



Church and Peace

International Office

Church and Peace - the ecumenical peace church network of communities, training centres, peace organisations and peace service agencies in Europe

EU risks becoming predominantly military alliance, says Church and Peace

WETHEN, Germany, 13 July 2018 - The European Union's proposed budget priorities are driving it further away from its origins as a project of peace and reconciliation and towards a predominantly military alliance focused on controlling its borders, says the European ecumenical network Church and Peace.

In a statement from its Annual General Meeting at Hoddesdon, United Kingdom, on 21-22 June 2018, the peace church network has expressed alarm at the continuing trend of militarization apparent in priorities outlined in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

The financial plan foresees spending around 30 billion euro on defence, Church and Peace notes with concern, while scaling back by more than half funds available for civilian responses to regional and global challenges.

Church and Peace stands together with the Assembly of the Conference of European Churches in rejecting firmly the plan to 'merge all twelve existing external financing instruments' into one under the heading of migration control and in calling on the EU to ensure that there are three separate instruments for development; human rights and democracy; and civilian peacebuilding.

The proposal to establish a 'European Peace Facility' raises serious questions as well, given envisioned funding of military transport, training, equipment and other military action, the statement says. The network rejects labelling the fund an 'act of "peace"', urging that such spending trends 'urgently [need] to be reversed'.

Church and Peace calls on the churches in particular to engage in discussion on EU budgetary priorities, to insist on the importance of the EU as an agent of peace and reconciliation, and to advocate for more investment in peace with justice by putting into action the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting reconciliation processes.

Read the full text of the statement: https://www.church-and-peace.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Statement-to-EU-MFF_0618.pdf

Press contact:

Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Church and Peace Chair
+49 172 5162 799

Church and Peace e.V.
Mittelstraße 4
D-34474 Diemelstadt-Wethen
Tel. +49 5694 – 9905506, Fax. - 1532
intloffice@church-and-peace.org
www.church-and-peace.org

Tax office Wetzlar
Tax reference number 39 250 61113
Local court Wetzlar VR 918
Bank für Kirche und Diakonie
IBAN DE33350601901014380015
BIC GENODED1DKD

Registered in Laufdorf
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