



transform!
europe

Manifesto

February 2022

НЕТ ВОЙНЕ NO WAR

**Stop the War! An Appeal
for a Europe of Peace**
transform! europe Peace Manifesto

On the Peace Manifesto

After the Russian invasion in Ukraine, transform! europe issued a Peace Manifesto advocating for an end of the Russian attack, peace and a deeper understanding of the current conflict.

DE-ESCALATION AND PEACE

transform! europe strongly condemns military aggression against a sovereign country and calls on President Putin and the Russian Federation to immediately cease any hostilities and withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory.

As the manifesto emphasises:

"In these difficult times, we stand with the people of Ukraine who experience the Russian attack in full force and whose lives are in danger."

transform! europe calls on the European Union to assume an active role in establishing conditions for the resumption of negotiations. It should therefore refrain from all activities that contribute to further escalation. In addition, the European Union has to open its borders for Ukrainian refugees and provide humanitarian aid.

transform! europe appeals to all progressive forces and movements throughout Europe – to feminist, anti-racist, ecological, human-rights, and peace movements alike – to organise demonstrations for the restoration of peace and demilitarisation. transform! europe furthermore appeals to social democratic and Green parties and affiliated organisations to uphold their pacifist and anti-militarist traditions and join forces with the left to advocate for peace.

EUROPEAN SECURITY ARCHITECTURE AND DISARMAMENT

As their primary goal, negotiations with Russia must aim to end the military intervention. As a long-term goal, peace talks must aim at building a new European security architecture.

transform! europe states,

"mastering the challenges of the future in peace will only be possible if Europe leaves the Cold War logic in the past and collectively faces the future."

The current conflict is not only between Ukraine and Russia, it is also a consequence of the geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the NATO. However, a European security system cannot be built in confrontation but only in cooperation with Russia. transform! europe calls for an autonomous European security policy aimed at dismantling all nuclear weapons on the continent, demilitarisation, and peaceful international relations. *"The arms industry must no longer enjoy impunity, making millions in revenue while destroying the planet and depriving the youth from their right to a peaceful future. The youth of Ukraine and Russia are now ripped from their families and sent to fight in a war that serves oligarchic interests and threatens their future and lives."*

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transform! european network for alternative thinking and political dialogue
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Stop the War! An Appeal for a Europe of Peace

transform! Europe condemns the attack that Russia, under the governance of Vladimir Putin, has launched against Ukraine. We reject the use of military force against a sovereign state, just as we have previously rejected NATO forces' deployment in countries bordering Russia, and in countries of Asia, Africa, and Europe. **We therefore call for an immediate ceasefire, a stop to the bombings, the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian soil, and a return to the negotiating table.**

At the same time, we call upon the EU to put maximum effort into reengaging in peace negotiations. In these difficult times, **we stand with the people of Ukraine who are experiencing the Russian attack in full force and whose lives are in danger. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are forced to leave their homes, and we are building networks of solidarity for their support, including providing them with shelter and safety. We stand with the people in Russia who oppose Putin's war, braving the consequences, as well as the millions of other Europeans who are demanding peace.** The solution to this unjustifiable escalation of military violence is not more violence: the solution is political, based on the principles of common, collective security, concepts which prioritise the well-being of all peoples and the respect of human rights and international law. We join forces with the peace and social movements across the continent to stop this irrational war, we call upon European citizens to take to the streets in the name of peace and we stand with the people of Ukraine who are forced to leave their homes. **Weapons and wars should belong to the past, the future of Europe and humanity must be peace!**

European public opinion, as the Eurobarometer demonstrates in each survey, is overwhelmingly in favour - by more than 85% - of a Europe of peace, human rights, democracy and without nuclear weapons. This points up the contradiction between people's desires for Europe's future and policy makers' decisions. **The current crisis is an expression of the deep, unresolved contradictions of the European security situation.** Since the end of the Cold War, Europe consists only of capitalist states. There are imperialist contradictions between the states, amplified by their unequal economic and military power.

We reject any policy that returns us to a policy of blocks and a new Cold War. We oppose NATO expansion on European soil and its military rhetoric. Europe needs and wants a peaceful path to resolve conflicts.

NO TO WARMONGERING, YES TO DIPLOMACY

Fighting for peace has been a long tradition in Europe. The radical left has been a pacifist, anti-militarist, and anti-imperialist left since its beginnings. It opposes all chauvinist, racist, neo-colonialist, and war-justifying propaganda of governments, capital, and media. To oppose the creation of enemy images does not mean to approve the policy of a government. We call upon all progressive forces and citizens to raise their voices for de-escalation. We call for an **immediate end of confrontational rhetoric and military action and threats:** By continuing with these tactics, war and military conflict threaten our whole continent and extend the suffering of the peoples of Ukraine. The priority should always be to stop the war.

The peoples of Europe know too well what war and its terrible consequences mean. The EU is currently suffering due to the devastating Covid-19 pandemic and its catastrophic management. We mourn more than 2 million dead over the last two years. The pandemic affects the lives of millions and is reshaping the economies. In this conjunction, **we consider the increase of military expenses, fuelled and justified by the increase of military tensions and warmongering rhetoric, unacceptable.** It is an outrage that during the current lethal pandemic, military expenses increase from 1.63% to 2.2% of the global GDP. Military conflict is not the only challenge to the security of Europe's people. The dire consequences of climate change can already be felt in our continent and both these crises are amplifying structural inequalities in the EU, Europe, and the world. Although not mentioned in most of the international environmental agreements, such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the military-industrial complex is one of the biggest polluters of our planet and war the most devastating strike on nature's integrity. **Valuable resources that could help eradicate inequalities in the health and social systems of EU countries, as well as promote the renewal and resilience of infrastructure, are spent on the pros-**

pect of a prolonged war that would be detrimental to the peoples of the EU and Europe. This has to stop!

ENDING A NEW COLD WAR TO PREVENT ANY WAR

The opportunity that existed after the end of the Cold War to create a pan-European peace and security system was not seized. On the one hand, NATO continues to exist, tying the security and military policies of 22 of the 27 EU members to the United States; and on the other hand, pan-European and inclusive structures such as the Council of Europe and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) have been marginalised and pushed out of public perception by NATO, the G-7 and the EU itself. **European security policy is in a multiple crisis.** Ukraine is only one of several hotspots where conflict potential is condensing and diplomatic management of individual crises in the acute stage is not sufficient to defuse them. Europe needs a security architecture that fairly considers the interests of all European states. The upcoming 50th anniversary of the CSCE is an opportunity for renewal and a chance to adopt an updated Final Act setting out the cornerstones of European security. In the sense of open diplomacy, peace movements, NGOs, and the civil society from all over Europe (and not only the EU) should be involved in the preparation and implementation of the conference not only to shape an accompanying programme, but rather as equal partners.

Mastering the challenges of the future in peace will only be possible if Europe abandons the Cold War logic of the past and collectively faces the future. The EU needs to start elaborating a new independent security strategy inclusive of its neighbours. The unbearable costs of war are always paid by the working classes. **The arms industry must no longer enjoy impunity, making millions in revenue while destroying the planet and depriving the youth of their right to a peaceful future.** The youth of Ukraine and Russia are now ripped away from their families and sent to fight in a war that serves oligarchic interests and threatens their lives and future. We stand with the families and loved ones of all those drafted into the military because of this irrational war and oppose the patriarchal mindset that invokes violence.

FOR AN INDEPENDENT EU PEACE AND SECURITY STRATEGY

It is impossible to talk about the strategic autonomy of the EU when the majority of the EU Member States are members of NATO. The development of an EU security policy identity must go hand in hand with the dissolution of NATO and the withdrawal of American troops and especially nuclear weapons. **For an independent EU Peace and Security Strategy and hence a peaceful Europe, the EU must free itself from the security-policy paternalism of the USA. The EU is a global player. It must focus on achieving climate goals, leading a socially just transition from fossil to sustainable energy, realigning its trade policy towards the Global South, and respecting, and implementing the UN Refugee Convention in its refugee policy.** The status of neutral and nonaligned members of the EU, as explicitly recognised in the Lisbon Treaty, should be revisited, which expands the EU's diplomatic possibilities of playing a constructive role in the tensions that are now increasing.

We call for a return to international law under the UN as the basis for resolving this conflict. NATO is the only multinational security system that acts on the international stage in violation of the explicit mandate of the Charter of the United Nations. This makes it a threat to peace, as demonstrated by its operations, in Europe, Asia, and Africa, which have generated destabilisation, destruction and setbacks in the full exercise of the social and human rights of people in the areas subjected to intervention.

EUROPE A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE

We demand that all European states join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as European peoples demand in ample majorities according to any survey that has been conducted on the issue. In addition, we advocate for a nuclear-weapons-free and largely demilitarised zone in the whole of Europe, from the Mediterranean to the Baltic and the Northern Sea as the first step towards a nuclear-weapons-free Europe.

We demand that the USA re-enters the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and that both Russia and the USA refrain from resuming an antagonistic nuclear arms race. A world without nuclear weapons is a safer world for all!

In short, we call for:

- an immediate stop of the Russian military attack on Ukraine. Respecting the sovereignty of peoples, we reject military action and threats against a sovereign state, as well as any alteration of borders by way of military aggression;
- an immediate stop of warmongering rhetoric and tactics and return to the negotiating table;
- the mediation of the OSCE and the UN in stopping any military action and the deployment of all diplomatic tools within the UN's legal framework, as well as the drafting and implementation of a new peace agreement;
- the EU to take the initiative and propose a broad pan-European conference, including Russia, on peace and collective security, in order to achieve a comprehensive resolution of the crisis in all its dimensions. What was possible during the Cold War at the Helsinki Conference is even more necessary today.
- the EU to resume negotiations on multilateral and comprehensive disarmament, including nuclear and intermediate-range weapons.

We appeal to the people of Europe to stand on strong peace and human rights values, knowing that defending peace is the only way to a world that shares the understanding that war never resolves conflicts but creates new ones.



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