



Conselho Português para a Paz e Cooperação

Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca, 56 - 2º 1250 -193 Lisboa, Portugal

Tel. 21 386 33 75 / Fax 21 386 32 21

E-mail : conselhopez@netcabo.pt

**A Treaty against Peace
No to the militarization of the European Union**

Analysing the contents of the new European Union Treaty, the Portuguese Council for Peace and Co-operation considers that:

1. The institutionalising of "Permanent structured co-operation" for defence and the inclusion in the Treaty's text of an armament agency, called European Defence Agency, means a decisive and dangerous step towards the militarization of the European Union and its transformation into a political and military bloc.
2. This EU militarization is being developed in accordance with the letter of the Treaty and in the framework of the "engagements assumed" with NATO. This organisation will continue to be, according to the Treaty, the "backbone" of collective defence and the "instance that implements it". This means that the EU militarist strand is part of the global strategy of the United States of America and of their "armed wing", NATO.

In view of this situation, the Portuguese Council for Peace and Co-operation esteems that the ratification of this Treaty would place Portugal even more strongly in the orbit of the imperialist strategy of the USA and of the larger European powers, of their aggression and war policies, of militarization of international relations and of the arms race.

The CPPC has for long been opposed to the militarist course being pursued in the EU. The detachment of European Union troops to countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, Chad and Central African Republic; the creation of the European Army and rapid deployment forces are worrying indicators.

Given the serious contents of the Treaty, the CPPC rejects the government's attitude of dodging an enlightening debate with the Portuguese people, having chosen to only ratify the Treaty in Parliament.

In reasserting its opposition to the transformation of the European Union into a political and military bloc and its demand of NATO's dissolution, the CPPC considers that the best "Treaty" for Portugal is its Constitution, which states in Article 7:

"1. Portugal follows, in international relations, the principles of national independence, respect for human rights, equality among nations, peaceful settlement of international conflicts, non- interference in the internal affairs of other states and co- operation with all other peoples, for mankind's emancipation and progress.

2. Portugal stands for the abolition of imperialism, colonialism and all other forms of aggression, domination and exploitation in relations among the peoples, as well as for global, simultaneous and controlled disarmament, for the dissolution of political and military blocs and for the establishment of a collective security system, with the aim of creating an international order that may secure peace and justice in the relations among peoples. "

The Portuguese Council for Peace and Co-operation

15th February 2008