



EUROMIL aisbl
(European Organisation of
Military Associations and Trade Unions)
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To Nikos Panagiotopoulos, Minister of National Defence, Greece

Brussels, 10 July 2019

Minister,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your nomination as Minister of National Defence of Greece and wish you success with the manifold national and international challenges that lay ahead of you.

The European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions (EUROMIL) is an umbrella organisation composed of 33 military associations and trade unions from 22 countries. It is the main Europe-wide forum for cooperation among professional military associations on issues of common concern. EUROMIL strives to secure and advance the human rights, fundamental freedoms and socio-professional interests of military personnel of all ranks in Europe and promotes the concept of "Citizen in Uniform". As such, a soldier is entitled to the same rights and obligations as any other citizen. EUROMIL particularly calls for recognition of the right of servicemen and -women to form and join trade unions and independent associations and for their inclusion in a regular social dialogue by the authorities.

EUROMIL counts two Greek associations amongst its members, namely the Hellenic Independent Association of Armed Forces Retired Officers (AN.E.A.E.D) and the Panhellenic Federation of Armed Forces Unions (P.FE.AR.F.U. or ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΑ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΕΝΩΣΕΩΝ ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΩΝ - Π.ΟΜ.ΕΝ.Σ).

Dear Minister, despite international legislation and regulations several European countries do not grant the right to freedom of association to their armed forces personnel. Although this is no longer the case in Greece, EUROMIL believes there is always room for improvement in the relationship between military associations or trade unions and political and military authorities. Indeed, we are convinced that a well-regulated social dialogue based on mutual trust and equal partnership is essential not only for military personnel but for the whole armed forces.

I would thus like to call on you as competent member of the Greek government to maintain a good relationship with the representatives of military associations and improve mechanisms establishing a close collaboration and a well-functioning social dialogue with the representatives of Greek military personnel in order to solve current and future issues.



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EUROMIL remains at your disposal to discuss this or other issues with respect to the human rights, fundamental freedoms or socio-professional interests of military personnel.

We thank you for your kind consideration of this letter you and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Emmanuel Jacob
President