



► Fundamental Rights and Social Policy

Re-integration into civilian life: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT IN THE ARMY?

HKKF has during the last three years carried out a project with the aim to develop methods and a tool in order to describe military competences and qualifications systematically and individually in a way that civilian education institutions and employers can understand and appreciate.

The aim of the project is to improve the integration of our members in the labour market after having served in the armed forces and to ease admission in civil courses of education during or after the period of service.

The project has been supported economically by the European Social Fund and carried out in cooperation with a Danish vocational training center.

The project was recently concluded and on the ground of the results and experiences HKKF has decided to implement the methods and tool as a new permanent service to our members.

The project has gained the following experiences:

- Many military courses or training programmes can be used as a part or element in a civilian course of education, but the education institutions very often are without any knowledge of military courses and education programmes. The official description of military training and education courses is often insufficient and not in accordance with the civilian educational vocabulary,
- soldiers often develop general and personal competences as a part of their military training and service, that often is not acknowledged at civilian education institutions and working places. Neither the forces nor the individual soldier are normally very careful about describing and make general and individual competences visible. Especially through the new international operations soldiers at all levels develop general and personal competences of value, for an example professionalism, common judgement and conflict handling, which has been insufficiently described,
- guidance on civilian jobs and education for soldiers is insufficiently based upon competences and qualifications, that soldiers develop in the service.
- og kompetencer, som soldaterne har udviklet i forsvaret.

As a result of the project we have :

- developed methods to clarify soldiers competences, which we have tested on units, returning from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,
- designed a systematic database which in the end will describe all the competences, which can be developed in connection with work areas of our members, in a way that can be understood and acknowledged by civilian education institutions and workplaces.

Editorial by Emmanuel Jacob

A new future for the EU?

The main topic of the latest Brussels European Council on 21 and 22 June 2007 was to find solutions to have a new revival of the Constitutional Treaty that was almost buried after the NO in France and the Netherlands. After a long night of negotiations on the highest political level, the Presidency of the Council of Europe could come up with conclusions in the early morning of 23 June 2007. The European Council agreed to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) with a detailed mandate. It is up to the IGC to draw up a 'Reform Treaty' amending the existing Treaties. The 'Reform Treaty' will amend the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEC), whereby the latest in the future will be called 'the Treaty on the Functioning of the Union'. Anyway, this means that the European Constitutional Treaty is history! Several elements of the Draft Constitutional Treaty disappeared or changed drastically. One of the most important and regrettable changes is the fact that the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights will not be included in the Treaties. However, a common agreement could be found on a reference, in the TEU, to the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Another important point was the possible appointment of an EU Foreign Minister. It is regrettable that some member states still look at the 'EU with one international voice' as a kind of competition with their own national politics. Because of that the EU Foreign Minister is history. A common agreement was found in a merge between the EU High Representative or the CSFP and the External Affairs Commissioner in the new office of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. I especially regret those two important changes. On the one hand there is no new basis (on the highest legal level) for a social Europe and on the other hand it has been clearly demonstrated that the EU is not yet ready to speak with one voice in the field of the Foreign and Security Policy. Is this the EU that we want?

Fundamental Rights:

Strasbourg: EUROMIL-delegation at the Council of Europe 14-15 June 2007 Reasoning for full implementation of fundamental rights for soldiers

Six representatives of EUROMIL and the British Armed Forces Federation participated at the first meeting of the Council of Europe's Working Group on Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces in Strasbourg. The task of the working group is to draft a Ministerial recommendation.

EUROMIL was invited to participate as observer in the working group. Observers had the possibility to fully participate in the debate.

Following delegates represented EUROMIL at the meeting: Bessy (ADEFDROMIL), Dolpp (DBwV), Harjulehto (Secretary General of EUROMIL), Sorensen (HKKF) and Tzreszczkowski (KONWENT). Mister Young represented the British Armed Forces Federation in very good co-operation with EUROMIL.

Our delegates' interventions were professional and clearly reflected the delegates' decade-long experience with military affairs. The opposition of some member states' representatives to the demands for full application of fundamental rights to military personnel was to be expected. Positions of EUROMIL were typically supported by member states representatives, when their home countries already applied these rights for members of their armed forces.

EUROMIL will participate in the coming two meetings of the working group as well and continue to reason for a full implementation of fundamental rights for members of the armed forces, which as practice has shown is in no contradiction to military discipline or operational efficiency.

Social Policy:

Depleted Uranium hearing in the European Parliament

EUROMIL participated in the hearing on Depleted Uranium at the European Parliament which was organised by the Green fraction in co-operation with the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons on 14 to 16 May 2007 and contributed with two speakers. Emmanuel Jacob, President of EUROMIL and Wim van den Burg, Chairman of the Dutch Military Trade Union (AFMP/FNV) demanded in the hearing military authorities to install necessary safeguards to protect soldiers from exposure to toxic uranium-oxide dust in mission areas. The numerous problems like post-mission diseases of operation veterans or lacking identification of areas where depleted uranium has been used were presented to the audience. European soldiers are also very sensitive to the health and environmental needs of the civilian population in post-conflict areas. EUROMIL thus supports the full ban on uranium weapons. EUROMIL demands full medical screening of troops, clear identification of areas, where DU weapons were used, pre-mission briefings of troops on the known dangers of DU oxide and regular environmental impact assessment of contaminated areas.

Newsletter Issue 3 May/June 2007

EUROMIL/33 Avenue Général de Gaulle/1050 Brussels/Tel:+32 2 626 06 80/Fax:+32 2 626 06 99

E-Mail: euromil@euromil.org <http://www.euromil.org>

► International Foreign and Security Policy

EU police mission Afghanistan: 160 men and women from 21 countries

The EU has decided to launch an EU police mission in Afghanistan. The launching ceremony has been held in Kabul on 17 June. The mission with the name EUPOL Afghanistan has been particularly initiated by the German Brigadier General Friedrich Eichele. He is 51 years old and Federal Police for eight years before.

The mission aims at "contributing to the establishment of arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with Afghan ownership and in accordance with international "monitor, mentor, advice and train at the level of the Afghan

EUPOL Afghanistan will consist of some 160 police, law central (Kabul), regional (the 5 regional police commands) provinces, through Provincial Reconstruction Teams-with Germany as the biggest contributor with 50 policemen. The United States have sent about 500 police training officers to Afghanistan. The work of the two will be co-ordinated by a common (US-EU) secretariat and through the International Police Coordination Board.

To fulfil the mission tasks, EUPOL Afghanistan will have several challenges and risk situations to cope with. First and foremost the security situation in Afghanistan is still very unstable with ISAF troops being overstrained. Moreover, different training philosophies of US and EU concepts may lead to various problems and two-class system of training in Afghanistan. While the USA set priorities on short (six to eight weeks) police training periods, the EU focuses on in-depth and longer police training.

EUPOL Afghanistan will cost 43.6 million Euro in the first year. Since 2002 the EU has spent 3.7 billion Euro for the reconstruction and stabilization in Afghanistan.

You can find more information on EUPOL Afghanistan at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=1268&lang=DE&mode=g



EU Presidency and will be led by the German led the GSG 9, a special unit of the German

sustainable and effective civilian policing the wider criminal justice system under standards". More particularly, the mission will Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces."

enforcement and justice experts deployed at and provincial levels (deployment in PRTs). In total 21 EU countries will contribute

► EUROMIL INTERNAL

NEWS from the President of EUROMIL

EUROMIL represented at Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy

From 13 to 15 of June 2007 the President Emmanuel Jacob of EUROMIL participated at the third edition of the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy that took place in Stockholm/Sigtuna in Sweden.

This year's discussions were subsumed by the title "Power and Empowerment- the interdependence of democracy and human rights". EUROMIL officially applied to participate in that forum and its candidature had been immediately accepted. The travel costs were kindly sponsored by the Council of Europe.

During three days 300 participants, politicians, scientists, academics, government and non-governmental organisations discussed on several sub-themes. The President of EUROMIL Emmanuel Jacob got particularly involved in the discussions of the sub-theme on "the involvement of civil society- the respect for freedom and expression, and freedom of association". He used this opportunity to bring up issues of our member associations in several countries facing problems in their daily fight for the right of association, of expression and the right of assembly for military personnel.

News from the President of ANS – ANS

500 sergeants meet for 5th National Sergeants Meeting

On 9 June five hundred people gathered to meet for the 5th National Sergeants Meeting to discuss social issues and problems of the military profession in Portugal.

In a first part the lawyer of ANS, the Portuguese Sergeants Association, a Judge from the Constitutional Court, a Public Prosecutor and a Professor for Law discussed the rights of the citizens in uniform, attempts to modify the current status quo in the implementation or the right of associations for Portuguese military personnel.

In a second part the Vice-President of ANS presented the current situation of careers, health assistance, retirement, wages, social affairs and the non-applications of several laws and regulations in those fields.

Antonio Coelho, President of ANS said "at the end of the day the ones who attended this meeting were worried about the dark future we are facing".

Two motions were adopted by the discussants during the meeting. The first one gave mandate to the Board of ANS to organize a visible action for the 12th of July, in order to protest against the losses in retirement conditions. The second one consisted of giving an overall mandate to the Board of ANS in order to defend the rights of the citizens in uniform nationally and internationally. The first motion was adopted with one abstention, while the second one was adopted unanimously.

The event was well covered by TV and radio channels.

Collaboration agreement between AUME and CC.OO signed in Madrid

The Spanish Workers' Union CC.OO (Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras) and the Spanish United Military Association (AUME) have signed a collaboration agreement for the training of the AUME associated soldiers.

Thanks to this agreement, the military members will receive training in matters as professional risks prevention and labour health, use of new technologies and languages.

A first course on "Psychosocial problems in the labour field" will start soon, trying to find a solution to the problems on fundamental rights and public freedoms for military personnel.



Newsletter **Issue 3** May/June 2007

EUROMIL/33 Avenue Général de Gaulle/1050 Brussels/Tel:+32 2 626 06 80/Fax:+32 2 626 06 99

E-Mail: euromil@euromil.org <http://www.euromil.org>

► EUROMIL INTERNAL

Plenipotentiary of the Board of KEDR Bank- Vice-President of ETAL

Ioannis N. Tzen Vice-President of ETAL has been authorized as plenipotentiary for the Board of the Russian Bank, KEDR for Greece and Europe. KEDR is the first Russian Bank to the European territory, and the branch of Athens is beginning its activities in this area in September 2007. The editorial staff wishes him all the best in his new activity.

Farewell of Finn Busse Jensen

Retired from his function of chairman of the Danish association CS since 1 January 2007, F.B. Jensen announced he would also retire from his position in the EUROMIL Board after the Presidium Meeting in Krakow on 10 and 11 May 2007. On this occasion he seized the opportunity to salute all Presidium members and he thanked them for the many years of cooperation, good work and friendship. The EUROMIL members and staff sincerely wish him all the best for his future activities.



► Calendar June/July

- 28 June: Budget planning 2008, Brussels (BE)
- 5-6 July : Board Meeting, Berlin (DE)
- 9-10 July: OSCE Meeting, Baku (AZ)
- 16-17 July: European Parliament Committee for Foreign Affairs AFET, Committee for Security and Defence SEDE, European Parliament Brussels (BE)
- 18-20 July: Charter Committee Meeting, Bonn (DE)