

The Nobel peace prize awarded to the European Union. Why?

WILPF Norway is astonished by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union. The historic effort for peace following World War II is a poor basis for a peace prize in 2012. In addition the EU of today does not qualify as a valid peace prize candidate according to the testament of Alfred Nobel.

Some examples: Member states in the EU are engaged in one third of the world's weapons export, including plans for considerably increased military production in the years ahead. Large financial resources are given to military research. Great Britain and France have stockpiles of nuclear weapons without plans for how to get rid of them. Germany and other countries permit the USA to store their nuclear weapons on EU territory.

There are serious problems between poor and rich member states in EU. The Union has neither been willing nor able to handle increasing economic problems which will counteract stability and peace. The EU practices an inhumanly restrictive regulation policy for admitting refugees, including hundreds of thousands of war refugees ("Festung Europa").

WILPF Norway has repeatedly appealed to the Nobel committee to adhere to Nobel's testament and select prize-winners who work for international cooperation towards a systemic change towards disarmament and doing away with war through the further development of international law - what Nobel called a brotherhood of nations. War is also deeply woven into or economy and culture. Nobel's goal was to break down this tradition.

WILPF Norway holds that

- it is imperative that The Storting undertake a thorough re-evaluation of these conditions;
- measures must be taken to make sure that the Committee is composed of persons with relevant professional competency.
- the selection of prize-winners show respect for Alfred Nobel's clearly expressed desire about who were to receive the prize bearing his name.

In the future the Nobel Committee should chose winners of Nobel's Peace Prize in accordance with the criteria set out in Alfred Nobel's testament. That is an obligation for the committee.