



NEWS

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Security has a social dimension

40 YEARS EUROMIL! A MOMENT TO LOOK BACK AND FORWARD!

By the time you receive this edition of the EUROMIL News in your mailbox or in a printed version on your desk, the 2012 summer holidays will be over. We are all back in our day-to-day business. Parliaments and Governments are holding again meetings and politicians in some countries are preparing for elections or just went through such a stressful period, while the world is watching with great attention the outcome of the Presidential elections in the United States of America. Will our American friends choose continuity with Barack Obama or will they opt for a new Republican mandate with Mitt Romney?

“Business as usual” one could say! At least ‘usual’ in terms of what we went through in the past years. Those who predicted that we, Europeans and in a matter of fact almost the whole world, would very soon wake up in a stabilized world and that the economic and financial problems of the past years would soon reach the end of the tunnel, made wrong prognoses. Day after day, week after week and month after month, European political leaders meet in specialized ministerial working groups and summits to take decisions to try to manage the situation. A situation that for a large part has been induced by the financial world itself, but for which every European citizen is paying a heavy tribute. And I repeat myself when I say that soldiers pay twice for this crisis. We share the efforts that every citizen is making, but we pass a second time at the pay desk as member of the armed forces. More than any other institution, ‘the defence forces’ and our military profession are influenced by this crisis.

And yet, it should be a moment of celebration for EUROMIL and its member associations. On 13 September 1972 representatives of eight military trade unions gathered together to lay the foundation stone of EUROMIL. With this first official step they

created a (Western) European association for cooperation between representatives of military personnel. EUROMIL was born! In this edition of our newsletter we come back on these forty years of European military representation. We are extremely proud that we managed to survive sometimes difficult situations and could achieve some success in building up military representation in certain countries. However, despite some positive legal changes, the fight continues.

On 26-27 October EUROMIL will organize its 106th Presidium Meeting and its 4th Congress in Brussels. Of course we will focus

on the 40th Anniversary of EUROMIL. It would be a shame not to do so! Two of the founding fathers of EUROMIL will be present and I am sure that Heinz Volland (Germany) and Jens Rotbøll (Denmark) will share their long experiences on national and international military representations with our delegates and guests. We will surely come back on that in our next newsletter and on EUROMIL’s homepage. I don’t want to be the one that takes the fun away, but the reality of today is that shortly after the celebration we will have to bring our feet back on the floor. The current situation and especially the near future of our military associations and trade unions is not so bright. A process of transformation of the defence forces together with a strong reduction of personnel went through Europe in the past years. While, in the beginning, these changes were only due to a change of the world order and the global society, the

financial and economic crisis drove Governments to take specific measures to cutback in their national budgets. In this regard, defence forces were, and still are, one of the first targets of these cutbacks.

Without doubt this situation has a direct influence on our member associations. Less military personnel means less members! More



**EUROMIL’s President,
Emmanuel Jacob,
Photo: Kieran Clancy Photographer**

EDITORIAL

short-time contracts and less long-time soldiers also means less members! Military associations and trade unions are conducting a battle on two fronts. On one hand they have to defend their members and families and protect their social and economic rights. And on the other hand they struggle to survive this difficult period, not only as an association, but also as members of their national armed forces. We have to honor and respect them, from the biggest association to the smallest one, amongst our members. They manage to continue their fight and hard work in benefit of every single European soldier and his family as well as the defence forces as a whole. It is only with their support and solidarity that we are able to represent them on a European level.

Therefore, this 4th EUROMIL Congress will be extremely important. It will lead us into a new era with new but difficult challenges. I am not a pessimist and these challenges can only convince us that our work is needed! I hope that the 40th Anniversary of EUROMIL will be a real celebration for every European soldier. Unfortunately this is not the case ... yet!



Emmanuel Jacob

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Any opinions expressed in this EUROMIL News are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect EUROMIL's opinions. We do not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the content.

WOMEN IN A MALE DOMINATED ENVIRONMENT – WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES

BY KATERINA MARKOULLIDOU, PRESIDENT OF N-COACA, CYPRUS

It appears that, throughout the years, women gain a stronger status in male-dominated environments, despite all the gender-related difficulties they have to deal with. Moreover, they claim work positions on equal terms with men, posts that men exclusively held in the past, especially in the armed forces, administration and in politics.

Working in a male-dominated environment can be challenging for a woman, as she has to prove her professional skills by being as effective as men are, sometimes under extremely difficult circumstances.

Working conditions in the armed forces, particularly during basic training and exercises, can be tough for women compared to non-military working conditions, but everything is a matter of habit, adjustment and planning.

The recruitment of the first women in the Cyprus National Guard (Armed Forces of the Republic of Cyprus) took place in April 1990 and they were granted the status of “Women Volunteer Non-Commissioned Officers”.

I was lucky to be one of the first 125 women being recruited in the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus. Our basic training took place in Greece and our appointment to the National Guard was in terms of a 3-year contract, subject to renewal according to the relevant regulations. After serving for 6 years as volunteer female Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), we were granted the right to become permanent NCOs of Cyprus National Guard.

Training of female military personnel in the National Guard is the same as the training of male military personnel. Men and women in the National Guard hold equal perspectives of advancement. However, due to the absence of women in the armed forces of the Republic of Cyprus before 1990, all high-ranking positions are exclusively occupied by male officers. Female officers are military doctors and military medical personnel. Only a very few female officers are graduates of Military Schools. The female officers and NCOs currently serving

in the Cyprus National Guard on active duty represent 15% of the professional personnel.

Due to military tasks, such as the 24-hour night service, military exercises and yearly transfers, women in the armed forces face difficulties in having a normal family life, also due to the role of women as mothers.

Due to the absence of women in the armed forces before 1990, the participation of women in military decision-making centers, as well as in other male-dominated occupations, is almost nonexistent.



Photo: N-COACA

Despite the knowledge and skills women have, they still have not obtained what they are entitled to and still have not yet made it up to the very top in professional terms, but their progress is taking place gradually.

In the early years of women presence in the Cyprus National Guard, there were many difficulties which decreased slowly throughout the past years. Due to the fact that until recently the military in Cyprus was considered as an exclusive male occupation, all military personnel equipment like uniforms or military boots are male-oriented. However, with women joining the armed forces things have changed.

On March 2008, male and female military



personnel gained the right to establish two professional associations for officers and NCOs on active duty, according to a relevant law approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus. The establishment of the two associations aimed at improving the working conditions of military personnel to resolve their problems.

I was one of the 21 founding members of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association of Cyprus Army (N-COACA). With the first elections organized by N-COACA, I was elected Secretary General of the association with a majority of votes. On the second elections, I was elected President despite the fact that we only have about 20% of female members in the association. I must nevertheless admit that it was not hard to be accepted as President in a male-dominated association due to my female nature. On the contrary, many male colleagues think that a woman can be more effective for the benefit of all members of the association due to the fact that women are proven to be more methodical and meticulous than men. However, a group of male colleagues is still cautious and suspicious towards female personnel. Thus, women must always continue to prove themselves through hard, effective and efficient work.

Even nowadays women in general still face sex discrimination, although at a lower level. We still have a long way to equality, but it is safe to say that there has been important progress in this matter.

I think that people deserve equal chances in life regardless of gender.

■

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

MEDALS FOR MENTALLY WOUNDED SERVICEMEN AND -WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

BY HELLE KOLDING, CS, DENMARK

In October 2011, the Danish Parliament decided to amend the rules for awarding the medal for wounded in service, meaning that even psychologically wounded can now receive the medal. The National Board of Injuries must recognize the psychic after reaction as an occupational disease with awarded degree of permanent disability, when it most likely estimates that the disease was caused by participation in an international or national operation. The award of the medal under these conditions requires the recipient's consent.

The decision was made after several professional organizations, like the Veterans Centre and the military themselves, have been working for several years on getting the psychological damage equated with physical injuries. The first medals were awarded in April 2012 at the Citadel in Copenhagen, where more than 80 veterans received the medal. The Central Association of Permanent Defence Personnel (CS) is one of the organizations that have campaigned vigorously to get the recognition, and therefore CS warmly welcomes the decision.



In April 2012, on a late sunny day, Danish Chief of Defense, General Peter Bartram, handed over the first medals to soldiers who have been psychologically wounded in service.

The medal, with the off white ribbon with red stripes, had only been awarded to soldiers who had been physically wounded in service. But finally, mental injuries have also been recognized as wounded in service. It is an event that pleases the professional organization CS, which has long wished that psychological war injuries be recognized on an equal footing with the physical ones. Something that Chief of Defense, General Peter Bartram, also mentioned in his speech to the medal recipients. "Today is a special day: with this medal the defense recognizes psychological injuries and equates them with physical harm. Unfortunately these injuries are also a part of the war conditions.

But psychological damage is often difficult to relate to, although it can be just as difficult as physical, he said and he continued:

-The defense has improved taking care of its veterans.

Peter Bartram ended his speech by thanking the medal recipients who attended the Citadel, and sent greetings to those who had been unable to appear that day.

-Thank you for the effort. Your injuries affect all of us. Thanks for your effort for Denmark, the Chief of Defense completed.

The Danish Central Association of Permanent Defence Personnel (CS) is very pleased that the first medals have been awarded.

-It is something we have fought for, for very long. It is good that we now finally have come so far that both the military and the politicians recognize soldiers with psychological injuries on an equal footing

with soldiers with physical injuries, says Jesper K. Hansen, chairman of CS.

-A soldier with mental disorder can be just as ill as a soldier with physical ailment, and it can cause serious problems and have serious consequences for the individual's future life, he adds.

So far, about 120 soldiers with recognized mental disorders have been informed that they are entitled to a medal. The medal, made of gold plated silver, bears the inscription 'Wounded in service'.

-It's the kind of medals you prefer to hand over as few as possible. But it is gratifying that it is now recognized on an equal footing, regardless whether you have been physically or psychologically wounded in service. It now applies to all who have paid the high price for making an effort for Denmark, concludes Jesper K. Hansen. ■



General Peter Bartram, Chief of Defence, handing over medals to wounded soldiers at the Citadel and honouring those who died in service at the memorial wall, Photos: CS

DBwV SURVEY ON THE REFORM OF THE ARMED FORCES IN GERMANY SHOWS DISSATISFACTION

BY SILKE FLEMMING, DBwV, GERMANY

The DBwV launched a survey concerning the reform of the German armed forces. The result which was presented in the beginning of September is very alarming as it shows a great dissatisfaction of the service personnel. The reason for the survey is that the armed forces are currently going through a major reform. Essential parts of the reform are namely, suspension of the conscription, enormous cuts in the budget, new structure, closing of military bases and cuts in the number of civilian and military staff. The number of military personnel in the armed forces will be reduced from about 250.000 to 185.000.

For the survey, which was carried out together with a university professor, the DBwV asked military superiors (commanding officers, company commanders and first sergeants) in the armed forces about their experiences and expectations regarding the reform. Participation in the survey was very high. The result though was alarming, half of the 1800 participants in the survey assessed the implementation of the reform as being "bad" or even "very bad". 88% of the participants are of the opinion that the reform should be corrected.

Firstly, servicemen and -women criticize the increasing workload and the difficult balance between work and family life. Only 5 % think that the planned personnel reduction can be conducted without massive drawbacks for the personnel. 76% complained that they could not bring in their own ideas. Around two-third of the participants indicated they would advise their children or friends not to get a job in the armed forces. 60% of the participants have already thought about leaving the armed forces ahead of time.

The Chairman of the DBwV, Ulrich Kirsch, considered the result of the survey "alarming". He remarked that the reform cannot be achieved without convinced military superiors. The result should be understood as a "wake-up-call" for the government to accompany the reform process. 80 % of the participants in the survey felt that the reform was not perceived as a common project of the whole government. The DBwV demands more money to finance the reorientation of the armed forces because sufficient resources are essential for a successful reform.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces (Ombudsman) supported

the criticism of the DBwV and complains about massive deficits in the internal communication with the troops. The Minister of Defence seems to take the result of the survey seriously but tries to relativise its outcome. According to the MoD, the causes of unhappiness with the reform lie in the inadequate involvement of the superiors in the reform and the high-speed of the reform.

In the context of the reform process, the DBwV demands more planning reliability for the servicemen and -women, a higher "attractiveness" of the service, a financial readjustment of the defence budget and a correction of the reform. ■



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

BY PANOS MERTIKAS, AN.E.A.D, GREECE

In our days, Mediterranean countries are again in the proscenium of international interest because of the financial crisis.

The term "Mediterranean" is derived from Latin. It means "in the middle of the earth" and has been central to European psyche and sphere of influence since the epoch of Phoenicians in navigation and the expansion of Hellenic philosophy to mention a few.

The Mediterranean merchants' fleet is connecting the economies of the world and region's geographical position is a gateway for energy distribution.

The Mediterranean being located at a very important geostrategic crossroad of different civilizations, demographic developments, migration and terrorists activities, cooperating with the countries of the region **should be an urgent mission for all central European countries**. In the context of the current crisis, this should be considered as an opportunity for a successful reconstruction aiming at a peaceful and prosperous future.

All EU members have a vested interest in cooperating with their Southern neighbors to jointly address arising problems.

The necessary reform can no longer be postponed, as we owe that to the young generations which aspire to a better future.

Nevertheless, our FMMA movement, under the umbrella of EUROMIL, is still in its process of creation spargans. Our colleagues from ADefDroMil must be included in our Forum in order to be more powerful to support stability and prosperity in our region and create mechanisms of cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Working closer within FMMA can definitely contribute to the promotion and strengthening of democracy and fundamental freedoms. It can build intellectual and cultural bridges, presenting the priceless treasures that decorate the historical museums of the world. ■

ASSODIPRO LODGES AN APPEAL TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

EXTRACT FROM ASSODIPRO'S PRESS RELEASE

The Italian association ASSODIPRO and others appealed to the European Court of Human Rights against the restrictions imposed on military personnel to establish professional associations with union-like character or to join any trade union.

In particular, the claimants have reported the following violations:

A) Art. 11 ECHR, in which the right to freedom of association

and the right to participate in the creation of trade unions and to join them for the protection of its own interests is guaranteed.

B) Art. 14 ECHR, which prohibits discrimination in conjunction with Art. 11 ECHR.

C) Art. 13 ECHR, which guarantees the right to an effective domestic remedy. ■

EUROMIL ACTIVITIES

TRW WORKSHOP: EXPLORING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR TOXIC REMNANTS OF WAR

By EUROMIL

On 22 June 2012 EUROMIL participated in a workshop on "Toxic Remnants of War" (TRW) at the *Freie Universität (FU)* Berlin, thus continuing the cooperation with *ICBUW* and its scientific network.

EUROMIL's Secretary General, Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, chaired the panel on "Framework and general standards" of this workshop and made the link to hazards encountered by military personnel on the ground, eg. burn-pits, radar victims, and referred to the positive experience of the Public Hearing on Depleted Uranium Ammunition in the European Parliament on 6 October 2011 at which Prof. Manfred Mohr (*ICBUW*) was one of the experts and at which the soldiers' voice was also strongly heard thanks to the active participation of EUROMIL. The thrilling matter of TRW was discussed vividly covering such varied fields as International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Environmental Law (Military Pollution, eg. the Quirra Syndrome in Sardinia, causing also health problems to soldiers, see report in EUROMIL News/Issue 20, March 2012) and Human Rights. The workshop will be followed up by the TRW team - among other things, a meeting with the DBwV is foreseen.

For more information, please visit: www.toxicremnantsofwar.info/ GA



EUROMIL Secretary General, Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, Photo: EUROMIL

COMPLAINT MECHANISM FOR SOLDIERS DEPLOYED IN CSDP MISSIONS

By EUROMIL

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, confirmed that military personnel deployed in EU missions can address complaints to the EU Ombudsman, having first addressed the structures in their own country. This was the answer to a Parliamentary Question raised by the Romanian ALDE MEP Norica Nicolai, on the initiative of EUROMIL. This official clarification was one of the fruits of the work of the Working Group on the "EU Fundamental Rights Officer for the military".

Subject: VP/HR — The right of European military personnel to appeal to the EU Ombudsman, E-003183/2012 (23 March 2012)

Bearing in mind:

- Article 228 TFEU giving any citizen of the EU the right to address concerns to the EU Ombudsman,
- Article 13 TEU abolishing the pillar system with the CSDP now falling within the Ombudsman's mandate,
- Articles 15 and 18 TEU appointing a High Representative in charge of the EU's CFSP,

I wish to ask the VP/HR the following:

In the case of a complaint by a military member of a CSDP mission which has not been resolved internally, who has the mandate and authority to deal with the issue?

How does the VP/HR view the cooperation between the EEAS and the EU Ombudsman's office on potential maladministration cases within EU military missions? What structures or plans exist to address such sensitive cases?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission (14 June 2012)

In the case of a complaint by a military member of a CSDP mission which has not been resolved at the level of the national contingent deployed on the theatre or by the operation commander,

this complaint will have to be addressed by this military member to the competent ministerial authorities of his/her sending State, since he/she remains subject to the administrative authority of this sending State.

As a European citizen they may also submit a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228 TFEU.

Pursuant to its obligation of extending support and cooperation to the other institutions and bodies of the Union⁽¹⁾, the EEAS, assisting the High Representative/Vice-President, has established close cooperation with the European Ombudsman. The High Representative/Vice-President addresses the complaints forwarded by the European Ombudsman, requesting the competent departments for draft replies and submitting the associated responses, together with any information and assessments he may find helpful. These complaints are dealt with in the same manner as any other complaints submitted by the Ombudsman.

ALDE Press Release, "Military personnel deployed in EU missions can be protected by the EU Ombudsman", 19 June 2012: www.alde.eu

⁽¹⁾ Council decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the EEAS, Article 3, paragraph 4, OJ L 201, 3.8.2010.

MILITARY ETHICS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: THE 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF EUROISME

By EUROMIL

The *International Society for Military Ethics in Europe (EuroISME)* held its 2nd Annual Conference (including its first General Assembly) on 14-15 June 2012. *EUROMIL* Secretary General, Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, participated in this gathering - co-organized by the *Joint Services Command and Staff College* (Defence Academy of the United Kingdom) at Shrivenham - in order to explore areas and possibilities of future cooperation. The inaugural conference took place in Paris last year.

EuroISME provides a platform for

analysis, development as well as sharing of best practice in the area of professional military ethics, across and beyond the European defence community, thus bringing together scientists, academics, and military practitioners who are engaged in research, education and training in this field. Like *EUROMIL*, the new organization promotes the harmonization of ethical principles and standards of conduct so as to encourage the creation of a shared culture of responsibility and ethical thinking in Europe. The conference in June focused on "Military

Ethics and the Responsibility to Protect: A Statement of Universal Values or Ethical Imperialism?" In his keynote speech, Brigadier General Benoît Royal, Head Recruitment Department/Human Resources Division, Army Staff of the French Army, emphasized the importance of the "strategic corporal" in the context of ethical challenges for modern European soldiers.

For more information, please have a look at www.euroisme.org

GA



Photo: EuroISME

40 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY AMONG MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS IN EUROPE: EUROMIL CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By EUROMIL

On 13-14 September 2012, the European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL) celebrates its 40th anniversary. EUROMIL, an umbrella organisation, is the main Europe-wide forum for cooperation among professional military associations on issues of common concern. Founded in 1972 by 8 associations from 5 West European countries, the organization grew steadily and is now composed of 43 associations from 28 countries. From the Russian Federation to Ireland, and from Finland to Cyprus, EUROMIL defends the social and professional interests of military personnel of all ranks in Europe and promotes the concept of "Citizen in Uniform". Through its office in Brussels, EUROMIL facilitates the exchange of information, experiences and best practice among member associations. The organization, moreover, strives to secure and advance the human rights, fundamental freedoms and socio-professional interests of soldiers by monitoring and advocating at the European level. EUROMIL supports the inclusion of military personnel into EU social and labour legislation.

Among its achievements was the significant contribution of EUROMIL in creating the political circumstances in which some countries introduced legislation and regulations recognizing the legality of representative associations for military personnel. EUROMIL continues to support the right of association in all European countries and to form associations for military personnel to protect their social conditions. At the present time, the main challenge to tackle is the negative impact of the economic and

financial crisis on defence budgets. The subsequent reductions in national defence spending and numerical strengths of armed forces have created new challenges for the national associations and EUROMIL.

Even before 1989 EUROMIL became conscious of the political changes and their impact on all citizens of Europe as the European Union evolved towards the political and economic integration of nations at an increasing pace. Nowadays, the organization maintains formal contacts with the EU Institutions, the Council of Europe (CoE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Additionally, EUROMIL established partnerships with the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention (PN), the European Security Round Table (ESRT), Dr. Manfred Wörner Circle (DMWC) and most recently the European Movement International (EMI).

This autumn, the 4th EUROMIL Congress will gather in Brussels on 26-27 October 2012. The Congress is the highest EUROMIL authority. It is composed of the delegates of the member associations in proportion to their membership and meets every four years. The Congress elects the President and the Board, approves the long-term policy objectives of the organization and has the sole authority to make amendments to its Charter. High-level speakers will participate in the official opening. *CH*
(EUROMIL Press Release 13/09/2012)



EUROMIL first presiding committee - 1972, from left to right: Harry Hoogenboom, Christian Sørensen, Heinz Volland and Gabriel Thielemans, Photo: EUROMIL



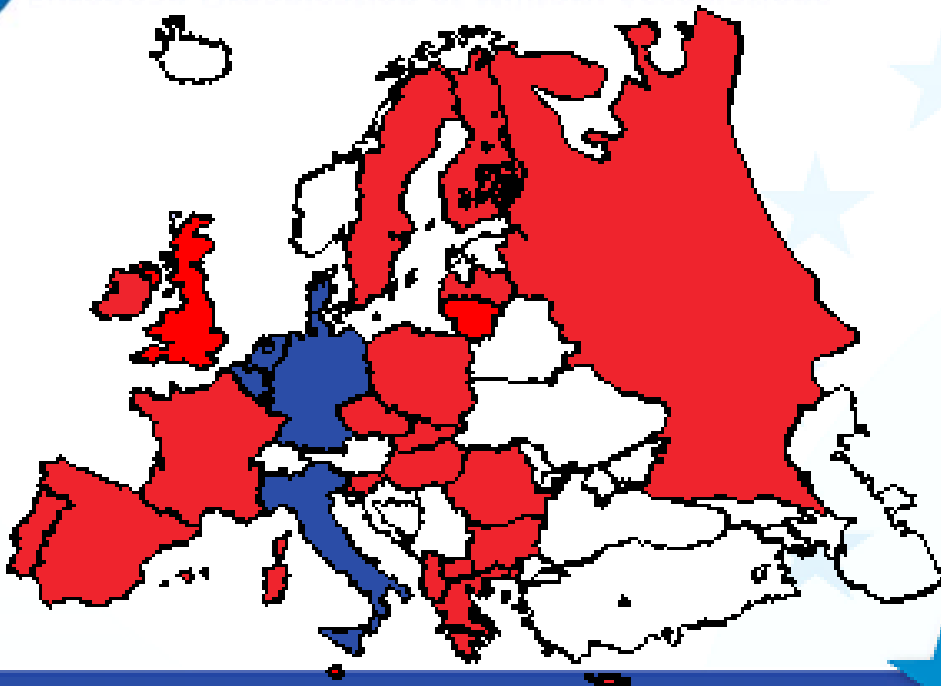
European Organisation of Military Associations



EUROMIL Member Map
1972



European Organisation of Military Associations



EUROMIL Member
Map 2012



EUROMIL Board - 2012, from left to right: Ton de Zeeuw, Miguel Lopez, Antonio Coelho, Emmanuel Jacob, Flemming Vinther, Ari Pakarinen and Finn Bengtsen. Bernhard Gertz and Simon Devereux are also members of the EUROMIL Board, Photo: EUROMIL

THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES

By EUROMIL

EUROMIL, in cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR Human Rights Department), organized a side event entitled “The Right of Association within the Security Sector” in the framework of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) 2012 on Tuesday 25 September in Warsaw.

The HDIM is Europe’s largest annual human rights and democracy conference. It is organized by ODIHR as a platform for OSCE participating States, Partners for cooperation, civil society, international organizations and OSCE structures to take stock of the implementation of the human dimension commitments, discuss associated challenges, share good practices and make recommendations for further improvements.

The side event was moderated by Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, EUROMIL Secretary General, and explored the current situation with regard to the freedom of association in the security sector and the important role professional associations and unions can play. The panel, composed of Oyvind Høyen, ODIHR Human Rights Officer, Caroline Henrion, EUROMIL Project Officer, Jane Townsley, President of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP), Colonel Marian Babuška, President of “Council of Senior Officers of the Corps of Regular Soldiers”, Poland (KONWENT), Laimonas Jakas, President of “Soldiers Rights Defense Center”, particularly focused on the armed forces and incorporated a gender perspective. The participants vehiculated the message that unnecessary and disproportionate restrictions on the right of association for police and military personnel should be lifted. *CH*

Photo: EUROMIL



The Right of Association within the Security Sector

Tuesday, 25 September 2012, 1 pm – 3 pm
Hotel Sofitel Victoria, Meeting Room 2

A SIDE EVENT

Sponsored by

The European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR Human Rights Department)

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to guarantee the freedom of association (Copenhagen 1990). This freedom, enshrined in a number of other international human rights instruments, has been recognized as including the right to establish and join professional associations and trade unions.

Some countries in the OSCE region continue to place undue restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of association for police and military personnel. This side event will explore the current situation with regard to the freedom of association in the security sector and the important role professional associations and unions can play in this sector. The panel discussion will have a particular focus on the armed forces and will incorporate a gender perspective.

Moderator: Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, EUROMIL Secretary General

Speakers: Jane Townsley, President of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP), Colonel Marian Babuška, President of “Council of Senior Officers of the Corps of Regular Soldiers”, Poland (KONWENT), Laimonas Jakas, President of “Soldiers Rights Defense Center”, Lithuania (KTGC), Caroline Henrion, EUROMIL Project Officer and Oyvind Høyen, ODIHR Human Rights Officer

The languages of the meeting will be English and Russian, with interpretation provided

Refreshments will be provided.

FEMALE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SECURITY SECTOR

By EUROMIL

EUROMIL Secretary General, Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, and Project Officer, Caroline Henrion, participated in a workshop on “Organising for Change: Female Staff Associations and the Security Sector” organized by the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the North South Institute (NSI) on 24 September 2012 in Brussels.

Participants from several countries and regions representing the different branches of the security sector shared experience and best practices in order to learn from and support each other.

Although women represent a minority in the security sector, female staff associations (FSA) have flourished in the last decade. The purpose of an FSA is to support female staff in their professional roles, and may extend to promoting policies and practices that advance the participation of women and/or improve services to women.

EUROMIL is in favour of equal treatment, conditions and opportunities for men and women in the military. *CH*



Photo: EUROMIL

INTERESTING READINGS

BOOK REVIEW

By EUROMIL

« *Aimer l'Armée, une passion à partager* », General Henri Bentégeat, Editions Dumesnil, Paris, 2012, 162p.

« *Aimer l'Armée, une passion à partager* », or, in English, “Love the Armed Forces, a passion to share”, is the title of the book written by General Henri Bentégeat, who shares his thoughts on military matters.

French army General, Henri Bentégeat, is a former Chef d'état-major des armées (Chief of the Defence Staff) and Chairman of the EU Military Committee. His book is not a collection of souvenirs or reviews of operations but a reflection on the feelings that inspire men and women who, one day, decided to join the armed forces. Each chapter beginning with the verb “to love”: “loving to serve”, “loving this vocation”, “loving honour”, “loving to wait”, “loving the effort involved”, “loving the game”, “loving the ceremonial”, “loving fraternity”, “loving solitude”, “loving equality”, “loving to

be nomadic”, “loving freedom” and “loving peace and war”... this book is a marvelous tribute to the armed forces. “It would be going too far to claim that I liked absolutely everything about the army (military) life. But when I think about our army, the chief emotion that stays with me is the passion for everything concerned with it”, wrote General Bentégeat in his foreword. CH



RECENT ARTICLE

“*Military Capabilities: From Pooling & Sharing to a Permanent and Structured Approach*”, Egmont Security Policy Brief, No. 37, By Sven Biscop & Jo Coelmont

“In 2013 the European Council for the first time since long will deal with European defence. An excellent opportunity: to move key Pooling & Sharing projects to the implementation stage in the short term, and to launch a permanent and structured approach to the development of European military capabilities for the long term”. Available at www.egmontinstitute.be



European Organisation of Military Associations

EUROMIL Calendar 2012

25	October	Board Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
26-27	October	Congress & Presidium Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
9-12	November	NATO PA	Prague, Czech Republic



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