

Trade and Peace

Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt

Right to Peace, UiO

Why was the [EU](#) awarded the Nobel
Peace prize 2012?

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2012

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.

In the inter-war years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee made several awards to persons who were seeking reconciliation between Germany and France. Since 1945, that reconciliation has become a reality. The dreadful suffering in World War II demonstrated the need for a new Europe. Over a seventy-year period, Germany and France had fought three wars. Today war between Germany and France is unthinkable. This shows how, through well-aimed efforts and by building up mutual confidence, historical enemies can become close partners.

In the 1980s, Greece, Spain and Portugal joined the EU. The introduction of democracy was a condition for their membership. The fall of the Berlin Wall made EU membership possible for several Central and Eastern European countries, thereby opening a new era in European history. The division between East and West has to a large extent been brought to an end; democracy has been strengthened; many ethnically-based national conflicts have been settled.

The admission of Croatia as a member next year, the opening of membership negotiations with Montenegro, and the granting of candidate status to Serbia all strengthen the process of reconciliation in the Balkans. In the past decade, the possibility of EU membership for Turkey has also advanced democracy and human rights in that country.

The EU is currently undergoing grave economic difficulties and considerable social unrest. The Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to focus on what it sees as the EU's most important result: the successful struggle for peace and reconciliation and for democracy and human rights. The stabilizing part played by the EU has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace.

The work of the EU represents "fraternity between nations", and amounts to a form of the "peace congresses" to which Alfred Nobel refers as criteria for the Peace Prize in his 1895 will.

Oslo, 12 October 2012

WTO and Peace

- http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/10thi_e/10thi09_e.htm

The WTO can ...

- 1 ... cut living costs and raise living standards
- 2 ... settle disputes and reduce trade tensions
- 3 ... stimulate economic growth and employment
- 4 ... cut the cost of doing business internationally
- 5 ... encourage good governance
- 6 ... help countries develop
- 7 ... give the weak a stronger voice
- 8 ... support the environment and health
- 9 ... contribute to peace and stability
- 10 ... be effective without hitting the headlines

Natural resource commodities

- Pay for wars
- Fuel for many rebel armies (generate income)
- Consequences: prolonged conflicts and grave socio-economic effects:
 - environmental degradation,
 - mismanagement,
 - loss of access,
 - pollution,
 - loss of livelihoods for peoples,
 - loss of income for the state

Examples

- Diamonds
- Ivory
- Timber
- Oil

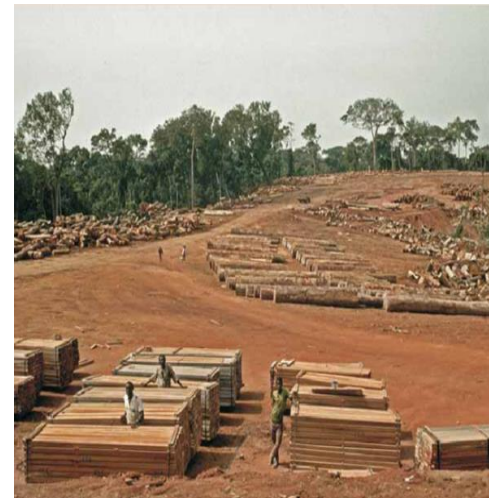


Ivory



- WWF: over 20.000 elephants are killed each year for their ivory tusks
- Rebel groups use the illegal ivory trade as a source of generating finances
- Significant depletion of elephant population in Central Africa
- United Nations Security Council Resolutions, 2134 (2014) and 2136 (2014) on 28 January and 30 January 2014 respectively
- Individuals or entities involved in illegal exploitation of natural resources, including poaching and illicit wildlife trade will be subject to travels bans and asset freeze

Tropical Timber



- Links between timber exploitation and conflict
- No global agreement on protecting forests
- ...except for protecting forests for climate purposes
- REDD-plus: cooperation between developed and developing countries under the UNFCCC
- Addresses development needs and environmental concerns
- Safeguards: (examples)
 - transparent and effective national forest governance structures and respect for the knowledge and
 - rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities

Oil



Diamonds



- Sierra Leone, DRC, Angola, Liberia,
- Diamonds fuel conflict
- Horrible labour standards, child labour, gross human rights violations
- UN General Assembly Resolution 55/56(2000) and SC Res. 1459 (2003)
- Kimberley process (www.kimberleyprocess.com)
- Waiver for conflict diamonds under Art. IX:3 Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO
- Critique



