



VOICES FOR PEACE  
Vienna, June 10th 2023

Alain Rouy (France)

Good evening, everyone!

I'm Alain Rouy, representing the French Mouvement de la Paix. Today in Vienna we have a delegation of 10 peace activists who want that our country plays a positive role in favour of peace.

Unfortunately, the French president and government have made the opposite choice: President Macron has aligned himself with NATO and says now, he wants to win the war against Russia. Our response as pacifists is that we must win the peace, not the war. Winning the peace means taking political and diplomatic initiatives and supporting mediation efforts.; the only rational way forward is to work for a ceasefire and negotiations.

We are also campaigning against increasing military spending. This week, the French parliament passed a military programming law for the years 2024 to 2030. This new law provides for a 40% increase in military spending compared with the previous law; this means €413 billion, including around €60 billion for nuclear weapons. Pdt Macon has declared: "We must never be late for a war, but we must be one war ahead"! with these words, Macron is leading us into a war economy with disastrous economic, financial, social and ecological consequences.

On the weekend of 20-21 May, the Mouvement de la Paix organised rallies against the military programming law all over France, particularly in Brittany in front of the nuclear submarine base, and we will continue to do so.

We want France to choose the side of PEACE and social and climate justice. We call on France to withdraw from NATO and to pursue a policy based on the United Nations Charter. As a nuclear power, France also has a responsibility to commit to a process of nuclear disarmament as set out in Article 6 of the NPT. This is why we are asking France to participate as an observer at the next meeting of the States Parties TPNW and to move towards signing and ratifying the TPNW.

That was only a short summary of our activities.

Thank you !