



## ***Church and Peace*** International Office

*Church and Peace* is an ecumenical Peace Church network made up of communities, training centres, peace organisations and peace-service agencies in Europe.

### **Church and Peace AGM to focus on nonviolent responses to terrorism**

SCHOEFFENGRUND, Germany, 1 March 2016 - Church and Peace has reaffirmed its commitment to finding nonviolent responses to the threat of terrorism and to building a peaceable, just and sustainable Europe.

In a [statement](#) from its Administrative Committee following a meeting 24-26 February in Schoeffengrund, Germany, the European network welcomed recent decisions taken by the European Parliament supporting reduction of the international arms trade, including a recommended boycott of arms exports to Saudi Arabia.

"We urge our members, together with the churches of Europe, to call on their respective governments to work to end the arms trade and at the very least to ratify and implement existing treaties and resolutions," members of the governing body said in the statement.

The Administrative Committee also expressed concern about renewed legitimization of military intervention through the European Parliament resolution on the Mutual Defence Clause. The resolution was adopted in January 2016 in response to the state of war declared by the President of France following the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015.

"We reject a military approach in response to terrorism," the Administrative Committee said. It called on members of the Church and Peace network to advocate, together with ecumenical partners, for governments to use existing non-military European Union and international instruments to prevent and deal with the consequences of terrorist attacks.

The network recommitted itself to "working for structures of peace based on the non-violent resolution of conflicts". The Administrative Committee announced that the Church and Peace Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Paris on 10-12 June will explore the use of nonviolent intervention and raise a prophetic voice against the arms trade.

"The AGM ... will focus on alternatives to violence in the face of terror, theological underpinnings for this witness and ways for the churches to engage. [It] will conclude with participation in demonstrations at the Eurosatory arms fair," according to the statement.

In further business the Administrative Committee reviewed and planned follow-up to the international conference, "[The fruit of righteousness will be peace - Living together at the heart of Europe](#)", held in Pristina, Kosova, on 7-11 October 2015; considered membership applications; established a working group for publications work; and heard reports from the network's regions and engagements.

It also received an update on planning for the German-language regional conference that will take place 25-27 November 2016 at the Thomashof near Karlsruhe, Germany, and the regional day in Britain and Ireland tentatively scheduled for 29 October 2016 in Birmingham.

The next Administrative Committee meetings will take place directly preceding the AGM in Paris and 2-4 November 2016 at Eirene in Neuwied, Germany.

Read the "[Statement concerning increasing arms trade and military intervention](#)" in its entirety.

Contact:

- International Office of Church and Peace: +49 6445 5588
- Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm: +49 172 5162 799