



NEWS

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Security has a social dimension

THE TIME IS RIPE, BUT THE MINDSET IS NOT THERE YET!

The need for a European army!

As a bolt from the blue came the declaration of the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, in the German magazine *Die Welt* during the first beautiful spring weekend on 8 March 2015. Juncker expressed himself in favour of a European army. According to the President of the Commission, Europe has lost a huge amount of respect, also in foreign policy, and seems not to be taken entirely seriously.

Jean-Claude Juncker added that he does not want a new force to challenge the role of the NATO or to get in competition with it. A European army is about strengthening Europe and it would help to design a common foreign and security policy. Furthermore, it is Juncker's opinion that a common army would convey to Russia that Europe is serious about defending its values. "You would not create a European army to use it immediately" Juncker said. "A European army would show that there will never again be a war between its member states" he added.

Immediate but not unexpected reaction from the spokesperson of the government or the United Kingdom: "Our position is crystal clear that defence is a national – not an EU – responsibility and there is no prospect of that position changing and no prospect of a European army!" By contrast, Germany's Defence Minister, Ursula Von der Leyen, stated that she believes that under certain circumstances the German army could be prepared to put soldiers under the control of another nation and that this would "strengthen Europe's security" and "strengthen a European pillar in the transatlantic alliance". She is anyway convinced that there will be, one day, a European army but not in the short term.

I believe that we can only welcome the statement of the President Juncker. It is undeniable that there is a strong need for closer defence cooperation and not only for budgetary reasons. If the EU wants to be taken seriously it should maintain its military capabilities, strengthen its global position and ensure its security in a more coordinated way. This is in the long or even short term impossible when member states continue to behave as national players in this field!

A need for synchronisation!

EUROMIL strongly believes that the way towards a European army has to go hand in hand with a project such as SAFE, "Synchronised Armed Forces Europe". The SAFE concept was initiated by Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament, during the 7th Berlin Security Conference and then in its opening speech at the EUROMIL Congress in 2008. In 2009, a majority of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament (AFET) voted for the concept and added it in the annual report of the European Parliament on Common Security and Defence Policy. The European Parliament voted in favour of the creation of SAFE as a first step towards a true European military force.



Photo: EUROMIL

SAFE aims to develop integrated European security structures and is based on a voluntary participation as an opt-in model and should lead to the synchronisation of the European forces leadership. As part of SAFE, a European statute concerning the regulation of training standards of soldiers could be developed. Among the standards to be developed, there could be an operational doctrine and a unification of rules and regulations concerning freedom of action,

questions of rights and obligations, quality of equipment and medical care, and social security in case of death, injury and invalidity.

EUROMIL always was and still is a strong supporter of the SAFE project and we hope that, together with the statement of President Juncker on a future European army, it could be brought back on the agenda for further discussion and development.

EUROMIL is looking forward for this debate and is prepared to play an active role in its future development!



Emmanuel Jacob,
President of EUROMIL

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INTERVIEW WITH JUAN CARLOS TAMAME, PRESIDENT OF ATME

BY ATME, SPAIN



Photo: ATME

Juan Carlos Tamame is the President of the Spanish Troops and Navy Association (ATME), a new EUROMIL Observer Association, which represents over 1700 soldiers.

The article is an extract from the interview published on the website of ATME at www.atme.es

Let's first talk about yourself with reference to your professional career.

I enlisted in the Spanish armed forces on 1 March 1982, more precisely in the Anti-Tank Infantry Regiment "Toledo" number 35 in Zamora, which is also my hometown. After having held various positions in distinct units in the armed forces, I now serve in the Royal Guard. I am Chief Corporal specialized in the army logistics.

Why did you decide to create the association?

In 2011, the law on rights and duties of members of the Spanish armed forces was passed, envisaging the possibility to create associations for military personnel, what until that moment was not permitted.

Was it a hard beginning?

Everyone knows that the beginning is never easy, especially within our institution, clearly hierarchical and in which the defence of members of the armed forces was inherent to the high military commanders.

Do you think that the associations are fully normalized within the armed forces?

I believe that there is still much work to be done. Mostly in the perception of some senior personnel of the units. The latter consider us as a danger for the cohesion and discipline within the units. With that in mind, positive steps forward are necessary for a rapid normalization to take place.

What is the function and organisational model of ATME?

The association is composed of a Board of Directors and provincial delegates. We have several working groups composed of members who are interested in working on different proposals that are then presented to the council of personnel of the armed forces.

What are the short, medium and long term main objectives of ATME?

The main goals of the association are the following: Obtain that all personnel of the armed forces be included in a unique law of the military career, with troop and navy military personnel integrated from the moment of enlistment. An efficient policy of labour professional reintegration. Equal social and working conditions for personnel of all ranks. (For the reserve, use of logistical residences and military sports centers, firearms licenses, etc.). A better proposal for the reconciliation or work and family life. An actual regulation for professional associations for all soldiers within military units, avoiding the constraints to which we are currently confronted. And write all proposals that we consider beneficial for us.

What does ATME offer to its members?

The commitment to ensuring our interests. Furthermore, we put at the disposal of our members the law firm "Suarez Valdes". We give them the possibility to sign up for low medical insurances and special offers within several companies. Further information is available on our webpage at www.atme.es. ■



A SOLDIER STANDING AS CANDIDATE FOR TOP POSITION IN THE DANISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

By **TINE NØRHOLTZ, HKKF, DENMARK**

EUROMIL's Vice-President, Flemming Vinther, is running for the presidency of the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), when Denmark's largest employee organisation holds its Congress in October this year.



Photo: Jesper Voldgaard

Flemming Vinther is the President of the Union of Enlisted Privates and Corporals in the Danish Army (HKKF). He is now running for the presidential position of the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), which is Denmark's largest central trade union organisation with about 1 million members in 17 trade unions.

If Flemming Vinther becomes LO President, it will be the first time that a President of a military trade union is at the helm of Denmark's largest employee organisation. Flemming Vinther is also different from the "typical" LO President as he comes from a public and relatively small trade union.

"I'm running for the post because I believe that I can make a difference for employees in Denmark", Flemming Vinther emphasises and continues:

"As the Vice-President of EUROMIL, I also think that it sends a strong signal

that we, in Denmark, have a real chance of having a soldier at the helm of the largest central trade union organisation and thus as top negotiator in relation with the government and employers' organisations. It's sad to think that at the same time, other colleagues in some European countries are still fighting just to be allowed to form unions".

Three candidates for the post

Current LO President, Harald Børsting, will resign due to his age on the occasion of the Congress in October 2015. That made several labour market researchers guess who would replace Harald Børsting – and several pointed to Flemming Vinther.

"LO is the voice of the employees and guarantor of the Danish labour market model, which forms the basis of the Danish welfare system. I was therefore really happy and proud when I was first mentioned as a possible candidate for new LO President, and after careful consideration, I've chosen to run for the post", says Flemming Vinther.

It is already certain that Flemming Vinther will have a competitor for the post. Current LO Vice-President, Lizette Risgaard, has already announced her candidacy, and so did Kim Simonsen, President of HK – a trade union for members working in retail sector and as administrative staff.

A strong trade union movement

For Flemming Vinther, LO is the unifying voice of the Danish trade union movement.

"Denmark has a strong trade union movement, which everyday helps thousands of members who are in a jam or under pressure from their employer. At the same time, trade unions stand together to ensure a good and flexible labour market", he adds.

In Denmark, the trade union movement is also facing several challenges:

"Most importantly employment. Both to ensure jobs for all and that the available jobs are offered on decent conditions.

But also to ensure security for those who lose their job and regular supplementary training and development opportunities. Other important issues are obviously social dumping, but also more distant areas such as how the EU affects the Danish labour market", says Flemming Vinther.

What now?

The election for the President of LO will take place in October 2015. If Flemming Vinther is elected, HKKF will have to appoint a new Chairman at the meeting of its board of representatives in November. This will also mean that Flemming Vinther will resign as Vice-President of EUROMIL.

If someone else one is elected President of LO, Flemming Vinther will continue as President of HKKF and Vice-President of EUROMIL.

"I'm really happy with my job in HKKF, and I cannot imagine running for another position than the presidency of LO. Here, together with the LO member organisations, I have a chance to influence the Danish labour market and help give employees a clearer voice – in this way, I will also continue working for current, former and future members of HKKF". ■

FACTS:

About LO

*LO is Denmark's largest trade union organisation and is composed of 17 trade unions;

*Around 1 million employees have chosen to be member of a trade union under LO, public and private employees alike;

*Today, approx. 2.6 million people in Denmark are wage and salary earners;

*LO was established in 1898;

*LO is in charge of the overall and interdisciplinary work of the trade union movement, while the individual unions manage the daily contact to members and workplaces and negotiate new collective agreements.

About HKKF

*Trade union for conscripts, enlisted privates and corporals in the Danish army;
*Approx. 4,000 members, which corresponds to a rate of unionisation of approx. 90%;

*Member of LO since 1981.

About Flemming Vinther

*Vice-President of EUROMIL and Board Member of EUROMIL since 2008;
*President of HKKF since 2004;
*Chairman of the Danish Joint Committee

of the Central Organisations, which negotiates collective agreements for all government employees in Denmark.

Photo: HKKF



THE BELGIAN DEFENCE STRATEGIC PLAN: A COMPLEX JIGSAW PUZZLE

By ACMP-CGPM, BELGIUM

In April 2015, the Belgian Ministry of Defence will present its Strategic Plan for the next 15 years. The military trade union ACMP-CGPM warned the Minister of Defence against some important aspects for the future. The main difficulty is the financial instability. The Belgian Defence has been struggling with a decreasing budget and new investment challenges for several years.



ACMP-CGPM believes that it is too soon to establish a serious Strategic Plan just six months after the initial governmental policy statement. It is also very important to have a strategic vision reflecting the views of the political opposition, over a long period. We also ask for a strong political and public consensus on a new Defence and its essential missions. The objectives of the Strategic Plan will then have to be scheduled correctly. Financial stability is the key element to ensure that the objectives of the missions are respected and respectful of the personnel.

Which are the military resources and capacities needed to have a reliable Defence, able to guarantee our freedom, security and prosperity? We have to assess the threats from a global and international point of view. The balance between those resources and threats forces us to analyse the real strategic functions of our armed forces.

Our objective in this complex jigsaw puzzle is to help the MoD to determine the missions which can be foreseen by

the Belgian Defence in the next 15 years. The main strategic mission of the armed forces is to protect our population and our society against threats inside or outside our territory; to protect our expatriated fellow citizens and to protect our allies' territorial integrity. Some military capacities are still so essential for our national security that we can neither reduce nor abolish them.

If our army downsizes, commanding structures will also have to be reduced. The link between these structures and operational units has to be adapted. It will be beneficial for the operational units and lead to a more efficient command.

Like other countries, Belgium must guarantee the future of veterans, giving them the possibility to work in public departments. It is a matter of respect and gratitude towards those who served their country. The well-being and health of our servicemen have to be consolidated by investments and a better supervision.

After several recurrent reforms in the Belgian Defence, we can speak of a

restructuring fatigue amongst the military community. With a good and transparent social dialogue as well as a stepwise approach, the Strategic Plan and its induced changes could be more easily accepted by the army personnel.

ACMP-CGPM will discuss this subject with the MoD to find the best solutions. ■

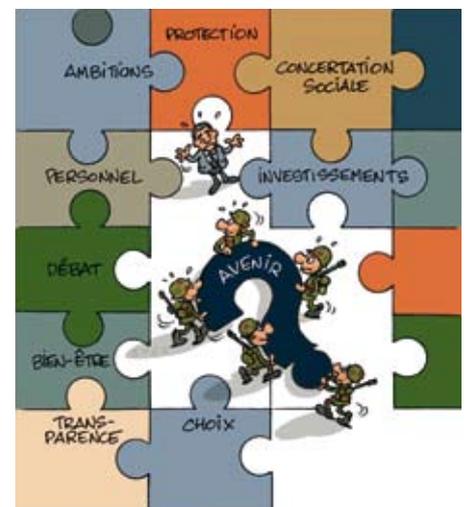


Image: ACMP-CGPM

BIGGEST STEP IN THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES

By JESSICA FRÖMBGEN, DBwV, GERMANY

The German Federal Parliament (Bundestag) passed the “act to enhance the attractiveness of employment in the German armed forces”

The 26th February 2015 was a good day for the German armed forces. After the first reading in January and the deliberations of the involved committees, the Bundestag passed the “act to enhance the attractiveness of employment in the German armed forces” with a majority of the Conservative Party (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD). The Chairman of the German Federal armed forces association (DBwV), LtCol Andre Wüstner, emphasized: “The act is the biggest step in the history of the German Federal armed forces. Never before were so many important and expensive measures taken to support the staff. We demanded all of these steps for a long time – we have fought for this a long time.” With this a great part of the coalition agreement, concerning the evolution of the German federal armed forces to one of the most attractive employers in Germany, is implemented. The new framework conditions will help to make the German federal armed forces more “demographically aligned”. The act consists of twenty-two individual measures. Long-time demands of the DBwV, for instance the increase of the amount of extra allowances for extreme working conditions, a working time regulation, revised pension rights, adjustment for temporary-career volunteers and the transfer of time of the supplementary income limit for soldiers are now implemented. The association actively attended all phases of the legislative procedure by giving its support

and expertise. However, there are a lot of measures which still have to be improved. “Better equipment and infrastructure are indispensable for motivated and operational armed forces”, argues Wüstner. Therefore, the association keeps on fighting that the German armed forces will be better equipped. ■



Photo: DBwV



NEW LEADERSHIP IN ANS

By ANTÓNIO LIMA COELHO, ANS, PORTUGAL

Last January 31st, ANS held elections for the new Board of Directors, General Assembly and Council of Auditors, for the period 2015/2016.

José Gonçalves, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, was elected President of the Board. Luís Bugalhão, Navy Chief Master Sergeant, was elected President of the General Assembly and Mário Pereira, Army Chief Master Sergeant, was elected President of the Council of Auditors.

Paulo Contreiras, Air Force Master Sergeant, António Taveira, Navy Master Sergeant and Carlos Colaço, Army Master Sergeant, were elected Vice-presidents of the Board. José Pereira, Air Force Master Sergeant was reelected Treasurer.

On Saturday, 28 February 2015, the elected members, the members of ANS, their families, and several institutional guests attended the formal investiture ceremony.



The new Board of Directors includes a mix of veterans and young sergeants. The veterans to carry on the experience and knowledge of the different matters ANS is dealing with. The young ones ensure that the future of the association is firmly guaranteed.

The new President of the Board, José Gonçalves, former Vice-President of the General Assembly and member of ANS since its foundation, replaces António Lima Coelho.

António Lima Coelho was elected the first time as President of the Board in January 2000 and has been in charge of it for the last fifteen years. António was also a Board Member of EUROMIL from 2006 until 2012.

António Lima Coelho and José Gonçalves will represent ANS at the 111th EUROMIL Presidium Meeting in Athens, Greece. ■

Photos: ANS



THE SPRING SEASON IS NOT AN UTOPIA

By EFTHIMIOS GKITEROS, AN.E.A.E.D., GREECE



On 25 January 2015, national elections were held in Greece for the appointment of a new parliament. The outcome resulted in a bipartisan majority in parliament supported by the parties SYRIZA (Coalition of the Radical Left) and ANEL (the Independent Greeks). Letting aside the percentage of each and every party, the vast majority of Greek people voted for the anti-memorandum programmes of political parties. This practically means that the new government is obliged to give priority to the abolishment of all toxic memorandum commitments the previous governments had signed. It has to negotiate the financial debt of the country that was never officially and legally certified. It is obliged to take immediate measures to develop the economy for the benefit of the vast majority of Greek citizens and, if necessary, at the expense of creditors.

These new policies have an impact on the Greek military

personnel. An initial assessment is that the social conditions of the Greek military personnel will be improved by these government commitments. Salaries and pensions, which were illegally cutback, were immediately readjusted to the level of July 2012 in accordance with the final resolution of the State Council.

The first meeting of the Defence Minister, Panos Kammenos, with a delegation of the Board of Pan-Hellenic Federation of Armed Forces Unions (P.F.A.F.U.) seemed to be fruitful. The meeting took place in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere and was considered as the beginning of a renewed effort to communicate between the two sides.

The Alternet Minister of National Defence, Kostas Isichos, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of National Defence, Nikos Toskas, visited a unit of the Hellenic Defence Systems S.A.. Speaking to employees, he expressed the political will of the government to rescue and develop the defence industry through the creation of a single institution that will meet the needs of the armed forces and any international agreements.

In a message to the new political leadership, AN.E.A.E.D. emphasizes, among others, the following:

“... Beyond the brutal austerity imposed on us by the people who drew up the memorandum and with it violated our dignity, we were affected by the negative impact on things such as our living standards, national health system, insurances and pension rights. It has also put to the test our core values such as national sovereignty, freedom, justice, solidarity, civil and social rights. Taking into consideration the above, we believe that it is not just our obligation towards our members, but our civic duty to react. There is no room for promises, only for solutions. We ask for a meeting with you as soon as possible, to update you on our decisions. Since in the previous meeting you’ve identified yourself as a partaker of problems, we are informing you and exposing the situation in which we have found ourselves today and the problems that beset us. We want to submit our updated recommendations, which you said in the past were good and fair, and exchange views to seek joint solutions.”

The Greek people are struggling together with military personnel who have been subjugated to the devastating memorandum orders of the previous governments.

Thanks to our experience, we are very well aware that social rights are not to be considered as granted. Nothing is given away from us for free, nothing will be given to us without daily struggles.

United among ourselves and with the Greek people, with specific programmes and schedules, we are struggling to take back everything we have been stripped of, to take our lives back. ■

Photos: AN.E.A.E.D.



OPENING OF THE HEAD OFFICE AND 1ST CONGRESS OF TAS



By EUROMIL FOR TAS, TURKEY

Emmanuel Jacob and Ton de Zeeuw, President and Treasurer of EUROMIL, visited TAS in Ankara on 14-15 January 2015.

Representatives of EUROMIL and its new Turkish member association – TAS was granted EUROMIL observer status in October 2014 - discussed EUROMIL principles and further collaboration.

On the occasion of this meeting, Mr. Jacob and Mr. de Zeeuw received decorations from Ahmet Zengin, President of TAS, and inaugurated the new Head Office of TAS in Ankara.

One month later, on 14 February 2015, TAS held its first Annual Congress and elections. Dr. Zengin was elected and confirmed as President of his association. The assembly also adopted budget and activity plans and decided to open new branches of TAS in Turkey. ■

Photos: TAS



EUROMIL ACTIVITIES

EUROMIL'S MAIN GOAL: DEFENDING SOLDIERS' RIGHTS!

By EUROMIL

Our goals ...

EUROMIL, as the only umbrella organisation composed of military associations and trade unions from European countries, strives to *secure and advance the human rights, fundamental freedoms and socio-professional interests of military personnel of all ranks in Europe*. EUROMIL promotes the concept of "Citizen in Uniform". For us, a soldier is entitled to the same rights and obligations as any other citizen and, therefore, we call for recognition of the right of servicemen and -women to *form and join trade unions and independent associations* and for their inclusion in a regular *social dialogue* by the authorities.

EUROMIL represents the interests of its member associations vis-à-vis supranational institutions and authorities, and supports them in matters of concerns within their national sphere. We *promote understanding and friendship between our member associations without interfering in their internal affairs*.

Last but not least, EUROMIL is an *apolitical and non-religious organisation*.

... and the political reality!

Despite these goals and principles, EUROMIL cannot avoid to be occasionally confronted with the political reality in or among its member associations or rather among their countries and

governments. Even if we try to avoid these kinds of situations, sometimes we have to accept that human reactions get the upper hand. However, EUROMIL will always try to find an acceptable and most workable solution.

Recently, such a situation occurred after the acceptance of a Turkish association, T.A.S., as an observer at EUROMIL. In order to keep up the best possible relations among its member associations from both countries, EUROMIL's President and



Photo: EUROMIL

Treasurer conducted, in the recent months, successful "shuttle diplomacy" among the four member associations from Turkey and Cyprus. Successive meetings in Ankara, Nicosia and Istanbul brought us not only close to an acceptable solution, but was at the same time a source of information on the living and working conditions of the members of the armed forces and the society in general in both countries.

It will probably always be a challenge, but it is our task to remind every time again that *EUROMIL is an organisation*

that defends soldiers' human rights and fundamental freedoms. Solidarity between European soldiers, and in expansion all soldiers around the world, must remain the basic element that connects us.

It may look like a dream, but sometimes dreams come true!

EJ

A NEW START FOR SOCIAL DIALOGUE

By EUROMIL

On 5 March 2015, EUROMIL participated in a high level conference organised by the European Commission on "A new start for Social Dialogue".

"The event discussed concrete ways to strengthen social dialogue throughout the EU with EU cross-industry social partners and their national affiliates from all Member States, as well as EU sector social partner organisations."

EUROMIL used the occasion to call for the right of association and social dialogue for military personnel! The European

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, took note of the matter and suggested to meet in order to further discuss this issue.

The event was concluded by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, who had earlier called for Europe to have a "triple A" social rating as well as for a relaunch of the social dialogue at all levels.

Official speeches and documentation is available on ec.europa.eu

CH

FUTURE OF THE PROTECTION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN EUROPE



By **EUROMIL**

EUROMIL participated in the conference on “The Future of the Protection of Social Rights in Europe”, which took place in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of Europe on 12-13 February 2015 in Brussels.

The conference, which was organised by the Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security and the Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, contributed to the Turin process launched at the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter on 17-18 October 2014 in Turin which aimed at “...reinforcing the

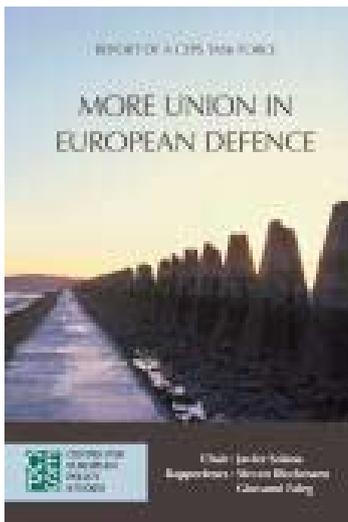
normative system of the Charter within the Council of Europe and in its relationship with the law of the European Union. The objective is to improve the implementation of fundamental social and economic rights, in parallel to the civil and political rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, at the continental level.” (The General Report of the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter is available on the website of the Council of Europe on coe.int).

In Brussels, the main objectives of the conference were to discuss the situation of fundamental social rights in Europe, “...

assess the response of human rights bodies to the economic and financial crisis, (...) map developments related to social rights that go beyond the Council of Europe (...) [and] stage a discussion on the relationship between the EU and the Council of Europe in the area of social rights.”

A report on the outcome of the conference held in Brussels on 12-13 February 2015, known as the “The Brussels Document”, was published as a complement to the “Turin Document.

All speeches and documents are available on the webpage of the conference on coe.int CH



“MORE UNION IN EUROPEAN DEFENCE”

By **EUROMIL**

On 9 March 2015, the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) launched a Task Force report entitled “More Union in European Defence”. The CEPS Task Force was chaired by Javier Solana, former EU High Representative for CFSP, Secretary General of NATO, and Foreign Minister

of Spain. The numerous members of the Task Force were high-level experts in the field of European security and defence.

The report opens with the statement that “the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is the weakest link in the European integration project”. The Task Force is of the opinion that the Treaty of Lisbon demands and permits a great deal more in terms of our common security and defence activities. Moreover, member states could achieve much more value for money than the 190 billion euro they spend to keep up 28 national armies, roughly comprising 1,5 million service personnel. The report brings up the question “If not now, when?”. According to Javier Solana, more than 70 % of the European public is in favour of a broad EU-project on defence. He reminded that 22 EU member states are also NATO members and that there is a mind shift with several new EU leaders. Last but not least, he is of the opinion that there is a “political momentum” in several member states and therefore the moment to act is “now”.

The report stipulates that the CSDP needs to be more efficient and effective if it is to meet today’s security challenges and promote the own values and interests of the EU. One cannot deny

that years of uncoordinated cuts in defence spending have eroded the role of the EU as a security actor and this at a moment when the EU faces numerous emergencies and security threats in its strategic neighbourhood.

The CEPS Task Force has drawn up its proposals with the aim to strengthen defence cooperation in the EU and with the opinion that the necessary defence integration should amount to a “European Defence Union” (EDU). The shape of this EDU is defined in the report as the cornerstone of a comprehensive, civil-military security architecture in Europe. Within the report, the Task Force recommends an array of policy actions for further cooperation and integration. These recommendations touch all aspects of the defence debate.

The first recommendations concern a strategic upgrade with, among others, a contribution to territorial defence complementary to NATO and the political and military ability to autonomously conduct operations beyond the EU borders. Then the report recommends a reform of institutions, procedures and financing mechanisms. In this field it proposes the establishment of a Council of Defence Ministers and an upgrade of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) to a fully-fledged Committee. Last but not least, the report recommends introducing a “European Semester” for member states’ defence budgets and capability development plans.

Just now when the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, states that there is a need to go towards a European army, and in preparation of the June 2015 security and defence summit, the CEPS Task Force report is a welcomed and very useful document that highly contributes to this important debate.

The full report can be read online on ceps.eu

EJ

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE

By EUROMIL

The Kangaroo Group, of which EUROMIL is a member, discussed the work of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), in its Working Group on Space, Security and Defence, on 24 February 2015.

Hans-Bernhard Weisserth, Head of the ESDC, presented the work of the network college, which provides strategic training and education to civilian and military personnel from EU Member States, EU Institutions and partner countries on CSDP. The ESDC promotes a European security culture by, for instance, organising "Military Erasmus" for the exchange of young officers, or by publishing handbooks on CSDP.

The presentation was followed by two statements, namely from Nathalie Griesbeck, MEP, and Emmanuel Jacob, President of EUROMIL. The meeting

was chaired by Michael Gahler, MEP and President of the Kangaroo Group.

They all emphasised the importance of the ESDC and the necessity of having a European culture of security.

On behalf of EUROMIL, its President particularly highlighted the following: "EUROMIL is convinced that an EU comprehensive approach on security and defence also includes a common culture and education. An institution such as the European Security and Defence College is therefore extremely important in the creation of a common security culture." In this regard, he welcomed initiatives such as the Exchange of Military Young Officers also known as "Military Erasmus". "EUROMIL also strongly believes that a project such as SAFE, Synchronised Armed Forces Europe, would be a cornerstone of this European military culture" he added.

President Jacob recalled the principles of the SAFE concept, conceived as an opt-in model aiming at integrating European security structures and leading to the synchronization of the European forces leadership, and called for a relaunch of efforts to implement this concept. Moreover, he underlined that another field in which the European Security and Defence College could play a role could be fundamental rights' training. A manual for military trainers on fundamental rights education should be developed. "EUROMIL believes that establishing common standards, including human rights education, proves its relevance" he stated. *CH*

For further information on the ESDC, please visit the following page: eeas.europa.eu Information on the Kangaroo Group is available on: kangaroogroup.de

Photo: EUROMIL



MEETING OF THE EMI INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



European
Movement
International

By EUROMIL

On 5 February 2015, EUROMIL participated in the Meeting of the International Associations of the European Movement International.

The meeting aimed at enhancing the participation of international associations within the EMI network. Participants discussed collaboration between themselves, cooperation with other civil society organisations and networks, and the added value of particular associations within EMI that could benefit of the whole network.

Among the topics that were identified as being of interest to the members in the coming months were, namely, CSDP - particularly in view of the June 2015 Summit, Social Affairs or European citizenship.

Participants will meet again this year. In the meantime, EUROMIL will participate in the Federal Assembly of EMI, which will take place on 24-25 April 2015 in Riga.

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For information, please visit: europeanmovement.eu



EUROMIL joins the #defend campaign for #humanrightsdefenders - Photo: EUROMIL



EUROMIL Calendar 2015

16 April 2015	Board Meeting	Athens, Greece
17-18 April 2015	Presidium Meeting	Athens, Greece
18 June 2015	Board Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
10 September 2015	Board Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
15 October 2015	Board Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
16-17 October 2015	Presidium Meeting	Brussels, Belgium



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