

HAVING PEACEFUL THOUGHTS ALONE

DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!

BECOME A MEMBER!

Join the oldest peace organisation in Germany with over 3.500 members and help advocate against war and rearmament and for peace and disarmament!



DFG-VK.DE/MITGLIED-WERDEN

- A clear cut between civil aid for peace and military measures by the EU and its member states. On the long run, there must be full abandonment of military missions and a focus on the EU as solely a civil stakeholder.
- A renouncement of the development of military capacities of local and regional stakeholders. Instead, support of regional organisations in order to build civil capacities for early crisis detection and diplomacy with a focus on monitoring missions in elections, cases of human rights abuses, ceasefires etc.
- Further development of civil management capacities within the scope of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), especially in the areas of conflict prevention, peace building and mediation. Closer cooperation with other EU institutions with a special focus on sustainable conflict prevention strategies in development cooperation.

Get involved!

Every five years, throughout Europe the representatives for the EU parliament are elected. It is the only organ of the European Union, which is directly elected by European citizens and therefore presents their representation and their possible participation in parliamentary decision making.

80 years after the end of the Second World War, the EU calls itself a peace power – it has even received the Nobel Peace Prize. Contrary to this, there is diverse involvement of member states in warfare worldwide, the rearmament of the EU as well as the export of weapons and military defense against refugees (FRONTEX). Currently, the European Union owns a gigantic set of weaponry as well as military capability. The harmfulness of the short-sighted expansion of power-oriented foreign policy of the EU is reflected in the lead-up to the Ukraine War and the example of the EU-Ukraine Association



Agreement of 2014. We need a change of politics within the EU Parliament for an EU that advocates for a peaceful and safe future for their citizens and practises foreign politics in order to create a just and sustainable development to strengthen the inhabitants of this planet.



We demand from candidates in the EU parliament that they advocate actively for the following peace-promoting actions presented in this brochure.

Become active in the election process:

- Confront your local candidate with respective demands
- Bring in demands at local election campaign events
- Ask politicians and candidates for their position on respective topics on www.abgeordnetenwatch.de

For a peaceful and civil European Union!

Text: DFG-VK NRW

Having peaceful thoughts alone doesn't change anything!

The DFG-VK (founded in Berlin in 1892) is one of the major pacifist peace organizations in the Federal Republic of Germany. Members of the DFG-VK are active nationwide in their respective federal state associations and regional groups.

The pacifism of the DFG-VK requires continuous political action. Our goal, to create conditions for a world without war and oppression, entails:

- Organizing effective protests and nonviolent resistance against wars and German involvement in warfare.
- Promoting disarmament publicly with the aim of complete demilitarization.
- Conducting and supporting activities against Bundeswehr recruitment measures and promoting antimilitaristic awareness with the aim of completely condemning soldiering. We demand the introduction of civilian clauses at universities and a ban on Bundeswehr appearances at schools.
- Actively engaging in public discussion about the role of soldiers: killing in war.
- International collaboration with the goal of developing and enforcing alternatives to military and violence-promoting structures.
- In light of the suspended conscription, we urge all Bundeswehr soldiers to refuse and end their service. We reject the so-called conscription and state compulsory services and demand their final abolition. We support conscientious objectors worldwide.

Based on the conviction that means must correspond with ends, the DFG-VK pursues its political goals exclusively through nonviolent means; these exclude the injury and killing of individuals and aim at conflict resolution through dialogue. Nonviolent methods, such as various forms of refusal, civil disobedience, direct nonviolent action, are guided by the moral legitimacy of the goals and means, not by formal legality. We understand this diversity of actions as the basis for our effectiveness. We particularly welcome original and creative forms of action and statements, enjoy working together and learning from each other.

BECOME ACTIVE NOW!

BECOME A MEMBER

To consolidate our abilities and efforts towards realizing our goals and to make our personal commitment politically more effective, we have organized ourselves. Within the DFG-VK, we support each other in our everyday commitment against war and stand in solidarity with our members, as well as individuals outside our association that are affected by repression due to this commitment.

The political pacifism as understood by DFG-VK must maintain and preserve its independence from governments and other institutions. We are independent in our work and financing from churches, trade unions, and political parties. At the same time, we feel connected to people and groups with similar objectives here and around the world. We see ourselves as part of a global movement for peace, justice, and a dignified future.



Become active! Get signed up now!

- www.dfg-vk.de
- youtube.com/dfgvk
- facebook.com/dfgvk
- [Instagram.com/die_friedensgesellschaft](https://instagram.com/die_friedensgesellschaft)
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Our Webshop PAZIFIX

www.shop.dfg-vk.de

Donation account of the DFG-VK

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FOR A PEACEFUL AND CIVIL EU!



A PEACE-POLITICAL INTERVENTION.

www.dfg-vk.de



Peaceful and civil, instead of armed and militaristic!

The roots of the European Union (EU) date back to 1951. At that time, the goal was to economically strengthen Europe and ensure peace and stability. Indeed, there have been no wars between EU member states since then. However, the EU is still militarily active by jointly conducting wars outside the EU and arming other states. The EU has the potential to become a force for peace - but a lot needs to change for that to happen.

No to PESCO, Defense Fund, and an EU army!

As early as 2003, a "European Security Strategy" was adopted, and the EU Constitutional Treaty established the military orientation of EU foreign policy. The background was - and is - the endeavor of key parts of EU leadership to strengthen the global significance of the EU. Former president of the EU Parliament Martin Schulz expressed this in 2013: "Europe's partners rightly expect that (...) from the economic superpower, a global political superpower will emerge." We believe that Europe's "partners" are more likely to fear this development than have respective expectations!

Since 2007, EU battle groups have been ready to deploy within 5-30 days. Specifically, EU military forces have been or were active in Bosnia, Somalia, the Horn of Africa, Mali, and many other countries. The in 2016 adopted "EU Global Strategy" states: "In connection with the EU's interest (...) there is a need for (...) global security in maritime traffic, thereby ensuring open and protected routes on oceans and seas, which are crucial for trade, and access to natural resources."

In December 2017, the European Council adopted the "Permanent Structured Cooperation" (PESCO). This includes, among other things, the pooling of military capabilities. Additionally, PESCO states were obligated to comply with numerous armament criteria (including increasing military budgets and participating in EU operations and major armament programs).



The EU is also advancing in arms projects: Although the Lisbon Treaty prohibits the financing of arms projects and military operations from the European Union's common budget, since 2021, there has been the billion-euro "European Defense Fund" to implement joint arms projects. There is a legal dispute over the fund.

Through another fund, the European Peace Facility, EU member states are arming the Ukraine and providing military training to its personnel. Additionally, Ukraine's accession to the EU, for entirely military-strategic considerations, is being considered. Recently, further important armament instruments have been introduced, such as ASAP to boost ammunition production or EDIRPA to finance arms purchases by member states.

All of this costs money – a lot of money that won't be available for other urgently needed purposes. Nearly all EU member states plan to spend at least two percent of their gross domestic product on the military in the future. This means additional spending in the hundreds of billions, leading to further drastic cuts in social budgets.

No new nuclear arms race in Europe, prevent the modernization of nuclear weapons in the EU. Decide on a ban on nuclear weapons.

With the termination of the INF Treaty in 2019 for intermediate-range nuclear weapons, as well as the clearly condemnable and unjustifiable violation of international law by Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine, a new arms race has begun, in which the EU participates – for example, with the deployment of new US nuclear weapons in Europe in the coming years! This significantly increases the risk of a nuclear war. We unequivocally oppose this!

Worldwide, there are still about 15,000 nuclear warheads held by nine countries: USA, Russia, China, UK, France, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea. Approximately 2,000 of these are on constant alert. US nuclear bombs are stationed in EU countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Italy, as well as in Turkey. The USA alone plans to spend \$1 trillion on nuclear armament and new nuclear weapons over the next thirty years, including \$10 billion for a program that also includes those stationed in Europe. In Germany, new B61-12 nuclear bombs are to be stationed at Büchel Air Base in Rhineland-Pfalz, which will make nuclear attacks even more precise, thus lowering the threshold for their use. The EU must clearly oppose this de facto arms build-up. France - and also the UK - must not invest in new nuclear weapons.



A tactical CIMIC TEAM visiting a weekly market in Wabaria near Gao/Mali. Photo: Bundeswehr/Sebastian Wilke

Nuclear weapons were first used in 1945. Within seconds, over 200,000 civilians were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Countless people suffered severe injuries. Genetic damage caused by radioactive radiation continues to burden subsequent generations to this day.

In 2017, over 120 states adopted the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which prohibits the possession and use of these weapons under international law. Over 65 states have since signed and ratified the treaty - within the EU, only Malta, Ireland, and Austria have joined so far. The EU must advocate for its member states' approval of this treaty!

According to the study "Don't Bank On The Bomb" published in autumn 2021, a total of 338 financial institutions invest in companies that develop, produce, or maintain nuclear warheads and delivery systems. Financial volume in 2021: \$685 billion US dollars! The study specifically names Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank as investors in nuclear weapons manufacturers. The EU must work to stop direct and indirect investments in the production of nuclear weapons within its member states.

DFG-VK
DEUTSCHE FRIEDENSGESELLSCHAFT -
VEREINIGTE KRIEGSDIENSTGEGNERINNEN



No to the EU's arms export policy, Stop arms exports from the EU, End the promotion of arms research by the EU.

The EU is one of the largest arms exporters in the world. With the adoption of a Common Position of the EU on "common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and military equipment," the EU already established legally binding regulations for arms transfers in 2008. As a result, arms exports should have drastically decreased. However, the reality is quite different: In recent years, a large portion of arms export licenses from all EU member states went to countries outside the EU. Weapons from the EU are being used in war and crisis regions. In the ongoing conflict in Yemen, German small arms are being used, and bombs from an Italian subsidiary of the Düsseldorf-based arms company Rheinmetall are being dropped. Saudi Arabia has Eurofighter and Tornado combat jets for bombings - both aircraft types are jointly built by arms companies in EU member states. The airstrikes by the Saudi-led military coalition are a major cause of civilian casualties. At least: After the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi Arabia in 2017, exports to the country were suspended for a few years - but they are now resuming.

The EU is inconsistent when it comes to its arms export policy. Another example is Russia: Between 2015 and 2020, arms worth around 400 million euros were exported to Russia because the contracts were signed before Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the subsequent EU arms embargo. A consistent sanction policy would look different.



Bundeswehr convoy within the Enhanced Forward Battle Group in Rukla/Lithuania. Photo: Bundeswehr/Sebastian Wilke

The arms industry, through its lobbyists, is heavily involved in the EU's arms race and arms export policy. Through their corporate offices in Brussels and Strasbourg, they ensure that large sums are wasted on arms research and production in the EU every year. With PESCO and the European Defense Fund, even closer cooperation is planned for the procurement and development of military technology, aiming to increase arms production. The funds for arms research and acquisitions are lacking for education, social systems, and combating the climate crisis. The solution lies in arms conversion, transitioning to meaningful sustainable civilian production across Europe. This could secure more jobs across Europe than in the arms industry.



Expansion of EU institutions for Civil Conflict Resolution

We demand 7 billion euros for non-violent conflict resolution and peace promotion and 3 billion euros for the promotion of human rights and democracy in the current EU financial framework (2021–2027)!

The European Union is currently engaged in a wide range of civilian peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities, such as security sector reform, judicial reform, training and advisory services, civilian protection, etc. However, the institutions and resources for these endeavors are so inadequate that the EU can hardly demonstrate success. The EU needs a civil peace strategy. This includes:

- Training and capacity building for EU staff in civilian conflict resolution and gender-based issues within the framework of human resources development for common foreign policy.
- Systematic involvement of civil society and substantial strengthening of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peacebuilding Partnership.

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