



PART OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

c/o Secretariat

For Mother Earth - Member of Friends of the Earth International

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Activity report 2005

The Abolition 2000 Europe has played a very active role in the campaign for nuclear disarmament at a European level, throughout 2005. The network has coordinated lobbying and campaigning activities towards European institutions and NATO, as well as being a forum for sharing success stories and best practice between local and national campaigns around Europe.

Following a discussion in the network we further consolidated Abolition 2000 Europe with the decision to go for a "structured network" compared to the loose network we were from 1995 up to 2004. In spring 2005 it was also decided to have the secretariat of the network hosted by For Mother Earth in Belgium. This was done for the geographical position near Brussels' international institutions (EU & NATO), but also for the remarkable European networking skills and the pioneering campaigning work undertaken for many years by a strong team of international campaigners and activists.

- **European Parliament**

In 2005 the network assisted in having two resolutions -with many positive elements- adopted by the European Parliament. A first resolution was adopted aimed at influencing the EU position during the NPT Review Conference (March 10th). Another resolution with interesting points was adopted on November 17th 2005. Both resolutions explicitly support the Mayors for Peace campaign and question the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe. The visit of the mayor of Hiroshima to the European Parliament in January 2005 was the first major presence of the Abolition 2000 Europe network in Brussels. We have been consolidating many of the contacts we made during this visit, in preparation for an international conference at the European Parliament in November 2006, focussing on NPT Article VI.

The secretariat also supported the presence of MEP Gisela Kallenbach (Greens/EFA – Germany) as she officially represented the EP during the Hiroshima commemoration in Japan.

- **NPT**

In 2005 many network members were active in lobbying their governments towards the NPT Review Conference. The resolution in the Belgian Senate and declarations by government officials in Germany, Norway and the Netherlands concerning the need to withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe were positive signs, but ultimately the Review Conference ended in deadlock. During the NPT Review Conference a separate e-mail list was set up to share latest reports and information with campaigners working specifically on NATO nuclear weapons in Europe.

- **NATO**

During a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers –and Nuclear Planning Group- on June 9th 2005, the secretariat organised an action at NATO headquarters in Brussels (together with For Mother Earth and Bomspotting vzw) to press for the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe.

- **Mayors for Peace in Europe**

The Abolition 2000 Europe secretariat facilitated a European visit of the Mayor of Hiroshima. Akiba Tadatoshi, the Mayor of Hiroshima, who was invited to speak to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on January 19th 2005. This was only possible due to the support from Members of the European Parliament from the five largest political groups. We also secured funds from the EP Greens/EFA for the airfares of the mayoral delegation. Mayor Akiba was also a guest-speaker in the Belgian Parliament and the Belgian Foreign Affairs committee. He also met key mayors and politicians in Belgium. Following his stay from January 18th till 20th in Belgium he travelled to Berlin for another series of high-level meetings.

Following very successful results of the Mayors for Peace membership drive in Belgium, the Abolition 2000 secretariat coached "Friddensinitiativ" in Luxembourg with the start of this campaign. Today these became two outstanding examples of best practice as almost half of the mayors in each country have signed up to the 2020 Vision. By the end of 2005, 250 Belgian mayors have signed up (from a total of 589), while in Luxembourg 47 have done so (from a total of 118). The growing support for the 2020 Vision helped to move both the Belgian Senate and the House on to adopt resolutions (on on April 21st 2005 and July 13th 2005 respectively) calling for non-proliferation and disarmament initiatives including the withdrawal of an estimated of 480 U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe. Also in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway the Abolition 2000 Europe partners have had very encouraging results with the membership-drive.

Following the overall encouraging results of the campaign in Europe, in autumn we started assisting with initial plans for establishing an international secretariat of the Mayors for Peace in Brussels. We prepared meetings with Mr. Aaron Tovish, the International Campaign manager of Mayors for Peace, with the office of the mayor of Brussels and some other key mayors, as well as Members of the European Parliament. These meetings will take place on January 9th and 10th 2006.

Abolition 2000 Europe Network further consolidated

- **Abolition 2000 Europe Country Contacts:**

In 2005 we were successful in expanding our geographical area of work from **8 countries in 2004 to 18 countries by the end of 2005**. We welcomed new country contacts in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Russia. We further established initial contacts with groups in Austria, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey who are considering to become a country contact for the network in 2006.

- **Abolition 2000 Europe Website:** <http://www.abolition2000europe.org/>

Today the website is a useful tool for Abolition 2000 campaigners. It is increasingly also used as a source of information for the general public and policy-makers. This is the result of David Heller's and Hendrik Kaljujarv's overhaul of the initial website. The updated website now also carries regular European stories on the subject of nuclear disarmament.

- **Abolition 2000 Europe E-mail Network :** eu-abolition2000@lists.riseup.net

The amount of people subscribed to the internal e-mail listserver has probably tripled. By the end of 2005 we have 161 people – mostly representing key organisations working on nuclear disarmament and some Members of the European Parliament - subscribed to an the network. Julia Kramer from Germany has joined George Farebrother and Pol D'Huyvetter as a list-moderator. This ensures that mails are not hold for too long before being approved .

- **Abolition 2000 Europe Network Meetings :**

The overall working programme is discussed and decided by the Abolition 2000 Europe network meetings.

Since its creation in 2004 the network continues to rely on a core group of three persons to prepare the network meetings: Dominique Lalanne from Stop Essais – Abolition 2000 France,

George Farebrother, World Court Project UK & Pol D'Huyvetter from the Abolition 2000 secretariat.

In 2005 we had three well attended Abolition 2000 Europe network strategy meetings coinciding with other network events:

19/01 in Brussels (Visit of Akiba Tadatoshi, Mayor of Hiroshima, to the EP)
06/05 in New York (NPT Review Conference)
20/10 in Brussels (European Peace and Human Rights Conference at EP)

- **Support the European Youth network for Nuclear Disarmament**

And finally we are supporting the new European Youth network which was founded in Milano, Italy in the end of October 2005 by Julia Kramer (Germany), Sophie Lefeez (France) and Giorgio Alba (Italy). The aim of the newly founded youth network, besides, of course, the exchange of experiences and ideas, is to reach out to the young generation via an information campaign, actions and events, to campaign for a nuclear weapons free zone in Europe. These activities are linked to the existing networks of Abolition 2000 Europe and the Abolition 2000 working group on Youth and Disarmament. With the Abolition 2000 Europe secretariat we shared our European youth network contacts and networking skills as we prepare for two European Youth events in Belgium in 2006.

- **Volunteers at the secretariat**

The work at the Abolition 2000 Europe secretariat in 2005 was done by volunteers at For Mother Earth, except for administrative and logistical support paid staff from For Mother Earth. Here we wish to thank all the volunteers and the administrative and logistics support staff for sharing their valuable time.

In 2005 the team consisted of:

David Heller (campaigner and webmaster, UK)
Diana Henriques (EVS volunteer, Portugal)
Gabiella Hossu (website, Romania) (*)
Hendrik Kaljujarv (webdesign, Estonia) (*)
Joana Soares (EVS volunteer, Youth for Europe – Action 1, Portugal)
Koen Cornelis (research fundraising, Belgium)
Pol D'Huyvetter (co-ordinator, Belgium)
Wiske Jult (campaign assistant for EP, Belgium)

Almost all volunteers except two (*) continue to support the secretariat as we started 2006.

Here we should also clarify that since 1998 For Mother Earth is a hosting organisation for the EU EVS programme (European Voluntary Service). We can host up to 5 EVS volunteers for between 6 months up to 1 year. The work for the Abolition 2000 Europe network has proven valuable for the volunteers and the network.

Report by Pol D'Huyvetter

January 2nd 2006.