

Workshop “Making Europe nuclear-weapons-free“

at the Conference of the European Network for Peace and Human Rights
European Parliament, Brussels, October 20 and 21, 2005 (see
<<http://www.russfound.org/Enet/enphr%2005.htm>> for the program and for more information)

The workshop will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20, 3:30-6:30 pm with a break (note time change!), and Friday, Oct. 21, 9:00-10:45 am (continue discussion); room(s) to be announced

You *MUST* register for the conference or you won't have access to the European Parliament! Contact Tony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation; e-mail to <elfeuro@compuserve.com> or fax to 00 44 (0) 115 9420 433

What the workshop offers:

- information which is interesting for conference participants who have been not or little involved with the topic of nuclear weapons (in particular in Europe)
- help those active in nuclear weapons abolition campaigns with information sharing, strategizing, and cooperating with each other

Background:

60 years after the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki this is the worrying state of affairs: Iran nuclear crisis (in which Europe plays a major role), six-party talks with North Korea, new nuclear doctrine of the United States including plans to develop mini nukes and bunker busters, NATO nuclear strategy which includes nuclear sharing arrangement and the deployment of US nuclear weapons in six European countries, disarmament regime in disarray after the failure of the May 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York, another chance for progress in disarmament and non-proliferation given away at the recent Summit of Heads of States and Governments at the United Nations in New York (Millennium+5), inability of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament to even agree on an agenda for their talks in the ninth year in a row, and currently, in October 2005, every indication that the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (tasked with discussion on disarmament and international security) will also be unable to deliver useful results due to the blockade of very few countries.

Nuclear weapons are a pressing issue, they are in the media every day – and yet in many European countries there is little public debate and hardly any civil society resistance against the dangerous situation.

This workshop gives basic information with a focus on the situation in Europe, reports about activities in several European countries, introduces (at least) two concrete proposals for action, and gives room for discussion on future civil society cooperation across Europe.

Note 1: Russell Foundation offers to circulate relevant papers on the issue prior to the conference. The papers are available at <<http://www.russfound.org/Enet/enphr%2005papers.htm>>. Please contact Anthony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation <elfeuro@compuserve.com>, if you want to issue a paper.

Note 2: The workshop will be preceded by an organizing meeting of the Abolition 2000 Europe network on Thursday, Oct. 20, during the lunch break; please contact George Farebrother <geowcpuk@gn.apc.org> for details

Workshop Program:

Facilitator: Agneta Norberg <agneta.norberg@spray.se>

Animator: Regina Hagen <regina.hagen@jugendstil.da.shuttle.de>

Rapporteur: N.N.

What?	Who?	Explanation	Timing
Welcome	<i>Agneta Norberg</i> (Swedish Peace Council, Sweden)	--	brief
Relevance of the nuclear weapons issue today and why civil society needs to get more involved	<i>Regina Hagen</i> (INESAP, Germany)	introduction into topic	10 minutes
Nuclear weapons in Europe: an overview	<i>Bart Libaut</i> (Greenpeace, Belgium)	what's there, who has it, where, and what's the plan?	10 minutes
NATO and nuclear weapons	<i>Rae Street</i> (British CND, UK)	overview of strategic concept, role of nuclear planning group, connection with US nuclear policy; who things are interconnected	10 minutes
The need to raise public awareness about the issue	<i>Pol d'Huyvetter</i> (For Mother Earth, Belgium)	input for following discussion: how are groups trying to raise awareness and thus move people to become active themselves	10 minutes
The next generation	<i>Julia Kramer</i> (Pressehütte Mutlangen, Germany)	report about youth activities in the past two years	10 minutes
Canada and Missile Defense – a success story or public deception	<i>Theresa Wolfwood</i> (Canada)	a report from Canada on the civil society MD campaign and its results	10 minutes
Raising awareness	representatives from several European countries	share information about awareness raising campaigns in various countries, positive and negative experience	5 minutes each
Trident and the 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion	<i>Phil Shiner and George Farebrother</i> (World Court Project, UK)	a concrete proposal	10 minutes
Initiative for a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Europe	<i>Tony Simpson</i> (Russell Foundation) and <i>Armin Tenner</i> (INES)	a concrete proposal	10 minutes
discussion (to be continued on Friday morning)	all	additional suggestions for awareness raising and concrete action in EU nuclear sharing countries from participants; how can we create synergies from our national efforts? how to follow up from here?	50-60 minutes
wrap-up of Thursday discussion and agreement on Friday discussion	<i>Agneta Norberg</i>		10 minutes