

The Delàs Centre of Studies for Peace is an independent organization that analyzes peace, security, defence and armament, dedicated to carrying out research, and political and social advocacy under the prism of peace culture, on the negative effects of militarism and armed conflicts.

We are writing to you to request your commitment, during the electoral campaign, not to support the implementation of some measures in the European Union that aim to boost the field of defence.

We ask you to engage to:

- **NOT Promote a European defence and its budget.**

The new EU budgets 2021-2027 envisage the creation of a European Defence Fund (endowed with 13,000 million euros), a European Peace Fund (endowed with 10,500 million euros) and the Connect Europe project (endowed with 6,500 million euros). The objective of the European Defence Fund is to promote a competitive European industrial base and that member states realise joint purchases of military equipment.

In the last 10 years, the EU citizens have seen national budgets cut in health, education or social benefits. What we need is the reversion of these policies and not to promote militaristic policies.

- **NOT Support the EU Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP).**

Whose purpose is to help states to finance the joint acquisition of military equipment. The planned aid, for each euro that the EU invests each state will invest four, will be complemented with other financial instruments such as the Eurobonds generation of defence, whose expenses will not count as public deficit.

In 2027, the EU budget allocated to the development of defense and security will be higher than funds destined to reduce poverty, corruption, bad governance or to promote human rights and peace, which are the relevant factors that explain immigration.

- **NOT Support the European Defence Research Program (EDRP).**

Whose purpose is to encourage, through the research in new defence material projects, innovative technologies in defence and security. This program foresees direct financing to the defence industry of up to 100% of direct costs plus 25% in support of indirect costs.

The support to the defence industrial fabric includes SMEs, Startups, and also access financing, such as using the Structural and Investment Fund, the European Investment Bank funds (funds that will have to be reoriented for this purpose) or the exemptions from the VAT.

We support all the companies that innovate in everything that increases people's quality of life, but not to innovate arms.

On the other hand, all these funds will promote a European arms industry in the face of US industry, with which it will be necessary to compete for world markets, leading to the possibility of new global arms race.

- **NOT Support the creation of a new army.**

If we sum the members of the 28 national armies, Europe will have one of the largest military army of the world, surpassing the 1,500,000 soldiers. The European Council, in 2017 and 2018, adopted the creation of the "Military Planning and Conduct Capability" (MPCC) within the EU Military Staff, which establishes a military command and control structure whose objective will be non-executive missions, such as the training of soldiers in third countries or the carry out of military missions abroad, which has already been endowed with 2,500 soldiers.

The basis for the creation of a European army capable of acting in any country in the world has already been sown. For the first time, steps are being taken to build a Europe as a world military power.

Europe is already an economic world power, therefore we ask you to not support the building of a European world military power. We believe in diplomacy, in mechanisms such as dialogue and negotiation to face global challenges, and we do not want that in our behalf or with the excuse of defending human rights, the use of arms to overthrow governments or to access natural resources.

If your political group is committed to these requests, please let us know: aruiz@centredelas.org

Best regards,