



EUROMIL aisbl

*(European Organisation of
Military Associations)*

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***Statement of EUROMIL at the 116th Presidium Meeting
in Riga (Latvia) on 20 October 2017***

The European Organisation of Military Associations (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.

The member associations of EUROMIL in meeting in Riga (Latvia) for the 116th Presidium, have been informed of the recent developments in Montenegro concerning the termination of contract of several soldiers. EUROMIL's member associations support the message sent by EUROMIL to the Montenegrin authorities on 2 August 2017 and deplore the lack of social dialogue on this issue with the social partner SOVCG.

The member associations represented at the 116th EUROMIL Presidium Meeting have also been informed of the proposition to terminate the service of Lieutenant-Colonel Nenad Čobeljić in the Armed Forces of Montenegro and retire him on short-term. The EUROMIL Presidium is of the opinion that this proposition is no coincidence and that a legal tool has been created and unrightfully used to eliminate Nenad Čobeljić from the Montenegrin Armed Forces and consequently from the leadership of SOVCG.

EUROMIL's Presidium has doubts that this recently adopted new legislation has been introduced in line with the social dialogue with the representative partners. Also, this lack of dialogue can be interpreted as a sign of a prepared action against the trade union leadership.



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Therefore, EUROMIL's 116th Presidium calls on the highest political leadership of Montenegro:

- to stop the imposed retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Nenad Čobeljić;
- to respect the protection that is given to trade union leaders based on the principle that they cannot be 'punished in any way' for their trade union activities protecting the rights of their colleagues;
- to respect the fundamental rights of Lieutenant-Colonel Nenad Čobeljić and those that are represented by him and SOVCG;
- to reinstall the social dialogue with the trade union SOVCG as a fully respected social partner;
- to stop the harassment and witch hunt against the SOVCG leadership.

EUROMIL is offering its constructive collaboration to find an agreement and stop this long-term conflict.

On behalf of the 116th EUROMIL Presidium.

Emmanuel Jacob

President