



NEWSLETTER



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Security has a social dimension



Lto r. Emmanuel Jacob, President EUROMIL; NATO Secretary General, J.d.Hoop Scheffer; Bernhard Gertz, Vice-President EUROMIL; Photo EUROMIL

Editorial

A time to look back and forward!

In general the end of the year is a moment to look back on the past twelve months and make an evaluation of the things that we did or didn't do, the things that were a success or not and above all which new objectives we have to set ourselves for the coming year.

With some pride I believe that we can say that for EUROMIL 2007 was a positive and a successful year. During the past twelve months EUROMIL had several important meetings on the highest international level with as well political as military leaders to make them aware of the situation of the European soldiers. Amongst others we should mention the talks that we had with the Chairman of the EUMC, the Director General of the EUMS, the Minister of Defence of Portugal, the Secretary of State of Defence Policy of Romania and last but not least with the Secretary General of NATO followed by a presentation before the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council on ambassadors level. Besides these important meetings EUROMIL had also on a regular basis

contacts with MP's, MEP's and military leaders all over Europe to promote the social interest of soldiers.

Beside these contacts we may not forget the collaboration with the Council of Europe in the meetings of the 'Group on Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces'. This working group that has been set up by the Steering Group for Human Rights, is drafting a ministerial recommendation on the issue of 'Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces' following the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation 1742/2006. EUROMIL is convinced that such a recommendation is extremely important for the European soldiers and therefore puts a lot of efforts in the preparation and the discussion of these proposals.

2007 was a successful year and to use the words of NATO's Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer: "EUROMIL has been put on the map". Unfortunately this success has not been reflected on all levels and in all countries where our member associations are active. It is a shame that our colleagues in Portugal and Spain are still dealing with major problems. It is unacceptable that they even have to deal with the consequences of a lack of implementation of fundamental rights and freedoms on their military career.

But it is not only Spain and Portugal that are in our list of examples that could do better. Also France, Italy, Greece and the UK have still important steps to take before their soldiers enjoy the same fundamental rights than any other citizen. EUROMIL and its 36 member

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associations from 24 European countries will not rest as long as there is still one European soldier that cannot enjoy his or her fundamental rights and freedoms. Governments and military leaders have to understand that the only thing that they can't stop with laws and regulations is the solidarity between soldiers! When they try to shut somebody's voice they will have to understand that many others will start to speak and cry for freedom.

United we stand !

Emmanuel Jacob

President

EUROMIL Presidium meeting in Paris 25-26 October 2007: Operational welfare in international missions

The 70 representatives of 21 military associations gathered 25-26 October in Paris at the biannual EUROMIL Presidium meeting to discuss the social and psychological effects that the increasing European participation in crisis-management and peace-keeping missions has on the participating soldiers and their families.

Experience has shown that investing into operational welfare has positively affected the re-enlistment of experienced soldiers.

Healthy soldiers equal strong operational capabilities

Experience has shown that investing into operational welfare has positively affected the re-enlistment of experienced soldiers.

The European Union and NATO play an increasingly active role in the stabilization of geographically remote crisis-areas. The task of EUROMIL's military associations is to promote the social and professional well-being of military personnel and their families.



Antonio Leon, International Officer AUME; BrigGen Michael Finn, Assistant Chief of Operations and Logistics, EUMS; Mariano Casado, Secretary General AUME;

pre-mission preparation, the situation of the soldiers' families and post-mission stress disorders.

Soldiers from different European countries serve more and more in common operations. The experts from EUROMIL member associations thus demand that these troops should also train more with each other before deployment to guarantee a smooth cooperat-

tion between the different national contingents which in turn increases the safety of soldiers on the ground. It is also recommended to include the peacekeepers' families fully into adaptation and support programmes.



Lack of association freedoms for military personnel in Spain

The member associations of EUROMIL also strongly regretted and disapproved the current repressive measures of the Spanish military authorities against Jorge Bravo, the President of the Spanish Military Association AUME. In most countries the leadership of professional associations has the necessary freedom to represent the professional and social interests of their members. EUROMIL therefore called on the Spanish authorities to immediately drop all disciplinary or judicial measures against the President of AUME.



EUROMIL Presidium Photo: EUROMIL

Rome 12-13 December: Lobbying for association rights of military personnel



E. Jacob, President EUROMIL (l.) Secretary General EUROMIL Mikko Harjulehto (r.), Vincenzo Frallicciardi, President A.Mi.D., Giuseppe Catalini A.Mi.D. and Presidium Member EUROMIL with Senator Lidia Menapace, Chairwoman of the Investigation Committee "Depleted Uranium"

The Italian Senate is currently considering a draft law concerning the representation rights of military personnel in Italy. The draft proposed originally by Senator Marini (Forza Italia) stated clearly that the current system of inner representation had shown its limits and needs to be reformed. The draft law has unfortunately been watered down in the Senates' Defence Committee. Strong opponents of the draft law fear that granting association rights to Italian soldiers would lead to a political fragmentation of defence forces' personnel.

The President and Secretary General of EUROMIL, Jacob and Harjulehto, were invited by A.M.I.D. and Assodipro to Rome 12-13 December to highlight the European experience, where the granting of full association rights to military personnel has in no country led to a decrease of military efficiency or discipline. The EUROMIL delegation including the President and Presidium member of AMID, Vincenzo Frallicciardi and Giuseppe Catalini as well as Fabrizio Menegoli of Assodipro was supported by Colonel Carlo Germi, President of the association FICIESSE of the militarily organised financial police *Guardia da Finanza*.

The delegates met on 12 December with the Senators Giuliano, vice-president of the Defence Committee and Marini and Nessa, members of the Defence Committee and proponents of the draft law. The EUROMIL-delegates emphasised the positive experiences that many European countries have with the social dialogue between the defence staff and military associations. The Senators stated their willingness to reinsert the right of association.

A press conference organised on 13 December with the support and in the premises of the biggest Italian trade union federation *Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro* highlighted the absurdity of the current situation, where Italian soldiers are sent on crisis-management missions to re-establish peace and democratic rights in foreign countries - democratic rights which they themselves do not fully enjoy in their own European home country.



E. Jacob, President EUROMIL (l.), Secretary General EUROMIL Mikko Harjulehto, Dr. Tocco from CGIL, Vincenzo Frallicciardi, President of A.Mi.D and Emilo Ammiraglia, President ASSODIPRO/A.S.D.P.

Brussels, 10-11 December

EUROMIL contributes to work of Fundamental Rights Agency



FRA Management Board; Picture: European Fundamental Rights Agency

EUROMIL introduced itself in May by written contribution to the Fundamental Rights Agency which became fully operational in March this year. As a follow-up the agency has organised a third public consultation in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 2007.

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=46710fa5a58cc&contentid=46711074a34bf#3

The meeting in which a vast number of NGOs across Europe had their say was structured around three thematic sessions concerning firstly the working methods of the "Fundamental Rights Platform" (set out in Article 10 of the Council Regulation (EC No 168/2007) http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/FRA/reg_168-2007_en.pdf. Secondly, ensuring and enhancing the exchange of information on a two way communications basis and thirdly, concerning the means of best cooperation to promote policy development, dialogue and awareness raising. The idea is to give civil society represented by the member groups of this platform the unbiased and direct possibility to provide expertise for the bodies within the Fundamental Rights Agency.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0515en01.pdf

Strasbourg, 3- 4 December

EUROMIL reasons in the Council of Europe for Fundamental Rights of Members of the Armed Forces

The Council of Europe's Working Group on Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces gathered 3-4 December in Strasbourg to its second meeting. The task of the working group, consisting of 13 Member States and a handful of NGOs, is to draft a recommendation for the Council's Committee of Ministers.

EUROMIL argues in this working group that members of the armed forces are citizens in uniform who must enjoy the same fundamental freedoms as any other citizen. Any restrictions to these rights must solely be based on exigencies of specific military duties. EUROMIL demands in such cases national authorities to provide a clear reasoning and profound evidence for a need to restrict any fundamental right and freedom as well as indication of proportionality to the aim pursued.

Other issues discussed in the meeting included the right of military personnel to fair trial and the question whether the application fundamental rights could be limited to peace-time. EUROMIL, supported by

some member states, argued that the blurred reality of modern peace-keeping and crisis management missions makes a clear distinction between peace- and war time impossible.



The EUROMIL-delegation, consisting of Birte Dolpp (DBwV, Germany), Poul Sorensen (HKKF, Denmark), Colonel Jacques Bessy (ADEFDROMIL, France), Colonel Anatol Tichoniuk

(KONWENT, Poland) and Mikko Harjulehto (Secretary General of EUROMIL), was supported again by LtCol Douglas Young, Chairman of the British Armed Forces' Federation (BAFF).

The next meeting of the working group will take place in April 2008. EUROMIL has participatory status with the Council of Europe.

Lisbon Treaty signed on 13 December 2007

The Reform Treaty of Lisbon was signed by the EU Member States on 13 December 2007. The Treaty's final text was agreed on at an informal summit in Lisbon on 19 October 2007 and in Brussels on 3 December 2007.



Each Member State of the Union will have to ratify it accordingly. The Republic of Hungary is the first to have done so. The date for the treaty to come into force is predicted for the first of January 2009 before the elections to the European Parliament.

As far as the Charter of Fundamental Rights is concerned Article 6 number 1 of the Reform Treaty gives to this catalogue of social and civil rights and principles the legal status of European primary law (wording: *same legal values as the Treaties*). This means in fact that it is legally binding for the EU institutions and the Member States. Every citizen of the European Union can refer directly to the rights in this catalogue in their home

countries.

Poland and the United Kingdom have made their reservations on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

<http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/cg00001re01en.pdf>
and Final Act: <http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/cg00015.en07.pdf>



Informal Council of Ministers Defence Lisbon
Photo: Council of the EU

Treaty reforms in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy

- the creation of the office of President of the European Council, who will ensure the external representation of the Union in CFSP at his or her level and in that capacity
- the creation of the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who will be the Vice-President of the Commission as well as chair of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and who will conduct the CFSP and ESDP, and shall ensure the consistency of the Union's external action
- establishment of European External Action Service (EEAS) in order to assist the High Representative, drawn from the Commission, the Council secretariat and national diplomatic services
- a new commitment of all Member States (with the exception of Denmark) of civilian and military capabilities, including multinational forces, to the ESDP, with the possibility to entrust a group of Member States to execute the tasks

- a new commitment to the progressive improvement of military capabilities
- expansion of the role of the European Defence Agency
- obligation of Member States to come to the aid of another under attack, without prejudice to the neutrality of certain Member States or to the NATO membership of others (similar to Art. 9 of Washington Treaty)
- upgrading objectives of the "Petersberg tasks" and the inclusion of the fight against terrorism
- introduction of a modest element of Qualified Majority Voting to Council decision-making in CFSP, along with the facility of constructive abstention

Brigadier General Michael Finn about EUFOR/TCHAD/RCA mission

The EU is engaging in a very challenging ESDP operation in Chad and the Central African Republic, a so-called “bridging operation” named EUFOR TCHAD/RCA, aimed at facilitating the deployment of a UN Police Mission (MINURCAT). The Council of the EU has agreed on a Joint Action based on UN Security Resolution 1706(2006) of 31 August 2006 stressing that regional security aspects must be addressed “to achieve lasting peace in Darfur.” The mission shall contribute to the safety of 230.000 Darfur refugees and 180.000 Chadians in camps, fleeing from violence both in Darfur and Chad, as well as protecting aid workers and the delivery of aid.



“The EUFOR Tchad/RCA will be the EU’s most ambitious operation yet in Africa, especially in terms of its numbers and its environment.”

Brigadier General Michael Finn is the Assistant Chief of Staff in the Logistics and Resources Division of the European Union Military Staff.

Q: What were the main outcomes of the situation assessment of the EUMS in preparation for this operation?

A: An Information Gathering Mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, led by the Director General of the EUMS, Lt Gen David Leakey, allowed the EUMS to contribute to the EU’s Crisis Management Concept and facilitated the preparation of Military Strategic Options, one of which was later adopted by the EU Council.

Q: Do you think that EUFOR Tchad/RCA has a robust mandate

with clear rules of engagement that will stick to the time frame? Is the mandate in measure to provide a maximum of protection for troops?

A: UN Security Council Resolution 1778 authorises ‘all necessary measures’ to achieve the mandated tasks. This means that the mandate allows the EU force to bring about a situation whereby all those in need, the UN and the humanitarian organisations in the region, can enjoy personal security allowing them to deal with the significant other challenges in their daily lives.

Q: Based on your former experience as an Irish Officer and in your current function as Assistant Chief of Staff in the Logistics and Resources Division what are the main challenges in terms of logistics and operations (since Tchad is a vast AOO) ?

A: The vast Area of Operations does present challenges, especially in terms of distances and the lack of infrastructure, but the planning that has been carried out by the EUMS and that is being conducted by the Operation Headquarters, are striving to provide solutions. We do need aircraft and adequate medical facilities, among other requirements.

Q: How (quick) have EU member states reacted to the appeal to contribute troops? Was it necessary to put pressure on Member States?

A: While the response from Member States for troops is good, we still need enablers such as helicopters, medical and engineer support. The Force Generation process being conducted by the Operation Headquarters is addressing this.

Q: The EU did choose Mont Valérien in Paris as the EU Operation Headquarters? From a military perspective what is the advantage of this option and what is the role of the European Union Military Staff during deployment?

A: The EU has a number of options in relation to the Command and Control of operations. One of these is the use of an Operation Headquarters such as that in Mont Valérien. Last year, the German OHQ in Potsdam was offered to the EU, and used in the EUFOR RD Congo operation: for EUFOR Tchad/RCA we are happy to accept the French offer of their OHQ. The role of the OHQ is to translate the political direction coming from Brussels into the Military Strategic objectives required to conduct the operation. The EUMS has been involved in contributing to the strategic planning for the operation.

Q: Could the absence of common RoE and common certification (i.e. to air transport regulations) prove to be detrimental to the success of the operation?

A: The Operation Commander is taking the area of RoE and Certification fully into account. These form a common feature of multinational operations, whether under the authority of the UN, the EU, NATO or Coalitions. We do not anticipate that they will have any detrimental affect on the operation

Q: As a high-ranking member of the EUMS how do you consider this operation will contribute to the development of ESDP?

A: The EUFOR Tchad/RCA will be the EU’s most ambitious operation yet in Africa, especially in terms of its numbers and its environment. As such, and given the support of its Member States, we are confident that it will mark a most positive development for ESDP, particularly in its military aspects.

Servicewomen in the Bundeswehr – Makeshifts only?

History

When the Bundeswehr was founded in 1955, only men were called up. Women exclusively worked as employees in the civil administration. The German constitution did not allow women for armed positions. In the seventies, however, since the Bundeswehr dramatically lacked military physicians women were allowed to take up service in this branch. Then on October 1st 1975 the first five female doctors took up their careers as officers in the Bundeswehr. The Ministry of Defence highlighted that the medical service was a weapon-free service, and weapons were only exclusively allowed in acute emergencies as in cases of self-defence or for patients. The next step took 16 years: on January 1st 1991 the careers of NCOs or Officers in the medical and music service was made accessible for women. 3.500 servicewomen served in the Bundeswehr by 1997.

The next step: Tanja Kreil

On January 11th 2000 the European Court of Justice (ECJ) adjudicated in the case “Tanja Kreil”. The German Federal Armed Forces Association (*Deutscher Bundeswehr Verband*) supported her throughout



Source: <http://www.bmvg.de>

the procedure. Tanja Kreil was a young electrical engineer, who wanted to become a servicewoman in 1996 and was rejected by the Bundeswehr based on its “no-armed position for women” policy. The ECJ ruled that this did oppose European Union law. From then on, all military careers were accessible for women and the German Constitution was amended. On January 2nd 2001 the first



Source: <http://www.bmvg.de>

servicewomen who didn't represent either the medical or the music service joined the Bundeswehr.

Gender-mainstreaming: have servicewomen integrated successfully

Although servicewomen have become a part of the German Bundeswehr their integration has not been completed. A high percentage of female short-service volunteers shy away from becoming professional soldiers. A major and unmet issue is that servicewomen have to struggle with the incompatibility of raising a family and a career in the armed forces. But can the Bundeswehr afford to lose all these highly qualified female personnel? Alarmed by this fact, the MoD has created a department to tackle the problem. The *Deutscher Bundeswehr Verband* has always wanted a proper legal basis for the integration. That is why it fought for a law to support the integration of servicewomen in the Bundeswehr. As a result the law on equal rights of servicemen and servicewomen, the „Soldatinnen- und Soldatengleichstellungsgesetz“ was ratified on January 1st 2006. For the first time in the history of the Bundeswehr part-time-service for both genders is offered.

The future

Today more than 12.000 women are soldiers in the German Bundeswehr and the number is growing. Servicewomen will become increasingly important. They will change the public perception of the Bundeswehr for good.

Thus, it is our challenge to closely monitor a successful integration process of women into the federal defence forces.

Gudrun Schattschneider, Head of Department „Policy and Gender“, *Deutscher Bundeswehr Verband*

Sweden: One military union for all ranks

Officers' Union opens up membership for all professional soldiers

The Swedish Association of Military Officers (SAMO), which celebrated its 100th Anniversary last May, made the significant decision to open up for membership for all professional soldiers of the Swedish Armed Forces. The SAMO will thus in the future not only consist of regular officers, but also of reserve officers, NCOs and enlisted professional soldiers. The later categories only when on active duty – short term services. EUROMIL congratulates the Officersförbundet on its impressive 100-year long history and seizes the opportunity to highlight this significant change in the SAMO's membership policy.

Q: Lars Fresker, chairman of SAMO,



Sweden but also when serving abroad. The agreement on international service came into effect as late as in 2005 after almost ten years of bargaining. Thus we will become a stronger union when representing all “uniformed” categories.

Q: Such a fundamental change probably faced both criticism and opposition among some of your members? Which were the main arguments against this reform?

A: Critics have that we still work in an atmosphere of ordines and subordinates. In our opinion the ties between junior rank officers and enlisted soldiers are closer than those between e.g. a lieutenant and a general. There is

That will be of benefit to all members. The same goes for our influence in some political matters e.g. certain insurance policies. More members will to some extent increase the SAMO income and the possibility to exercise union work.

Q: Will this reform change the work at the SAMO?

A: Generally not. There is still some confusion how to solve the local representation. Many of the new members will be serving abroad which creates some difficulties about representation.

Q: What are the main points of focus for the SAMO in the near future?

A: There are some issues of crucial interest, e.g. about working time and the professional role. Up to now the officers in Sweden have been treated as other professional groups. The working conditions have been accordingly. Nowadays there are strong suggestions within the Armed Forces to alter the officer's role similar to the American (US) one. This means you should work some short period in the profession and after that retire – with pension. Our agreements are not fitted to such a situation and if we are to abide to such conditions most agreements and working conditions have to be re-negotiated. Another important challenge is to follow the Armed Forces development into peace support operations abroad. A lot of resources are now spent on international operations. This will have an impact on the SAMO's way of acting. Our own internationalizing is to some extent a necessity.

“For the SAMO it seems logical to organize a strong association consisting of all categories of professional soldiers”

what were the reasons for this change?

A: The Swedish Armed Forces have changed their personnel policy and nowadays consist of a great portion of enlisted soldiers not only in international service but also during the training of conscripts. At the same time a great number of officers were forced to leave the Armed Forces due to its downsizing. For the SAMO it seems logical to organize a strong association consisting of all categories of professional soldiers. This is underlined by the fact that the union has to take care of the negotiations concerning all soldiers working conditions not only in

from the SAMO's point of view more that unites than divides.

Also is there a historical opposition towards getting involved with privates. That dates back to times when the privates only appeared as conscripts under compulsory laws. The Soldiers we now refer to are all volunteers and employees

Q: What advantages do you expect from this reform?

A: By organizing not only regular officers but also the NCO, soldiers and reserve officers - our influence towards the employer will increase.



Photo: AUME

Gracias Jorge Bravo ! Thank you Jorge Bravo!

The President of AUME (Asociación Unificada de Militares Españoles) Jorge Bravo has been released after a 40-day custody for taking part in a public gathering of the trade union for the Military Policy AUGC in January this year. On that occasion AUME organised a historic demonstration on 24 November together with 500 participants to remind the Spanish government to implement the fundamental rights of military personnel.

AUME, member of EUROMIL, organised and conducted the historic demonstration together with representatives from the Spanish trade union CCOO, the Spanish trade

union for Military Police AUGC and SUP, the Spanish Police Trade Union on Saturday, 24 November 2007, one day before the release of custody of AUME's President Jorge Bravo Alvarez. He had served a 40-day custody for taking part in a public gathering of the trade union for the Military Police AUGC in January this year.

The act in which some 500 activists took part in was the first demonstration of such kind since Spain became a Constitutional Monarchy in 1978. Further solidarity was demonstrated by attendance and public statement of the President of EUROMIL, Emmanuel Jacob, the Chairman of ANS and Board member of EUROMIL, Antonio Coelho Lima, unionists groups, a NGO and the sister of the arrested. Representatives from the other Spanish member association of EUROMIL, AMARTE had also joined the solidarity group.

Its intention was to thank the President of AUME for his "sacrifice for putting values and principles to the benefit of this military association" ac-

cording to Mariano Casado, acting as legal advisor for AUME. Furthermore, the demonstration was intended to be a reminder to the ruling socialist party PSOE to fulfil the parliamentary order laid down in the Organic Law 5/2005 to draw up a proposal for a Regulative Law of fundamental rights of military personnel.



Solidarity Meeting AUME Madrid Photo: AUME

Board and Presidium Meeting Calendar 2008

27-28	March	Board Meeting	Bonn (DE)
24-26	April	Board and Presidium Meeting	Madrid (ES)
26	June	Board	TBC
25-26	September	Board Meeting	Berlin (DE)



Welcome to the
EUROMIL Congress
13-14 November 2008 in Brussels !

The European Organisation of Military Associations

EUROMIL

Founded in 1972, the European Organisation of Military Associations is the umbrella organisation of 36 military associations and trade unions in Europe.

EUROMIL represents the interests of some 500.000 members from 24 countries, active and former servicemen and - women, professional soldiers and conscripts of all ranks as their family members and surviving dependants - in all questions related to their social and professional condition.

Funded exclusively by membership fees, EUROMIL keeps to strict non-denominational and politically independent policies.

EUROMIL has participatory status with the Council of Europe and observer status at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. It upholds contacts with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Trade Union Confederation and represents members' interests towards the European institutions.

**The EUROMIL Secretariat
Wishes**

**You and Your Family
A Merry Christmas
&
A Wonderful 2008**

**Mikko, Jean-Sébastien, Jutta,
Gottfried, Christine**



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