

# STOP!!! STOP!!!

## **Enough already with the escalation in East and West! Pleading for a new building of the “Common House of Europe”!**

The renewed East-West-Conflict of EU/USA and Russia is going to become chronic. The confidence between Russia and the West fell down to zero level. The relation between the nations in the East and the West is short before being damaged irreparably.

25 years after the end of the Cold War again a deep gap disjoins Europe: Between Ukraine, the Baltic States and Russia – and not only there! – a new “Berlin Wall” is erected and a new arms race becomes apparent. Even the deployment of short- and intermediate-range missiles is seriously considered.

If the current escalation between the West and Russia will not be stopped immediately, not only a new Cold War looms. A crash of the total security architecture, a new – even atomic – arms race with incalculable consequences for the whole world is becoming more and more likely.

And in all this, societies in East and West show a strangely paralyzed silence. Where is the long due outcry? Where are the persons – in all countries, in all parties – who are not willing to inactively accept this development?

In this situation of great danger the broadest “Coalition of Reason”, a “Coalition of De-Escalation” is urgently required – at the level of politicians as well as inside and between the populations concerned! Now! A further escalation between Russia and the West, a new Cold War or even something worse must be prevented from happening!

### ***The topmost priority – at all levels – is the re-establishment of confidence!***

Therefore, we call on all human beings in West and East who are not willing to longer accept this development inactively, to unite – independent of political parties, countries and old or new power blocks! De-escalation does not only start ‘from above’ – de-escalation also starts ‘from below’!

From the governments in West and East we require these immediate measures:

- Stop the combat operations in Ukraine and freeze the conflict based on the Minsk Agreement;
- Strictly complying with all contracts on disarmament and arms control;
- Fallback of all troops from the lines of demarcation between NATO and Russia and fallback of all weapons systems that – in worst case – are able to provoke an uncontrollable escalation;
- Revival of a continuous dialogue between NATO and Russia to enhance communication, the exchange of information and the recovery of transparency;
- Abandonment of all sanctions at all parties;
- Calculated steps of one-sided advances at material and symbolic levels (e.g. freedom of visas);
- De-escalation of rhetoric;
- Calling of a new OSCE conference including the United States of America within the next three months aiming at a new policy of détente.

40 years after the Final Act of Helsinki and a quarter century after the “Charta of Paris”, that set the seal on the end of the Cold War, a restart of the East-West relations is needed!

In the medium term we claim from the West (EU/USA) and Russia a basic change of politics aiming at (a) development of a new euro-atlantic framework of security, (b) a final and complete overcoming of the decomposition of the European Continent and (c) to start immediately the formation of a “Common House of Europe – from Lisbon to Vladivostok” as an overarching political, economic and military architecture.

We appeal to all the citizens of West and East:

- Say No to the ‘escalations in the heads‘ that is: No to exaggerated nationalism as well as old and new laager mentalities!
- Establish friendly ties across the boarders of old and new ‘blocks’!
- Strengthen all existing contacts: within economic cooperations , city-partnerships, youth exchange and interdenominational dialogues!
- Promote a ‘culture of active listening and direct dialogue’!
- Don’t look at elements separating but of things uniting you!
- Establish a ‘block-uniting‘ pan-European general public – virtually and going beyond!
- Practice a “New Thinking 2.0”: Think and act such as if the Common European House – from Lisbon to Vladivostok – in which the question which territory belongs to what state becomes more and more meaningless would already exist!

One Cold War was enough! What has been hard to achieve for more than a quarter of a century must not be set at stake!

It is high time to press the Reset-Button!  
Now!