

Resistance Grows in Europe to U.S.-NATO Anti-Russia Policy

by Rainer Apel

WIESBADEN, Germany, June 14—Although the member governments of the European Union supported U.S.-demanded sanctions against Russian and Ukrainian officials in April, the NATO policy of expansion to the East and isolation of Russia over the Ukraine issue, a policy which could spark general war, is widely opposed. Here are some notable examples:

Germany

The vast majority of Germans (89%) favor dialogue with Russia, according to the Deutschlandtrend opinion poll released on June 6; it is published by Germany's state-run ARD TV at the beginning of every month. The number of Germans opposed to sanctions is increasing, as compared with one or two months ago.

Willy Wimmer, a longtime member of the Christian Democrats' group in the Bundestag and deputy defense minister in the 1980s, *charged the United States with pushing for war in Europe*. He spoke in an [interview](#) with independent journalist Ken Jepsen on June 9.

Wimmer said that as he watches the recent developments in Ukraine, he can only assume that what is happening was NATO's intention, although, luckily, not all these intentions bore fruit—for example, the nuclear weapons arsenal of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Crimea was never threatened by the Maidan-inspired insurrectionists. The Feb. 21 agreement between Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders, witnessed by EU foreign ministers who had brokered the deal, including Germany's Frank-Walter Steinmeier, was deliberately sabotaged, Wimmer said. The Maidan leaders wanted to carry the flames from the Maidan to the rest of Ukraine, notably, Crimea. "This incendiary approach has been taken along the southern underbelly of the Russian Federation for decades, to hit Russia, and the same was planned in Ukraine," he said, adding that the strategy is being pursued by the Anglo-

Saxons against the genuine interests of continental Europeans.

Wimmer pointed out that "in the center of British capitalism, of British imperialism, when [British Prime Minister David] Cameron wanted to strike against Syria, the House of Commons and the population refused to go along; the same could be said about the U.S. Congress."

While mistakenly seeing the United States, not the British, as the driving factor for war, Wimmer did underline the historical role of the British Empire. He likened the propaganda against Russian President Vladimir Putin to the British propaganda against Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm on the eve of World War I, and compared the sabotage of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and other such forms of dialogue between East and West, to the British sabotage of the post-Napoleonic concept of peace in Europe, by keeping all of continental Europe ready for war instead.

Wimmer harshly criticized the May 29 ceremonies surrounding the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, to which the leaders of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova were invited—noting in particular the case of "Georgia, which launched a war against Russia and now shall become a member of the European Union for that." The expansion of the EU is being pursued by the Anglo-Saxons to paralyze Europe, Wimmer charged. "The British interest is to let the European Union degenerate into an oversized free-trade zone; this is also the American interest, because the British have acted as poodles of the Americans for the past decades." They want continental Europe to become a colony, including through the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which would give U.S. law firms the final say over decisions by the governments of Europe.

Wimmer described his own experience as deputy defense minister under Chancellor Helmut Kohl, both before and after German reunification. It was Wimmer who drafted the proposal to have the reunited Germany as a member of NATO, which President George H.W. Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachov signed. "We were all agreed then, not to capitalize on the end of the Cold War, not to exploit the domestic central problems of the Russian Federation," he said. Expansion of NATO "was out of question, Russia today still suffers from the trauma of Napoleon and Hitler." But this policy was reversed in the mid-1990s, "when the

Americans forced the expansion of NATO to the east.”

Then, at the Bratislava conference of 2000, organized by the U.S. State Department and attended by the prime ministers, and the foreign and defense ministers of the eastern European countries, it was proclaimed that the new situation should be used, in Wimmer’s characterization, “to expand NATO up to the borders of Russia; that the entire area between the Atlantic and the Russian border is an American sphere.” The available formats for dialogue, such as the OSCE, were “willfully destroyed by the Americans,” because a decision was made not to have discussions with Russia any longer, but confrontation.

But if you cut off all dialogue formats, only confrontation is left, and that leads to war—from low-intensity warfare to all-out warfare. There are even U.S. Presidential directives, he said, that state that it is intolerable for another power center to emerge that would challenge the Americans; and that is why the U.S.A. is meddling around everywhere where they sense a threat: in Libya, in Syria, in the islands dispute between Japan and China, in Ukraine.

“The Americans apparently have the concept since the end of the Cold War: Make Europe fit for war, make Asia fit for war, and we will wage it.”

Gen. Harald Kujat, former Chief of Staff of the Bundeswehr and former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, said in an interview on May 30 with Germany’s state-run radio DLF, that the chaotic and highly dangerous situation in Ukraine, which neither the West nor Russia can alone bring under control, *requires a joint NATO-Russia peacekeeping mission*, modeled on the UN-mandated international KFOR mission in Kosovo in 1999.

“Now, we must grasp methods that in the past have proven their worth,” he said. “And we must, yes, we want to avoid also, that a situation develops in which Russia can do nothing but intervene militarily, in order to stabilize the situation. Thus, we must ourselves undertake something, in order to create stability. And that must be together with Russia; there is no way around this. And in my view, the model we used in Kosovo, KFOR, is what is available, where an international military stabilization force of Western states and Russia, where also German, American, and Russian armed forces together guaranteed stability.”

Kujat added that the anti-Maidan fighters in Ukraine are not under the control of Russia, and never have been, a fact that should have been recognized by the West long ago.

Austria

President Heinz Fischer’s office announced on June 6 that President Putin will visit Vienna on June 24. The Vienna news daily *Die Presse* mentions that Russian Railroads president Vladimir Yakunin has visited Austria often, for example, to lobby for his proposal to extend the broad-gauge Russian railroad track to Vienna. Austrian banks are very active in Russia, and Austria’s oil and gas firm OMV recently signed an agreement with Gazprom on the extension of the Russian gas pipeline South Stream to Weingarten, near Vienna.

Czech Republic

President Milos Zeman called for decentralization of Ukraine, as was done with Czechoslovakia in 1993, in a meeting with university students on June 11. “The only way to calm the situation in Ukraine is decentralization of Ukraine, i.e., pushing through the system of self-rule in the regions,” he said. “I believe that it is feasible.”

Up to now, Ukraine has been controlled by groups of gangsters who enriched themselves through dubious operations, including illegal siphoning of gas from pipelines, and contract killings, Zeman said. “For example, Yulia Tymoshenko . . . was publicly accused of having hired killers for 20 contractual murders. This is a usual way of communication between local politicians.”

On April 7, RT.com quoted Zeman saying that the EU should accept the fact that Crimea is now part of Russia, stressing that the former autonomous region won’t return to Ukraine in the foreseeable future. In an interview on Czech public radio, he described former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchov’s decision to give Crimea to the Ukraine in 1954 as “stupid.”

But, he added, “The moment Russia decides to widen its territorial expansion to the eastern part of Ukraine, that is where the fun ends. There I would plead not only for the strictest EU sanctions, but even for military readiness of the North Atlantic Alliance, like, for example, NATO forces entering Ukrainian territory.”