

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

61, rue Henri Stacquet, B-1030 Bruxelles
Tel: +32 2 215 7908 / Fax: +32 2 245 6297
E-mail: ebco@ebco-beoc.eu / Website: <http://www.ebco-beoc.eu>



PUBLIC STATEMENT

on the submission of the 2007 Report on Conscientious Objection in Europe

24 November 2008

In its 2007 report to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection submitted today evidence on the application by the Member States of the European Parliament's resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service during the calendar year 2007.

The European Bureau for Conscientious Objection reminded the Committee of the Resolution on Conscientious Objection in the Member States of the Community (the Bandrés Molet and Bindi Resolution of 19 January 1994) where the European Parliament «instructs its Committee on Civil Liberties to draw up an annual report on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, and to involve the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection».

The Committee was also reminded of this commitment in a resolution adopted by the Council of Members of the European Youth Forum in Brussels on 9th and 10th November 2007.

As a testimony of the violation of the right to conscientious objection in the European Union, meanwhile recognized also by Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Mr Lazaros Petromelidis, Vice-President of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection and now 16 years under legal persecution by the EU Member State Greece for his conscientious objection to military service, stated: «I hope that before the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees the right of freedom of conscience, religion and thought, the Committee will take action to request from those Members States which still violate the human rights of conscientious objectors the end of every discrimination in this field and the rehabilitation of the conscientious objectors who have been victims of such a violation».

“The European Union has to promote the protection of human rights worldwide and should not allow its Member States to continue the non-respect of such rights by itself”, said Ms Alexia Tsouni, Secretary General of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection after meeting, together with Mr Lazaros Petromelidis, the Chairman of the Committee Mr Gérard Deprez today in Brussels to submit the above-mentioned report.

EBCO was founded in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right, on both a national and an international level. EBCO enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe.