



Mediterranean No Nuclear Neighbourhood

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Appeal to be adopted by the European Social Forum

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We, the organizations and national networks from eight countries of the wider area of the Mediterranean which gathered in Rhodes from September 27th to 29th 2007 and signed the Protocol of Cooperation for the Creation of the Mediterranean No Nuclear Neighborhood (MN³) Network address the citizens of our countries and of the wider Mediterranean area with a vision of hope. We gathered to exchange views and experiences and above all to express our determination to coordinate our actions to counter the nuclear threat in our region and to consolidate our common belief that we can successfully claim a new perspective for the environment, our life and the whole planet.

The climate has already changed. Life is threatened by the overheating of the planet. Oil prices have reached new high levels and there is an effort to manipulate public opinion into accepting that a turn nuclear power is a safe way to counteract global warming. Nuclear energy is not a convincing answer to energy problems. Last year's accident to the world's largest nuclear plant in Japan, a country which spends huge amounts of money on safety, reminds us of the risks. Very recently the malfunctions in four nuclear plants, and the incident in Tricastin in south-eastern France where 126 workers were contaminated with low doses of radiation, shook public confidence in the safety of France's nuclear industry, the largest in Europe. Nuclear power is neither safe, nor cheap, nor "green". It is a constant threat to the environment, life and peace. There are alternatives, well known to everybody, and it is of the utmost necessity that society pressure governments and decision makers to change their views and actions in relation to the problem. It is not only a matter of protection of the environment. It is also a matter of democracy and independence.

The risk of the nuclear plans becomes greater in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, as the geopolitical conditions of the area are characterized by instability and great uncertainty.

Taking into consideration:

- The unsolvable problems of nuclear waste management

- The lack of financial and technical capacity and experience
- The link between the so-called peaceful use of nuclear power and the development of nuclear weapons
- The possibility of sabotage or a "blind" strike at nuclear facilities
- The seismicity of the region that increases tremendously both the cost and the risk of an accident with unpredictable consequences,

We are adamant that through their aspirations to construct nuclear power stations, many governments in our already warm region (Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Albania, FYROM, Egypt and others) are literally playing with fire.

Furthermore, new plans featuring "usable" nuclear weapons are expected to launch a new arms race, a dangerous dead-end, a point of no return. At the dawn of the 21st century, the major nuclear powers, led by the USA, are in the grip of a fear syndrome, leading to the illusion that nuclear war may be part of a "rational" solution to political problems.

We see today, in September 2008, a return to a world of "Cold War" politics. New and very serious threats to peace in Europe have appeared after the events in Georgia. Nuclear-war scenarios are being invoked again, with the NATO-USA-Poland agreement for the anti-missile installations being countered by threatening statements from Russia that Europe is "risking attack, possibly with nuclear weapons."

We know from past experience that the arms race does not provide security but increases the danger to the citizens in the areas involved. The security of European citizens does not depend on armaments and missiles but on the ability to protect collective social interests.

In this perspective, social mobilization is a matter of urgency. Coordinated action can lay the foundations for a better way of confronting these developments.

We declare and we demand.

- Europe must initiate, pursue in good faith, and bring to a successful conclusion the process of abolishing nuclear weapons everywhere, as required by the Non-Proliferation Treaty. From the Atlantic to the Urals, no nuclear weapon must be

stationed or installed in Europe any longer. Nuclear weapons must not threaten Europe or any other part of the world.

- Specifically we underline that a multilateral action must be developed for the establishment of a Middle East Zone free from nuclear, chemical, biological and all weapons of mass destruction. Every effective pressure must be exerted on Israel - the only Middle Eastern state with an atomic arsenal – to sign and ratify the Non- Proliferation Treaty and accept transparency by opening its clandestine nuclear facilities to international inspections and supervision by international organizations. Such an action could lead to the de-escalation of tensions and removal of any threat of an Iranian nuclear program, with Iran as a member of Middle East Nuclear-Free zone.
- The Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament must achieve this result by whatever means are required.
- The Vienna-based Organisation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty must become operational.
- The IAEA must cease its promotion of nuclear energy and devote itself exclusively to monitoring civilian and military nuclear installations, preventing the diverting of fissile materials towards the building of new weapons, and aiding in the dismantling of existing weapons and nuclear plants.
- The EURATOM Treaty must be abrogated and no new nuclear plant must be built. All public funding for new nuclear projects must stop. Specifically countries in the Balkans and the Mediterranean considering the construction of nuclear reactors within their borders, and then proceeding, undertake a huge responsibility, a responsibility shared with those not opposing these decisions. We dispute the right of any state to undermine the health, life and future of the citizens of other states.
- The 1959 agreement between the IAEA and the WHO, must be abrogated. The W.H.O. must regain total independence in the field of research and publications with regard to nuclear power, in order to assure the protection of mankind. The IAEA must lose the prerogatives which it has been awarded for 48 years in the medical domain. All possible light must be shed on the true facts of nuclear catastrophes such as Chernobyl, and their consequences.

We demand of our governments that they undertake political initiatives and specific actions in order to reduce tension and avert the threat of nuclear war and ecological destruction. Europe must become a totally nuclear-free zone, so as to contribute to total denuclearisation of the planet, without waiting for similar action by other states or continents.

We commit ourselves to fight with all our strength, faith, devotion, and solidarity to promote these objectives and call on Europe's citizens, NGOs, states and people to unite and take action to ensure that they are achieved.

Mediterranean Non Nuclear Neighbourhood, better known as MN3 Network, was founded in Rhodes, September 2007. The network consists of 20 organizations from 8 countries with sole goal the transformation of the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the Middle East to a Nuclear-Free Zone of Peace. The participating organizations are:

Mediterranean Anti Nuclear Watch, Greece

Greek Medical Association against Nuclear and Biochemical Threat, Greek Affiliate of IPPNW, Greece

ECOTOPIA - Environmental Research and Awareness Society, Greece

Eco - Corfu, Greece

Foundation for Environment and Agriculture, Bulgaria

Ecologists - Environmentalists Movement of Cyprus, Cyprus

Ecoclub, Ukraine

Réseau Sortir du Nucléaire, France

Israeli Committee for a Middle East Free from Atomic Biological and Chemical Weapons, Israel

EUROSOLAR - The European Association for Renewable Energy, Turkey

ATTAC-Hellas, Greece

Anti Nuclear Platform of Izmir, Turkey

Turkish Greens, Turkey

Monitor of International Organisations and Globalization, Greece

Action des Citoyens pour le Désarmement Nucléaire (ACDN), France

ECOGNOSIA-Environmental Research and Information Center, Cyprus

Group of Scientists and Technicians for a Non Nuclear Future, Spain

The Greens-Green Alternative, Spain

Green Justice Association, Bulgaria

Friends of Science, Culture and Art Association, Istanbul, Turkey

Further information on the network's activities at www.mn3network.org.

Contact us at info@mn3network.org.