

Die NATO, ihre Verflechtung mit der EU und Erweiterung als Gefahr für Frieden und Stabilität in Europa

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Of 27 EU Member States 19 are also NATO Member States. With the Lisbon Treaty and the new NATO strategy of civil-military relations the dangerous entwinement between these two organisations steps up into new dimensions. So it was suggested on the NATO summit in April this year, that the EU provides NATO with its European Gendarmerie Force for so called “stabilization operations” and that there should be an agreement with which civil EU capacities should be generally usable for NATO interventions. As the “Berlin Plus” agreement states that EU can access NATO resources it was implied that it should be the other way round as well.

With Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Slovenia already in EU and NATO and Croatia, Albania and Macedonia now newly invited into the Pact this entwinement seems to spur the effort of former Warsaw pact countries to see NATO as an entry gate to the EU, in which – at least the governments of these countries see the promise of economic growth and prosperity.

It is fortunate and interesting for us, that the majority of the population in the Balkan or South-Caucasus states is opposing the military alliance.

We ask the governments of Albania, Croatia and Macedonia to consider not to join NATO, but we will encourage and assist them becoming members of a EU standing for peace, international law, social democracy and solidarity, ecology...

The majority of the Balkan States, especially the former parts of SFRY suffer in different extent under domestic instability, corruption, economic emergency, refugee misery, deep nationality contrasts and international conflicts. So far only multinationals and the respective elite profit from the economic development, while the living conditions of the majority of the population are marked by unemployment and poverty. The demands of the European Union for economic change in the neoliberal sense have continued to deepen the existing social gaps. The large social gap increases the political instability, which is also influenced by the geostrategic interest in control of Russia, the USA and the European Union.

Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union the USA work offensively to rule out the Russian influence in the region, in order to attain control of resources and transportation routes. An expansion of the NATO influence into the Balkan affects the legitimate safety interests of Russia. The establishment of US Military bases or NATO bases in individual Balkan states would intensify the precarious stability situation in the region.

US military installation in Czech Republic and Poland are a provocation against Russia as well, which feels pushed into the defensive of NATO ever more. The USA pushes the admission of former Soviet republics: With Ukraine and Georgia NATO could pull a close and nearly complete ring around the Russian federation. It would spur the Arms race between the NATO states and Russia to start again. NATO's goal is the fast realization of an irreversible strategic superiority of the west opposite the potential global opponents Russia and China.

Instead the Balkan as well as the south Caucasus States could build an important bridge for the political dialogue and intercontinental co-operation for the EU, if the region is no more subject to the influence of foreign great powers.

Maybe Europe needs not to be so concerned over dependence on Russian oil and gas, (which meets about 30% - 40% of its demand, and appeals to diversify energy sources) or the finally signed deal between Russia, Bulgaria and Greece to build a pipeline across their territories, which will pump Russian oil further on to Europe, if it would not irritate Russia and its relations with its military endeavours.

Already today the NATO states transact approximately 70 per cent of the world-wide military expenditure. The once defensive alliance NATO is transformed into a world-wide applicable intervention alliance.

The militarisation of the European Unions foreign relations, confirmed by the Lisbon treaty stands in contradiction to the goal to promote peace and stability in other regions. The promotion of peace

and stability in the Balkan region requires a comprehensive disarmament on all sides, humanitarian and civilian-political solution of the regional conflicts as well as lasting development chances. The regional block-building, resulting from power-politics confrontation between Russia and USA/EU renders the solution of the nationality conflicts even more difficult.

Not only for good and untainted relations of the EU with Russia or any non “western” country as well as global stability it is crucial to oppose any entwinement between EU and NATO, NATO extension and NATO altogether. The existence of the NATO hasn’t been justified for almost twenty years now. The Treaty of Warsaw was dissolved and the same should have happened to its Western counterpart. We oppose the policy of solving conflicts by using military force and call for a Europe without a NATO.

The European Left unanimously and vehemently demands the dissolution of all foreign military bases in Europe and the departure of all US nuclear weapons of our continent. We want a Europe, which rejects the arms race, which aims at consistent disarmament and arms conversion and takes responsibility for that. We want a Europe in political independence from the USA, which contributes to overcome thinking in political and military blocks.

We reject a Europe as the junior Partner of the USA, or one imitating the USA in it’s politics of military and economic imperialistic behaviour. Like that EU would loose the great chance it still has as a mediator for peace and civil conflict solution.

We strictly reject any participation of European armed forces in any military interventions. Instead we act for a clear stabilization and democratization of the UN and the international law, achieved after World war II when peoples have been so wise to condemn war as a means of politics.

The Balkans have a sad recent history of war and also one of violations of international law. Starting with the NATO bombing In Bosnia Herzegowina 1994 and NATO bombing of Kosovo 1999 which also for Germany meant a big loss by breaking with it’s principle that from German territory should never come any war ever again.

The recent Kosovo declaration of independence, which was encouraged by the United States, militarily secured by NATO through K-FOR and more or less backed by the EU causes problems by violating the UN-Charta, the security council resolution 1244 and the Helsinki final act.

How do we as EL stand to that problem? Since International Law is crucial for us, also for our demands in other parts of the world like Irak or Palestine, we have to be sensitive there.

The German Parliament decided on the basis of resolution 1244 to prolong the German K-FOR participation. Since that and international law are broken by the one sided declaration of Kosovo independence there is no rightful basis for a mission of german or any international troupes remaining in that area.

Now in which form, on what basis is international civilian aid helpful and wanted in the region? In form of EU EULEX Mission or OSCE giving regional cooperation guidance?

The solution of the „frozen“ conflicts requires of all participants the respect for the internationally recognized borders. Only force-free solutions including all conflict parties and their legitimate, according to international law, justified interests can lead to a permanent and just peace. For this the efforts of negotiation must be intensified and be united under the roof of the OSCE. An unilateral acknowledgment of Kosovo Independence creates dangerous precedents for further ethnic-separatist efforts, in particular in the Caucasus and further regions of Russia, in Iraq and elsewhere. In order to promote peace and stability in the Balkans we have to support a comprehensive disarmament and demilitarization initiative which includes the agreement not to make the own territories available for attacks of third powers on the neighboring countries. As well we support the unrestricted return right of all war refugees and internal refugees, the fight against poverty, demand an increased development assistance free of conditions such as free trade or open markets, social reconciliation, fairer Trade, stabilization of the democratic development and the social democracy as well as democratic influence in the economy.