

No to the EU Constitutional/Refo Treaty!
No to the militarisation of Europe!



Militarisation through the back-door: The EU Reform Treaty

Since 1999, the militarisation of the EU, in the words of EU foreign representative Javier Solana, has been proceeding „with lightning speed“. In the meantime, a EU intervention army, acting world-wide, has been established, an European arms complex is being developed, and EU troops are being sent ever more frequently into combat missions – Bosnia, Congo, Chad, to name but a few examples. The hidden agenda behind this activity is the growing preparedness to impose Europe’s own interests, if need be by force. Documents such as the draft for a European White Paper (European Defence Paper, p. 13) openly name these goals: military interventions “to protect trade routes and the free flow of raw materials.” One of the most important goals of the EU Constitutional Treaty was, therefore, to push on with this militarisation process.

While the EU Constitutional Treaty was rejected in the year 2005 by the French and the Dutch populations, the attempt is now being made to pass the Treaty’s essential contents in scarcely changed form through the back door, by way of the so-called “Reform Treaty” (also “Lisbon Treaty”). It should be ratified in Germany, for instance, still before the summer holidays, and enter into force until the European elections 2009 all over the EU as its new binding legal basis.

The Reform Treaty is nothing else but stale wine in new skins; it ignores the vote in France and in the Netherlands and was once again negotiated in secret, behind closed doors. The European public has been completely excluded from this process. Even the German Federal Government admitted openly in a press release of November 7, 2007: „The name ‘Constitution for Europe’, after the rejection at the popular referenda in France and in the Netherlands, was no longer tenable. The declared objective of the German Council presidency, however, was to keep the substance of the constitution. Fortunately, we succeeded.“

We don’t want neoliberal militarisation, we want social justice!

In the EU Reform Treaty, the neoliberal economic model is cemented as the only permissible form of economic organisation, even though for decades this model has been responsible for an impoverishment of large parts of the population within the European Union, along with the pauperisation of the so-called Third World, which is even worse. In Article 98, for instance, it says: „The Member States and the Union act in accordance with the principle of an open market economy with free competition.“

It is especially perfidious that the Reform Treaty in Article 10A postulates „the primary aim of eradicating poverty“, only to demand in the next sentence that the central measure to achieve that purpose should be „the integration of all countries into the world economy, including through the progressive abolition of the restrictions on international trade.“ It is generally known that such measures rather increase global poverty, while they have turned out to be highly profitable for European big business. Simultaneously, this poverty, as even the World Bank and the Bertelsmann Foundation in the meantime acknowledge, is the most important reason for the outbreak of violent conflicts in the Third World, which in turn then have to be militarily „pacified“ in order to keep under control the steam kettle of globalisation conflicts.

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All of the militarisation aspects already previously criticised in the EU Constitution have also been transferred into the Reform Treaty. Central points of the criticism were and are:

1) World-wide EU combat missions with an almost unlimited range of tasks

Article 28B, Paragraph 1 names among others „joint disarmament operations“, „tasks of combat forces“ and „post-conflict stabilisation“ as well as „supporting third countries in combating terrorism in their countries“ as potential tasks for future EU wars.

2) Armament obligation by Treaty

Article 28A, Paragraph 3 again contains the obligation, up to now inconceivable, to invest more money in the armament sector: „Member states shall undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities.“ The European Defence Agency, which has been established in 2004, is supposed to supervise the observance for this instruction. With this Reform Treaty the Agency will for the first time actually receive the legal basis for its existence.

3) Final institution of an own EU military budget

The currently valid Nice Treaty prohibits the institution of an EU military budget and has up to now proved to be a considerable impediment for Europe's militarists. Therefore, the Reform Treaty (Article 28, Paragraph 3) of the European Union for the first time opens the door to establishing a defence budget, called „start-up fund“.

4) No parliamentary control option of EU interventions

Only the heads of state and government can decide to undertake EU combat missions. The European Parliament in the Reform Treaty has only the right to be „heard“ and „briefed“ (Article 21), it may not participate in the decision. Since the European Court of Justice also has no influence in these areas, the separation of powers in this decisive question of war and peace is de facto eliminated.

5) Core Europe – only those who lead the war, may participate in the decisions

Members who have qualified militarily by taking part in the most important arms programmes and have put intervention troops (battle groups) at the warmonger's disposal, may enter a „permanent structured cooperation“ which leverages out the consensus principle currently holding for the foreign and security policy domain: „Unanimity shall be constituted by the votes of the representatives of the participating Member States only.“ (Article 28E, Paragraph 6).

6) Shift of power in favour of the big powers

The EU constitution by way of the so-called double majority had already foreseen a dramatic shift in the power relations in the most important EU body, the Council of the Heads of State and Government. Accordingly, Germany doubles its share of vote in the Council from 9% to 18.2% (the other winners are France, Great Britain and Italy). The Reform Treaty (Article 9C) also introduces this dramatic power shift as actual practice starting in the year 2014.

While social security is considered to be a local nuisance and an outmoded model, military „security“ is elevated to be the new salvation doctrine – no matter what the costs.

We therefore demand: No to the militarisation of Europe!

NO TO THE EU REFORM TREATY!

SOCIAL SECURITY INSTEAD OF MILITARY GREAT POWER POLITICS!