



European Organisation of Military Associations

“Soldiers’ rights in EU Member States”

SEDE Hearing, 15 May 2018



European Organisation of Military Associations

Factsheet: EUROMIL

- Founded: 1972
- Representing: 34 military associations and trade unions from 23 countries
- In Numbers: Approx. 500.000 soldiers and their families
- Representation / Accreditation: EP, EC, OSCE, ODIHR, DCAF, EMI, FoE, NATO PA, Kangaroo Group,, NGO with participatory status at the Council of Europe, Special consultative status at ECOSOC (UN)
- Mission: Promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms and professional interests of military personnel in Europe



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Most pressing issue regarding human rights and fundamental rights of military personnel in EU Member States

- Right to freedom of association and associated rights, particularly the right to freedom of expression and the right to participate in public affairs

MAIN MESSAGE:

- The right of association for military personnel does not undermine military authority or disrupt the chain of command.
- No loss of military efficiency or discipline in countries which have granted full association rights for their soldiers.
- The right of association in trade unions or professional associations without a well-defined framework for a social dialogue with mutual respect for all partners, is an empty box!

Military Personnel in Europe...

...has trade union rights in the countries marked in green.

...has the right of association in the countries marked in yellow.

...has neither in the countries marked in red.

WITHOUT unions and associations...

...the representation of professional and social interests of employees is impossible!

EUROMIL promotes the concept of "citizens in uniform"...

... as such, a soldier is entitled to the same rights and obligations as any other citizen, including the right of association.



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Social and working conditions of military personnel at home and during missions abroad

- Implementation of EU social and labour legislation in EU Member States
- Common standards for armed forces personnel in CSDP missions and operations

MAIN MESSAGE:

The social and working conditions of military personnel should be harmonised, especially for those serving under the same EU flag!



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Challenge:



Military discipline
Loyalty to the armed forces
Outside influence
Respect for hierarchy



Represent members' interests
Promote their welfare
Consult and negotiate on their behalf





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European Parliament Resolutions on Fundamental Rights of Military Personnel



- Resolution of the European Parliament 1984 demanding the recognition of the right of association of members of the armed forces
- Resolution on respect for human rights in the European Union (1995)
"50. Urges once more the Member States and the countries interested in joining the EU to introduce rules for the recognition of the right of association within the armed forces for both conscripts and regular service personnel;"
- Resolution on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU 2004-2008
"89. Points out that fundamental rights do not stop at barrack gates and that they also fully apply to citizens in uniform, and recommends that the Member States ensure that fundamental rights are also observed in the armed forces."
- Resolution of the European Parliament (EP) on the European Defence Union (2016)
"12. Calls on the Member States to particularly recognise the right of military personnel to form and join professional associations or trade unions and involve them in a regular social dialogue with the authorities; invites the European Council to take concrete steps towards the harmonisation and standardisation of the European armed forces, in order to facilitate the cooperation of armed forces personnel under the umbrella of a new European Defence Union;"





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Future of European Defence

- European Defence Union
- PESCO
- SAFE

MAIN MESSAGE:

Security has a social dimension: The future framework of the European defence should include a strong social and human dimension!



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Questions?



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