

## **SUCU AGM 10 June 2015**

### **Motion re Arms to Renewables – carried**

This Branch notes that:

- the arms trade has a devastating impact on human rights and security, as well as damaging economic development through the diversion of resources
- the UK government is sending a message of support to many of the world's most repressive regimes when it promotes and sells weaponry to them;
- large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems;
- real security requires tackling the negative effects of climate change, with its associated food and water shortages, as well as developing a reliable and clean energy supply;
- arms companies receive UK government support and subsidies from the taxpayer;
- despite the disproportionate support it is given, the arms industry, and the number of jobs within it, is declining.

This Branch also notes that there:

- is an acknowledged shortage of skilled engineers;
- is an urgent need to tackle climate change, not least through the development of renewable energy and low-carbon technologies;
- are many workers within the arms industry whose skills match those needed to develop such technologies.

The Branch believes that:

- a balanced economy demands a strong manufacturing sector;
- everyone is entitled to decent work, training and income;
- there is a need to take a broader view of security, addressing the real threats we face rather than limiting them to the military.

The Branch resolves to:

1. Campaign for UK government support currently given to the arms industry to be transferred to the renewable energy and low-carbon technology sectors; as well as re-building the manufacturing industry.
2. Press the UK government to support individuals and communities affected by such changes during the transition period; to include fully funded retraining for all those wanting to move sectors, and a guaranteed no loss of earnings.
3. Raise this issue to regional/national level of the union and with the local trades council
4. Tell the Campaign Against Arms Trade, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London N4 3JU [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk) that the Branch has passed this motion so that the Branch's stance may be publicised.