



Trenčín, 4th October 2022

Emmanuel JACOB
President
EUROMIL
Boulevard du Roi Albert II 5
B1 1210- Brussels (Belgium)

Mr. President,

please find included National report of ZV SR by 10th October 2022.

Current main concerns of soldiers in your country (career, social, ...)

The continued participation of professional soldiers of the Slovak Armed Forces in the fulfilment of the operational tasks connected to pandemic COVID-19, together with participation in ensuring the passage of Ukrainian refugees at the border with Ukraine and/or ensuring of those applicants for residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic, significantly affects the lives of soldiers and their families.

In addition, their activity is hampered by participation in the security activities of the reinforced forward presence of NATO in the insufficient number of peace Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic manifested by exhaustion of some soldiers and their commanders.

Above mentioned facts, together with the uncertainty of the situation in the adequate security of increasing inflation, lead to a consistently high number of requests to end a professional career. The recruitment of new soldiers is still lower than the number of applicants for discharge after the end of their military career.

In clubs that operate in a place with a military garrison and that are composed of retired soldiers, there have been cases where the commanders of military facilities terminated the contract with the local club of ZV SR, or increased the renting price in military facilities. This situation I personally consulted with the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, general Daniel Zmeko, who promised to resolve the situation in favor of the ZV SR and its clubs. At the same time, he promised that professional soldiers who were elected to the ZV SR bodies will be allowed to participate in the work of these bodies.

2. Other issues of importance (Ops, association,)

The association held the jubilee 10th Congress, which was due to the pandemic situation of COVID-19 postponed for a year from June 2021. The main outcomes from the congress among others are:

- Approval of the new Statutes of Association.
- Approval of the new Program Development.
- Election of a new president of the association for the next four years, which is from June 16, 2022 Col. Ret. Dipl. Eng. Gabriel Merňák.

The association also commemorated the 30th anniversary of its existence at a ceremonial meeting and honored the most active members of the union's clubs.

After the congress, at the 1st. meeting of the Association Council, which is composed of the presidents of 30 clubs, the issue of lower subsidies from the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic to ensure foreign activity was repeatedly raised, and we are currently considering variants and possibilities of covering the given issue, while the coming energy crisis also complicates the solution.

The Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic created the position of military ombudsman at his office, which is to be filled on January 1st 2023.

To date, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic has not yet ruled on the initiative of the Slovak Parliament through the Ombudsman of the Slovak Republic against the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic regarding the right of soldiers to associate.

3. Work undertaken or attempted by your association and/or Government-MOD to tackle these issues

Shortly after the 10th Congress president of ZV SR met the Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic for discussion on crucial issues pertinent to vital life of the association. Minister of Defense accepted the comments of the association on the draft Agreement on mutual cooperation for the next period, promised to ensure the participation of elected professional soldiers in the negotiations of the association's bodies, as well as assistance in the use of military facilities by members of the association's clubs. However, he again refused to provide a subsidy for the membership fee of ZV SR to EUROMIL. The minister requires that every subsidy from MOD must bring added value for both – ZV SR and MOD/Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic.

The president of the ZV SR subsequently held a meeting with CHOD of the slovak Armed Forces, which promised organizational and personnel support to the upcoming International Military Climb to Kriváň (peak at High Tatras mountains) and the fulfillment of the decisions of the Minister of Defense from the meeting with the president of the ZV SR. In addition, he informed the president about the initiated legislation to increase the salaries of professional soldiers in near future, he promised to personally award the members of the presidium of the association and supported the union's idea to unify civil associations that currently cooperate with the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic in the frame of OZ7+ format under one management.

The ZV SR has joined, by expression of public support, of the initiative of the Association of Retired Policemen to mitigate the negative effects of high inflation, increases in the prices of energy, goods, services and other basic life needs, in the form of valorization of pensions in the general social insurance system, which would fully "apply " also for military pensioners.

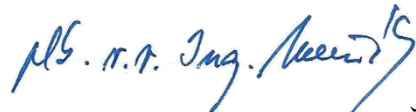
4. Achievements and difficulties

The main achievements are the realization of all the crucial planned association's activities for the year 2022, including the 10th Congress, the ceremonial assembly for the 30th anniversary of the ZV SR founding, the 27th anniversary of the International Military Climb to Kriváň, the signing of an agreement on cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Defense and the promise of both Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic and CHOD of the Slovak Armed Forces to provide ZV SR with help to overcome above-mentioned deficiencies.

We also consider realization of 22nd V4 meeting of representatives of the military organizations in Brno (Czech Republic) as a extraordinary successful with the promising cooperation plans in near future, which is after two years brake due to Covid circumstances very positive outcome. The results will be presented to EUROMIL members by representatives of the Polish organization at the 127th GA of EUROMIL.

We consider as a negative aspect increasing inflation, the upcoming energy crisis, and the repeated reduction of the subsidy of the Slovak Ministry of Defense to cover the association's foreign activities.

Yours sincerely



Col. Ret. Dipl. Eng. Gabriel MERŇÁK
president