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ANS (PORTUGAL) NATIONAL REPORT

1 - For the first time, and without the direct interference of military leadership, a wages problem that affected only master sergeants, first sergeants and seamen, and it has being under discussion since 1999, is about to be solved by the MOD due to the direct fight and pressure made by ANS and the Portuguese NCO's and lately with the support of the newly reorganized Seamen Association (the Portuguese Navy is the only branch in the Portuguese Armed Forces with professional caporals and privates). On the 26th of August, in a meeting with the MOD we were informed that the correction of this problem was approved in the previous week, during the Ministers Council. It was the first time that a conclusion was reached by means of negotiation and consultation between a professional/ representative association and the MOD.

2 - The MOD started a national debate about the National Defence Strategic Concept (Conceito Estratégico de Defesa Nacional - CEDN). The current one started in 1994 and so it's completely obsolete.

It's important to refer that since the year 2000, and following a public challenge made by the President of Republic, ANS emphasizes the need of this open and national wide discussion about the referred issue, because, as we understand and it's written in our Constitution, the National Defence Strategic Concept is not an exclusive subject of the military but is an obligation of all national departments and citizens. In the beginning of this year, ANS distributed a pamphlet calling the Portuguese population to think about this issue as well as explaining what we want and who we are. Meanwhile we are preparing a forum to discuss with different personalities this so important issue.

We were told by the MOD that we will be called to express our opinion on this matter. We are also expecting to be called by the Defence Committee, in Parliament.

Associação Nacional de Sargentos



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3 - According with MOD statements, big modifications are to be made within the military institution in a close future. Among other matters one that is causing great concern is the end of conscription and the consequent need for incentives to give to volunteers. The professional personnel can not be forgotten.

We think these are subjects that we will have to participate as well.

4 - ANS is working in a project of "*Statutes for military association board members*" in order to answer to a need in this area. We will present it to the MOD, therefore we are calling for several EUROMIL members to support us with their examples in order to achieve the best result we can.

5 - With ASMIR and AOFA we are working together in a common front to overcome a problem that is causing damage to the retired personnel.

Since it is a problem that affects members of the different associations we decided to work united in order to get a solution from the MOD, ending the damaging situation created by the previous government.

6 - It is with great concern that we understand that in Portugal, all the HSW issues are just not applicable to the military. Usually is written in the different laws or/and resolutions "*...not applicable to the military...!*"

Lisboa, 04 September 2002

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