



Letter to NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and Chair of the OSCE Minister Sebastian Kurz

July 14, 2017

Excellencies,

We write to you out of concern about the deteriorating security environment globally and in Europe, aggravated by illegal Russian actions against Ukraine, and an increase in nuclear threat postures including in planning and preparation for the possible first-use of nuclear weapons in Europe.

This has led the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists to this year move the hands of their Doomsday Clock to 2½ Minutes to Midnight, the closest we have been to a partial or total Armageddon since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

The recent use of chemical weapons in Syria, and the threats by North Korea to use nuclear weapons against the US and its allies in East Asia, demonstrate the unfortunate willingness of undemocratic leaders to violate international norms and laws, including laws against aggression and international humanitarian law which protects civilians in times of conflict and precludes the use of weapons of mass destruction.

In these times, Europe and our North American allies must reinforce international law and common security, stay true to our principles upholding human rights and protecting civilians, and resist the temptation to lower our standards to those of the worst violators of international norms.

Our security is based not only on common defence, but also on common values and international law.

And while we must uphold the law, morality and common defence, we must also be open to dialogue and détente in order to reduce threats and open the door to resolving conflicts.

As such, we call on NATO and the OSCE to:

1. Re-affirm our commitment and adherence to international law and diplomacy and our collective opposition to acts of aggression and gross violations of human rights;
2. Affirm our opposition to the use of weapons of mass destruction impacting civilians as a violation of international humanitarian law and a violation of the rights and security of civilians;
3. Pursue further measures to reduce risks of nuclear conflict escalation by declarations of nuclear states never to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states – preferably at the UN-level.
4. Keep open various channels for dialogue with Russia, including the NATO-Russia Council, in order to provide the possibility for dialogue and détente;
5. Affirm the historical practice of the non-use of nuclear weapons in wartime since 1945, and the common interest of humanity that this practice continues forever, including at least until the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world can be achieved;
6. Support nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament measures between Russia and NATO, particularly those which can be verified and enforced;

7. Support multilateral, treaty-based processes that can facilitate confidence building, nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament including through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the 2018 United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

We believe that these measures would be in the common interests of all parties and would build security for all.

Signed:



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Member of the Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs
PNND Council Member



Dr. Ute Finckh-Krämer MdB (SDP – Germany)
Member of the Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs
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as at 14 July 2017

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Søren Søndergaard MP, Red-Green Alliance Spokesperson on the EU and Human Rights

Georgia

Sofio Katsarava MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

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Franziska Brantner MdB, Green; Deputy Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Germany (continued)

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Annette Groth MdB, Left Party; Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid

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Tom Koenigs MdB, Green Parliamentary Group; Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid

Carsten Müller MdB, CDU; Member of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation and Deputy Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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Michael Vietz MdB, CDU; Deputy Chairman of the Civilian Crisis Prevention and Integrated Conflict Management and Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Doris Wagner MdB, Green; Member of the Defence Committee

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Dr. Bernadett Szél, Co-chair and Leader of the Parliamentary Group of the Politics Can Be Different – Hungary Green Party

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Birgitta Jónsdóttir MP, Head of Iceland Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Netherlands

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Truls Wickholm MP, Former Deputy to the Prime Minister

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Christina McKelvie MSP, Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Spain

José Ignacio Sánchez Amor MP, Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Humanitarian Questions

Sweden

Bodil Valero MEP, Member of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence

Switzerland

Dr Isabelle Chevalley MP, Member of the Swiss Parliament

Margaret Kiener Nellen MP, Head of Switzerland Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Turkey

Aytug Atici MP, PNND Council Member

United Kingdom

Dr Molly Scott Cato MEP, Member European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Fabian Hamilton MP, Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament (endorsed on behalf of the UK Labour Party)

Baroness Sue Miller, PNND Co-President. Chair of the All-Party Groups on Agroecology and Street Children

Keith Taylor MEP, Member European Parliament Environment, Public Health and Food Safety committee

Baroness Jenny Tonge, Chair of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health

Julie Ward MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education

Baroness Joan Walmsley, Liberal Democrat Party Spokesperson on Health