



EUROMIL aisbl

(European Organisation of
Military Associations)

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EUROMIL's position on Military Pensions

About EUROMIL

The European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL) is an umbrella organisation composed of 34 military associations and trade unions from 22 countries, representing 500.000 soldiers and their families. 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.

Background

Due to the financial and economic crisis state budgets are cut down, demographic changes lead to a situation in which the number of older people retiring exceeds the number of younger people entering the workforce: These developments put pension systems all over Europe to a serious test. Not only national governments, but also the European Institutions understood the importance of creating *sustainable* pension systems.

Position EUROMIL

While most public debates make a difference between employees, self-employed and civil servants, the specific situation of security personnel is often not dealt with. This conveys the impression that military pensions are fully integrated in the national pension systems. It is correct that in most of the European countries military pensions are a part of the public services pensions. But in the majority of European states military pensions are managed by specific rules.

As social and professional interests of military personnel do not stop after retirement from the armed forces, EUROMIL promotes fair and sustainable military pension systems.



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In the scope of military pensions, EUROMIL wants to highlight the following items, which should be considered as minimum standards:

- Retired military personnel (as well as their widows and legal dependents) may not be placed at risk of poverty and must be enabled to enjoy a decent standard of living; that they share in the economic well-being of their country and can accordingly participate actively in public, social and cultural life.
- The pensions of retired military personnel must be fixed in such a way that the same living standard as their colleagues in active service can be preserved.
- Considering the specific and demanding requirements of a military career an earlier retirement than the average public servant could be appropriate but should not work to the disadvantage of the retired soldier. Another way of compensation for a demanding career could be special allowances for military personnel that have served in missions abroad. Considering that often military personnel has a limited career (short term contracts or contracts limited in time), it is important that their pension rights can be transferred to another pension system.
- Military personnel that is no longer fully fit to continue a military career on medical, physical or psychological grounds, must be entitled to a claim on a military disability pension.
- Payment of pensions is a responsibility of the Government whereby a fair balance is to be maintained between the active and the retired by not overburdening the former and by maintaining adequate pensions for the latter.
- The principle of equal treatment between men and women must be taken into account in the pension legislation. The fact that more and more man and women have "career breaks", times in which they take care of children or elderly must not have a negative effect on their pension entitlements.