

Meeting of the ESDC European Union Military Secondary Schools Forum (EUMSSF)

Draft minutes

4th meeting – 23 October 2020 (13.00 - 15.00)
(Virtual)

Venue: WebEx virtual environment
Chair: Lt. Col. Symeon ZAMBAS, CY

1) Welcome and *tour de table*

The ESDC Secretariat welcomed participants; Mr. Ilias Makris from the ESDC introduced the new ESDC Training Manager in charge of supporting the EUMSSF, Mr Simone Coccia; new participants were invited to introduce themselves.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by the members of the Forum.

3) Introductory remarks

The Chair presented the main objectives of the Forum and described in detail the specific tasks of the 4th meeting.

4) New dates for the European Union for Secondary Schools pilot course

The Chair reminded members that following a poll, the majority of respondents had opted to postpone the pilot course to June 2021, mainly due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair presented possible dates for the course in 2021 with a view to reach a common agreement.

The new dates of 28 June – 1 July 2021 were agreed by the Forum.

5) 1st Olympiad: situation update and next steps, including ceremony

The ESDC reminded members of the essay competition deadlines:

- **20 November:** deadline for schools to **collect essays**;
- **18 December:** deadline for schools to submit the **three best essays** to the ESDC/EUMSSF Secretariat with **the names of the two evaluators** (this will end the **first stage** at school level);
- **1 February:** deadline for the jury to **select and rank three winners**.

The Forum **agreed on 7 May 2021** as the date of the special ceremony **awarding** the three winners of the competition.

6) Funding / cooperation opportunities

Mr Yassen Spassov, Policy Officer Erasmus+ from the European Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture briefed the Forum on the new programme for 2021-2027, which has an increased budget, presents more opportunities, is more flexible and also provides the possibility for non-Erasmus-accredited institutions to participate. It was also highlighted that accreditation is simple and provides much more funding and partnership opportunities.

7) Way forward and agenda topics for the next meeting of the EUMSSF

The Chair gave a presentation on the ‘Conference on the future of Europe’ (doc. attached) and ideas for a possible engagement of the EUMSSF to the whole event.

Forum members agreed to hold **the next (5th) meeting of the Forum on 14 January from 13.00 -15.00 in the WebEx virtual environment.**

8) AoB

The Chair briefed the Forum on an email exchange with Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan regarding the possibility of more integrated participation of Afghan personnel in courses and, in particular, the possibility for young Afghan students to study at EU military high schools. The Chair asked schools to examine this possibility.

9) Publicising the EUMSSF’s work

The minutes, agendas, Rules of Procedure and any other relevant documents will be uploaded onto the Military Erasmus webpage at www.emilyo.eu, specifically <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1389>.

To provide a better overview, all **requests** are summarised in the table below:

Request:	Send to:
All the Institutions are invited to express their interest in hosting future meetings.	SECRETARIAT-ESDC@eeas.europa.eu & simone.coccia@eeas.europa.eu ;
All the Institutions are invited to provide information on whether they run a summer school open to participants from other schools.	

All the Institutions are invited to fill in the document attached to the minutes (School semesters), marking in blue and red their **winter and spring/summer academic semesters**. Feel free to create new lines if necessary.

<http://www.emilyo.eu/node/185>

All the Institutions are invited to provide their perspective on the feasibility of hosting Afghan students to study at military high schools.

All the Institutions are invited to express their interest in being appointed as coordinators and/or participating as members in a project under Erasmus+ **no later than 16 November 2020**.

With regards to the 1st Olympiad, all the Institutions are expected to send the three best essays and **appoint two evaluators** no later than **18 November 2020**.

All the Institutions are invited to suggest topics for the agenda of the 5th meeting (14 January 2021) no later than **12 December 2020**.