

Second Foreign-Policy Conference of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

**International Conference of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation:
Perspectives for a Secure World: Alternatives to NATO**

November 13 – 14, 2009, Berlin

The discussion on the best way of securing the peace in Europe and beyond continues. The notion that Germany has to be “defended in the Hindu Kush” is shared by a great part of the German political class though not by the majority of the population. Post-Cold War Europe has still not found its way to a lasting and stable peaceful order. NATO membership is taken for granted by most politicians, yet it cannot be history’s last word, and so it is worth reflecting on the possibilities for a secure world and a secure Europe. With its Second Foreign-Policy Conference, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation wishes to contribute to this discussion.

NATO – and its very founding – can only be understood as a militarised expression of the system conflict between two different social orders and the groupings of states which arose after the end of World War II. Consequently, after the end of the Cold War, with the collapse of the Communist social and state system in Eastern Europe and the breakup of the Soviet Union, the end of NATO ought to have come onto the historical agenda - at the latest by the time of the end of the Warsaw Pact. The governments of the USA and the other member-states of the NATO Pact, however, insisted on its continued existence. NATO was to be not only a military-political alliance for the defence of its members – in which case it is not clear against whom it is intended – but was to perform the tasks of a world police force. This was justified by an analysis referring to a diffuse, not really specified threat.

At the same time, the fatal logic of the alliance, which has already led to the outbreak of wars in the 20th century, continues to operate. NATO’s arms build-up has brought about arms build-ups in other parts of the world. To find a way out of this situation it is not a restructuring of NATO that is needed; rather, other instruments, built on international law and the UN, have to be found in order to guarantee peace, security and cooperation in Europe and the world. There are no military solutions to the crises and conflicts caused by neoliberal capitalism. Today’s world needs collective, mutual security in order to meet the new challenges and threats. In the end what is involved are alternatives for a peaceful world in the 21st century, one that gives all people equal opportunities for shaping their lives.

Programme:

Friday

15:00

Opening – *Heinz Vietze*

Outlines of a more secure world. Opening address – *Lothar Bisky*

16:15 – 18:15

NATO in a changing world

What changes have occurred in the world since 1989?

In order to deal with these changes is NATO needed?

Against whom is the North Atlantic Alliance directed?

How should a peaceful world be constituted in the 21st century, in which the “power of law” does not amount to the “law of the powerful”?

*Panel discussion – with Wolfgang Gehrcke, Reinhard Mutz, Otfried Nassauer, Peter Strutynski;
Moderator: Werner Ruf*

18:45 – 20:45

Perceptions of threat and power strategies in today's world

What threat scenarios underpin contemporary foreign policy?

What are its central assumptions?

Are the power strategies of international politics capable of meeting the actual threats?

with David Vine (USA), Lutz Kleinwächter, Juri Morozov (Russia), José Arbex Jr. (Brazil), Yang Zhimin (China); Moderator: Wolfgang Grabowski

Saturday

9:00 – 11:00

The EU-NATO Relationship

What does the Lisbon Treaty mean for the international activity of the EU?

What weight does the military have in EU foreign policy?

What consequences does the connection with NATO structures have for the EU?

with Armand Clesse (Luxembourg), Claudia Haydt, Agneta Norberg (Sweden); Moderator: Peter Strutynski

11:15 – 13:15

NATO in Afghanistan – claims and realities

What has NATO achieved since the beginning of its war in Afghanistan?

What role does the War in Afghanistan play for NATO?

What alternatives are there to the developments in Afghanistan?

with Martin Baraki, André Brie; Moderator: Claudia Haydt

14:00 – 14:45

Collective defence vs. common security – political and international law aspects

What is the difference between collective defence and collective security?

Why is NATO not a “system of mutual collective security”?

with Martin Kutscha, Erhard Crome; Moderator: Alexander Neu

15:00 – 17:00

On the path to common security – requisites, preconditions and institutions

What should Europe-wide structures of common security look like?

What conditions are required for common security in Europe?”

with Martin Kutscha, Tobias Pflüger, Thomas Roithner (Austria); Moderator: Alexander Neu

17:30 – 19:30

A world beyond NATO – perspectives for a more peaceful world.

What alternatives are there to NATO in Europe and the world?

How can disarmament and the concepts of zones free of weapons of mass destruction contribute to peace in Europe and the world?

What can Europe do to bring a more peaceful world closer?

What are the consequences for left politics?

*with Ueli Mäder (Switzerland), Alexander Neu, Werner Ruf, Sabine Lösing (MEP): Moderator:
Judith Demba*

Working Languages: English, German.

Place:

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (Conference Room)
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