

PNND Outreach in France

PNND hired Sophie Lefeez for six months in 2006 in order to translate PNND materials into French, undertake outreach to parliamentarians and help organise a PNND event in the French parliament with guest speakers Judge Weeramantry and Alyn Ware.

As a result of the outreach a small number of French parliamentarians joined PNND including members from PCF (Parti Communiste Francais), Group CRC (Groupe Communiste et Republicain et Citoyen), Les Verts, and UMP (Union pour un Mouvement Populaire).

A much larger number of parliamentarians indicated an interest in receiving the newsletter and updates (in French) but did not wish to join. A number that did not join indicated that they were interested more in nuclear non-proliferation and not so much in disarmament.

The most active members would be Senator Helene Luc and Senator Robert Bret. Both are interested in assisting to establish a cross-party section of PNND in France. However, Senator Luc is now leaving parliament and so the task lies with Senator Bret.

We are hampered in France due to the lack of a partner organization that is seen as independent. Mouvement de la Paix, the only large disarmament organization in France, is associated with the Communist Party. Sophie thus worked independently in order to maintain non-partisanship – but this left her unsupported. She is unable to continue as PNND outreach person in France.