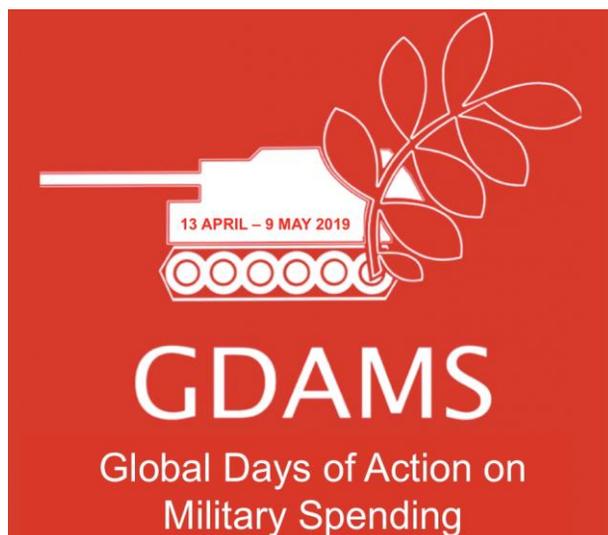


GCOMS Newsletter, February 2019

GDAMS 2019: From April 13 to May 9

GCOMS incorporates the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). This year, GDAMS will include the period from April 13th to May 9th. Having a period of several action days offers GDAMS campaigners a more flexible scope to choose a suitable moment to organize events that fit local or national contexts.

We are in a time of escalation and military tension around the world. NATO demands its member countries to increase their military spending by reaching 2% of their GDP, generating tensions with non-member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This is an expense that goes in detriment of social spending.



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Not just Afghanistan: what military missions abroad cost to Italian people

Expeditions to Kabul and Iraq burned 10 billion € from the Italian budget. Imagine if Italy had not participated in the missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. On balance Italy would have saved exactly the money needed this year to finance the Income of Citizenship and Quota 100. According to the analysis carried out by Milex, the Observatory for military spending, in fact, the only military mission in Afghanistan, which now lasts since 2001, it has cost about 7.7 billion euros. To which we add another 2.6 billion spent to maintain Italian military contingent in Iraq, in a mission that has been going on practically since 2003.

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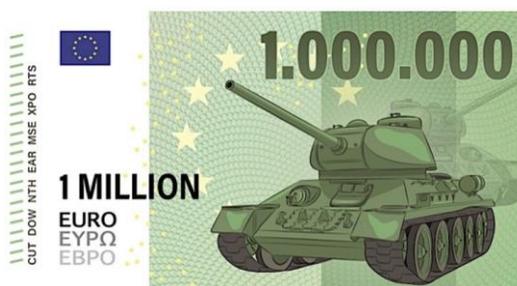
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Europe should stop financing war and exporting weapons

The Basel Peace Office has published a Call for Europe to invest in peace and sustainability, not in weapons and war.

Europe should stop exporting weapons and financing war, and should instead invest in peace, security and sustainable development, according to participants in number of events in Basel organized by the Basel Peace Office on Jan 14-15.

During an action on January 15, the Basel Peace Office counted out €27 billion (the amount of annual European arms exports) in 27,000 notes each of €1 million value, and 'reallocated' this to climate protection and the other sustainable



development goals. The counting action took place during the Basel Peace Forum to generate new ideas for peace, conflict prevention and conflict transformation.

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The GCOMS 2019 campaign has started!

The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is an international campaign founded in December 2014 and promoted by the International Peace Bureau.

The aim of the campaign is to push governments to invest money in the sector of health, education, employment and climate change rather than military. More precisely, the IPB calls for an annual, minimum reallocation of 10% from the military budgets of all states; and advocates the reduction of arms production and international weapons trade.

If you want peace, invest on peace. Disarm!

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GCOMS Newsletter, February 2019

European public money for the military industry



The European Union tries to approve a huge financing plan that will have, as its main beneficiary, the military industry and military research.

On June 7, 2017, the European Commission officially launched the European Defense Fund program. This Fund will use different public financing instruments to finance Research and Development projects in technologies and products with military objectives.

This program is planned in two stages. The first one (2017-2020), already approved, is now in progress, being endowed with 590 million euros from the EU's regular budget. The second stage (2021-2027) is now pending approval, being proposed to be financed with the astronomical figure of 13 billion euros from the EU budget. Also in this second stage, it is expected that the Member States will contribute an additional 35,600 million euros. If this second stage is finally approved, the arms industry will have been granted, between 2017 and 2027, with up to 51,000 million EU euros.

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