

## Shaping a better world – a task for the left

As a left-wing group, the GUE/NGL underlines the following key issues for international peace, social and environmental justice movements:

- The strict application of the UN Charter and all other instruments of international law. We work for international relations based on real partnership, cooperation based on mutual advantage, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries;
- Fundamental human rights and democratic freedoms must be guaranteed for all human beings. We condemn the EU's subordination of human rights concerns to its geostrategic and economic interests. We want the EU to complement its fight for democratic freedoms with strong action to ensure economic and social rights;
- We work to change the rules of international trade, to reject the imposition of deregulation and free-trade agreements and, instead, support fair trade; we place human rights, social rights and the environment at the centre of all trade agreements;
- The EU must stop its crusade to privatise the economy and to liberalise services, especially health services, education, and water within the EU and in its trade relations with third countries;
- We are committed to campaigning against speculation and for an international tax on financial transactions to fund development aid. We are also dedicated to maintaining pressure on governments to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals as a first minimum target;
- We propose strengthening the links between the EU and developing countries, in order to build a strong alliance to oppose social and ecological dumping, to establish and apply international rules guaranteeing social rights, development, cultural diversity and environmental protection, including the fight against climate change.

## GUE/NGL MEPs on the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET):



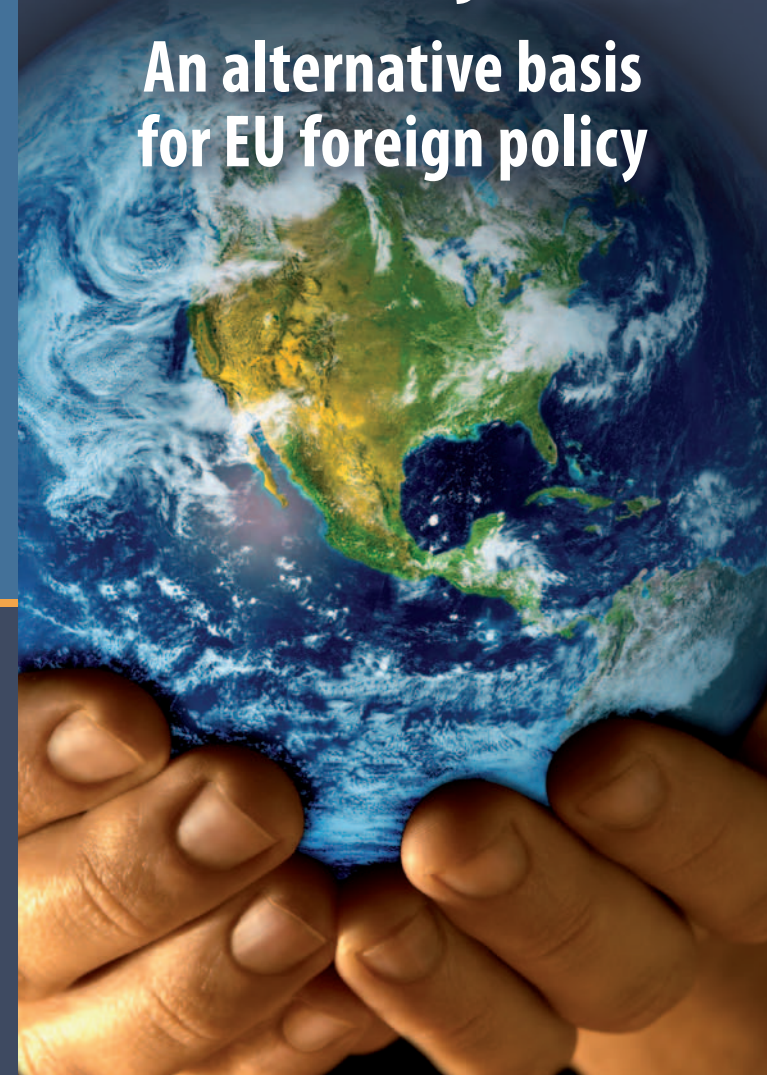
For more details about the information contained in this leaflet, please contact: [karin.schuttpelz@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:karin.schuttpelz@europarl.europa.eu)

European United Left / Nordic Green Left  
European Parliament  
rue Wiertz 43, B-1047 Brussels  
T +32-(0)228-42683  
F +32-(0)228-41774

Produced by GUE/NGL Communications Unit:  
[guengl-communications@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:guengl-communications@europarl.europa.eu)  
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# Peace and justice

## An alternative basis for EU foreign policy



## EU foreign policy in context

Interest in oil, gas and other raw materials, the trade concerns of multinationals and thinking in terms of power and dominance form the basis of EU foreign affairs policy. Diplomacy, cooperation and assistance programmes are increasingly backed by military and police missions. The roots of international conflicts and global problems are constantly ignored.

EU member states are involved in numerous wars and military interventions across the globe. While the Palestinian people suffer as a result of the unresolved Middle East problem, the EU does not assume its responsibility as a member of the Quartet. Refugees are stopped at Europe's borders and placed in EU-financed detention centres in neighbouring countries.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are core values of the EU. But double standards are applied: while criticising the human rights situation in third countries, the EU does not fight internal violations of human rights with the same vigour. The EU tolerates, and even supports, certain regimes when it suits geostrategic or economic interests.



## Our guiding principles

GUE/NGL is opposed to the EU's foreign and security policy and the structures established by the Lisbon Treaty. It strongly criticises the lack of democratic control and parliamentary influence over this policy area.

GUE/NGL insists on respect for the right of peoples to determine their future and works for a strategy which puts crisis prevention, exclusively civil solutions to conflicts, multilateralism and international law at its heart.

External relations must be based on a long-term vision of the EU's responsibility for the construction of a peaceful world. This means tackling global problems such as climate change and poverty. A dynamic of partnership and cooperation based on mutual interest in particular with neighbouring countries and countries in the south must be built.



## A peaceful Europe is possible

The GUE/NGL Group works for a strictly civilian EU foreign policy and is strongly opposed to the use of European intervention forces for belligerent purposes and humanitarian aid since we are convinced that no crisis can be solved by military means. Sustainable solutions can be found only when the roots of a crisis are tackled. If the money spent on war was used for economic reconstruction, education and health, we would live in a better and safer world.

We are against civil-military cooperation in every area, as it involves the incalculable risk of civilians being used to achieve military objectives with far-reaching consequences.

GUE/NGL insists on the dissolution of all EU member state foreign military bases and the withdrawal of EU member states' troops from Afghanistan, Iraq and any other international warzones. Instead of wasting money on battle groups and military missions, EU member states should implement their commitment to give 0.7% of GNP to development aid.

Military spending should be reduced in all member states. The savings could then be used to deal with social and economic problems. This would be a decisive contribution to the solution of both the financial crisis and growing social problems in Europe.

Military forces and armaments should be downsized all over Europe. Europe does not need anti-missile systems. We reject all moves to create mechanisms for global military interventions. We strive for nuclear disarmament and a nuclear-weapon-free Europe.

**Another Europe,  
a peaceful Europe, is possible.**

