



ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE SARGENTOS



EUROMIL 101st Presidium meeting in Berlin 19 – 20 March 2010



ANS Statement Read at the Presidium



as a National Report - by Presidium Member Mário Ramos

For the first time and due to our intense association activity, plus our military duties, we weren't able to present a written national report but we didn't want to leave you without some information about ANS.

Portugal continues to have military advisors in most of the African Portuguese speaking countries as well as in East Timor. We maintain about 150 military personnel in Kosovo, where unfortunately we lost one army corporal during his fitness testing exercise. We continue to support the Lebanon mission with about 150 military and in Afghanistan the Portuguese contingent will be reinforced by the end of this month with up to 253 men and women, which includes the Portuguese contribute at the Kabul military hospital under French command.

Since last October, after national general elections, Portugal has a new MOD. We were received for a meeting, for a first time last December 2009 and later, in February 2010 we had a meeting with the Secretary of Defense. At this last meeting we presented several proposals concerning wages, carriers and our opinion on the recent changes implemented in the social assistance system for the military and their families.

In spite of our warnings and proposals, the new wage system has been implemented, creating abnormal and undesirable distortions, disrespecting the hierarchy, mainly in Sergeants and Corporals categories. As an example, from the end of this month a soldier may earn more than a corporal. Meanwhile ANS had meetings with all the political parties represented at the national parliament and on our request, in the beginning of April, we will have a meeting with the Defense Committee. We also had meetings already with the most representative national trade union confederations.

Due to cuts and restrictions introduced in the national budget, (which is still under discussing and waiting for approval), armed forces budget is going to be severely reduced. On next Thursday the MOD will be present at the Defense Committee to explain and clarify such budgetary reductions and cuts

As an example of our determination and efforts in continuing to struggle for our rights and in despite of all the punishments and threats that we have been facing during the last years, I'm pleased to announce to all of you that the President of ANS was finally promoted even with almost a two year delay. This is a true evidence that those who fight may not win, but those who don't fight are already defeated.

Berlin, the 20th of March 2010