undermine it. How will the **circular economy legislation to be proposed this year** by the Commission fit with US legislation on design, production, **chemicals** and resource management? If the proposals are ambitious, and set high standards (such as **binding design and production requirements**), then currently there is a strong possibility that they will need to be lowered, in order to ratify TTIP.

Are the objectives of free-trade agreements and the circular economy completely incompatible? Since the main objective of free-trade agreements is to increase trade (and therefore wealth), it seems likely they will contribute to increased production in order to generate that wealth, and to satisfy the need for trade. This clearly contradicts the EU's goal of building a sustainable economy by 2050. If our consumption increases in Europe, so will our environmental impact,



Infographic from Corporate Europe Observatory, [corporateeurope.org](http://corporateeurope.org)



*“The mystic is forced to deal with social relations because, in his efforts to achieve the good, he finds that he must be responsive to human need by which he is surrounded” – Howard Thurman*

regardless of where it affects. For example, the land and water needed to grow the cotton to make a T-shirt sold in the EU probably came from beyond EU borders. It is vital environmental impacts outside EU borders also be included in calculations of the EU's environmental impact. An increase in consumption caused by free-trade agreements, will also exacerbate global inequality; as long the global north continues to consume more than its fair share of resources - whether that be materials, energy, land or water - this gulf in equality will not be addressed.

Perhaps there is a way for free-trade agreements to benefit everybody in society, without harming the environment or our social fabric. However, limits on human activity to protect the environment, or to protect employees against corporations, must not be seen as optional extras, or - worse - barriers to trade which should be removed. Any trade agreements the EU agrees must integrate its own circular economy principles, based on reducing the consumption of land, water, carbon and resources, in order to ensure that the well-being of individual citizens, and protection of the environment, are the first priority.

*George Thurley*

## Peace witness planned for Europe's biggest arms fair

Militarism and the arms trade are harming us and our world. Arms exports fuel violence and wars, and new international arms races. One major event in the arms trade calendar is Eurosatory. These arms fairs are organised every two years in Paris and boast over 1000 exhibitors, including the major arms manufacturers and buyers from every continent. Eurosatory next takes place on 13-17 June 2016.

Quakers have been conducting a vigil at Eurosatory for many years. However they are almost a lone presence. Unlike the huge opposition to DSEI in London, very few groups speak out at this event. The organisers of the Eurosatory peace witness are planning a visually interesting message to raise public awareness and encourage arms dealers to think about how else they could apply their technological and businesses skills. The arms trade employs very capable people; instead of preparing for war their businesses could be helping humanity to meet the challenge of climate change and real security. The Quaker group at Eurosatory 2016 hopes to open dialogue with individual participants, confident that some will converse with them as they did last year.

Anyone is welcome to join the vigil at the arms fair next year, and can take part for the whole week or just a couple of days. Anyone interested in joining the vigil can email <[karinaknightartist@gmail.com](mailto:karinaknightartist@gmail.com)>.

### What does Eurosatory have to do with the EU?



Quakers at the peace vigil, Eurosatory 2014. Photo: Karina Knight

In recent years the European Council (heads of government from the 28 Member States) have supported measures to help to expand their arms industries, including ensuring the development of skills needed for the arms industry. The written conclusions from the December 2013 European Council meeting predicted that this would

“bring benefits in terms of growth, jobs and innovation to the broader European industrial sector”. This argument is familiar: it is often made by arms trade lobbyists.

However, this argument should not be used for a sector that produces tools for violence. It is inconsistent with the notion of the EU as a peace project. European weapons have been used recently against civilian populations in the Middle East and North Africa, and also further afield, in Sri Lanka and



Colombia. Whilst EU Member States have avoided war within EU borders, Europe is still fuelling conflict overseas for profit.

#### What does Eurosatory have to do with faith?

Today, violent conflict affects about one quarter of the global population, and this is expected to increase over the next ten years. Governments commonly allow crises to develop by not investing in diplomacy and peacebuilding, instead pursuing policies that increase inequality and encourage the expansion of arms industries. Some governments also readily use violence when a crisis does occur.

In these difficult times, many people look to their faith. Europe benefits from a wonderful diversity of faith communities, including many inspired by the teaching of Jesus. His teaching on peace and non-violence is well known, especially on responding to violence as recorded in the book of Matthew 5:38-47. Later in Matthew, Jesus is himself seen responding non-violently to attack (26:51-53), and expecting the

same from his disciples (10:23).

Jesus's teaching was so clear that for the first three centuries of Christianity, a soldier would leave the army if they became a Christian (see [Diana Francis's Swarthmore Lecture, 2015](#)). In June 2015, Pope Francis gave a similar message during an address in Turin, arguing that it was **inconsistent to identify as Christian whilst also working or investing in the arms trade**. Whatever our faith, it is time to say that the arms trade has no place in the world we want to see.

*Andrew Lane*

Church and Peace is an example of an organisation seeking to live out this aspect of their faith. They have decided to hold their annual conference in Paris for the two days prior to Eurosatory. This is great news for anyone wanting to attend both events. Further information about the Church and Peace conference can be obtained by emailing [gensekr@church-and-peace.org](mailto:gensekr@church-and-peace.org).

## Introducing our new Transition Manager

The Quaker Council for European Affairs has appointed a new Transition Manager. Paul Musiol, who will take up the role on 1 September, will be responsible for reviewing the organisation that represents Quakers in Brussels. 2016 will be an important year for the future of Europe, and QCEA is determined to increase the impact it has on the policies decided in Brussels.

“We have a responsibility to the Quakers and others who support us to ensure that the Quaker voice in Europe is as powerful and persuasive as possible” said Oliver Robertson, clerk of QCEA “This job gives us the opportunity to look again at how we can best do that.”

Paul Musiol comes to this role having served with a number of international charities and organisations, most recently with Oxfam in South Sudan. He worked for Quakers in 2011-2012, at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva.

“I'm thrilled to be joining the QCEA team at this crucial time”, said Paul, “and looking forward to



Paul Musiol, leading QCEA's change programme

getting started by listening widely to the views of the organisation's staff, partners, and supporters”.

The Transition Manager role will last for 12 months. During this time, QCEA will continue to provide the European institutions with a Quaker voice, led by Andrew Lane who started as Representative on 1 August. The team will continue to oppose armed drones and other aspects of EU militarism, and to encourage collective European action to build a sustainable economy.



## With or without you: New briefing papers on the UK's relationship with the EU

QCEA has just published three briefing papers considering the possible implications of UK exit from the EU. The papers focus on peace, trade and migration. Find them at <[www.qcea.org/2015/08/with-or-without-you](http://www.qcea.org/2015/08/with-or-without-you)>.

### With or without you: the UK, the EU and peace

This briefing paper tracks the origins of the EU as a peace project and structures many argues prevented further war in Europe. The paper explores the EU's role in promoting both peace and militarism in the wider world and how is the UK involved. EU foreign policy decisions are taken by Member State governments through a unanimous vote, giving the UK an effective veto. The UK currently opposes closer integration in many areas of military policy, such as a permanent military headquarters for the EU. However, it is itself one of the Member States most inclined to use military force, and it has supported most aspects of EU militarism.

### With or without you: the UK, the EU and trade

Through its European Union membership, the UK participates in the world's largest single market. Eurosceptics say that the UK could occupy a more prosperous position in international trade if it left the EU. Should relations with the supranational EU be redesigned based on the Norwegian, Swiss, or Turkish models?

### With or without you: the UK, the EU and the free movement of people

The freedom of movement of workers has been a tenet of the European Union (EU) since its early days as the European Economic Community (EEC), and it has long been a tradition in Britain. Nearly 1.5 million UK citizens live outside the UK in other EU Member States, and there are around 2.2 million non-British EU citizens in the UK. What would the UK leaving the EU mean for our local, national and European communities?

## Letter from a supporter

Thank you Janet Shimmin for your letter.

Dear QCEA,

Thanks for your well-written article in *Around Europe* [*'Faith, Power and Peace' Around Europe June-July 2015 (Analysis of EU policy through the lens of this year's Swarthmore Lecture)*]. I feel that QCEA needs to take into account the work of Organisation for

*Security and Co-operation in Europe when considering these issues. OSCE work is close to Quaker peace-making models and offers opportunities for Quaker input, and articles like yours risk presenting an incomplete picture if it is ignored. I'd like QCEA's remit to include a watching brief on OSCE. Best wishes to all at QCEA - keep up the good work!!*  
*In friendship, Janet Shimmin*



## Around Europe

Quaker Council for European Affairs  
Square Ambiorix 50, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium

Editeur responsable: Andrew Lane  
No. entreprise 0420.346.728  
[www.qcea.org](http://www.qcea.org)  
[qceablog.wordpress.com](http://qceablog.wordpress.com)