

Konwent Dziekanów Korpusu Oficerów Zawodowych (Poland), Honvédszakszervezet (Hungary), Zväz vojakov Slovenskej republiky (Slovakia), Svazu vojáků z povolání AČR (Czech Republic) held their 22nd meeting, which took place on September 20-22, 2022 in Brno.

The organizations got acquainted with each others' countries current situation, their associations' position within the own armies, the possibilities of social program for military pensioners. The V4 military associations emphasise the fact of the legislative framework of trade unions or the autonomous advocacy units integrated into the professional military structure is necessary for real care of the soldiers welfare. For this reason the signatory parties in that countries where it is not self-evident, the less legally supported and/or informal stakeholder relations supporting to put on formal and legal way.

Participating organizations note that there are significant differences between the share of professional organizations in individual countries in advocacy and the enforcement of the claims and rights of professional soldiers. While the Polish Konwent is integrated into the organizational structure of the Ministry of Defense and the Hungarian Honvédszakszervezet is a military trade union organization, the organizations in Slovakia and the Czech Republic exist on the basis of the law of registered associations. Their empowerment to the benefit for professional soldiers is therefore not at the same level as their partners in Poland or Hungary. Numerous NATO member states, such as Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands, have a well organised stakeholder system as same as in Republic of Poland and Hungary. The current international situation shows that the importance of the armed forces will increase. Public opinion surveys show that the credibility of the military is increasing and soldiers enjoy high social authority. Under these circumstances, not excessive to calculate the increase of the armies' members.

With the possibilities increase in numbers of soldiers, there will be simultaneously higher demands on the quality of care not only for existing, but especially for newly arrived professional soldiers. That is why the authorities of the Union of Soldiers of the Slovak Republic and the Union of Professional Soldiers of the Army of

the Czech Republic, with the support of their colleagues from Hungary and Poland, are addressing the leadership of the ministries of defense in their countries to start talks on a systemic measure that would anchor the integration of a military professional organization into the structures of the army - armed forces, or that even professional soldiers should be allowed to join a trade union.

Last but not least they also paid attention to the war conflict in Ukraine and the involvement of their armies in the defense of NATO's eastern wing and they have also expressed their support for an early end of the pointless war in Ukraine and the immediate beginning of a peaceful arrangement of relations in Europe.



*COL res. Roman Doba
president of SVP ACR*

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*LTC János Czövek
president of HOSZ*

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*COL Krzysztof JEWGIEJUK
president of Konwent*

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*COL ret. Gabriel Merňák
president of ZV SR*

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