

Minutes: International preparation conference for activities on 60th NATO anniversary

Stuttgart, October 4th and 5th 2008

The conference has had 107 participants from 16 countries, including Georgia and Afghanistan.

1. Welcome - by Reiner Braun for the Preparatory Committee

Stuttgart very militarized city, Africom and Eucom is located here.

Aims of the meeting to should be:

- Delegitimizing of NATO – Analyze the real role of NATO, like nuclear weapons and others, to raise awareness to greater parts of the society
- To develop alternatives for peace and disarmament
- To structure the actions: after the brilliant ESF meeting, more than 300 people for discussion our activities, several national meetings, very good in Germany beginning in September in Frankfurt

Reiner thanks to:

- Peter Becker Foundation „peace movement“
- German Peace Movement (from the IRAK demonstration February 2003)
- German trade union IG-Metall for translation equipment
- Helpers and supporters
- Interpreters

The following ideas are proposed up to now and have to be discussed:

Wednesday, April 1^h

- **Opening international camp including a cultural event Strasburg**

Thursday, April 2nd

- **Option 1: beginning international congress in Strasburg (university or la bourse)**
- **International Camp until Sunday**

Friday, April 3rd

- **Continuation of the international congress till the afternoon**
- **Evening parallel to the official dinner, civil disobedience, actions or blockades**

Saturday, April 4^h

- **International demonstration**, starts 10.00 in Kehl (when we can cross the Europe bridge) and/or in Strasburg
- Final manifestation in Strasburg, culture
- Afternoon civil disobedience, actions, blockades
- **Option 2: in the evening beginning of the international congress**

Sunday, April 5^h

- **Continuation of the international congress**

We need ideas for pictures (like G8) and Logos, up to now only terrible examples, we should be much more creative to overcome the other side, who have power and police.

2. Lecture and discussion: why we are facing NATO – Peter Strutynski, Federal Committee Peace Counsel

60 years of NATO are enough for him as a researcher for peace and scientist on policy. Along the following 4 thesis I talk about the historical and actual strategie of NATO.

- NATO never had had a right to exist.
- Regarding international laws, NATO is a monster
- NATO is the main responsible for the Cold War
- NATO gets more dangerous after the End of the Cold War and the bipolar World Order. With the new strategy of NATO from 1991 (Treaty of Rome), NATO should react to the so called new threats like, Natural Resources Shortness, Migration, Poverty, Climate change and others. Therefore a future for humanity will only exit without a future for NATO.

[Tomas Magnusson IPB, 1910 Nobel Peace Price, oldest international peace organisation](#)

Starting point of something new in the history of peace movement, we will bring brought attention to a wide range of people and setting the agenda beyond traditional movements. People reclaim the street and say no to NATO.

NATO stands for the missile defence system, military bases around the world, nuclear weapons and military interventions and expenditure. NATO is a rival to the UN and the system of international law. NATO is intertwined with the European security and defence system.

NATO is under extreme pressure in Afghanistan.

NATO has international and domestic dimensions, which have to be analyzed to be political effective. The new role of NATO in a new world, the focus is getting away from a single nation, and acting world wide, having nuclear military bases nuclear far way from NPT, military is sending industrial influence and decision making. This is the normal activity in the former east and global south, creating dependencies and influence to the agenda in a worst way, even to NGOs and there development and intervention.

When we plan activities we should give attention to those acts. Because of complexities of problems we need seminars, lectures, information and so one to bring information to the public.

Sweden and the NATO is different to other countries, Sweden is not a NATO member, the Liberal party will have it, but the Conservatives do not want it.

Swedish opinion is against NATO, but Sweden has partnership for peace, have troops in Afghanistan.

The debate in Sweden can be won, getting Social Democratic Party in a really opposition against NATO, also the Green, the Left are already involved. The key is the Social Democratic party. It is possible raise awareness against partnership for peace and against NATO.

[Political Discussion:](#)

In following points have been addressed also:

- nuclear weapons, ballistic space are bases of the first strike doctrine of NATO
 - in December a pre-decision about Ukraine and Caucasus joining the NATO
 - USA/NATO are loosing in Afghanistan
 - Economic crisis more likely for further war
 - Partnership for peace is NATO membership light, the participants have to integrate the NATO strategy in their own military policy, independent if they are a NATO member or not
 - The cooperation between NATO and EU is coming closer and closer, only small differences between these two actors
 - Sarkozy brought France fully back to NATO, forcing the military part of NATO and EU
 - Georgia was a proxy war between USA and Russia, direct conflict between major power in the systems
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- How can we build out of **meinungsführerschaft** political actions
 - Connecting the movement with those against the IRAN and Afghanistan war

- Bertrand Russell peace foundation will join in future
- Movement should not be affected by western Europe only, Eastern Europe, Russia, Balkans, Caucasus, Ukraine
- There is the opportunity to rebuild a big international movement like against the IRAK war
- NATO is part of the neoliberal policy and achieve this agenda

Slogans:

- Demilitarize NATO, (proposal slogan von Malmö)
- No to war – No to NATO
- Not a slogan 60 is enough, but 60 years are too many.

[Guest speeches:](#)

Saturday by Lasha Shavdia, Georgia

He gave an overview about the actual political situation in Georgia and the region. Since 1994 Georgia participate at the NATO program partnership for freedom and get financially and military support, the military structure is rebuild, including the military bases, which the Russian troops had left. The situation is very dangerous and the result of the war is a militarisation of the whole region. The people do not support the war. The actual government is not support by the people and we are hopefully that the government will change and make a more peaceful policy.

Sunday by Hamid, Afghanistan

He gave an overview about the brutal military actions in Afghanistan, he described the role of the NATO and the different actions of the troops. He pointed out NATO is a product of the Cold War, which is over. Therefore we need no more NATO. We want peace – bye bye NATO.

[3. Introduction to the actions – first ideas which where coming up by the different preparatory meetings –](#)

[Arielle Denis and Sotiris Kontogiannis](#)

Different meetings, ESF launch in the appeal of ASM the idea 4th of April a world day against NATO, war and militarisation -> bring this to BELEM to install 4th as international action.

The biggest meeting point is the international demonstration on Saturday. Midday.

Second, international conference: alternatives to NATO

Third important moment is to give the youth the possibility for long term meeting/camp 3-4 days for exchange discussions and activities.

Other import questions is that we do not have only demonstrations, initiatives, no violent direct actions, blockades, visions, what to do.

The different days we have to work out in the working groups today afternoon.

Strasbourg old city, the parliament can be blockaded very easily.

[Sotiris Kontogiannis](#)

Huge demonstration in Strasbourg must be possible, I was in Malmoe.

In Greece appeal, signed by a lot of important people from old and new peace movement, best blockade in Strasbourg is a huge demonstration, and Evian they could not close the boarders.

Counter conference is very important, we speakers before is obvious discussion about the crimes of NATO, GLADIO, intellectuals from our side, will attended counter conference, very important, with big names, to have counter conference for exchange of people of the movement, after going home, to be clear about the power of the movement, they are tried to be very powerful, to go one with mobilisation, with enthusiasm and the hope we can win.

Working groups:

1. Our goals and strategy, organisation of the counter summit, tribunal, workshop, seminars, plenary (Tomas Magnussen)

Reporter John Rees

3 main areas

- Duration of conference broken senses begin on Thursday Friday until early afternoon on Sunday, biggest time on Friday Saturday and Sunday

Conference can not run with the demonstration in parallel and main other actions

- Content of conference

- Afghanistan every agreed
- NATO in east
- Cost of NATO
- NATO and EU
- NATO und nuclear weapons
- NP bases movement
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- Voices, in the conference

- Veterans movement
- Military families movements
- No bases movement
- Josef Stieglitz
- Hassan Sumer, general secretaire oil workers movement
- Tariq Ali
- Norman Chomsky
- Konstantin Wecker,
- Oskar Lafontaine
- Malalai Yoya

Tribunal on NATO, legal, testimonies, by people from the floor, public meeting, different version on the tribunal exits.

2. Political content of our activities, main points for the appeal, Declaration, (slogan and logo?) (Ariel Denis and Kate Hudson)

Reporter: Kate Hudson

Arielle and Kate drafted first version to preparatory committee, now to the group, simple common text, others can add their on text afterwards.

NATO - EU relationship

Positive alternative vision

Militaristic culture

Afghanistan

Languages impact on the appeal

Trade unions, how we open the appeal

Broad resonance across society goal to get people to Strasburg,

3. International cooperation, Enlargement to Balkans and Eastern Europe, Greece Balkan conferences (Petros Constantinou, Andreas Speck)

Reporter: Jorgen Madsen

Inform and about the activities for the activity conference in January February, use a number of networks, which are existing, WSF, student movements, globalisation, campaign against militarization.

Trade Unions

Dissent network

Any other suggestions, put it forwards to us, open list for the appeal

- Appeal international different languages, website are necessary incl. articles which are free to use and have diversity and not prohibiting a number of links and certain point of practicalities on the webpage
- Countries take care for mobilisation to Strasburg, national committees, linking regions also Nordic countries, Spain and Portugal
- ESF call 4th of April as an international action day
- Number of countries 21 or 28 mobilisation combine with Strasburg, combining with Iraq demonstrations
- Call from here is needed for 4th of April.
- Could include a global symbolic mass action, a way to show the entity around the world, Symbols.

Big demo today in Vicenza against bases text proposal to send to the friends,
Petros Constantinou present the message, 16 countrys accepted by applause.

We the International Preparatory Conference against NATO, meeting in Stuttgart Germany on 5-6 October 2008, with representatives from 16 countries, send our greetings to the people of Vicenza, and our solidarity with their protest against the new military bases that USA and NATO want to impose on them.

We especially condemn the decision by the Italian state to stop them from expressing their opinions in a referendum. This shows what Berlusconi and other NATO leaders understand by democracy.

We invite you to participate in the protests against the 60th anniversary of NATO to be held in Strasbourg-Kehl, on 4 April 2009 and in the actions leading up to those protests.

4. Actions and activities, Organisation of the demonstration, cultural activities (Chris and Tobias)

Reporter: Tobias Pflüger

It was the biggest working group. In principel there are three central activities

- Demonstration on Saturday, a huge one, which not have seen for a long time starting in the centre and walking to the European Parliament with different elements like:
 - * mop away the NATO
 - * casket for NATO
 - * music and culture
- Conference on Thursday, Friday and Sunday
- Blockades, which should be mostly on Friday

It was not possible to verify the information that on the German side NATO is planning on Friday a military parade, a folk festival and a reception on the Rhine. It is clear that if it is like this, that we have to counter this and integrate this in our planning.

Points of the discussion:

- Point out the aspect of delegitimizing of NATO
- Funeral service instead of birthday party
- Show the alternatives, against poverty and hunger, invite Jean Ziegler
- Combine a global day and Strasburg, week of action, war of IRAK and NATO
- Cost of NATO and social strugglers, connection with trade unions to involve them
- Connection of USA project of the NATO and war on terror,
- Represent the actors in Iran, Afghanistan and so one, the people who resists the war

The following decisions have been taken on Sunday:

- Saturday april 4th, 13 h **huge demonstration** in the centre of Strasbourg
- **International Resistance camp** is part of the common organisation, contact persons of the camp are: camporga@riseup.net,
- **International conference** from Thursday until to Sunday, prominent speakers from all around the world, combining with activists around the world, Conference strong element of activist participations, Tribunal events, Meetings of activities to show the diversity, Struggle after Strasbourg can continue, is a starting point, kind of document afterwards should be prepared, organizing process have to be open, ongoing process have to be discussed, should be flexible how we organized it, and how to react to the official programming, a lot time for discussion between us, alternative concepts to NATO. Preparation will be done by a program committee
- **Direct actions and Civil Disobedience**, will be organized by a lot of people, will take place on both sides of the Rhine.

Establishing **International Coordination Committee**

Existing committee make a proposal:

Coordinate the different actions, contact with the national committees in France and Germany, it is a working committee:

Thomas Magnussen, IPB

Andreas Speck, wri

Angelika Claussen, IPPNW

Susi Schneider, WILPF

Kate Hudson, CND, GB

Arielle Denis, Movement de la paix, France

Peter Strutynski, Federal Committee Peace Counsel, Germany

Jan Tamas, Anti Missiles Defence, CR

Cris Nineham, Stop the War Coalition, GB

Petros Constantinou, Stop the War Coalition, Greece

Tobias Pflüger, MdE, Germany

Reiner Braun, INES and Cooperation for Peace, Germany

Jordi Calvo Rufanges, Centre of Peace Studies and Justice, Spain

Ayse Demirbilek, Global Peace and Justice Coalition, Turkey

Attac Europe NN

NN Poland, NN Italy

Region Baden-Württemberg and Strasbourg:

Julia Meyer, Kehl and NN Baden-Württemberg

Frederic Henry and NN Strasbourg

France meeting next week should offer one or two delegates more.

United for Peace of Justice (USA) and peace movement Canada should be included.

Reiner Braun history of the process invitation of the organizations, working gone, preparation committee, names from German and France committees

German committee formed in Frankfurt, includes all German groups.

Question why so much German in the international committee

Background: international and regional

Obligation:

Coordinate the actions prepared by the different levels and organizations and give freedom and space to other actions, it is not a central committee, preparing also meeting in ESF and preparing meeting in Belem. Enlarging the process include more, is an open list.

- **Program Committee Congress**

Tomas Magnussen and Peter Strutynski chair the committee. They develop the group including the email addresses. The European IPPNW wants to be a part of the committee, contact Angelika Claussen.

- **Further Committees Visa, etc.**

Visa – committee, Legal Committee, Committee for organisational and bureaucratic issues

- **Further Points**

We will work on a logo, a email list and a website, and give the information to all, who are in the participation lists.

- **Next Meeting – International Activists Conference in Strasbourg**

Was agreed for February 14th / 15th after the World Social Forum in Belem (800 people from France are going there). French will have big conference in November, Greece and Belgium also,

The activists conference should include all international groups, all activists from Germany and France. We expect new quality and new quantity.

Contact person Reiner Braun hr.braun@gmx.net and Arielle Denis arielle.denis@mvtpaix.org.

Kristine Karch, Düsseldorf, den 09.10.2008

Please send additional points and corrections to: kristine@kkarch.de