



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRADE UNION
but especially to the delegates of the ver.di -
national congress

SAY NO!

After the DGB Federal Congress 2022, at the instigation of the DGB Federal Executive Board and in breach of our statutes and resolutions, the DGB Federal Congress 2022 decided on *'Yes! to arms deliveries and rearmament'*, and now, on the initiative of the ver.di Executive Board and with

the approval of the trade union council, this is to be followed up at the ver.di Federal Congress: **Yes! to a logic of war**, which, under the guise of a so-called "*comprehensive concept of security*"¹, explicitly advocates "*military security*", indirectly "*armament and rearmament*" and the *deployment of German soldiers in war* - "*what is necessary for the fulfilment of their tasks in national and alliance defence*" and all this under the heading "*Perspectives for peace, security and disarmament in a world in upheaval*", which obscures the true core.

Garnished with many words and an appeal to the "*special responsibility*" of those in power, the delegates should raise their hands for *the unions`solidarity`* with the German government, especially for military support for Ukraine. **Today, this means supplying weapons, including cluster bombs, which are outlawed worldwide; tomorrow, it could mean soldiers!** The 100-billion-euro armament programme already decided internally in 2018 is only partly rejected because it is "*exclusively for the Bundeswehr*"; because the same government continues unflinchingly and unabashedly with the same neoliberal programme of drying up public services as all its predecessor governments. The "*armament and rearmament of the Bundeswehr and NATO*" should only be "*not limitless*".

This is the **final genuflection to militarist logic and the exact opposite of our basic trade union convictions: We are united by the rejection of thinking in military categories.** This is turned into the opposite by the insertion of a small word: "*We are united in rejecting thinking in purely military categories.*"

We, trade unionists from ver.di, but also from IG Metall and other DGB trade unions, therefore turn to the delegates of the ver.di national congress:

SAY NO!

Do not raise your hand for a renewed shoulder-to-shoulder unionism with the German war course!

We have not forgotten what happened in 1914: the trade union leaderships all over Europe, breaking all previous decisions, sent their members to war - **allegedly`against the Russian despot-czar`**, but in fact for the profit of Krupp, Thyssen and Co. Consequently, the **Castle Peace** was declared and **all class and labour struggle was stopped, strike support was suspended.**

¹ All italicised passages are the original text of the main motion (see yellow markings there).

SAY NO!

on the main motion for the ver.di national congress

- who with his '*Yes! to arms deliveries*' violates **our statutes, which in § 4, point 3, lit. i** oblige us to "***fight militaristic tendencies***", and **disregards all our previous clear and unequivocal resolutions against arms deliveries.**
- who, with his '*Yes! to armament and rearmament*', violates our **Declaration of Principles** and thus turns our position for '*general disarmament*', **which we have** affirmed a thousand times, and the '***right of all people to protection from persecution, torture and war***' into '*yesterday's talk*'.
- who pretends that Russia's attack on Ukraine is the first war in Europe since 1945, thus 'overlooking' **NATO's war of aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999, which was bombed day and night for 78 days with German participation, in violation of international law.**

Whoever 'forgets' all this makes himself part of the German war party. Anyone who thinks that the current wars worldwide are about '*freedom*' or '*despotism*', '*aggression*' or '*self-defence*' or even '*international and human rights*' has already been taken in by the **war propaganda of both sides.** History has never been about any of these things, and this is precisely what it is not about.

Therefore, let us stick to the decisions of the past years.

No arms deliveries! No armament of any kind! ... but disarmament - immediately!

Our position is and remains anti-militarist and international.

For us, there can only be one resolution as a lesson from our own history:

- **Our future is not on the side of the German government or any other war party.**
- **Our future is alongside the workers, who are fighting against the delivery of arms in Italy and Greece, and with the workers in France, Britain and all over the world, who strike again and again against the war and the passing on of the costs of the crisis and war to all of us.**
- **Our solidarity belongs to the workers, conscientious objectors, deserters and refugees from and in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and worldwide. and worldwide!**

Open break with the "social peace" of the rulers:

WE WILL NOT PAY FOR YOUR WARS!

WEAPONS DOWN - WAGES UP!

Let's fight for this together and in an organised way!

Sign the appeal and send your support to the initiators by email to:

info@sagtnein.org; by post to: **SAG NEIN!, Am Steg 1, 53757 Sankt Augustin, Germany**

By entering my name in the enclosed list, I declare my consent to the publication of my name, company, trade union and function, which may be revoked at any time informally by the initiators.

