

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Ombuds  
Institutions for the Armed Forces  
25. – 28. April 2010, Vienna**



Hosted by the Austrian Parliamentary Commission for the Federal Armed  
Forces – PBHK

in cooperation with the  
Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces - DCAF

## I. Preface

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces, held in Vienna from 25 to 28 April 2010, continues the cooperation process among these independent institutions. The long-term goal is to strengthen the various legal and other framework conditions of these controlling bodies as far as they are already in place, ranging from parliamentary ombuds institutions to institutions embedded in the military, which are responsible for the control of armed forces.

With regard to that, German Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces Reinhold Robbe wrote in his 2009 year's report: "Particularly in view of the fact that in many countries in the world soldiers are still being misused for political purposes and that in many parts of the world the human rights situation of soldiers is catastrophic, international cooperation among the ombuds institutions is of utmost importance."

The focus of this conference which is co-organized by the Parliamentary Austrian Armed Forces Commission and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) is on the role of ombuds institutions in promoting and protecting the human rights of servicemen and servicewomen during peacetime and during military operations as well as on the care they receive after such operations come to an end.

Against this backdrop, the "Vienna Memorandum" serves as the basis for successful country-overarching cooperation in the interest and for the good of the soldiers.

President Anton Gaál  
Executive Chairman of the Austrian Parliamentary Commission  
for the Federal Armed Forces

### III. Conference Programme

#### Sunday, 25 April 2010

- 18.00 Accreditation of the conference members at the "Welcome Desk" in the lounge of Hotel de France, Schottenring 3, 1010 Wien
- 20.00 Dinner reception given by the Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Ambassador Dr. Theodor H. Winkler, at Hotel de France

#### Monday, 26 April 2010

- 09.30 Transfer from Hotel de France to the House of Parliament
- 10.00 Welcome address and opening of the conference by Mag.<sup>a</sup> Barbara Prammer, President of the Austrian National Assembly
- 10.15 Welcoming words by Werner Faymann, Chancellor of the Republic of Austria
- 10.30 Introductory Remarks by President Anton Gaál, Executive Chairman of the Austrian Parliamentary Commission on the Federal Armed Forces
- 10.45 Welcoming words by Ambassador Dr. Theodor H. Winkler, Director DCAF
- 11.00 Welcoming words by Reinhold Robbe, German Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces

Music provided by the Guard Band of the Austrian Armed Forces

- 11.30 Photo opportunity
- 12.00 Lunch buffet in the House of Parliament
- 13.00 Welcoming words by General Mag. Edmund Entacher, Chief of Defence Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces
- 13.15 Citizens in Uniform? Human Rights of Members of Armed Forces - a Comparison  
Lecturer: Hans Born - DCAF
- 13.30 Panel 1: Right to Free Expression of Opinion, Freedom of Association and Freedom of Assembly of Members of Armed Forces  
Lectures: Belgium, Germany, Serbia, Slovenia
- 14.45 Coffee break
- 15.00 Panel 2: Dealing with Diversity in Armed Forces: Gender, Sexual Orientation, Ethnicity and Religion  
Lectures: Argentina, Austria, Lithuania, Great Britain
- 16.30 Panel 3: The Role of Ombuds Institutions in Promoting and Protecting the Human Rights of Members of Armed Forces (I)  
Lectures: Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Ireland, U.S.A.
- 18.00 Transfer to Hotel de France
- 19.15 Departure from Hotel de France

19.30 Dinner Reception given by the Executive Chairman of the Austrian Parliamentary Commission or the Federal Armed Forces, President Anton Gaál in Vienna's Krieau

Tuesday, 27 April 2010

- 09.45 Transfer from Hotel de France to the House of Parliament
- 10.00 Panel 4: The Role of Ombuds Institutions in Promoting and Protecting the Human Rights of Members of Armed Forces (II)  
Lectures: Estonia, Hungary, Finland, Poland
- 11.00 Panel 5: Support for Families of Members of Armed Forces  
Lectures: Austria, Canada, Germany
- 12.00 Walk to Vienna City Hall
- 12.30 Reception given by Prof. Harry Kopietz, First President of the Vienna Province Parliament
- 14.00 Panel 6: Matters Concerning Veterans  
Lectures: Netherlands, Romania, Sweden
- 15.00 Panel 7: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder – PTSD  
Lectures: Canada, Norway, U.S.A.
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Concluding session and discussion concerning further procedures  
Vienna Memorandum  
Chair: President Anton Gaál
- 17.30 Guided tour of the House of Parliament
- 18.15 Transfer to Hotel de France
- 19.30 Departure from Hotel de France
- 20.00 Social Event „Heuriger“

Wednesday, 28 April 2010

- 09.45 Departure from Hotel de France
- 10.30 – 13.00 Guided tour through the Museum of Military History
- 13.00 End of the Conference