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6th Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Brussels PrepCom

Monday 18 April 2016

Programme and Registrations via <http://www.qcea.org/militaryspending/> and
e-mail to events@qcea.org

Location at Conference Room COMECE, Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, Square de Meeûs 19, Brussels, <http://www.comece.eu/site/en/contact>

Introduction: Disarmament for Development

Global military spending in 2014 accounted for \$1776 billion. This is disproportionate and in many cases does not contribute to the security of citizens. To the contrary, “The world is over-armed and peace is underfunded” stated UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The International Peace Bureau will hold a World Congress on Military and Social Spending “Disarm! For a Climate of Peace. Creating an Action Agenda”, 30 September – 3 October 2016, in Berlin, Germany.¹

The Brussels PrepCom, which will contribute to this event, will ask what are the necessary conditions to reallocate military expenditures in favour of conflict prevention and peace building, in the fight against climate change, in the realization of the new Sustainable Development Goals and for an ambitious migration policy.

Purpose of the meeting

- To encourage international organisations to participate in the International Peace Bureau GCOMS² conference in Berlin, 30 September – 3 October 2016.
- To act as a preparatory event for the Berlin conference by raising awareness and collecting views and action suggestions about alternatives to military spending.
- To consider what investment is needed in tools that help to end cycles of violence. Can we invest in a peace industry?

1 <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>

2 <http://demilitarize.org/>

- To engage a broad range of civil society groups across the following main areas that military spending could be re-directed to: peacebuilding, climate, sustainable development, social justice and migration.

Four panel debates will be followed by discussions, general conclusions, action suggestions and a joint statement.

Global moderator: Andrew Lane, Quaker Representative to the European Union and Council of Europe.

Programme

9.30 am Welcome and coffee

10 am Opening of the PrepCom

Brief introduction by Paul Lansu, Vice President IPB/Pax Christi International.

Military Expenditures. Compendium 2015. Luc Mampaey, Director GRIP.

10.15 am Panel 1: The EU as a Peace Building Entity?

Overcoming armed conflicts: moving the money that is already “deployed” in the hotspots of the world towards prevention and peacebuilding. How can the EU, as a global actor, make best use of its wide array of instruments and mechanisms to pursue more ambitious policies in support of conflict prevention and peacebuilding?

Moderator: Davorka Lovrekovic, President IFOR.

Introductions:

- Ben Moore, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, Acting Director EPLO.
- Doris Mariani, Chief Executive Officer, Non Violent Peace Force.

11.15 am Coffee break.

11.30 am Panel 2: Environment and Armed Conflict

In recent years the link between climate and conflict is becoming more explicit. Ecological challenges cannot be solved without stopping preparations for war. The effects of armed conflict on the environment are disastrous. Climate change threatens the future and will act as a "threat multiplier". How can this situation be remedied through an ambitious climate policy?

Moderator: Sam Biesemans

Introductions:

- Gerald Stang, Senior Associate Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies (Co-author Report New Climate for Peace).
- Eloï Glorieux, Senior Energy Campaigner Greenpeace.
- Ria Verjauw, ICBUW: military spending and the environment/pre and post conflict damage and cost to the environment.

12.30 am Lunch break.

1.30 pm Panel 3: Realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The newly-developed Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer opportunities for building peace in our over-armed world. This session will consider the relationship between disarmament and development. It will also consider to what extent the SDGs will be effectively implemented and funded.

Moderator: John Vandaele, journalist MO°

Introductions:

- Rudy De Meyer, 11.11.11.
- Jeremy Lester, former EEAS conflict and development official

2.30 pm Coffee break.

2.45 pm Panel 4: Refugees and migrants: shared responsibility and coordinated action in Europe

How can Europe contribute in seeking political solutions to conflict, violence, inequality and exclusion that are root causes of the current unprecedented global crisis of forced displacement? How should we look for a humane European migration policy?

Moderator: Marek Misak, Justice and Peace Europe.

Introductions:

- Catherine Woollard, Secretary General European Council on Refugees and Exiles, ECRE.
- Doris Peschke, General Secretary Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, CCME.

Comments from refugee community: Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, President of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Detainees (APRODH), Burundi.

3.45 pm Conclusions and action suggestions. Pieter Teirlinck (Vrede vzw) and Davorka Lovrekovic (President IFOR)

Presentation of the joint statement. Andrew Lane (QCEA) and Willem Staes (Pax Christi Flanders/11.11.11).

Mobilisation for Berlin Conference. Reiner Braun, Co-President of IPB and
Convenor of the Berlin Conference: <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/>

4.45 pm Joint Action at the Luxembourg Square.

5 pm End of the PrepCom.

Supporting organisations: Agir pour la Paix, Belgische Coalitie Stop Uraniumwapens, CNAPD, Comité Surveillance OTAN (CSO), ECRE, EPLO, Greenpeace, GRIP, IFOR, IPB, Justice and Peace Europe, Mouvement Chrétien pour la Paix, Pax Christi Flanders, Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles, Pax Christi International, Quaker Council for European Affairs, Vrede vzw, Vredesactie, 11.11.11,