

## Raise the peace flag

The 21st of September was declared as the international day for the peace by the UN. Vrede vzw was asking for several years to make this day visible by raising the peace flag. This year the peace flag was dedicated to the appeal “disarm to develop”. 63 Flemish cities and municipalities answered our appeal and raised the peace flag.

This year the UN dedicated the international day for the peace to “the right to develop”. Enormous military expenses (last year 1747 billion dollar was spent worldwide on the military) hinder that right and provoke violent conflicts. It's necessary that those amounts of money are used wisely so they could cater to real human needs.

Belgium has no issues with the high military expenses. The future government has decided to buy new combat aircrafts (costing 6 billion euro's). This decision is being made, now that according to Luc Coene governor of the National Bank, the next 4 years Belgium has to save 14 billion euro.

According to an opinion poll carried out by the university of Antwerp it turns out that more than half (53,5 %) of the Flemish people oppose the purchase of a new combat aircraft, 24,4 % has not formed an opinion.

The following cities and municipalities supported the appeal “disarm to develop” by raising the peace flag:

Anzegem, Asse, Assenede, Bekkevoort, Beringen, Boechout, Boom, Bree, Brugge, De Pinte, Deerlijk, Diepenbeek, Eeklo, Evergem, Gent, Genk, Geraardsbergen, Harelbeke, Hechtel-Heksel, Heist od Berg, Heusden-Zolder, Ieper, Kalmthout, Kapellen, Kappelle-op-den-Bos, Kasterlee, Knokke-Heist, Koksijde, Kontich, Kuurne, Laarne, Lille, Lint, Londerzeel, Lo-Reninge, Lubbeek, Lummen, Machelen, Mechelen, Melle, Merelbeke, Mesen, Oostkamp, Oudenaarde, Pittem, Puurs, Retie, Riemst, Rotselaar, Sint-Agatha-Berchem, Sint-Niklaas, Stabroek, Veurne, Vilvoorde, Waregem, Westerlo, Wortegem, Zonnebeke, Zottegem, Zoutleeuw, Zutendaal, Zwalm, Zwijndrecht





