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EUROMIL¹ Statement on the Two Greek Soldiers Arrested by Turkey

Since March 2018, two Greek soldiers have been arrested by Turkish authorities after having crossed the Greek-Turkish border during a night-patrol in bad weather conditions. While the patrol team claims they have been tracing footsteps which might have belonged to illegal migrants, the Turkish authorities refuse to release them to Greece on the suspicion of espionage.

EUROMIL calls once again upon

- The Greek and the Turkish authorities to resolve the case by diplomatic means and channels, especially considering their status as NATO allies.
- The Turkish authorities to return the two soldiers without delay to Greece.
- The European authorities to urge Turkey to hand over the patrol guards to Greece and continue investigations via diplomatic ways.

EUROMIL shares the opinion that military personnel in uniform and in execution of their duties, should be granted immunity and that such a conflict should be resolved diplomatically by the affected states.

EUROMIL especially calls upon the EU Defence ministers at their informal meeting on 29-30 August 2018 in Vienna, to issue a joint statement on this case urging the Turkish government to reach an agreement with Greece on the release of the two Greek soldiers.

¹The European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL) is an umbrella organisation composed of 34 military associations and trade unions from 23 countries. It is the main Europe-wide forum for cooperation among professional military associations on issues of common concern. EUROMIL strives to secure and advance the human rights, fundamental freedoms and socio-professional interests of military personnel of all ranks in Europe and promotes the concept of "Citizen in Uniform". As such, a soldier is entitled to the same rights and obligations as any other citizen. EUROMIL particularly calls for recognition of the right of servicemen and -women to form and join trade unions and independent associations and for their inclusion in a regular social dialogue by the authorities.