

Statement on Ukraine

On Friday 29 April 2022, EUROMIL's 125th General Assembly in meeting in Trenčín (Slovak Republic) discussed the situation in Ukraine and made the following declaration.

The European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions (EUROMIL) as an umbrella organisation of 32 military associations and trade unions condemns Russia's aggression towards Ukraine and calls for an immediate conflict resolution. To that extent and according to EUROMIL's statute, in the exercise of the functions of the organisation, EUROMIL maintains religious and party-political neutrality.

The current situation in Ukraine, after Russia's attack, is having severe consequences for the whole population. Today, many people are forced to leave their homes and countries, or are being killed in the war. The armed forces of both sides should respect human rights, under the framework of the international law of armed conflicts, to mitigate the disastrous effects of the war. It should also not be forgotten that according to the Geneva Convention, civilians cannot be the target of an armed attack.

A quick and peaceful solution based on diplomatic talks and decisions is urgently needed. EUROMIL calls for negotiations, immediate ceasefire and respect of international law and norm. EUROMIL's statute binds its members together in order to promote the fundamental rights and freedoms in the armed forces of the European countries, and promotes the understanding and friendship between the member associations (article 2 of EUROMIL statute).

However, even if the war ends, Ukrainian people will face many challenges to rebuild their homes, country and return to their pre-war life. Hence, timely discussions focusing on the post-conflict situation in Ukraine are also important. People may experience psychological disorders, as PTSD, when the war is over, and may be facing extreme financial problems to resume their lives. International cooperation and assistance will be crucial.