



European Security and Defence College

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21st European Union Military Secondary Schools Forum Meeting 10-11 September 2026

*SiVi-Sint-Rembert
Torhout, Belgium*

Chair: Colonel Symeon ZAMBAS

Draft Minutes

The Director of SiVi-Sint-Rembert school, Hilde Maertens, welcomed 20 EUMSSF members from 7 EU MS, Ukraine, and Armenia, representing 13 different institutions, to the school's premises, and wished for a fruitful meeting.

The Chair of the EUMSSF, Colonel Symeon Zambas, thanked the SiVi School for hosting an EUMSSF meeting and for organising the wonderful field trip the previous day on the Ypres city and region.

Decision points

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the 21st EUMSSF meeting

The agenda of the meeting was adopted (ESDC/2026/250) and uploaded to the EMILYO website.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 20th EUMSSF meeting

The 20th EUMSSF meeting minutes were approved (ESDC/2026/263) and uploaded to the EMILYO website.

Information points

3. Information by the Chair of the EUMSSF

The Chair informed the Members of recent and upcoming events and activities and gave an update on the *Membership status*.

a. Upcoming Events and activities:

- 1) *EU History and Core Values (19-23 April 2027), Alba Iulia, Romania (Colegiul Național Militar "Mihai Viteazul")*
- 2) *EU Institutions (Pilot) (tbd-May 2027), Bruges-Brussels, Belgium (SiVi)*
- 3) *International Military Skills Camp (25-30 July 2027), Câmpulung Moldovenesc, Romania (Colegiul Național Militar "Ștefan cel Mare")*
- 4) *1st EUMSSF CSDP Olympiad (11-15 October 2027), Paphos, (Cyprus Security and Defence Academy)*

b. EUMSSF Membership Status as of April 2026:

- 1) *18 Members from 10 EU Member States*
- 2) *3 Associate Network Members (ANP) from Ukraine and Armenia*

4. Lecture by the Prof. Bernard SIMAN of the Egmont Institute

Dr. Bernard Siman of the Egmont Institute delivered a presentation on "Cognitive Warfare: Battleground of the Mind" to EUMSSF members, followed by a Q&A session.

5. Information/Presentations by the EUMSSF Institutions

The EUMSSF representatives presented the past and future EUMSSF activities, as follows:

- a. *EU History and Core Values Course, 20-24 April 2026, organised by Collegio Militar, Lisbon, Portugal.*
- b. *International Military Skills Camp organised by the Colegiul Național Militar 'Ștefan cel Mare'" from 26-31 July 2026 in Diham, Romania.*
- c. *EU Institutions Course (Pilot) will be organised by SiVi, May 2027, in Torhout & Brussels, Belgium.*
- d. *EU History and Values Course will be organised by the Colegiul Național Militar "Mihai Viteazul", 19-23 April 2027, in Alba Iulia, Romania.*

6. 1st EUMSSF CSDP Olympiad: Timeline-Regulations.

The Chair informed the members about the regulations of the EUMSSF CSDP Olympiad. The new format consists of an essay competition, a cover page competition, and a knowledge competition in a residential phase.

The Chair, proposed a small change in the draft regulations as show below highlighted in blue: *"In the event that a country which offers to take over the organization of the Olympiad has no EUMSSF member, **a limited number** of chosen secondary schools that are not members of the EUMSSF may be proposed by the host to participate on an exceptional basis, subject to approval by the EUMSSF."*

The regulations will apply in the 1st EUMSSF CSDP Olympiad in Cyprus in October 2027.

The Members approved the proposed change by the chair and the regulations unanimously. They also approved the following 6 topics for the 1st EUMSSF CSDP Olympiad:

- a. The TikTok Trenches: How is Social Media Being Used as a Weapon?
- b. AI and the Future of War: Should Robots Ever Have the Right to Fight?
- c. Climate Change & Conflict: Will the Weather Spark Tomorrow's Wars?
- d. One European Army or 27 Separate Ones: Is True Unity Possible?
- e. Power Plays: What Happens When Energy and Resources Are Used as Weapons?
- f. Defending Democracy: How Can Our Generation Make Europe Safer?

The EUMSSF coordinator presented the timeline and the way forward for the 1st EUMSSF CSDP Olympiad, which will take place in Paphos, Cyprus 11-15 October 2027, as follows:

- a. An email with the approved EUMSSF CSDP Regulations, will be sent to the members after the meeting with the Nominations Form.
- b. Deadline for nominating participants (up to 2 students per school) and evaluators (at least 1 evaluator per school), 16 October 2026.
- c. Beginning of the E-Learning Phase (asynchronous) for the students who will participate in the essay and cover page competition, 19 October 2026.
- d. Deadline for completing the E-Learning Phase, 2 December 2026
- e. Deadline for sending Cover Page proposals and for Essay submission, 29 January 2027.
- f. Essays Evaluation February and March 2027
- g. Adoption of the results of the Essay Evaluation, voting for the winner of the cover page and approval of the list of participants for the Residential Phase, during the 23rd EUMSSF meeting, 22 April 2027, in Alba Iulia Romania.
- h. Residential Phase, in October 2027.

7. 22nd EUMSSF meeting on 4-6 December 2026, Dilijan, Armenia.

The representatives from the Armenian Military-Sports Lyceum gave a presentation regarding the 22nd EUMSSF meeting, which will be held at their premises in Dilijan from 4 to 6 December 2026. The organizers also offered a separate program for students and invited the schools to bring up to two students each.

8. Points for the agenda for the next EUMSSF meeting on 4-6 December 2026

- a. Presentation by the SiVi for the EU Institutions (Pilot) Course.
- b. Presentation by the Colegiul Național Militar "Mihai Viteazul" for the EU History and Values Course.
- c. Discussion on the appointment of a Vice-Chair and strategic communication officer for the EUMSSF.
- d. Members are kindly requested to send any points for the agenda of the next EUMSSF meeting by 16 November 2026.

9. Any Other Business

All relevant documentation has been uploaded to the EMILYO website.

Planned EUMSSF Meetings Academic Year 2026-2027

4-6 December 2026, Dilijan, Armenia

22 April 2027, Alba Iulia, Romania

12 October 2027, Paphos, Cyprus