

NATO's Nuclear Deterrence and Defence: A Nordic perspective

April 28th 2011
Helsinki, Finland

Wanha Satama Congress centre
Address: Satamakatu 3-5

A round table jointly organized by the British American Security Information Council and Peace Union of Finland, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Hewlett Foundation.
This is part of a series of meetings organised in conjunction with the Arms Control Association and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg

NATO's goal is to create conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. But as long as nuclear weapons exist NATO will possess nuclear weapons. This is NATO's position as outlined in its new strategic concept paper. At its November 2010 meeting NATO leaders decided to initiate a review of the Alliance's strategic deterrence and defence posture in 2011

There is a need to connect the meaning of deterrence in the 21st century with the predicted consequences of NATO's plans for Missile Defences. We will discuss similarities and differences in perspectives within the Nordic region concerning the options for NATO in its review, and how the dangers arising from the deployment of sub-strategic nuclear weapons on both sides can best be reduced and security strengthened.

This workshop follows an earlier workshop on similar themes conducted in Tallinn on the 15th of March 2011.

For all participants accommodation and meals are covered. There is an informal welcome dinner planned for 19.00 at 7pm at Scandic Hotel Continental.

R.S.V.P. Before 21th of April (and for information regarding accommodation and other practical arrangements):
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Thursday 28th April, 2011

9.00 Welcome and introduction

9.15 - 11.00 Session 1

Chair: Paul Ingram

What threatens Europe?

- Tarja Cronberg (Chair, Peace Union of Finland): Threat images, nuclear weapons and missile defence
- Ian Anthony (Research Coordinator, SIPRI): Russian nuclear forces and posture
- Aapo Pöyhö (Ambassador of Finland to NATO) How tactical nuclear weapons role is seen among states in the region

Discussion

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee/ Tea

11.30 - 13.00 Session 2

Chair: Anne Finger

Co-thinking deterrence and Defence in northern Europe

- Ted Seay (US Mission to NATO, Brussels): US goals for nuclear deterrence and defence in Europe
- Paul Ingram (Executive Director, BASIC): Deterrence in the 21st century – alternatives to NATO's nuclear posture
- Peter Gottwald (Commissioner of the Federal Government for Arms Control and Disarmament: Germany) The German approach to NATO's deterrence and defence posture review

Discussion

13.00 - 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 16.00 Session 3

Chair: Tarja Cronberg

Politics of Nuclear Weapons in the Northern European context

- Susi Snyder (Programme Manager, IKV) and Wilbert van der Zeijden (Researcher, IKV): A recent report on what NATO countries say about the future of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe
- Comment: Professor Raimo Väyrynen: Idealism or reality? Is Disarmament of Tactical Nuclear Weapons possible?

Discussion

16.0 - 16.30 Conclusions

- Tarja Cronberg

16.30 - 18.00 Informal discussion, drinks

Organisations:

Peace Union of Finland is a Peace NGO and umbrella organisation for over ten Finnish peace organisations. Peace Union is an advocacy organisation working on disarmament, peace, security and conflict prevention issues. Peace Union is an active member of the International Peace Bureau.

BASIC is an independent transatlantic organisation promoting global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by engaging with decision-makers in a constructive manner and promoting public awareness.

ACA is a national non-partisan membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of and support for effective arms control policies.

IFSH (The Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy) is an independent research institution at the University of Hamburg aiming to ensure peace and provide security.