

Workshop: promoting the nuclear ban treaty

The workshop began by **short reports** from IPPNW affiliates of the countries working on the nuclear ban, starting with the two nuclear weapon states: France and the United Kingdom, followed by the NATO members: Germany, Norway, Greece and the Netherlands, and finally the non-NATO members: Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.

We agreed that we need to set up **political meetings** in Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, to advocate joining the TPNW.

We then discussed what we could do as a region to support work of the individual affiliates. For instance, both Norway and Sweden are **publishing reports** that should be publicised in other European countries.

Norwegian participants encouraged other affiliates **to visit the embassy in their country** and ask why they are not supporting the TPNW. It was pointed out, however, that Norwegian Ambassadors could reply that we should try to convince our own countries before coming to them. In Germany we organised a successful bicycle tour visiting embassies of countries that have joined the treaty and thanking them. It is also possible to have a concerted letter-writing action to other governments, via their embassies.

It was felt that we need more **communication** to exchange ideas and information on our activities and to ask for support. We should therefore set up a **mailing list** specifically for exchanging information on the nuclear ban work. [This list now exists and can be subscribed to - XH]

Affiliates are working on collecting signatures for the **Parliamentary Pledge** and on the campaign **Don't Bank on the Bomb**.

It was suggested that we should do something pan-European for the upcoming **European Parliament elections** in May 2019. One idea was to have representation at the party conferences taking place in different European cities this year, particularly those of the Social Democrats (Lisbon) and the Greens (Berlin). We should also try to approach the youth wings of the parties.

Peace Boat will be coming to Greece and helping to lobby the Greek government. Maria had a positive visit to Cyprus to encourage them to sign the TPNW.

Opinion polls are often helpful to promote the nuclear ban.

Also using **Medical Peace Work's** case study on nuclear weapons is recommended.

The **WMA General Assembly** in Reykjavik will vote on a new resolution which gives us again an opportunity to raise the issue on a national level.