



## **Consultation with the European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions (EUROMIL) on technology and the human rights of Armed Forces personnel**

27 of October, 10am (CET)

### Background

One of the objectives of the ODIHR's Human Rights, Gender and Security portfolio is to support OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Armed Forces personnel, as reflected in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military aspects of the security. To that end the portfolio aims to ensure that Ministries of Defence, general staff of the armed forces, national human rights institutions and armed forces personnel themselves are more aware of human rights challenges and ways to support the implementation of OSCE commitments on human rights, that they have access to guidance tools, participatory expert meetings and consultations covering gaps and promising developments in laws, policies and practices in OSCE participating States.

To this end, ODIHR published recently a [Human Rights of Armed Forces Personnel: Compendium of Standards, Good Practices and Recommendations](#). Within the framework of freedom of expression, the Compendium identified the new challenges and opportunities related to the use of social media and mobile phones by armed forces personnel. However, new technologies offer many challenges and opportunities to enjoyment of human rights that extend beyond of what was covered in the compendium.

To bridge this gap, ODIHR has produced a draft discussion paper on digital rights and Armed Forces personnel, directed to policy makers, military officials, military ombuds institutions and other key stakeholders in the OSCE region to initiate a discussion on the impact of existing and under development new technologies in this field. To feed into this paper and complement it, ODIHR seeks to hold a consultation on this topic with the European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions (EUROMIL).

### Objective

ODIHR would like to obtain feedback on the draft background paper directly from Armed Forces personnel, who are the key stakeholder on this topic. Additionally, ODIHR seeks to engage in dialogue with EUROMIL members regarding the role of trade unions in defending the human rights of personnel in context of technological developments, and to seek their inputs and recommendations regarding practical and policy responses to safeguarding human rights of the Armed Forces personnel. Recommendations stemming from the meeting will contribute to ODIHRs work on human rights and fundamental freedoms of military personnel.

To this purpose, a brief presentation on the draft background paper will be followed by a plenary discussion, and a guided discussion in breakout sessions in particular aspects of the background paper.

### Guiding questions

- To what extent have the military unions and associations previously encountered the issue of new technologies and human rights of the Armed Forces?
- Through what types of initiatives have your Armed Forces addressed this topic?
- From the perspective of the military unions and associations, what role should ODIHR and other international organizations play on this field?
- How can ODIHR ensure that this background paper becomes a useful tool for those working on the field of new technologies and human rights of the Armed Forces?

### Agenda (TBD)

- 10:00 – 10:10      **Welcome**
- Emmanuel Jacob, President, EUROMIL
  - Jonna Naumanen, Human Rights Gender & Security Officer, ODIHR
- 10:10 – 10:25      **Presentation of the paper**, Susie Alegre, author of the background paper
- 10:25 – 10:50      **Q&A + Plenary discussion**
- Digital enhancement & digital warfare
  - Digital footprints & accountability
- 10:50 – 10:55      **Next steps**, Jonna Naumanen
- 10:55 – 11:00      **Closing remarks**, Emmanuel Jacob