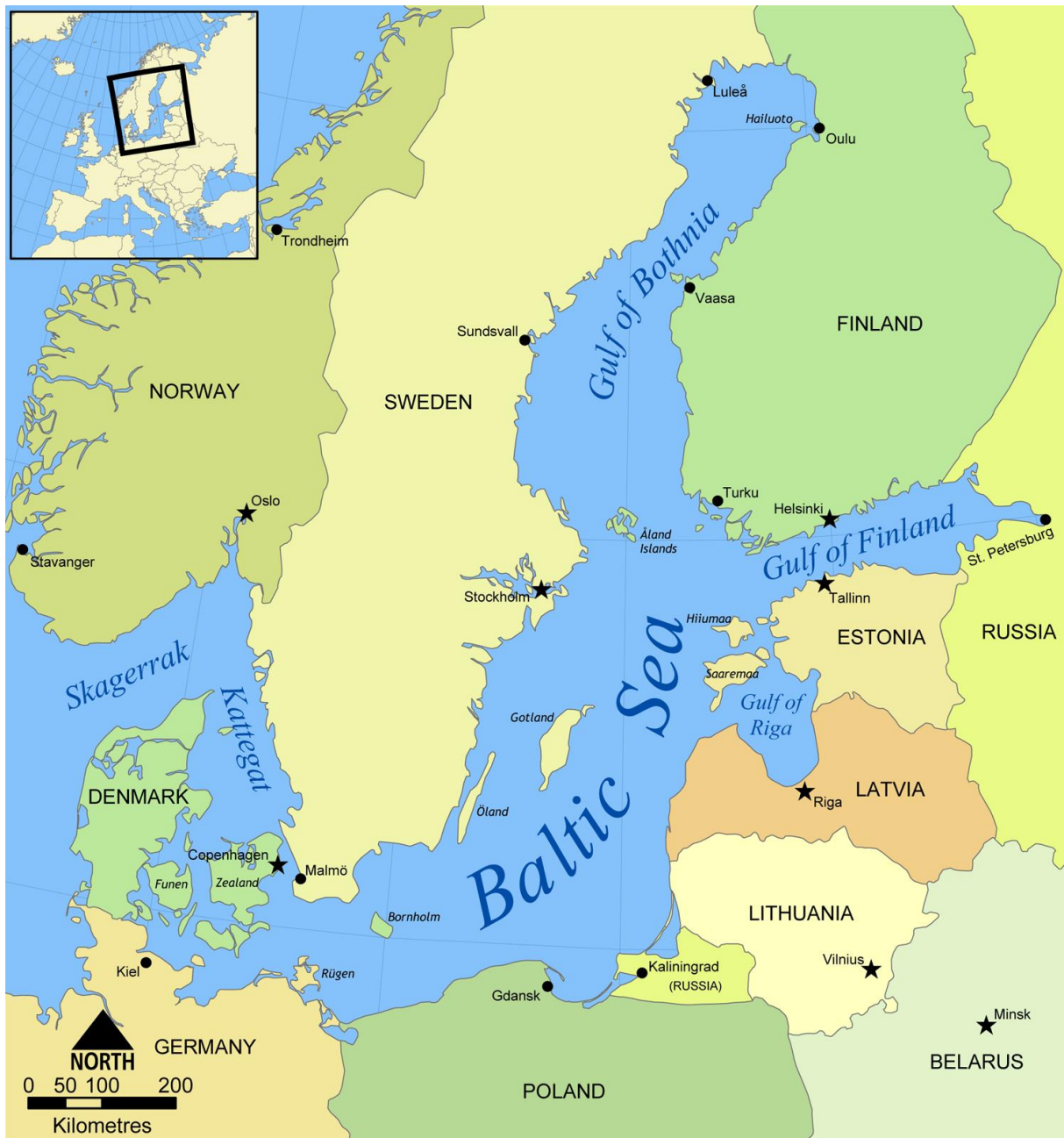


NATO and Russia in the Baltic Sea Area



Helsinki, 4.-6. September 2015

Program (as of 26 August)

Nein zur NATO

No a la guerra

No to NATO

No to War

No à la guerre

No a la OTAN

Nein zum Krieg

Non à l'OTAN

Organizers:

No to War – No to NATO

Together with:

Committee of 100 in Finland | Finnish Peace Committee
Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility
PAND, Artists for Peace | Peace Education Institute
Peace Union of Finland | Physicians for Social Responsibility
Svenska Kvinnors Vänsterförbund/Swedish Women of the Left | WILPF Finland
Women for Peace, Finland | Women for Peace, Sweden

With the support of:

European Left

Introduction

After the fall of the Berlin wall the Warsaw pact came to an end. NATO on the other hand enlarged from 16 to 28 member states from which many belonged to the former Eastern block. When Ukraine considered joining NATO a conflict aroused with Russia. Russia annexed Crimea and a war is going on in East Ukraine.

This situation has led to a much tenser situation in the Baltic Sea where Russia and NATO states border. Military activities in the region have escalated.

Poland and the three Baltic states have been alarmed at the perceived threat from Russia and have been clamoring for a stronger NATO presence in the region.

At the NATO summit in Wales there were no decisions about new headquarters, but it has been discussed on suggestion of Phil Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe. Finland and Sweden used to be neutral but are since 1994 partners to NATO. At the last summit of NATO in September 2014, a “treaty” (Finnish and Swedish ministers’ talk about an agreement, NATO talks about a Memorandum of Understanding) of “Host Nation Support” which concerns the rights for NATO to use their territories in case of exercises, crises or war on request of the countries.

Aim of the conference

The aim of the project is to gather citizens from the Baltic Sea region and experts to inform each other; analyze the tense situation in the area, and present alternatives to militarization including cooperation, a common house of Europe, OSCE, and Neutralism.

Besides the analysis of the NATO strategy and their geostrategic interests the international conference discusses the negative impacts of these policies to the societies, in particularly to a social and gender-justice society.

Program

Friday, 4th of September

19:00 Get together party @ Peace Station ("Rauhanasema"), Veturitori 3 (tram no 3 and 7, bus no 23, get off at Pasila station)

Saturday, 5th of September

10:00 Welcome

- Kristine Karch (No to War – No to NATO), Markku Kangaspuro (Finnish Peace Committee)

10:15 Part 1: Introductory presentations with discussion

- **"NATO expansion strategy and the militarization of Europe"**
Ingeborg Breines (International Peace Bureau), Elsa Rassbach (UNAC, Code Pink, USA/Germany)
- **"NATO expansion to the Baltic States and Scandinavia"**
Laura Lodenius (Peace Union of Finland), Maj Britt Theorin (Sweden), Urve Randmaa (Estonia)

Chair: Kristine Karch

12: 30 Lunch

13:30 Part 2: Working Groups

NATO Expansion and NATO Strategy - Case Studies with discussion

1. Finland (Tarja Cronberg, Peace Union of Finland)
2. Sweden (Staffan Ekbohm, Aktionsgruppen Nej till Nato, Sweden)
3. Poland (Pasquale Policastro, University of Szezcin, Poland)

15:30 Coffee Break

16:15 Part 3: Plenary presentation with discussion

- **Russia and the Baltic region – actors and victims**
Oleg Bodrov, (Chair of Interregional Environmental Movement Green World, Russia)
- **Russia: controversy in the Western debate**
Claudia Haydt (Information Center Militarization / European Left, Germany)

Chair: Ingela Martensson

17:30 **Reports from the working groups**

Chair: Teemu Matinpuro (Finnish Peace Committee)

18:30 Break

19:00 **Panel on Ukraine**

Sergei Kirichuk (Borotba, Ukraine), Nina Potarskaya (Center for Social and Labor Research, Ukraine), Andrej Hunko (MP Die Linke, Germany), Tord Björk (environmentalist, Sweden), Tarja Cronberg, Leo Gabriel (World Social Forum, Austria)

Chair: Reiner Braun (International Peace Bureau)

20:30 Sauna

Sunday, 6th of Sept.

9:30 Part 4: Plenary presentations with discussion

- **Political Alternatives to Militarization of the Baltic Sea Area**
Sven Hirdman (Sweden, former Swedish ambassador in Moskva)
Kimmo Kiljunen (Special Representative for Mediation of Foreign Minister of Finland)
 - **Common Security, OSCE, Neutralism**
Reiner Braun
Maj Britt Theorin (Sweden)
Nikita Lomagin (Baltic Center of International Studies, Russia)
Mikael Böök (Civic Activist, Finland)
- Chair: Lea Launokari (Women for Peace, Finland)

11:30 Short Break

11:45 Part 5: Final Panel:

- **Which lessons do we learn and what are our next steps?**
Ludo de Brabander, (vrede vzw, Belgium)
Ulla Klötzer (Women for Peace, Finland)
Ingela Martensson (Women for Peace, Sweden)
Tobias Pflüger (Die Linke, Germany)
Yves-Jean Gallas (Mouvement de la Paix, France)
- Chair: Kristine Karch

13:45 Final Words

Lucas Wirl (No to War – No to NATO), Ulla Klötzer

14:00 End of Conference

15:00-19:00 annual meeting of the international network No to War – No to NATO (for more details, see <http://no-to-nato.org/2015/06/annual-meeting-2015-network-no-to-war-no-to-nato/>)

Organizational Details:

Registration: info@no-to-nato.org

Location: Hotel Arthur, Vuorikatu 3, 00100 Helsinki

Accommodation: A limited contingent of rooms is available at Hotel Arthur. For further information please contact: teemu.matinpuro [at] gmail.com

Registration Fee: 20 Euros (regular) / 5 Euros (reduced)

Conference Language: English

Further information: info@no-to-nato.org / www.no-to-nato.org