

NATO and Nuclear Weapons: Yes We Ban?

Implications of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for extended deterrence

Tuesday, July 10th, 2018 18h00 – 19h30
(Registration starts 17h30)

Venue

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Rue du Taciturne 38
1000 Brussels

2017 saw the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) by 122 nations. While the North Atlantic Treaty is silent on the issue of nuclear weapons, all NATO members except the Netherlands have stayed away from the negotiations, due mainly to their reliance on NATO “extended nuclear deterrence”.

The nuclear-armed members of the alliance have claimed that banning nuclear weapons would be incompatible with their NATO obligations, and even that it would undermine the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT). The 2010 NATO Strategic Concept commits the Alliance to “create the conditions for a world free of nuclear weapons”, which could include their prohibition. At the same time, the document declares NATO a nuclear alliance “for as long as nuclear weapons exist”.

Following the adoption of the UN Treaty in July last year, it is high time to dispassionately assess the implications of the Treaty for NATO. While the ban will not dismantle any nuclear weapons overnight, it will change perceptions about the legitimacy of nuclear deterrence. To the extent NATO-members will want to sign and ratify the agreement, they will need to negotiate an opt-out from the practice of extended nuclear deterrence – much in the way states like Spain, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Lithuania have already banned the transit of nuclear weapons in peace-time.

Registration under the following link: [FES Registration](#)

- 17h30 Registration
- 18h00 Welcome **Renate Tenbusch**, FES Brussels
- 18h10 Panel discussion with:
- Beatrice Fihn**, Director, ICAN
- Ana Gomes** MEP, S&D-PT, lead negotiator on 2016 EP-Resolution
- (Invited) **Rolf Mützenich**, MP, Deputy Group Chair SPD, Bundestag, Germany
- Amb. **Alexander Kmentt**, Austrian Ambassador to the EU Political and Security Committee, 2014 Arms Control Person of the Year
- Chaired by **Samuel Doveri Vesterbye**, Director, European Neighbourhood Council
- Followed by Q&A
- 19h30 End of Discussion and light refreshments.