

## **Minutes of the 16th European Union Military Secondary Schools Forum (EUMSSF) Meeting Held in Craiova, Romania on 11 December 2024**

### **Introduction**

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Union Military Secondary Schools Forum (EUMSSF) was held on 11 December 2024 in Craiova, Romania, hosted by the "Tudor Vladimirescu" National Military High School (Agenda as Annex A). The meeting, chaired by Colonel Symeon Zambas, brought together representatives from 7 military secondary schools members of the Forum (Annex B).

### **Opening Remarks**

The event was officially opened by the Deputy Commander of Communications and Informatics of the "Tudor Vladimirescu" National Military High School, **Colonel Cristian Aristide Serescu**. In his welcome address, Colonel Serescu emphasized the vital role of collaboration in cultivating the next generation of leaders while promoting shared European values and historical awareness. Tudor Vladimirescu, a Romanian revolutionary hero, was highlighted as a symbol of resilience and dedication, inspiring efforts to shape future European leaders.

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda & Introductory Remarks**

The Chair, Colonel Symeon Zambas, welcomed representatives from military high schools and educational institutions present, underscoring the Forum's dedication to fostering leadership, exchanging best practices, and promoting shared European values among military secondary member schools.

The key messages highlighted the importance of collaboration between military schools in shaping ethical and capable future leaders. Among the primary challenges are combating misinformation, addressing security threats, and strengthening resilience at both national and European levels. Furthermore, it is crucial to bridge the gap created by the younger generation's detachment from wartime experiences and to cultivate a deeper appreciation for Europe's enduring peace and shared values.

### **2. EUMSSF Network: Membership Updates and Introductions of Prospective Members**

Following the presentation by Kiili Gymnasium at the last meeting, the EUMSSF members approved the school for full membership in the Forum. Roc Amsterdam also introduced its military-oriented programs, which combine academic studies with physical challenges, internships, and leadership development. These programs engage students aged 15 to 21 in technical and combat training, preparing them for careers in infantry, engineering, and



logistics (Annex C). Roc Amsterdam's membership in the Forum was accepted following discussions on their alignment with the Forum's objectives.

### **3. Proposal of a Pilot Course Titled EUMSSF Summer School**

A pilot Summer School is planned for June 2025, focusing on military training, martial arts, survival techniques, and leadership development. Romania's National Military High School "Ștefan cel Mare" proposed organising the programme in collaboration with a mountain brigade. It will offer 30 seats, with 15 reserved for international students. The curriculum for this initiative, presented during the meeting, will be submitted for approval at the next Executive Academic Board meeting in February (Annex D).

### **4. EUMSSF Logo**

The Forum members discussed a proposal to hold a logo design competition among member schools as a way to strengthen the group's identity. The idea received broad support, and it was agreed to launch the competition in early 2025.

### **5. 3rd Essay Writing Olympiad: Status Update**

The ESDC training manager presented a quick overview of the timeline, submissions and evaluators for the 3rd Essay Writing Olympiad.

### **6. EUMSSF Meeting Schedule Planning**

Members discussed the schedule for upcoming meetings and decided to hold the next one in Lisbon, back-to-back with the EUMSSF course on EU history and core values, planned for 24-28 March 2025). This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 27 March 2025. The 18th meeting will take place in Brussels tentatively on 11/12 or 15/16 September (tbc), coinciding with the Award Ceremony of the 3rd Writing Essay Olympiad, and potentially including a parliamentary visit.

The Colégio Militar Portuguese representative, Capt. Luís Freire, presented the third edition of the European Union History and Core Values Course, scheduled for 24-28 March in Lisbon, aimed to deepen students' understanding of EU principles, history, and values. Open to secondary school students (15-18 years old) from EUMSSF member institutions, the programme will span five days, starting on Monday morning, with e-learning components to be completed in advance (Annex E).

### **7. Motivate Platform: Motivating Teachers 4 Europe**

Professor Foteini Asderaki, from the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus, introduced the Motivate Platform for teachers and explained how to apply for Erasmus+ funding. She highlighted the programme's benefits as an excellent

opportunity for schools to foster collaboration and expand their networks. Additionally, she extended an invitation to interested teachers to attend a conference in Greece on January 18-19, which will focus on training educators to incorporate EU principles into school curricula (Annex F).

## **8. Erasmus+ Accreditation Process: Rules and Guidelines**

Colonel (AF) Prof. Eng. Cristian-Emil Moldoveanu, PhD (Military Technical Academy "Ferdinand I") presented the guidelines for obtaining Erasmus+ accreditation, emphasizing its benefits for funding and collaboration. Schools were encouraged to apply for simplified processes that ensure stable funding for mobility programs and international partnerships (Annex G).

## **9. Any Other Business (AoB)**

The Chair raised concerns and opportunities regarding the inclusion of topics such as hybrid threats and disinformation in the EUMSSF curricula and activities. The discussion highlighted the potential for engaging students on a more regular basis, with a focus on presenting disinformation campaigns and EU counter-narratives. This will be explored further in future meetings.

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## **Annexes:**

1. Annex A: Annotated Agenda
2. Annex B: Participants List
3. Annex C: Presentation of Roc Amsterdam School
4. Annex D: Curriculum Pilot Course Annual International Military Skills Camp
5. Annex E: Presentation on the course EU history and core values, 24-28 March 2025
6. Annex F: Presentation on Motivate Platform: Motivating Teachers 4 Europe
7. Annex G: Presentation on Erasmus+ Accreditation Process: Rules and Guidelines