



NEWS

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Security has a social dimension

SOON A "EUROPEAN MUSICAL CHAIRS"?

In about two months, between 22 and 25 May 2014, European citizens are called to go to the voting booth for the European elections. The European Parliament elections have never been so important than in 2014.

For the first time in European history, political groups have nominated candidates for the position of the President of the European Commission. These candidates will not only promote themselves in the weeks to come but will also debate on the programme of their respective political group for the next five-year legislature of the European Parliament. In this way voters will perhaps get a better idea of what are the European and not only national issues at stake, national concerns that actually have nothing to do with the European Union as such.

In the past weeks European political groups designated their candidate for the European Commission presidency. Today this position is still in the hands of José Manuel Barroso, a center right Portuguese politician belonging to the European People's Party (EPP). It is foreseen that the President of the Commission will be nominated during the European Council Summit in June 2014 and confirmed by the European Parliament in July 2014. Meanwhile, every political group nominated its candidate.

The Liberals of ALDE closed their internal campaign with Guy Verhofstadt (Belgium) as their candidate, after he reached an agreement with Olli Rehn (Finland) who was promised another international position.

For the current second biggest group in the European Parliament, the Socialists&Democrats (S&D), it was no surprise that Martin Schulz (Germany), President of the European Parliament, became the candidate after being elected as the only candidate by the PES Congress in Rome.

The last political group to nominate its candidate was the European People's Party (EPP), whose Congress in Dublin had to choose between Michel Barnier (France) and Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxemburg). The latter won the race.

It is unknown today whether one of these candidates will really be in the President seat of the European Commission because, as already mentioned, the candidate for this position is nominated by the European Council before being confirmed by the European Parliament. Schulz already warned that he will not accept "a backroom deal in a Brussel's office" but that he wants "a deal with the European voters". The EPP's new elected candidate Juncker almost confirmed this statement saying that the elections results will have to be accepted by national leaders, adding "the signal must be, if the EPP wins, then Juncker is in."



Emmanuel Jacob, EUROMIL's President,
Photo: EUROMIL

Nevertheless, the President of the European Commission is only one of the top jobs that will be on the table after the elections of 22-25 May 2014. Firstly, there is of course the election of the President of the European Parliament on which the political groups have to reach an agreement. Additionally, the European Council President, Herman Van Rompuy (Belgium), and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton (UK), have to

be replaced. Besides, we may not forget to mention the posts of the European Commissioners, which are for some of them are of extreme importance (trade, internal affairs, economic, monetary affairs, ...) and solicited by national candidates.

To make the puzzle complete there are some other international positions that will have to be filled in the near future. On short term, probably in September 2014 after the Summit in Wales, NATO Secretary-General, Anders Fogg Rasmussen (Denmark), will leave

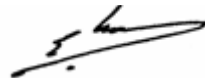
his position. Even if this function has no direct link to the European carousel, it is clear that the question of the successor of Rasmussen will be discussed with the other European functions in mind. Although one cannot be candidate for the position of NATO SG, but should be nominated in common agreement by the member states, several names appear since some time on the shortlist. However, the designation of NATO SG was often made by consensus and a surprise in the past. In the years to come, mid-2016, the United Nations Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon (South Korea) will also be replaced and it can very well be that in the ‘backroom discussions’ this would already be a part of the deal.

Let the games begin by putting the voters’ cards on the table! This brings us back to the starting point of this editorial, namely the European elections! After years of economic turbulence European citizens, and very often politicians, are looking especially towards the EU to find someone to blame for their (national) problems. This feeling is fed by Eurosceptic politicians, far-right nationalists and libertarians. For example in France (Front National) and the UK

(Independence Party), these parties could even become the largest ones in the European Parliament. Already within the past elections, the turnout at European level was decreasing and linked to the anti-European messages. This could even decrease more in May 2014.

Therefore EUROMIL calls on its member associations and their members to promote a positive European vote. A vote in favour of pro-European messages and candidates. In this way, we as “Citizens in uniform” can and will strengthen the participative democracy at European level! And it is no shame to be a convinced European but at the same time have a critical eye on Europe!

To paraphrase the Irish singer Bono from U2: “I love Europe Europe is a thought that needs to become a feeling.”



Emmanuel Jacob,
President of EUROMIL

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THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

ACTIVITIES OF THE LATVIAN RIFLEMEN ASSOCIATION (LSA)

By **DZINTARS KĻAVA, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF LSA, LATVIA**

There are several military associations in Latvia, namely the Latvian Riflemen Association, the Reserve Officers Association, the National Officers Association, the National Soldiers Association and the Soldiers club (Association) of Ādaži.

The Latvian Riflemen Association (LSA) was established in 1989 as the successor of the old Latvian Rifleman Union, established in 1923 and restricted in 1941 after the occupation of Latvia by the Soviet Union.

The general aims of the Latvian Riflemen Association are as follows:

1. The popularisation of the Latvian Army history and traditions;
2. The defence of soldiers social guarantees and rights;
3. The Facilitation of communication between the different generations of Latvian soldiers;
4. The representation of soldiers by communicating with their commanders and higher officials regarding everyday serving conditions and the defence of their rights;
5. The organisation of youth patriotic education (see photo).

Active soldiers in Latvia have the right to establish associations of soldiers and to join these associations as well as to participate in other non-political events, if these activities do not interfere with their service. The Latvian Military Service Law stipulates, in its Article 10 (2) (3), (4), (5) that soldiers in every unit have the right to nominate one soldier as their representative to communicate with the commander and higher officials regarding everyday service conditions and to defend their rights.

In Latvia soldiers are forbidden to join trade unions, to organise or participate in strikes. Furthermore, soldiers are forbidden to engage in political activities. If a soldier engages in any political activity, he/ she must leave his/ her military service according to the Latvian Military Service Law, Article 15 (1)1.

Topical issues of the Latvian Riflemen Association:

1. The rest time during working hours is not regulated by the



Photo: LSA

Latvian Military Service Law, but Article 12 (3) stipulates that they are regulated by military service regulations. There is consequently a risk that the unit commander may use this fact to prolong a working day.

2. Military pensions are in average higher than the civilian pensions. Although the law foresees a pension indexation in the Latvian Military Service Pensions Law, Article 7, pensions are not indexed and lose their value.

3. The commander of a military unit may subjectively limit the number of persons who are allowed to study in parallel of their military service (Latvian Military Service Law. Article 11 (1), (2), (3)).

Currently, we live in a democratic society in Latvia and military personnel enjoy their fundamental rights, but we believe the situation could be improved. ■

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

OBSERVATORY OF MILITARY LIFE IN SPAIN

By **MARIANO CASADO SIERRA, AUME, SPAIN**

On 14 January 2014, the Observatory of Military Life was established, according to the Organic Law of rights and duties of members of the armed forces. The

Observatory, which depends of the parliament, is a consultative and advisory body, whose mission is to perform ongoing analysis of the military conditions and the

way in which the state is taking care of the interests of members of the armed forces.

The Observatory is composed of nine members, five of whom are elected by the

Chamber of Representatives and four by the Senate. Those persons are of recognized standing in the field of defence or human rights and fundamental freedoms. Each representative is appointed, by absolute majority with the support of at least three political groups in each house of the parliament, for a period of five years. Participation in the Observatory shall not be remunerated and its members may not hold any political position.

The operating regime of the Observatory, the status of its members, its composition and functions shall be determined by regulation. The Ministry of Defence will provide the necessary administrative support for the functioning of the Observatory which will have a permanent office. A Brigadier General of the Air Force has been appointed as Chief of the Permanent Secretariat.

Among the objectives pursued by the Observatory, the following may be highlighted:

1. Perform analysis and make action proposals regarding the exercise of fundamental rights and public freedoms for members of the armed forces.
2. Develop, ex officio or upon request, reports and studies on the personnel system of living conditions in the armed forces.
3. Suggest measures that help conciliating work, private and family life of military personnel.
4. Promote the adjustment of the regime of military personnel to the changes occurring in society and in the public service.
5. Analyze the problems taking place in the family environment of those affected that result from their availability, geographical mobility and their specific

professional activity involving participation in operations abroad.

6. Assess additional contribution of human resources to the armed forces through the different categories of reservists.

7. Ensure retired personnel the application of the legislation protecting their liabilities and welfare rights and, where appropriate, make proposals to improve its implementation.

The Observatory may request information from competent bodies defining policies regarding military personnel and from their management in the Ministry of Defence and the Army. They may as well carry out, by proper scheduling, visits to military units to perform its duties.

It will annually prepare a report gathering the activities undertaken throughout the year, the state of the military status as regards matters within its jurisdiction and make recommendations for improvement, which will be presented to the Defence Committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. Whenever the Observatory considers it convenient, for its urgency or

importance, it has the opportunity to make recommendations on any particular issue.

As a member of the Observatory, I am confident that its implementation will improve the citizenship status of the members of the Spanish armed forces. ■



Mariano Casado is the Secretary General of AUME and a member of the Observatory of Military Life in Spain.



Photos: AUME

GERMANY: NEW MINISTER OF DEFENCE - REPORT ON WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE

By SILKE FLEMMING, DBwV, GERMANY

Since December 2013, after the last parliamentary elections in Germany, a woman is Minister of Defence for the first time in German history. Already in the last two legislative periods Ursula von der Leyen served as Minister, first as Minister of Labour and Social affairs and then as Minister for Family affairs.

The new MoD started her work with a promise (well covered by the media) to tackle the issue of a better reconciliation

of family and work in the armed forces, a point which DBwV has on its agenda since several years. In that context, the MoD announced a check on the necessity of the frequent transfers from base to base which are usual for soldiers in the German armed forces.

We still have to wait and see whether the first announcements will be actually implemented but apparently members of the armed forces are increasingly brought into

focus. So it was not surprising that the first meeting of the DBwV with the new Minister was very positive.

Soon after taking up her duties, the new Minister published a report concerning working time of military personnel, written by the consulting agency KPMG, commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, already in June 2013. Since then the previous MoD had shut the report away. The study served to get an overview of the real working

time of military personnel and to find possibilities concerning the implementation of the European Working Time Directive for military personnel in Germany. The background of the study is a decision of the highest German Administrative Court: In December 2011, the Federal Administrative Court decided that the European Working Time Directive is applicable to German soldiers, which was denied by the MoD for many years.

After reading the report of KPMG it became clear why the report was kept under wraps. The report explains exactly why the decision of non-implementation of the Working Time Directive was wrong.

It says: “As explicitly decided by the former State Secretary in the MoD in 2008, the German armed forces practice a comprehensive exclusion of the Working Time Directive 2003/88/EC for military personnel. After thorough analysis of the Working Time Directive, including the Directive 89/391/EEC on health and safety of workers, of its history, of relevant case law and literature, we come to the conclusion that the Working Time Directive is applicable to military personnel generally and directly.

Despite their particular status in the public service, soldiers are “workers” according to the EU definition of the term. The European Court of Justice defines a “worker” as someone who performs

services for and under the direction of another person, in return for which he/ she receives remuneration. In our opinion the EU Working Time Directive (WTD) is therefore di-rectly applicable to the general service of soldiers. That comprises a maximum working time of 48 hours per week (art. 6 WTD) and a daily rest period of at least 11 consecutive hours in every 24 hours (art. 3 WTD) as well as a minimum weekly rest period of 24 uninterrupted hours (art. 5 WTD).

Only missions/ operations can be excluded from the scope of application

of the WTD, that is to say those measures which the armed forces take directly to fulfil their mandate concerning the protection of the legally protected interests pursuant to art. 3 § 2 WTD (in connection with art. 2 § 2 Directive 89/391).”

Despite these findings, it is still not clear how and when the WTD is going to be implemented for soldiers. According to the decision of the Federal Administrative Court, it is essential that the WTD for military personnel is implemented by a formal law, a simple decree/ directive of the MoD is not sufficient. ■



Photo: DBwV

CRISIS IMPACT OR REBUILDING HELLENIC ARMED FORCES INTELLECTUAL ARSENAL

By PANAGIOTIS STAVRAKAKIS AND ALI EISSA ABDULLAH, AN.E.A.E.D., GREECE



Nowadays, there is an increasing trend for government departments and public entities to reform, especially in the fields of management and budgeting. These reforms, along with the reduced government funding, increased the need to deliver agreed outputs as efficiently as possible. Like other organisations striving for sustainability and mission focus, the Hellenic Armed Forces (HAF) are facing rising pressure to increase the added value of its services. To meet this challenge, in an era of resources’ scarcity and tremendous budget cuts, the education and training of the Hellenic Armed Forces (HAFet) need to undergo fundamental changes. The education and training system must be reviewed and continuously seek ways to create future value.

In general, the mission of military education and training is to retain and promote the capacity of members of the HAF, which should defend their homeland and be a deterrent force against the threats posed to the nation. Consequently, this mission needs enormous resources to be viable. The issue that soldiers and leaders

of the HAF are increasingly facing is the need to accomplish their mission while the military leadership allocates decreasing funding to military education and training.

The authors of this article argue that this mission needs to become viable by passing and implementing reforms, thanks to a leadership inspired for changes. In particular, in HAFet the classroom setting seems to be an outdated and obsolete model that is far from being cost efficient. Taking the example from other industries and organisations that increased their output by adopting new practices with lesser funding, the authors propose our military leaders to adopt private sector management practices and solutions.

It is evident that HAFet military universities do not offer:

- (a) online and distance learning programmes,
- (b) postgraduate education and training,
- (c) research doctorate degree.

This kind of education is already fashionable and quite mature in other national universities, providing significant revenues to

these institutions. These revenues mostly originate from tuition fees as well as national, European and private sector research grants and funds. The implementation of new learning and training methods by using new technologies, including the use of internet for E-Learning and quality-based simulation classes, will help to reduce the costs of training processes and provide an easy cost-effective education in the long term. As mentioned, this will require a huge work from HAFet education departments, starting with a reduction of the normal education classes and establishing new e-learning classes and training materials. It is our ingrained believe that HAFet has the internal resources and assets to produce tradable educational programmes that can be turnkey cost-efficient solutions for a vast

variety of needs as well as a valuable source of revenue.

Today military leaders are facing changes and challenges that are rapidly transforming the military and social environment. It is highly recommended to our leaders to anticipate and seize opportunities to reach success. They will need to change their behaviour. Organisations need to start now to build a strong leadership that demonstrates the right competencies. Because of the shrinking talent pool, organisations must build their own internal leadership. Our leaders need to shape HAFet to be more nimble and flexible, less hierarchical and more network oriented - in short: better organised to deliver value. ■

ASSODIPRO'S EVENT IN ROME

By **FABRIZIO MENEGOLI, ASSODIPRO, ITALY**

On Thursday 27 February 2014, in the Hall of Flags of the Italian branch of the European Parliament in Rome (Via IV Novembre 149), ASSODIPRO organised a major conference entitled "The Italian Armed Forces in Europe. Ideas for a change."

This worthy event was attended by a large audience, the subject under discussion being illustrated by distinguished speakers.

At the opening of the conference, the President of ASSODIPRO, Emilio Ammiraglia, reconstructed the significant steps of the construction of the common European defence, as well as delays and non-convergent actions that characterise policies of European military integration among member states.

In this regard, even Italy, and in particular with respect to the integration and development of industrial defence policies, showed signs of inconsistency, favoring investment programmes outside Europe whose implementation will have deleterious effects on military personnel.

Colonel Guido Bottacchiari, Vice-President of COCER Air Force, pointed out all problems due to the Italian military investment policies. The staff is forced to endure a spending review and a redefinition of the military that is called upon to deal with expected retirements, blocks of pay and career penalties.

Prof. Maurizio Simoncelli, Vice-President of Disarmament Archive, noted the historical importance of the European Common Security and Defence Policy as a political fact helping to overcome belligerence among European states, and which must be achieved in accordance with the aspirations of the peoples of Europe.

Of particular significance was the report of the General of the Air Force (Ret) Fulvio Gagliardi, who developed the theme "weapon systems and military industry".

Equally important was the brief intervention of Hon. Domenico Rossi, who condemned the measures affecting military personnel, considering them a useful way to support the economic and financial balance of the costs of defence rather than proposing a new model of defence. It would indeed be appropriate to establish a new defence model based on a new defence white paper.

Luciano Silvestri of the CGIL noted that in the European context the process of democratization of the armed forces should be reiterated to overcome backwardness and national peculiarities. It is necessary to achieve uniform armed and police forces and enhance professionalism and military assets.

Of particular significance was the intervention of Hon. Falco Accame, the former Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, who shared the same considerations as President Emilio Ammiraglia in his introductory speech. He

highlighted the need to provide the Parliament with an ad hoc committee that will take in charge the operations of the armed forces and address any related political matters.

In conclusion of the meeting, the President of EUROMIL, Emmanuel Jacob, spoke on the state of the European Defence and looked back on the outcome of the European Council of 19-20 December 2013. He reminded that it was EUROMIL's view that the European Council should not exclude the "human factor" from its discussion on defence. EUROMIL supports a comprehensive and indivisible approach to security, which includes, among others, a human dimension. He also reminded that EUROMIL calls for deeper cooperation and harmonisation among EU armed forces, not only to what concerns Pooling and Sharing of capabilities, but also for the development of common standards for the living and working conditions of armed forces personnel.

It ensures that in the future, EUROMIL, in agreement with its member associations, will continue to play its role to protect the military personnel and their families. ■



Photos: ASSODIPRO

SITUATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IN PORTUGAL

BY ANTONIO COELHO AND MARIO RAMOS, ANS, PORTUGAL

Since the bailout of Portugal in 2011, the social conditions of Portuguese citizens have substantially deteriorated. In this context, the situation is getting dramatic for soldiers and their families, with an increasing number of cases of serious economic failure in facing their financial commitments.

Beside the freezing of progression, the insufficient number of promotions and the continued degradation of operating conditions, servicemen and –women are facing a strong cut in their pensions (about 12%) and cuts in salaries, varying between 2.5 % (above € 600) and 12% (above € 2,000).

For example between January 2010 and January 2014, a master sergeant (OR 8 - NATO rank) who served for 30 years, lost a monthly net value of € 302, i.e. falling from a monthly net value of € 1,424 awarded in 2010, to a mere monthly net of € 1,122 (payable in 14 months). For this same example, if one sums up all accumulated cuts and tax increases from 1 January 2011 until the end of 2014, he/she would get a total reduction of € 11,920 on the net income.

These are just some of the reasons, among lots of others, that led soldiers and their families to demonstrate in the streets of Lisbon on Saturday, 15 March 2014.

Supported by the three Portuguese professional military



associations, namely ANS, AOFA and AP, about five to six thousand people gathered in *Luis de Camões Square*. They marched, silently, handing black flags amongst the different associations flags and banners with statements and demands, and finished the promenade in front of the Portuguese Parliament, where the Presidents of the associations delivered their speeches. After the speeches a representative of the parliament received a document from the associations. At the end of the event, a delegation of representatives of the Portuguese Security Forces Associations and Trade Unions demonstrated their solidarity towards the soldiers and informed the press that a joint event would possibly be organised in the future, if need be.

The Portuguese associations are preparing the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Portuguese revolution, which took place on 25 April 1974 and was led by soldiers who brought democracy to the Portuguese people.

The 109th EUROMIL Presidium Meeting will take place in Lisbon on 24 and 25 of April 2014 to merge with these commemorations. The different delegations to the Presidium are invited and expected to take part in the parade that will take place in the afternoon of 25 April 2014. ■

COOPERATION ACT - A PREREQUISITE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MAJOR CHANGE

BY ARI PAKARINEN, PÄÄLLYSTÖLIITTO, FINLAND

The Finnish Defence Forces (FDF) began the implementation of a major structural reform in 2012. The purpose of the reform is to change the military's governance system and training organisation to better respond to economic resources. Unfortunately, this means job losses and the closure of military bases.

How can such a large change be implemented in a way that minimises the disadvantages for personnel? The answer is simple - cooperation. The FDF are following both the letter and the spirit of the Cooperation Act. That will be the key to success.

The Act promotes the FDF and its personnel's interactive cooperation procedures. These are based on providing sufficient information to personnel in a timely manner. The objective is to collectively develop FDF procedures and improve employees' opportunities to influence decision-makers with regard to their work, working conditions and position within the FDF. Further, the Act promotes cooperation between the FDF, its personnel and the employment authorities to improve the position of the employees and support their continued employment during changes in FDF structure and operations.

This means that the employees' representatives are kept abreast of personnel plans and have a genuine opportunity to participate in the process. FDF leaders have realised the positive effect of cooperation in building an ongoing dialogue with personnel and reducing the disadvantages arising from the current reform, such as the number of job cuts.

Trade Unions, such as Päällystöliitto, represent employees in the process. Päällystöliitto is continuously training its representatives in cooperation matters, developing their professional skills and knowledge. Knowledgeable representatives can bring new thinking to the planning process, perhaps even new ways of implementing changes. Thus far, the experiences in cooperation during the reform process have been positive. ■



In the cooperation committee all personnel groups are represented as equal members. Photo: Päällystöliitto

EUROMIL ACTIVITIES

THE LEADERSHIP OF DBwV VISITS EUROMIL

By EUROMIL

On 6 March 2014, André Wüstner, the new Chairman of the EUROMIL German member association, the Deutscher Bundeswehrverband (DBwV), accompanied by his two Vice-Chairmen, namely Jürgen Görlich and Andreas Steinmetz, and Jörg Greiffendorf, Thomas Sohst and Christian Singer, met in Brussels with Emmanuel Jacob and Ton de Zeeuw, the President and Treasurer of EUROMIL.

The German delegation visited the EUROMIL premises, where President Jacob made a thorough presentation about EUROMIL and exchanged thoughts with his German counterpart.

EUROMIL thanks the DBwV for this fruitful meeting and looks forward to continue this 40-years collaboration. CH



Photos: EUROMIL



FIRST 2014 EUROMIL TRAINING SESSION

By EUROMIL

Representatives of seven EUROMIL member associations, namely *AKUSH* (Albania), *HOSZ* (Hungary), *KTGC* (Lithuania), *LSA* (Latvia), *SOB* (FYROM), *SVS* (Slovenia) and *ZV-SR* (Slovakia), participated in the first meeting of a training session addressed to “young and weaker associations” from Central/Eastern Europe on 21-22 February 2014 in Brussels.

The target group is composed of associations that currently need support. “Young and weaker” meaning associations that are not well developed or do not participate in social dialogue yet. It received, during the first meeting, information and support from the President of EUROMIL, E. Jacob, the Vice-President, F. Vinther, and the Treasurer, T. de Zeeuw.

The 2014 – 2015 training session will be divided into several meetings and aims at building strong military associations at national level and transform them into trade unions - at least on the organisational level in case of a legal issue. The next sessions will be planned according to the different national experiences and particular case studies. The next meeting is foreseen on 6-7 June 2014. CH



Photo: EUROMIL

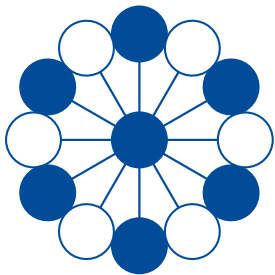
EUROMIL IS A MEMBER OF THE KANGAROO GROUP



Since January 2014, EUROMIL - represented by its President, Emmanuel Jacob - is a member of the Kangaroo Group.

“The Kangaroo Group, Free Movement and Security, is an association of cross-party Members of the European Parliament, Commission and Council and representatives of industry and academia working to enhance European unity step by step around the pursuit of common projects. The motto of the Kangaroo Group is free movement and security.”

For further information on the Kangaroo Group, please visit www.kangaroogroup.eu



FAIB

EUROMIL IS A MEMBER OF THE FAIB

EUROMIL is now a member of the Federation of European and International Associations established in Belgium (FAIB). It is a non-profit, non-political association that promotes and defends the interests and activities of its Members. It was established in 1949 at the initiative of leading personalities of the Union of International Associations (UIA), with the intention to draw attention of the authorities to the existence of international associations in Belgium, and the need for facilitating their activities.

For further information, please visit www.faib.org

EUROMIL MEETS WITH HoSZ IN BUDAPEST

By EUROMIL

On 15 January 2014, EUROMIL's President, E. Jacob, and Policy Manager, C. Henrion, met in Budapest with a delegation of EUROMIL's Hungarian member association HOSZ, composed of its President, J. Czövek, Vice-President, I. Bazsik, and a colleague, D. Hajós.

The meeting aimed at, among other things, discussing HOSZ's membership at EUROMIL and international collaboration, such as the organisation of a joint EUROMIL/ODIHR event in Budapest in September 2014. More information will follow shortly on the EUROMIL Website.

CH



Photo: HOSZ

EUROMIL GETS "DOLLS" FROM THE BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR VETERANS AND VICTIMS OF WAR

BY THE BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR VETERANS AND VICTIMS OF WAR

The *Municipal Institute of Decorative Arts and Crafts* (Antwerp) was selected to travel with the "Train of 1000" from 5 to 10 May 2012. The "Train of 1000" is an initiative from the *Belgian Institute for Veterans and Victims of War*, the *Auschwitz Foundation* and the *International Federation of Resistance Fighters*. 1000 young Europeans from 15 countries travel to Krakow by train, following the same route as the deportees during World War II. On site they visit the camps and meet with the last witnesses.

In return to this participation, students have to organize an activity for a large public. The 6th grade students from the *Municipal Institute of Decorative Arts and Crafts* made an exhibition called "From Then, Now and Later", which was displayed at the Central Station of Antwerp in March 2012 for two weeks.

The idea is to use 'people' to portray an image of some historical events and to establish a link to the present and the future. Each student chose from the list of presented characters a theme that appealed to him/her and subsequently created a mannequin to which

he/she gave a history...

They worked together with Regina Sluszny of the association the *hiding child*, a witness from Rwanda, a witness from the *Berlin Hohenshonhausen Memorial* and the *Peace Center* in Antwerp.

The students had been appropriately immersed in this difficult matter for two years.

The previous school year, the same class group successfully participated in the contest "Peace Poem" of the *Peace Centre*. Some of their poems/quotes were published in the book "Garden of the present". They watched some episodes of 'In Europe' and a documentary on WWI as a preparation for conceiving the poems. In addition, they were invited during the "Day of Democracy" to visit the *Dossin barracks* and *Fort Breendonk*, where they contributed by delivering two poems in a "solemn moment".

The aim is to give pupils some possible facts to think about in order to avoid that such terrible events happen again.

Photos: EUROMIL



EUROMIL has been informed that Valerian Nesterov passed away on 25 February 2014.

Many of EUROMIL's delegates met Valerian during one of the numerous Presidium Meetings he attended as the Presidium Member of ITUS, EUROMIL's Russian member association. In November 2009 EUROMIL even celebrated his 80th anniversary.

EUROMIL would like to thank Valerian for all his work and the confident collaboration over the past 20 years, to unite EUROMIL and ITUS.

Furthermore EUROMIL would like to highlight his true friendship and comradeship, as well as his special ability to treat people and his personal sense of humor.

1000 reasons to vote for Europe

« Security has a
social dimension
and needs an EU approach ! »

Emmanuel Jacob, President of EUROMIL



European elections May 22-25



European Organisation of Military Associations

EUROMIL Calendar 2014

10-11 April 2014	7th FRP Meeting	Vienna, Austria
23 April 2014	Board Meeting	Lisbon, Portugal
24-25 April 2014	Presidium Meeting	Lisbon, Portugal
22-25 May 2014	European Elections	European Union
30-31 May & 1 June 2014	NATO PA	Vilnius, Lithuania
6-7 June 2014	EUROMIL Training	Brussels, Belgium
19 June 2014	Board Meeting	Brussels, Belgium



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