

## **Final Declaration of the Meeting in The Hague**

Today, just a few meters from the NATO summit, we are witnessing a new direction that places military expenditure at the very heart of European priorities. The relentless focus on war as a daily topic threatens to erase, in a single stroke, the founding aims of the European Union. Born out of the ashes of World War II, the EU was designed reputedly as a tool for reconstruction and as a means to prevent war through economic cooperation. Yet today, it seems to have strayed far from these founding ideals.

The first decisive step came with the ReArm EU plan, which encouraged national rearmament. Rather than fostering unity, this initiative has deepened inequalities both between and within Member States, even diverting European cohesion and development funds to military purposes. Across the continent, increased public spending is primarily enriching the arms industry, while ordinary citizens face stagnating wages and a lack of investment in vital civilian infrastructure.

Now comes the second step: the imminent imposition of severe cuts to healthcare, education, and employment—all justified by the so-called need to replenish national arsenals. Young people, in particular, are being drawn into a war economy that thrives on perpetual conflict, escalating tensions, and ever-increasing profits for arms manufacturers. This surge in military spending risks undermining our economic foundations, stifling technological progress, and threatening the welfare and social stability of European societies.

The reaction to the announcement of the ReArm EU plan was immediate and universal—an outcry of alarm, indignation, fear, and disbelief echoed throughout every European nation. As political representatives, but above all as human beings and citizens of Europe, we have a duty to respond to this collective outcry.

Time is running out; we must act now with determination and resolve.

Our vision is to promote peace and a social model centered on citizens' well-being—from education and healthcare to social rights, research, environmental protection, social justice, anti-corruption, and the robust defense of fundamental rights. Only through bold, forward-looking policies underpinned by sustained diplomatic engagement we can hope to build enduring security and lasting peace.

The ongoing war in Ukraine demonstrates our collective failure to pursue the diplomatic solutions needed to secure peace. While Russia's illegal invasion and the ongoing bombing must cease, it is important to acknowledge that more could have been done through diplomacy to prevent and resolve this war.

The attack on Iran's nuclear facilities represents a serious example of double standards in the application of international law, undermining the credibility of the multilateral system and risking a dangerous cycle of escalation that—as was the case with the Iraq war—could lead to renewed attempts at regime change, exacerbate the refugee crisis, and fuel the rise of the far right in the region and beyond.

At the same time, our inaction in the face of documented crimes against civilians in Gaza, including attacks, forced displacement, and the deliberate withholding of essential resources—actions that amount to genocide—further underlines this failure.

Here and now, we commit to uniting the voices of all those who, regardless of language, cry out for the same cause: if you want peace, prepare for peace—always and everywhere.

The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands  
June 24th, 2025

Endorsed and Signed by the following political party leaders, party officials, representatives, and elected officials at the national and European institutional levels

*(Space for signatures and names)*