

Call for Action: A Nuclear Weapons free Europe



The world stands at a crossroads. It is time for Europe to make strategic choices in facing existential threats. For two consecutive years, the Bulletin for Atomic Scientists have placed the Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight. Never has this symbolic clock been closer to a possible nuclear and climate nightmare. Nuclear weapon states are investing heavily in new nuclear weapons. The US wants to deploy new B61-12 nuclear weapons in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. *continued on back*

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that we must work together to overcome the two existential threats of the 21st century: nuclear war and global warming. Increased military expenditure reduces investment in health and aged care, social protection and green job creation, while extensive military exercises and operations create major carbon emissions, driving us closer to extinction in more ways than one.

For years the people of Europe have expressed their desire to be nuclear-weapon-free, for example by calling for the removal of US nuclear weapons. Now they are pushing for their governments to ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). According to recent online surveys in six countries, between 77% and 89% of the population want their countries to join the TPNW. We must work together in the light of an understanding that all lives on the planet are interwoven, rethink what we mean by protection, redefine ideas of defence and develop towards a 'common security' with a conversion process that protects skills, wages and employment. A nuclear weapon free Europe would be the most important step in the transition to a civil and shared security, to a disarmed Europe.

We call on all citizens to organize against our possible extinction and to fight for a just, green and peaceful Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, free of nuclear weapons, with security for all provided through other means. The situation is urgent. As the risks of nuclear confrontation grow in Europe, through the Middle East, India/Pakistan, the Pacific and the Korean peninsula, Europe must take a stand.

We appeal to everyone in Europe to act and to take part in a European month of action – September 2021. We ask health care and social organisations, trade unions, environmental, youth and women's movements, north-south and political organizations, people of all faiths and persuasions to join, endorse, promote and support the appeal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Europe. We call on European governments to:

- ▶ end the modernization of nuclear weapons
- ▶ end nuclear sharing
- ▶ sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

endorse the call: nukefreeeurope.eu

month of action | September 2021

nuclear free EUROPE

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The peace movements across Europe are coming together for a month of action in September 2021 to demand a safer and more peaceful future. We want a **nuclear-weapon-free Europe**; an end to the stationing of **US nuclear weapons** in Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Italy; and we demand that European states sign up to and ratify the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**. Join the actions already planned, organise your own and support the campaign.

more info: nukefreeeurope.eu

UK Nuclear Weapons

AWE Aldermaston, England
The UK's 'Atomic Weapons Establishment' is responsible for the design and manufacture of the nuclear warheads carried on Trident.

UK Nuclear Weapons

Faslane, Scotland
The UK housed US nuclear bombs until 2008. There remains the UK's nuclear capability, *Trident*, leased from the US. Four submarines rotate at sea.

US Nuclear Weapons

Volkel, Netherlands
Up to 20 nuclear bombs are stored in The Netherlands and will be 'delivered' by Dutch air forces when required. No other nuclear capabilities.

US Nuclear Weapons

Büchel, Germany
Up to 20 nuclear bombs are stored in Germany. As with other NATO member states, German aircraft will 'deliver' the bombs. Germany is also home to a large number of US armed forces.



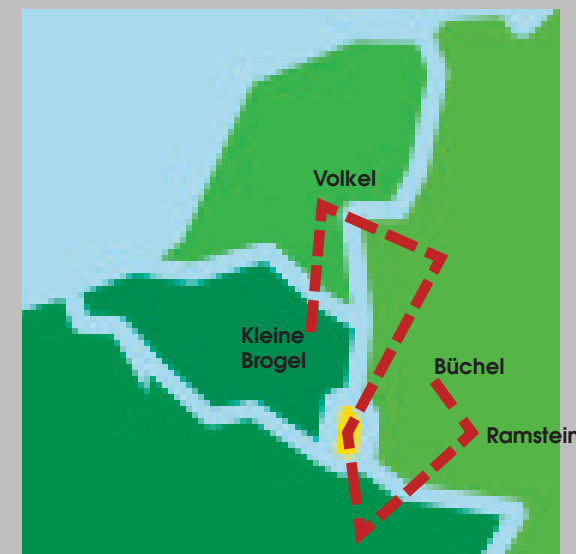
Cycling tour | Büchel ... Volkel ... Kleine Brogel

Co-ordinated by **Bike for Peace & New Energy**

The tour will commence with the formation of a **human chain** at the **Büchel** base in Germany on **5 September** (organised by Friedens Kooperative) before moving off to the US airbase at **Ramstein** where it will arrive on **7 September**. The tour will then travel across Germany, Luxembourg, France, Belgium and The Netherlands before arriving at the **Volkel** base on **24 September**. From there the tour will travel to Belgium for a final protest at **Kleine Brogel** on **26 September**.

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ABOUT
ACTIONS.

Full information about the
tour, including dates and
times, can be found at:
nukefreeeurope.eu



Cycling action | Italy ... details tbc ...

French Nuclear Weapons: Submarine

No US nuclear bombs stored. France maintains a submarine-based nuclear capability, the 'Strategic Ocean Force', consisting of four *Triomphant* class SSBN's.

French Nuclear Weapons: Air-based

This component of the French nuclear forces is comprised on land- and sea-based *Rafale BF3* aircraft each of which is armed with medium-range cruise missiles (ASMP-As).

US Nuclear Weapons

Aviano & Ghedi-Torre, Italy

Around 70 bombs are stored in Italy. Some of these had previously been stored at RAF Lakenheath, UK, before removal in 2008.

UK Actions |

Protest at AWE Aldermaston, England

DETAILS

Protest at Faslane, Scotland

DETAILS

French Actions | *DETAILS*