



NEWS

ISSUE 21 / June 2012



Security has a social dimension

CIVIS EUROPAEUS SUM!

People well versed in the Bible will recognize the allusion: when the apostle Paulus was arrested in Jerusalem and – in fetters - doomed to whipping at a tough police questioning, he countered the Roman colonel by stressing his citizenship saying “Civis Romanus sum!” I am a Roman citizen. The Roman released the fetters immediately. Nowadays, soldiers too, should be able to benefit from civil liberty and citizenship countering each assault on their rights by saying “Civis Europaeus sum!” I am a European citizen. In times when the European Union boasts about its Charter of Fundamental Rights and prepares next year’s “European year of citizenship” soldiers should be even entitled to invoke the status of “European Citizen in Uniform” – a concept promoted by EUROMIL since its birth 40 years ago – in order to resist any violation of their Fundamental Rights. Unfortunately, this is still not the case everywhere in Europe as the national reports at EUROMIL’s Presidium Meeting in Limerick on 27-28 April 2012 revealed (see article in this issue). This is one of the reasons why servicemen and -women utter their despair in protests like those Portuguese soldiers who, last week, “defended the dignity of the military condition” (see article on EUROMIL’s website). That’s also why EUROMIL attends relevant gatherings in this field such as the *5th Fundamental Rights Platform* (see article in this issue), thus promoting the concept of “Citizens in Uniform” and the right of association for military personnel. EUROMIL underlines this crucial aspect again and again, the most recent occasion being a common event with our partner organization *ESRT* in the European Parliament on 31 May 2012 during which “The Social and Human Dimension of CSDP Missions in the Perspective of Deployed Forces” was highlighted (see article in this issue). Chaired by MEP Gahler, this “breakfast meeting” contributed to raising awareness of the harsh reality on the ground, a message always useful to convey to our “armchair generals” in the European institutions. An additional European platform for EUROMIL’s

issues consists of the *EMI (European Movement International)* where EUROMIL now plays a role, thanks to its new membership, ratified unanimously by the delegates at the *EMI Federal Assembly* in Brussels on 25-26 May 2012. In practice, EUROMIL now plays a part in *EMI’s Political Committee “Foreign Affairs and Security Policy”*, a workshop, and, in particular, enjoys the privilege to enable the participation of its members in international meetings, so for instance Stavros Kyrou’s (*CAOA*) involvement in “The Great Debate 2050” at Aarhus University (see the two respective articles in this issue).

Furthermore the reader will learn in this newsletter how the situation looks like in some of our member associations: *AUME*, *BAFF*, *DBwV*, *PL*, and last but not least, *ASSODIPRO*, an Italian association which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Congratulations and many thanks to all the valuable contributions, very much appreciated by the whole EUROMIL family, as I emphasized in Limerick.

Needless to say, EUROMIL monitors what is going on at NATO Parliamentary Assemblies and NATO summits (see articles in this issue). The outcome of the summit in the “windy city”, however, looks rather like pure “symbolic politics”, except for the signing of the Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) by the NATO Agency *NAGSMA* and its industrial partner. In addition to NATO’s “Smart Defense” approach, there is an urgent need for a “Smart Reductions” initiative so as to ensure that, after the cuts, the sum

of all remaining capabilities will add up to an effective military force (K.-H. Kamp, Research Director at *NATO Defense College*). Otherwise we will end up like our Italian friends who wrote military history in July 2011 when ordering back its aircraft carrier from NATO’s operation in Libya due to lack of money. Sadly, in Europe, the evolution towards “bonsai armed forces”, a kind of 27 miniature versions of armies, seems to be inevitable but will hopefully not lead



**EUROMIL Secretary General,
Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht,
photo: EUROMIL**

to European bonsai military associations and bonsai military trade unions and hence, a bonsai EUROMIL. Rather than penny-pinching, a huge common effort is necessary to avoid a “Europe without Defence”. Yet, whatever happens, this does not impair the individual soldier’s rights: Civis Europaeus sum!



Gerhard Ahlbrecht

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

Civis Europaeus sum! 1

THE CHAIRMAN’S COLUMN

The British Armed Forces Federation and the Scottish independence referendum

By Douglas Young, Chairman of BAFF, United Kingdom 3

June 10, 1944: massacre of 642 civilians at Oradour sur Glane. In Memoriam

By Jacques Bessy, President of ADEFDROMIL, France 3

MEMBERS’ ACTIVITIES

“Entente” MoD - military associations in Spain

By Miguel Lopez, AUME, Spain 4

Elections of staff councils in the German armed forces

By Silke Flemming, DBwV, Germany 4

Trade unions play a strong, legitimate role in supporting members in armed forces restructuring

By Ari Pakarinen, PL, Finland 5

Current economic crisis in Europe, a strategy for EUROMIL?

By Giuseppe Catalini, AMID, Italy 6

ASSODIPRO celebrates its 20th anniversary

By EUROMIL 6

“The great debate 2050”, solutions by re-thinking

By Stavros Kyrou, CAO, Cyprus 7

EUROMIL ACTIVITIES

EUROMIL’s 105th Presidium Meeting

By EUROMIL 8

EMI Federal Assembly ratified EUROMIL as EMI Member Organisation

By EUROMIL 9

5th Fundamental Rights Platform

By EUROMIL 10

STruka SHAPE “auf” EUROMIL

By EUROMIL 10

EUROMIL participated in the 19th Congress of ISMLLW

By EUROMIL 11

The Social and Human Dimension of CSDP Missions in the Perspective of Deployed Forces

By EUROMIL 11

EUROMIL participated at the NATO PA Spring 2012 in Tallinn

By EUROMIL 12

NATO’s Chicago Summit 12

Security Jam 2012

By EUROMIL 13

EUROMIL Calendar 2012 13

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THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES FEDERATION AND THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

BY DOUGLAS YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF BAFF, UNITED KINGDOM

Douglas Young is the author of Silence in the Ranks, an analysis of problems with electoral arrangements for service personnel in the UK General Election of 2005, available from baff.org.

At the time of writing it seems likely that a referendum on the independence or separation of Scotland from the rest of the United Kingdom will take place in the autumn of 2014.

Opinion polls indicate that a majority of Scottish voters are currently opposed to separation, but the Scottish National Party has already achieved outright control of the devolved Scottish Parliament. There is a real possibility – although by no means a certainty – that the UK will cease to exist in its present form, sometime in 2015.

The British Armed Forces Federation (BAFF) was formed to represent military personnel of the United Kingdom.

What threats and opportunities does a Scottish independence referendum pose for BAFF's members, and for BAFF itself? Is BAFF doing anything about the situation, and is it even appropriate for a politically impartial staff association to get involved at this stage?

Several of the original founder members of BAFF took part in a high-profile voter awareness campaign during the UK General Election of 2005. For the 2010 General

Election BAFF was represented on an official working group on these matters.

So BAFF already has a proven track record of impartially encouraging members of the armed forces community to register to vote, and then make their own voting choice. This was the starting point for our approach to a Scottish independence referendum.

We have already responded to consultations by both the UK Government, and by the devolved Scottish Government in Edinburgh, on issues like the timing of the referendum, the question or questions to be asked, the franchise (who would be entitled to vote) and the supervisory arrangements.

We intend to remain focussed on the electoral administrative arrangements up to, during and beyond the proposed referendum.

If the result of the referendum was for Scotland going its own way, there would be a greater need than ever for effective independent representation for service personnel – on both sides of the new international border.

There would be a host of new personnel issues concerning pensions, promotion,

transfers, qualifications, and terms and conditions of service.

As the UK armed forces have always welcomed recruits from Ireland and from the Commonwealth, it is likely not only that Scottish personnel would be able to continue serving in their present roles, but that new recruits would still be able to join from Scotland. There might even be Scottish units in the "English-Welsh-Irish" army.

It is thought that a new Scottish Defence Force could initially have difficulty in attracting some of the experienced specialists it would need, such as special forces personnel. The case now has to be made more clearly than ever for the right of association as a genuine enhancement to the employment package, which by no means detracts from the robust effectiveness of a military force.

BAFF has recently published a draft plan for various issues flowing from the proposed referendum. The plan makes the point that a soldier's personal decision to vote either way in a lawful, properly authorised constitutional referendum is neither disloyal, nor unpatriotic. ■



The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, Photo: Steven Brown photography, Glenrothes

JUNE 10, 1944: MASSACRE OF 642 CIVILIANS AT ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE. IN MEMORIAM

BY JACQUES BESSY, PRESIDENT OF ADEFDROMIL, FRANCE

At a time when people are getting killed without shame and restraint in Syria, the gratuitous massacre of 642 civilians in Oradour-sur-Glane at twenty kilometers northwest of Limoges on 10 June 1944, must be remembered.

The massacre was perpetrated by the third company of the regiment SS "Der Führer", which belonged to the Second SS Division "Das Reich". Alsatians, who later claimed to have been forcibly conscripted, took part in this operation, which ended with the looting and burning of the village. It is assumed that this crime aimed at dissuading

the Resistance from attacking German units riding up to the front of Normandy and terrorizing populations.



Photo: ADEFDROMIL

Unfortunately, those responsible for these war crimes largely went unpunished. General Lammerding, commanding of the division, was never threatened and died in his bed in 1971. Commander Dickman was probably killed in Normandy.

What happened to Captain Kahn, Deputy of Dickman, remains unknown. He was probably injured in a bombardment. Only Lieutenant Barth was sentenced to life imprisonment in East Berlin in 1983. Released in 1997, he died in his hometown in 2007.

A delegation of ADEFDROMIL and

Militaires et Citoyens went to Oradour sur Glane in October 2011, where it was welcomed by the mayor, Mr. Frugier, and Mr. Robert Hebras, one of the two still alive survivors of the massacre, who, at the age of 87, devotes himself to testify without hatred of the German amok.

On this occasion, Colonel Jacques BESSY, ADEFDROMIL's President, expressed himself. Among other, he stated

that ADEFDROMIL advocates a new conception of the army, the one of "Citizens in Uniform" to use the appellation of EUROMIL, from which ADEFDROMIL is a member. Thereby, ADEFDROMIL defends the rights of those who serve their country in uniform. Amongst these rights is the right to refuse executing obvious illegal orders. ADEFDROMIL believes that military professional associations may constitute a

democratic guarantee against both the risk of military drift against political power, and the risk of using force inconsistently with the law. This is why ADEFDROMIL is calling for a deep change of the general status of military personnel to allow them to associate themselves for the defense of their rights and interests as in many other European countries. ■

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

"ENTENTE" MoD - MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS IN SPAIN



BY MIGUEL LOPEZ, AUME, SPAIN

As a consequence of the recent regulations, the main Spanish military association and member of EUROMIL, AUME, participated in a round of constructive, collaborative, high-level meetings with the MoD authorities. The Under-secretary of Defence, Ms. Irene Domínguez-Alcahud, namely responsible for the personnel policy in the department, called last month the representatives of the officially registered military associations to gather in the Ministry premises. Main point of discussion was the development of the law on rights and duties (October 2011), in particular the facilities to be offered to the associations within the units, barracks and centres for their meetings, as well as the regime and procedures to make

effective the right of assembly. This first meeting was followed by other regular meetings as a confirmation of the emergence of good relationships between the MoD and military associations.

On the other hand, the brand-new regulations on the Armed Forces Council of Personnel will allow the associations to make a deal with the MoD authorities on a broad range of social, professional matters. The setting-up of the Council is scheduled to take place at the end of this summer when AUME will grasp the occasion to focus on urgent problems to solve, as the renewal of the disciplinary regime and several amendments to the law on the military career. ■

ELECTIONS OF STAFF COUNCILS IN THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES

BY SILKE FLEMMING, DBwV, GERMANY

In May 2012 the staff councils (Personnräte) in the German armed forces were newly elected. Every four years regularly the servicemen and women, civilian employees and civil servants working for the German state are called upon to elect their representatives in their departments or units.

Staff councils are elected in the entire public service in Germany; they are the equivalent to works councils in private companies. Their task is to represent the interests of the personnel respectively towards the chief of the unit, department or battalion. In the armed forces, staff councils are elected of servicemen- and women together with the two other groups of staff, employees and civil servants. The representatives of those three groups work together for the staffs' interests. In the staff councils the rank of an elected soldier does not make a difference- the soldiers' group in the council is responsible for the affairs of all soldiers of the unit, independent from their rank or service class.

The staff councils are granted (by law) either audition rights or co-decision rights in a wide range of matters. Above all if social matters are concerned, the participation consists in co-decision rights. In those cases the chief of the unit is not able to make a decision without the consent of the representation of the soldiers.

Our association DBwV and its

participation at decisions of the government or the MoD have to be seen separately from the staff councils in the units, although we closely work together with the representatives in the councils. Often the same people take over tasks in the units' councils and in the association, so the work is linked very closely. Next to the local staff councils, councils are elected on regional level and on the level of the Ministry of Defence- the "central staff council" (representing the personnel of the whole armed forces).

On all levels the DBwV designated candidates for the elections and in most areas they were quite successful. In the central staff council at the MoD, the DBwV- team of candidates for the soldiers' group won more than 60 % of the votes which is 7 % up from the 2008 results. The central staff council consists of 59 members overall. DBwV holds 21 of these seats, making it the strongest team in the council, and with 18 out of 28 seats in the soldiers' group we have a solid majority among soldiers. ■



Photo: DBwV

TRADE UNIONS PLAY A STRONG, LEGITIMATE ROLE IN SUPPORTING MEMBERS IN ARMED FORCES RESTRUCTURING

BY ARI PAKARINEN, PL, FINLAND

In the spring of 2012, the Finnish Defence Forces initiated a restructuring which aims for the cut of 2 200 jobs by the beginning of 2015. Rationale for the changes is the same as in almost all armed forces in Europe: A general economic low ebb, diminishing defence budget, increasing personnel expenses and soaring procurement costs of new equipment. What, then, is a trade union's role in managing such a sweeping change and guarding its members' interests? The Finnish law guarantees trade unions a right to do so in such situations, in both nationwide and local scope. The Institute Officers' Union has risen to the challenge by training its shop stewards and other staff representatives to support members and to participate in legally mandated cooperation on various levels.



Päälystöllitto ry

Trade Unions Play A Strong, Legitimate Role In Supporting Members In Armed Forces Restructuring

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Contracting Activities Continue Amidst Change

The main task of the Institute Officers' Union is to negotiate contracts covering salaries and terms of service. These activities go on even during changes. The

aim of such negotiations is to continuously improve the members' position in regard of e.g. compensation for relocation or staying apart from family. The salary contract is up for intermediate review in the spring of 2013 and any room for raises must be negotiated despite the advancing restructuring.

Also under active negotiation are the various support programs the Defence Forces provides for employees whose job is in jeopardy. These programs include e.g. support for re-education and financial grants for relocation outside the Defence Forces.

The main, nationwide goal in this work for the Institute Officers' Union is to have zero discharges of its members and to secure everyone a position in the Defence Forces on the first of January, 2015. The restructuring will involve shutting down whole garrisons, which will inevitably lead to upheaval in the families of those members who will have to be relocated. It is important to secure their spouses' job and children's education.

Observation Of Cooperation Laws Is Key

The Finnish Defence Forces abides by the Act on Cooperation in Undertakings as well as a separate contract on cooperation in the Defence Forces. The guiding spirit of both the act and the contract is to provide the personnel, i.e. the trade union, a real and early opportunity to have an effect in planning the reorganization and the position of personnel in it.

A second, equally weighty principle is to utilize the staff representatives' expertise in various planning groups.

Today's Defence Forces has finally understood the importance of the skills of personnel and cooperation is achieved almost without

exception when planning their working conditions. Trade unions such as the Institute Officers' Union place their functionaries in cooperation groups on all organizational levels to act as authorized representatives of the union members.

The Institute Officers' Union trains its own representatives for cooperation groups. This way we can ensure that all representatives are familiar with the Act on Cooperation as well as the contract. It also serves to maintain contact to the members they represent and to build a strong network of Institute Officers' Union cooperation workers.

Local Steward A Member's Closest Support

The first shop stewards started working in the Finnish Defence Forces in the 1970's. From the very beginning, the Institute Officers' Union has trained its own stewards to be professional overseers of terms of service and contracts on different levels. Over the decades, they have devoted an ever increasing portion of their time to shop steward activities, with the employer's approval. For the next two and a half years, local stewards will inevitably concentrate on alleviating the negative effects of defence restructuring.

The steward's role is most visible in times of change, and new tasks will keep coming as the restructuring marches on. In all training events in 2012, the Institute Officers' Union has concentrated on change management. This is done to ensure that every steward knows every support option the employer has to offer.

The shop steward of every unit will also have a completely new role of informing members about support measures. The Defence Forces' support programs and union services combine to form a wide network of measures of which every member has to be aware. ■



Typical situation in a co-operation committee meeting in a unit. An expert presents the case and all employee groups - soldiers and civilians - openly discuss the issue. Photo: PL

CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IN EUROPE, A STRATEGY FOR EUROMIL?



BY GIUSEPPE CATALINI, AMID, ITALY

At the last EUROMIL Presidium Meeting in Limerick, my association, AMID, decided not to submit the usual national report because we do not want EUROMIL to become the collector of national problems while we believe there is need for a unified European solution.

The current economic crisis has the characteristic of being very democratic because it affects everyone equally. Everyone in his country is witnessing the same scenario:

- Economic improvements in the near future are not expected;
- The purchasing power of wages is reduced;
- Pensions' system for military personnel are worsening because it does not take into account the peculiarities of military work and its specificity;
- Working conditions are worsening, which also affects safety and efficiency.

Although some countries can count on a strong economy and consolidated democratic positions, today it is generally difficult to defend the interests of "Citizens in Uniform" in Europe. In fact, the heavy cuts that every European government is obliged to make, worsen the condition of national military personnel. In this context we know that business interests are well represented and protected from economic and political lobby, and although some countries

recognized the right of association, military personnel is "the weak link in the chain".

What can EUROMIL do? What can we all do?

Obviously we need to change strategy: to protest is not exhaustive enough, we have to adopt a starring role in order to allow EUROMIL to sit at the negotiating table, bringing its own proposed solution. This can and should be the single solution for all European countries. EUROMIL must assume a new proposal that can truly optimize available national resources, in the implementation of a real integrated European defense. This new EUROMIL strategy is essential to actually defend the social and economic interests of "Citizens in Uniform". The defense budget in each country is composed of three main elements, namely investments (weapons), operations /training and military personnel. Today we see that each nation must make cuts, take care of reducing the military personnel resources in order to secure investments and operations. In contrast, the European Union could keep constant the same investments and operations by optimizing the resources of the individual Member States and ensure optimal socio-economic status of military personnel in Europe. EUROMIL must prevent the military are among the few to pay the costs of the economic crisis!

■

ASSODIPRO CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

By EUROMIL

Founded in 1992, the Italian association *Associazione Solidarietà Diritto e Progresso* (ASSODIPRO), member of EUROMIL since 1998, celebrates this year its 20th anniversary. In this context, a few events were and will be organized in the course of the year.

On 15 May 2012, ASSODIPRO organized an event to pay homage to Guglielmo Epifani, former General Secretary of the *Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro* (CGIL) and President of the Bruno Trentin foundation, which took place in the Palazzo Valentini of the

Provincia di Roma. The seminar was sponsored by the Province of Rome and attended by representatives of the Italian Parliament, local authorities, police unions, associations and COCER representatives.

Mr. Epifani was rewarded for his commitment to the promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms and professional protection of all workers. He was also rewarded for his contributions in bringing the military institutions closer to the community and defending soldier's rights.

EUROMIL's President, Emmanuel Jacob, participated in the debate, bringing EUROMIL's greetings and best wishes to ASSODIPRO for its 20th anniversary. "We have truly come a long way together since you joined EUROMIL in 1998" stated Jacob.



Ten days later, ASSODIPRO held its national Congress and Executive Board in the city of Rimini. The difficult situation for military personnel in Italy was broadly discussed. Among other points, the President of the association, Emilio Ammiraglia, was re-elected for the next three years and the association confirmed its willingness to organise an important event in Rome in the second half of November to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

EJ

Photos:
ASSODIPRO



“THE GREAT DEBATE 2050”, SOLUTIONS BY RE-THINKING

BY STAVROS KYROU, CAO, CYPRUS

It was a great surprise and honor for me when I was informed by EUROMIL that I was selected to participate in “The Great Debate 2050” along with the members of European Movement International.

After a first flight from Larnaca to Warsaw, a second from Warsaw to Copenhagen and then a bus to Aarhus, I was finally there, at my destination, Aarhus University.

During the informal opening, participants had the chance to make the first social contacts and exchange thoughts about what was to be discussed. You could find there people from many different associations, institutions, from all over Europe and of all ages (from 22 to 72). All of them were eager to share their ideas and find probable solutions to the social, economic, educational and energy problems that Europe is facing or is going to face in the near future.

The official opening took place in the amphitheater of the University with 450 participants. Mr. Soren Winther, CEO of New Europe/ Global Citizen, along with Mr. Jan Host-Schmidt, Head of the European Commission in Denmark, and Ms. Mette Thuno, Dean of Aarhus University, gave the signal for the beginning of the debate, highlighting some of the problems. Amongst them, overpopulation, the need to increase access to fresh water by 50% and the need to increase access to energy are some of the problems of greater importance. Then, we had the chance to hear a subsequent lecture given by Mr. Michael Braungart, founder of Cradle to Cradle, on the need for “The Great Transition”. He noticed the efforts made for zero carbon dioxide emissions but he wondered if that is enough to save the environment. In order to emphasize the need to act now in order to stop the green house effects he noted that “...if you do nothing to rebuild sustainable environment then you are an idiot, STOP!!” After an enriched speech, Mr. Michael Braungart invited on stage Mr. Sony Kapoor who told us “It is time to change course in the EU”, which means changing the way people think and act concerning the environment.

Ms. Charlotte Prang gave us an introduction on the work in the workshops and a few minutes later I met with the rest of the group to discuss “Family Life” as a sub-group of social subjects. The workshop, which was monitored by a Chinese graduate of Aarhus University, consisted of a British social volunteer, a German business owner of sustainable energy, a Spanish teacher, a Roma student, a German teacher and a Cypriot army officer who discussed the problems facing the ordinary European family. We worked and exchanged ideas and opinions using a model framework which included some drawings and some new innovative methods. We finished Day 1 with a glass of wine at 22.00.

The second day started at 08.30, with a speech on empowerment from Mr. Povl Henningsen, founder of Empower. He made a comparison between the Great Debate and a great choir, and said that the event had to have a conductor, a choir, a repertoire, an audience and of course a stage to be played on. From a musical metaphor we moved to what is potential and what is real, with a speech given by Mr. Jorgen Orstrom Moller, former ambassador, entitled “From the era of plenty to the era of scarcities”.

“Sustainia and Visualizing the Sustainable future”, a keynote speech by Mr. Meik Wiking, launched us into the future and gave us a glance of how modern new cities could become environmentally

friendly as well as human friendly.

While leaving the amphitheater we were filled with new ideas for the future and new prospects to continue our work in the working groups. We found out that there are too many restrictions for families and individuals to move across Europe, many more than the free move of capital and services. We want that to change and we propose a better, more “united” educational system, with better communications between services/EU states and the founding of a European ministry of social affairs, to guide and control the national social policies.

We had the honor to be addressed later by Mr. Nicolai Wammen, Minister of European affairs, who underlined the fact that we NEED new solutions, we need to bring peace and prosperity to Europe and that “...we can make the difference in Europe, we can change!”

Did you know that there is an island in Denmark with 40,000 inhabitants which is completely powered by renewable energy sources? Well, “It can be done!” They did it in Samsø after 10 years and 96 million euros.

The day closed with a dinner at the student house with nice music and networking between the participants.

The last day started in the high performance workshops. It was dedicated to the finalization of the solutions found by the participants and their preparation of the presentations. It was already time for the final part of the Great Debate 2050. In the amphitheater full of satisfied people, a round table discussion was held on the differences between the EU member states but, more importantly, what can be done to make the EU a better place to live. The final speech was delivered by Ms. Louise van der Laan, Vice-President of European Liberal Democrats, entitled “Let’s make a Vibrant Europe”.

There is hope for a better, more sustained growth for Europe. It is clear now in my mind that there are people and associations that are working for the benefit of Europe. There are people who believe in a New Europe, a European Union which would be a real union for people and not just an economic institution. Those demanding days at Aarhus University, all these people from around Europe with different backgrounds, beliefs and languages, managed to cooperate and tried to find solutions to our problems by re-thinking them. If there is something we should learn from that is the fact that European citizens deserve to have a better future together. The end of the event in Aarhus is not the end of the debate, it is the beginning of a greater one, which has already started, in every member state and is going to change our hearts and minds. ■

Welcome to - The Great Debate



Photo: Global Citizens

EUROMIL ACTIVITIES

EUROMIL'S 105TH PRESIDIUM MEETING

By EUROMIL

EUROMIL's 105th Presidium Meeting, EUROMIL's bi-annual general assembly, took place in Limerick, Ireland, on 27-28 April 2012. The Presidium Meeting brought together more than 80 participants from 26 different associations as well as EUROMIL Office.

The meeting was opened by Emmanuel Jacob, President of EUROMIL, Ian Harrington, President of RACO (Representative Association of Commissioned Officers) and Gerry Rooney, General Secretary of PDFORRA (Permanent Defence Force Other Ranks Representative Association).

Resulting from the financial and economic crisis, cutbacks in defence budgets and the negative consequences of austerity measures on European armed forces were the central focus of the gathering. In these difficult times, all agreed on the increasing relevance of EUROMIL to promote and protect the interests of military personnel across Europe.

Of course today, the armies of Europe face battles on many fronts – not least, the battle to be heard above the clamour for cutbacks, austerity, reduced funding and the drawdown of personnel.
Ian Harrington

EUROMIL's President, Emmanuel Jacob, recalled that every eurocent lost in defence budgets will never be recovered again. Therefore, national armed forces and consequently soldiers should work closer together. Defence Ministers must decide on long lasting measures and be ready to accept further interdependence with other states. For its part, EUROMIL will have to find the right balance between the consequences of the financial and economic crisis on the functioning of the armed forces and the growing need to represent military personnel and their families.

Ian Harrington, President of RACO, added that "while we as military personnel must take our fair share of the economic



Michael Noonan TD, Irish Minister for Finance
photo: Kieran Clancy Photography



EUROMIL's President and Secretary General, Emmanuel Jacob and Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht,
photo: EUROMIL

burden to be borne by the citizens of our countries, our members are relying on us as their representative organizations to continue the battle to ensure that their terms and conditions are maintained to the greatest extent possible". The need to preserve the dignity of the profession was particularly emphasised.

Besides economic consideration, the General Secretary of PDFORRA, Gerry Rooney, underlined the importance of EUROMIL as a platform of exchange of experience and best practices. Two decades ago, PDFORRA, supported by EUROMIL, was struggling for representation. These days, hosting the Presidium Meeting in Ireland for the 4th time indicates how the representative associations have been accepted in the country. Moreover, the internationalization of the activities of the Irish Defence Forces was highlighted as well as the need to exchange experiences when armed forces from different countries are serving together in operations abroad. Finally, national cooperation promoted by the fact of hosting such a meeting was warmly welcomed.

This spring, the Presidium Meeting welcomed two keynote speakers, namely Michael Noonan TD, Irish Minister for Finance, and Lieutenant General Seán McCann, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces. Paulynn Marrinan Quinn, the Ombudsman for the Irish Defence Forces, also made EUROMIL the honour to be present.

The Irish Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, recalled the military history of the city of Limerick and the evolution till the recognition of the representative associations of military personnel by the Irish government and military authorities. Since then, soldiers' rights and entitlements are defended by the associations and the Ombudsman for Defence Forces, which were both complimented for their achievements. The Minister also emphasised the internationalisation of the Irish Defence Forces and their fundamental role in peacekeeping missions.

The Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Seán McCann, underlined that military authorities and representative associations share common policies and face common challenges.

It is worth remembering that military authorities and representative associations face common challenges. In delivering a Defence agenda we must both strive to provide the optimum conditions and resources for our greatest asset – those men and women who serve.

Irish Chief of Staff

In the last two decades, representative associations in Ireland have improved communication with the military authorities on matters of mutual concern, with a shared respect and understanding of respective positions. On the defence budget cuts, the Chief of Staff noted that the economic climate presented leadership challenges. Nevertheless, the Defence Forces were always able to adapt to changes. He stated that resources must be used economically, efficiently and effectively and the strategy should align ends, ways and means. Tough decisions must be taken and even if the associations do not always agree with

the choices made, information flow must remain prompt and accurate. Finally, Lieutenant General McCann stated the role of representative associations is critical to the continued success of the Defence Forces and particularly in optimizing human resources and remuneration.

EUROMIL welcomed a new member from Montenegro, SOVCG (Trade Union Organisation of Army of Montenegro), and the Italian association Pastrengo was granted full membership. As a result, EUROMIL counts now 43 member associations from 28 countries.

Finally, following to the departure of Anatol Tichoniuk (KONWENT), Otto Heiling (HOSZ) and Denis Granville (PDFORRA) from EUROMIL, three new Board Members were elected. Ton de Zeeuw was elected as the new treasurer, and Simon Devereux (PDFORRA), Miguel Lopez (AUME) and Ari Pakarinen (PL) joined the Board.

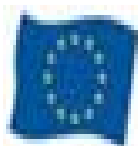
CH



From left to right: Ian Harrington, President of RACO, Paulynn Marrinan Quinn, Ombudsman for the Irish Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Seán McCann, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces and Gerry Rooney, General Secretary of PDFORRA photos: Kieran Clancy Photography

EMI FEDERAL ASSEMBLY RATIFIED EUROMIL AS EMI MEMBER ORGANISATION

By EUROMIL



**European Movement
Mouvement Européen**

On 25 May 2012 - at the European Movement International (EMI) Federal Assembly - EUROMIL was ratified unanimously as EMI Member Organization. During the meeting in Brussels, Dr Gerhard Ahlbrecht,

EUROMIL's Secretary General, addressed briefly the delegates emphasizing the unique character of EUROMIL, which promotes the social and professional interests of military personnel in Europe and which serves as exchange platform for information and best practices, thus being a Europe-wide forum for cooperation, comprising currently 43 military member associations and trade unions in 28 countries.

The European Movement International (EMI) is one of the largest pan and

pro-European civil society organizations with more than 70 Member Organizations, bringing together representatives from European associations, political parties, enterprises and trade unions.

Furthermore, the delegates spoke in favour of lowering the active right to vote (Voting@16) and of awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union. The EMI Federal Assembly also adopted resolutions on the EU accession process in the Western Balkans and the Rio+20 Summit and voted for the establishment of a Political Committee on Education and Culture.

GA

5TH FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS PLATFORM

By EUROMIL

On 19 and 20 April 2012, more than two hundred representatives of civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and other actors gathered in Vienna on the occasion of the 5th Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP). Representing EUROMIL, Caroline Henrion, Project Officer, promoted the concept of “Citizens in Uniform”, the right of association for military personnel and gender equality.

Organized on a yearly basis by the FRA, an advisory body of the European Union, the FRP meetings bring together participants of the FRP, the FRA’s network for cooperation and exchange of information with civil society, to discuss current fundamental rights issues, good practices, facilitation of fundamental rights protection and promotion in the European Union and offers plenty of opportunities for networking.

“This is a unique feature of the Platform – to really establish a space for exchanging views, even when we disagree. We need to listen to each other and learn from each other.” Ilze Brands Kehris

This year, the meeting focused on two themes, namely victims’ rights and under-reporting and multiple discrimination. Additionally, numerous thematic workshops were organized in order to contribute to the discussions.

The meeting was opened by Ilze Brands Kehris, Chairperson of the Management Board of the FRA, as well as Morten Kjaerum, Director of the FRA. The two speeches were followed by a keynote address from Ylva Tivéus, Director of the Directorate

for Citizens, European Commission, and a debate with the participants. Among others, the impact of austerity measures on human rights work was addressed as well as its impact on economic and social rights. The EU has already a strong fundamental rights architecture and coherent policies addressing many of the human rights challenges. Nevertheless, more still needs to be done, and more cooperation between NGOs, NHRIs, Equality Bodies and national and EU Institutions is required.

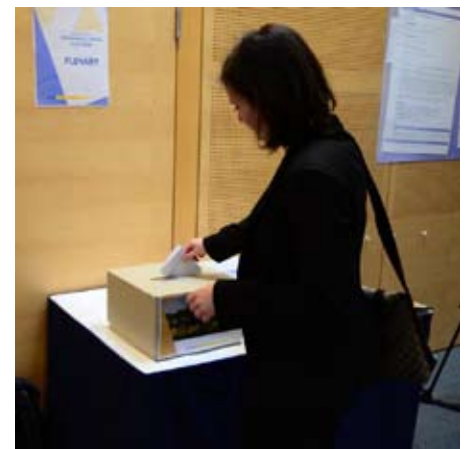
“Legal rights and institutions alone are rarely sufficient for democracy to flourish; the quality of democratic governance relies on civic virtues and engagement of citizens.” Ylva Tivéus

Finally, an Advisory Panel was elected for the period 2012-2014. Composed of 9 members (6 elected and 3 appointed), the Advisory Panel supports the work of the Director of the FRA in organizing and coordinating the FRP and advises in preparing associated meetings and events.

“In a period of economic crisis, there is a particular need for civil society. We therefore all need to focus on safeguarding the independence and autonomy of civil society.” “What you can provide to the FRA is the knowledge and insight on what is happening for people in Europe.” Morten Kjaerum

Concluding, Mr. Kjaerum noted that in times of crisis, it is important to keep fundamental rights alive and the only way forward is to collaborate and not compete.

CH



Photos: EUROMIL and the FRA

STRUKA SHAPE “AUF” EUROMIL

By EUROMIL

On 23 May 2012, EUROMIL welcomed members of STRUKA SHAPE (*Selbständige Truppenkameradschaft*), which is part of DBwV (*Landesverband West*), on its premises in Brussels. The study group, led by Holger Baum, got insight into EUROMIL’s activities, structure and challenges in a presentation made by EUROMIL’s Secretary



Photo: STRUKA SHAPE

General, Dr Gerhard Ahlbrecht, and was briefed - in a vivid discussion chaired by EUROMIL’s Vice-President, Bernhard Gertz – on the current European security and defence policy as well as the role of military associations both at national and European level.

GA

EUROMIL PARTICIPATED IN THE 19TH CONGRESS OF ISMLLW

From 1 to 5 May 2012 the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (ISMLLW) organized its 19th Congress in Québec City (Canada). About 150 participants, amongst them university professors, military or civil magistrates, high state officials, lawyers and general and field officers from all over the world, discussed several topics under the working title “legal Interoperability and Ensuring Observance of the Law Applicable in Multinational Deployments”.

By EUROMIL



EUROMIL’s President, Emmanuel Jacob, participated at the Congress and was invited by the Committee for General Affairs, led by Dr. Alexander Poretschkin, Head Legal Advisor to the German Chief of Defence, to deliver a presentation on the Soldier’s human rights. During his presentation Emmanuel Jacob presented EUROMIL and the situation on the right of association in Europe. Other presentations were given by Mrs. Christina Cerna, former legal expert at the Organisation of American States, Mr. Hellmut Königshaus, Parliamentary Commissioner for the German Armed Forces and 1st Lt Gergely Toth, Deputy Head of Legal Division from Hungary.

During the 19th Congress of the ISMLLW, the General Assembly elected Brigadier General Jan Peter Spijk, Head of the Military Legal Service of the Netherlands, as its President. *EJ*



Photos: EUROMIL

THE SOCIAL AND HUMAN DIMENSION OF CSDP MISSIONS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEPLOYED FORCES

By EUROMIL

On 31 May 2012, EUROMIL, in cooperation with ESRT, hosted an event on the “Social and Human Dimension of CSDP Missions in the Perspective of Deployed Forces” in the European Parliament.



About twenty participants working for the European Parliament, Permanent Representations to the EU, the industry sector and Brussels-based think-tanks attended the breakfast meeting chaired by MEP Michael Gahler.

EUROMIL’s President, Emmanuel Jacob, presented EUROMIL and recalled that military personnel in some European countries are still denied the right of association. Soldiers’ rights should be protected, particularly when soldiers risk their life abroad. For that reason EUROMIL issued 10 Recommendations for Armed Forces in Times of Multinational Crisis-Management and Peace-Keeping Missions. The President highlighted that soldiers from different nations serving together in missions abroad should enjoy the same basic rights. Therefore, common basic standards are strongly needed and the EU Institutions could play an important role in this regard.

As a second speaker, Dr. Delphine Resteigne, Chair of Sociology at the Royal Military Academy, shared her observations on the daily life of soldiers in operations. She explained the major impact of the social media and Internet on soldiers’ life and emphasised the



importance of insisting on cultural awareness during training, where the EU could play a role. Finally she noted that as the EU already demonstrated with gender mainstreaming, establishing common EU standard is possible.

Among others, the idea to set up an EU mechanism for wounded soldiers and families of those killed in missions was set forth. Mr. Jacob recalled the SAFE concept, launched by Hans-Gert Pöttering in 2008, touching soldiers’ social conditions. Mr. Gahler concluded that social aspects must be included in a comprehensive approach to create an EU spirit of common faith and destiny. Soldiers should have the common feeling that they are treated on the same ground in EU missions. *CH*

Photos: EUROMIL



EUROMIL PARTICIPATED AT THE NATO PA SPRING 2012 IN TALLINN

By EUROMIL

From 25 to 28 May 2012, EUROMIL's President and Vice-President, Emmanuel Jacob and Bernhard Gertz, participated as observers at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Tallinn (Estonia).

Marko Mihkelson, head of the Estonian delegation, stated in his welcome words that the NATO PA is a very special event for the Estonian people. "We appreciate being part of the Transatlantic Alliance where we can share and respect common values and contribute to the security of the Alliance with the utmost responsibility" he continued. The Estonian Parliament, the Riigikogu, took the decision in the early 1990s to join NATO and was unanimous in this commitment ever since.

EUROMIL's delegation monitored especially the Political and the Defence and Security Committee. On both days the focus was especially set on the decisions and outcome of the Chicago Summit. One of the key issues was the discussion on Smart Defence. On several occasions speakers stated that Smart defence doesn't mean "cheap defence". Several draft reports were presented

and discussed. One of the important remarks in the John Dyrby Paulsen's (Denmark) report on budget constraints, was the growth in the huge capability gap between the United States and the other NATO member countries. United States Congressman Michael Turner and John Shimkus explained that a recent poll in the US resulted in 51 % of the Americans are in favor of withdrawing US troops from Europe because Europeans should defend themselves. Meanwhile also the US Congress discussed this topic based on an amendment introduced by Congressman



Jared Polis. Turner and Shimkus made it clear in Tallinn that these kinds of discussions in the US Congress and Senate are moving towards a majority in favor of withdrawing all US troops from Europe.

The NATO PA delegates also discussed the way ahead for NATO troops and support in Afghanistan. This topic will be one of the headlines of the NATO PA's autumn meeting in Prague. *EJ*

Photos: EUROMIL

NATO's CHICAGO SUMMIT

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held its 25th summit on 20-21 May 2012 in Chicago.

The summit aimed at delivering concrete programmes and initiatives for the decade to come and beyond, following the ambitious agenda set by the Lisbon summit in November 2010. The summit mainly focused on three themes, namely NATO's commitment to Afghanistan through transition and beyond; ensuring the Alliance has the capabilities it needs to defend its population and territory and to deal with the challenges of the 21st century; and strengthening NATO's network of partners across the globe.

"Our goal is NATO Forces 2020 – an Alliance that deals with today's economic challenges, and is prepared for the security challenges of the future," the Secretary General

said. "These decisions show that despite the economic challenges, Allies are committed to acquire, develop and maintain the capabilities and the skills we need to ensure that our Alliance remains fit for purpose and fit for the future."

The summit concluded with the adoption of several documents that can be downloaded from the NATO website. These documents are the Chicago Summit Declaration - 65 points issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Chicago on 20 May 2012; the Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan issued by the Heads of State and Government of Afghanistan and Nations contributing to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF); the Summit Declaration on Defence Capabilities: Toward NATO Forces 2020; the Deterrence and Defence Posture Review; and NATO's policy guidelines on counter-terrorism.

More information is available on nato.int



SECURITY JAM 2012

By EUROMIL



From 19 until 23 March 2012, the Security Jam, as a massive online brainstorm on key security issues, was organized by the Security and Defence Agenda (SDA) with the partnership of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission, NATO Allied Command Transformation, the US Mission to NATO and IBM, as well as 8 think-tank partners who moderated the debates.

Over five days different stakeholders could login in order to participate in this online collaboration platform to discuss topics in different jam forums, namely: Future Capabilities and Technologies, International Cooperation in Capabilities, Strategic Partnership, Crisis Management, Facing the Cyber-Challenge, Transnational and Hybrid Threats, Object-lesson: Libya, Object-lesson: Afghanistan.

Several VIPs shared their ideas with Jammers, among others, Adm. Stavridis, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Claude-France Arnould, Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, Maciej Popowski, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Csaba Hende, Hungarian Defence Minister, Agostino Miozzo, Managing Director for Crisis Response and Operational Coordination, European External Action Service (EEAS), Krzysztof Lisek MEP, Vice Chairman, Subcommittee on Security and Defence, European Parliament, David Heyman, Assistant Secretary for Policy, United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

EUROMIL actively participated in the forum entitled International Cooperation in Capabilities. A thread on Synchronized Armed Forces Europe (SAFE) was launched, recalling the high importance and remaining relevance of this concept in times of economic crisis. While trying to answer the question whether it is truly possible to do better with less, closer cooperation and synchronization between national defence forces through pooling and sharing as well as SAFE appear as solutions. EUROMIL received in total 19 very interesting replies which helped the topic to become an emerging idea.

With over 17000 logins and 3000 posts, and participation from

116 countries, the 2012 Security Jam was an overwhelming success. In May 2012, the report of the Jam was published, compiling the best and most innovative ideas into concrete recommendations that were presented at the SDA's conference "After Chicago: Re-evaluating NATO's priorities" on 25 May 2012. The top ten recommendations are the following:

- 1) NATO should formalize a maritime domain policy, to support the development of new common naval systems and platforms.
- 2) NATO should create a NATO-China Council.
- 3) The EU's Defence Industrial Policy should be updated with a focus on pooling R&D, restricting sensitive exports and developing a new generation of military equipment.
- 4) NATO should launch a programme dedicated to fostering a 'Smart Defence Mindset' amongst military personnel, national politicians and other stakeholders.
- 5) Deployed nations in Afghanistan should establish a country-wide public education programme, to foster regional development post-2014.
- 6) A cross-sectoral international 'coalition of the willing' of cyber-security professionals should coordinate confidence building measures for cyber global governance.
- 7) 'White hat' hacker recruitment should be incorporated into public cyber-security policy.
- 8) The EU should launch a career scheme for training crisis management professionals and create a pool of commonly funded crisis management equipment.
- 9) Crisis management stakeholders should create an online community and knowledge hub for informing operational staff.
- 10) Western allies should establish a more comprehensive authorization process and doctrine for planning and launching 'responsibility to protect'-based military interventions.

The full report can be downloaded from the following link: securitydefenceagenda.org



EUROMIL Calendar 2012

10-11	September	Board Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
23-25	September	4th ICOAF	Ottawa, Canada
25	October	Board Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
26-27	October	Congress	Brussels, Belgium
9-12	November	NATO PA	Prague, Czech Republic



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