



RESOURCE 8

Extract from the Schuman Declaration

The Schuman Declaration was presented by French foreign minister Robert Schuman on 9 May 1950. It proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community, whose members would pool coal and steel production. This was a way to prevent further war between France and Germany by stopping the competition over natural resources, in particular in the Ruhr region.

‘The pooling of coal and steel production should immediately provide for the setting up of common foundations for economic development as a first step in the federation of Europe, and will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.’

Source: [European Union website](#)

Extract from ‘The Nobel Peace Prize 2012 to the European Union (EU) – Press Release’

‘The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2012 is to be awarded to the **European Union (EU)**. The union and its forerunners have for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. (...)’

Source: [Nobelprize.org](#). [Nobel Media AB 2014](#). Web. 25 August 2015.



HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

Quote from Larkin, Malta, 23 years old.

"My grandparents would have said 'a dream'. My parents would have said 'a process'. I say that it's my everyday reality!"

LARKIN, Malta, 23 years old

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This is one of the winning contributions to the contest organised by the EU institutions and the European Youth Forum to mark the award of the Nobel Peace prize to the EU. Young people aged 13 to 24 were asked to explain what peace in Europe means to them in the form of a short text.

Source: [European Union website](#)



Press Release, 12 October 2012, Nobel Peace Prize Award to European Union

“From Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate (1976)

Alfred Nobel was a visionary who believed in a demilitarized peaceful world. In his Will he left his Nobel peace prize to those who would work for 'fraternity among nations', 'abolition or reduction of standing armies', and 'holding and promotion of peace congresses'.

In Nobel's will the award for Peace was to go to Champions of peace, those working to replace militarism with international order based on law and the abolition of national military forces. Nobel's vision and dream was to replace the power of militarism and war, with the power of law. I believe the Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union, does not meet the criteria of Alfred Nobel vision and spirit, and his vision of a demilitarized peaceful world.

In many ways the European Union has done much in the past sixty years for Peace and reconciliation amongst nations, but it has sadly done little for the demilitarization of Europe. Whilst the EU imposes severe Austerity measures upon many EU countries it simultaneously supports the growing militarisation of Europe by its support for US/NATO (guilty of war crimes against Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.) It continues to support the policies of USA Nuclear weapons, held in six EU States. It supports arms sales from European States (UK, Germany, etc.) to countries all around the world. The EU instead of upholding human rights for countries such as Palestine, has rewarded Israel by giving them special trading status and huge grants (EU tax payers money) for its Military Research and weapons thus enabling it to continue its illegal policies of occupation and apartheid of Palestine.

I cannot support this decision to give the peace prize to EU and appeal to the Swedish Foundation Authority to hold the Nobel Committee accountable for giving, yet again, a political award instead of supporting People taking courageous, and often dangerous stands to help move the human family away from military international Relations to one based on peaceful resolution of conflict.

I believe that the reform of the Nobel peace Committee is now necessary. As is the case of all other Nobel prize committees which are made up of experts in their particular field, perhaps it is time too for the NPP Committee to be comprised of people experienced in the field of Peacemaking and International Law.

Mairead Corrigan Maguire Nobel Peace Prize (1976)”

Source: The Peace People



Picture of a protest against the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 in Dublin



A woman holds a sign denouncing the European Union Member States' significant involvement in exports of weapons and other military hardware worldwide during a candlelight vigil organised by the People's Movement (Gluaiseacht an Phobail), an Irish pressure group, outside the offices of the European Parliament in Dublin, to protest against the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 to the European Union.

Source: Corbis © CORBIS RM / Belgaimage



Cartoon: 'European Border'



'The more civilized we (think we) become, the harder we try to keep other people out.'

© Tjeerd Royaard, *Cartoon Movement*

This cartoon denounces the European Union's strict immigration policy that seeks to stop the flow of undocumented migrants across its external borders, often through practices in contradiction with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

- Are you surprised that the EU won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012? Why/why not?
- Has this changed your ideas about the European Union in any way? How?