

The FIR is in large concern because of the increasing political confrontations in Europe, which mean the danger of a new cold war. This became clearly visible after the presidential election in Belarus (see FIR Newsletter 2020-34). The domestic political protests against the irregularities in the election are used until today to destabilize the situation in Belarus from the outside and to intensify tensions. These actions are directed in particular against Russia, although the Russian Federation has no share in the domestic political situation in Belarus.

The political tensions surrounding the "Navalny case" escalated. The behavior of the German federal government gives the impression that it is less about clarification than about accusations against Russia. The German government proclaims that Navalny was poisoned with a poison from the "Novichok Group", but does not provide any proof. FRG Foreign Minister Maas demands "clarification" from the Russian government, but he refuses to provide all the documents necessary to clarify the accusations. In this sense, the EU states and NATO, which demand "clarification" from Russia too, are also "informed". It is frightening how even the European Parliament allows itself to be involved through secret service "sleight of hand" tricks.

What this "case" is actually about has been clearly declared by other politicians. The European gas pipeline project "North Stream 2" is to be prevented on the last few kilometers with all its might. While the threat of sanctions from the USA in autumn 2019 had only forced the Swiss company to withdraw, this campaign is intended to put a final stop to this project. In fact, "North Stream 2" is much more than a commercial enterprise. It has an impact on Europe's energy position vis-à-vis the USA, and would provide an economic foundation for a political balance with Russia. Moreover, this is precisely what various European states have no interest in.

For example, military maneuvers by NATO and the USA are currently taking place in the Baltic republics - despite the corona pandemic - near the Russian border. This has repeatedly led to provocations near Russian airspace. British and American naval units held exercises in the Barents Sea. In the Black Sea area, too, there were several military maneuvers near Russian airspace in recent days, with NATO insisting that they would not accept Russia's sovereignty over Crimea and the airspace associated with it.

The FIR follows such escalation of the political and military tensions with large concern. Certainly, such provocations have their reason also in the present presidential election campaign in the USA, where the respective candidates try to outdo each other in their "hard attitude against Russia". This includes the US announcement that it will terminate the last remaining arms limitation agreement in 2021. However, it cannot be allowed that peace in

Europe is endangered by electoral maneuvers in the USA.

FIR (Fédération Internationale des Résistantes - Association des Antifascistes)