**Press Release**

19/11/2021

**PANA Cancels Protest against Dublin Military Seminar**

The Peace and Neutrality Alliance has cancelled a planned vigil that was due to take place outside the Aviva Stadium in Dublin next week, the venue of a High-Level Seminar on new EU funding for defence and security research.

According to Roger Cole … we don't know if the cancellation of this event by the Department of Defence was due to new government health guidelines or fears that our planned protest could possibly attract media interest, or if their email (see below) was just sent to PANA as a scam because we had also applied to attend.

According to the Department of Defence the European Defence Fund (EDF) will provide grant funding assistance to collaborative cross border consortia of industrial entities to research and develop new defence capabilities in a number of areas between 2021 and 2027. The total funding available for the programme over seven years is almost €8 billion.

PANA is concerned that these ongoing seminars are an effort to get companies in Ireland more deeply engaged in the rapidly growing military industrial complex to take part in a suggested environmentally friendly war as partners in an EU Army.

To confirm this Press Release…

Tom Crilly, Communications Officer, PANA,

Tel 0035387 2937558

Roger Cole, Chairperson, PANA,

Tel 0035387 2611597

Padraig Mannion, Irish Language Spokesperson, PANA,

Tel 0035387 6911293

**For more information**.

**Email Reply to Roger Cole of PANA**

**From:** Philip Mudge (Defence) <[Philip.Mudge@defence.ie](mailto:Philip.Mudge@defence.ie)

**To:** Defence RTI [RTI@Defence.ie](mailto:RTI@Defence.ie)

**Sent:** 11/17/2021 1:31 PM

**Subject:** EU Funding for Irish Defence and Security Enterprise and R&D – Maximising the Opportunities: Change to VTC event

In light of advice from government, a decision has been made to restructure the high level seminar *EU Funding for Irish Defence and Security Enterprise and R&D – Maximising the Opportunities.* **The Information aspects of the event will be held by VTC in the morning of 25 November**, with the networking aspect rescheduled to a separate event face to face, on a date to be confirmed in the spring of 2022.

You will receive a VTC invitation prior to the event. Further details will be made available in the coming days.

**The Department and Science Foundation Ireland** invited academic research on reducing the environmental impact of the Defence Force, along with an enterprising idea of developing a robust portable and efficient solar panel for use on military tanks and war ships.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8aa95-support-for-enterprise-research-and-innovation-in-defence/>

**The Carbon Boot-print of the Military… Scientists for Global Responsibility**

The key to real reductions in military carbon emissions is thus to shrink the huge military budgets around the world – which totalled more than $1,800 billion in 2018 and the key to shrinking these budgets is to reduce military tensions. So, rather than looking for new, lower carbon ways to fight wars, our governments should be prioritising measures such as diplomacy, international disarmament treaties, fair trade, poverty alleviation and, of course, reductions in carbon emissions right across the economy. Only then can we confidently achieve a more secure world.

<https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/carbon-boot-print-military-0>

**Joe Murray, co-ordinator of Afri - Action From Ireland writes…**

Although, traditionally, before our neutrality was steadily and stealthily eroded, we had a limited involvement in the arms industry, all that has changed and is set to change more drastically in the coming years. A stark example of this can be found in an event being hosted by the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, due to take place on November 25 in the Aviva Stadium, entitled Support for Enterprise, Research, and Innovation in Defence.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-40746339.html>