

2025

Statement of the 131st General Assembly of EUROMIL

Brussels, 9 May 2025 – Europe Day



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On the occasion of Europe Day, and during its 131st General Assembly in Brussels, EUROMIL reaffirms its commitment to the European values of peace, solidarity, democracy, and human rights. This symbolic day reminds us that European unity was born out of a desire to prevent war and to build lasting peace on our continent.

Today, Europe is once again facing complex and evolving security challenges. The need for a strong, coherent, and values-driven European approach to security and defence has never been more urgent. To provide military personnel with the security, clarity, and resources they need to fulfil their mission effectively, Europe must rapidly emancipate itself militarily in the face of uncertainties in transatlantic relations and harden its security architecture.

The women and men in uniform who serve across Europe under national and international mandates are central to the credibility and effectiveness of our collective defence. They are not only instruments of policy; they are citizens in uniform, entitled to the same fundamental rights as those they protect.

EUROMIL calls on European institutions and national governments to ensure that military personnel are fully supported, both in their operational roles and in their rights as workers and human beings. This includes decent working and living conditions, legal protections, access to health and mental health services, and meaningful social dialogue. Investing in defence must go hand in hand with investing in those who serve.

Strengthening the operational environment of military personnel requires Europe to quickly harmonise its defence industry and build capacity, ensuring that forces have timely access to the equipment and resources they need. It also requires building up the best possible compatibility of defence equipment to enhance the safety, efficiency, and interoperability of personnel in multinational operations.

To ease the burden on national forces and create better opportunities for collective success, Europe must push forward military integration, strengthen multinational mixed formations where possible, and promote practical cooperation that fosters interoperability, mutual understanding, leadership culture, and trust among those who serve.

As the voice of European military associations and trade unions, EUROMIL believes that a Europe worth defending is one that defends its defenders. A stronger Europe is not only built through capabilities and structures, but also through solidarity, respect, and recognition for those who serve with commitment and integrity.

On this Europe Day 2025, the members of EUROMIL stand united in their call for a more integrated, fair, and people-centred European defence, one that reflects the values on which the European Union was founded.

For peace. For dignity. For those who serve.



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