



Newsletter Issue 1 Jan/Feb 2007



► Social Policy



Informal meeting of Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs on 18/20 January 2007

In the Chair's conclusion of Minister *Franz Müntefering* together with following Presidencies Minister of Portugal and Slovenia the necessity of more and joint effort in Europe to promote GOOD WORK was emphasized. GOOD Work has a meaning of strengthening employee rights and participation, fair wages, protection of safety and health at work as well as a family friendly work organisation. More information:

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/January/0119BMA1.html



Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities Labour Law and Work Organisation

Launch of public debate on new Green Paper on labour law by the Commission

Member States, social partners and all others who are interested are being invited since end of November 2006 to participate in the debate and express their views held open until the end of the consultation period scheduled 31 March 2007. Key issues as the flexible and inclusive labour markets, employment transitions, a life-cycle approach to work, temporary agency work, working time and mobility of workers are to be discussed. Results of this exchange of views will result in the Commission communication on "flexicurity" in June 2007.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=189

The Green Paper:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/labour_law/green_paper_en.htm

► International Foreign and Security Policy

EUFOR Congo "Mission accomplished"



The EUFOR Congo mission has come to an end on schedule shortly before Christmas after the election process in the Democratic Republic of Congo has come to its conclusion. EU authorities as well as contributing Member States, in particular Germany and France have congratulated themselves for a successful completed mission. As they declared the EU mission brought the necessary "added value" in support of MONUC. This "added value" was principally brought as said by officials in the resolution of the crisis when Kabila troops tried to assault Bemba's residence. Hard to believe that MONUC would have not been able to handle this situation since 17.000 soldiers work on the ground since 1999.

During a visit made by the Chairman of the DBwV, Col. Bernhard Gertz in Kongo at the beginning of the mission he had to assess in his report that problems of hygiene and logistics occurred and were only slowly resolved. The Chairman of the European Parliament Defence and Security Committee who received Col. Gertz report emphasized during a Committee Meeting that it was necessary that in particular the European Parliament would have to monitor more closely the working conditions of soldiers during international missions. Something EUROMIL can only approve!

More information about EU Operations:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.asp?id=268&lang=en>

President and Vice-President of EUROMIL to speak before NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council

The President of EUROMIL and the Vice-President of EUROMIL are invited to present EUROMIL's aims and policy objectives before the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) is composed of 49 NATO Partner countries for dialogue and consultation on political and security-related issues. It provides the overall political framework for NATO's cooperation with Partner countries and the bilateral relationships developed between NATO and individual Partner countries with the Partnership for Peace programme.

For EUROMIL this is a unique opportunity to be heard within NATO and develop more tight relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations.

More information about the NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council:

<http://www.nato.int/issues/eap/index.html>

2007: European year of equal opportunities for all



2007 — European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

2007 is going to be the year declared by the European Commission as the "European year of equal opportunities for all". The budget is estimated with around € 13.6 million including preparatory actions of 2006 and events taking place this year.

The European Year will be started officially at the end of January with an equality summit in Berlin, to be led by Germany holding the EU presidency.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/January/0130_BMFSFJChancengleichheit.htm

Inaugural conferences at a national level will subsequently take place in February and March.

The four key issues according to the European Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Commissioner, *Vladimir Špidla*, are:

Rights – raising awareness of the right to equality and non-discrimination; Representation – stimulating a debate on ways to increase the participation of under-represented groups in society; Recognition – celebrating and accommodating diversity; Respect and tolerance – promoting a more cohesive society.

The intention is to tackle effectively discrimination and enforced awareness in daily life.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2005/jun/antidiscrimination_en.html

More information about the content and the events in the "European Year of Equal Opportunities for all 2007" is available online at:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm

The European Union Battlegroups

As you could probably read from the last ESDP Newsletter that was sent to you by E-Mail, the European Union Battlegroups are said to be fully operational since January 2007. The last Battlegroup Co-ordination Conference took place in October 2006 where it was confirmed that 2007 and 2008 are completely subscribed, with a commitment of Member States to contribute with the period after so-called "battlegroup" packages. Two battlegroups are on standby for a period of six months and normally able to carry out two operations simultaneously.

For EUROMIL it is vital to monitor the developments of the battlegroups very closely, in particular with regard to standards, certification and training. Even if those matters are national responsibility, they are monitored by the European Union Military Committee, assisted by the EU Military Staff. There EUROMIL can be an influential partner to assure that social standards remain the highest possible in these multinational forces.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/BattlegroupsNov06factsheet_en.pdf

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► International Foreign and Defence Policy (Continued)



Euromil meets Chairman of EU Military Committee in March

Henri, Bontégeat is the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee. The European Union Military Committee (EUMC) is the highest military body set up within the Council. It is composed of the Chiefs of Defence of the Member States, who are regularly represented by their permanent military representatives. Henri Bontégeat has been appointed Chairman of the European Union Military Committee since November 2006.

The President and Vice-President of EUROMIL will inform him about the current activities of EUROMIL. An important discussion point will be the unequal situation with regard to the freedom of association for military personnel in the EU, which was set as a priority since the EUROMIL Congress in Budapest. Progress has certainly been made but not to the satisfaction of all our member associations as the case of AUME in Spain and of ANS in Portugal has shown.

More information:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.asp?id=1065&lang=en&mode=g>

► EUROMIL Internal News

EUROMIL in Baku/Azerbaijan:



EUROMIL will take part in a national roundtable organised by OSCE Baku office and DCAF held in Baku/Azerbaijan on 13 and 14 February 2007. More information including agenda:

<http://www.euromil.org/newsitem.asp?newsid=196>

AUME having hard times:



The President of AUME, Jorge Bravo Alvarez, (see above), has been taken to a 31 days arrest punishment on 25 January 2007 in relation with a press release on the topic of a helicopter accident in AFG in 2005, where 17 Spanish soldiers were killed. He insists constantly on the application of human rights to military staff which he recently mentioned at a Guardia Civil (Spanish Military Police) gathering in Madrid on 20 January 2007.

More information:

refer to EUROMIL's e-mail request for solidarity on Monday, 29 January 2007.

Quick News from the Associations:

- The Dutch association *MARVER/FNV* will celebrate in April 2007 its 100th anniversary.
- William Webb was elected to second term as President of *PDFORRA* (Ireland). Gerry Rooney (Secretary General) and Simon Devereux (Deputy General Secretary) were both re-elected in their respective functions. Finally, Kieran McMahon was newly elected as Vice-President.

We welcome our new members AUME from Spain, UNAC from Italy, and ZBZZIROWP from Poland !

AUME (SP)	UNAC (IT)	ZBZZIROWP (PL)
Full Member	Observer	Full Member
Asociación unificada de militares españoles	Unione Nazionale Arma Carabinieri	Union of Former Professional Soldiers and Reserve Officers
Active military- all ranks	Active military police- all ranks	Retired and reserve military
President: Jorge Bravo Alvarez	President: Antonio Savino	President: Adam Rebacz
840 members	30.000 members	600 members
http://www.aume.org Tel: 34-95 45 35 616	http://www.carabinieri-unione.it Tel: +39-805238277	No website available ! Tel: +48-226872470

► Calendar February/March

- 9 February: Board Meeting EUROMIL, Brussels (BE)
- 12/15 February: Seminar on "Armed Forces Welfare and Democratic Society", Baku (AZ)
- 12-15 February: European Parliament Committee Meetings
- 6-7 March: Charter Committee Meeting, Brussels (BE)
- 14 March: EUROMIL- NATO EAPC Meeting
- 14 March: EUROMIL meets Chairman of EUMC

► Miscellaneous

OPEN REQUESTS

We kindly remind you

- of our questionnaire on the *amount of military personnel on missions abroad* (e-mail dated 09/01/2007) and
- of our recently sent questionnaire on *PTSD in the armed forces* (e-mail dated 01/02/2007).

We are also missing answers about the valid salary scales and schemes of NCOs and Officers in your country. Thank you !

Presidium Meeting Cracow

You have all received (e-mail dated 19/01/2007) the invitations and provisional programme for the Presidium Meeting in Cracow in Poland (**09-14 May**).

Please make sure that you fill out your replysheet on our internal website (Meeting Calendar/Presidium/Replysheet) **before the 2nd of April**. The hotel has a very strict cancellation policy.

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