

**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
(WVF)**



22ND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

KIEV (UKRAINE), 26-28 MAY 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

**FIRST CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED PERSONS
VOTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS**

The Standing Committee on European Affairs,

1. **Considering** that a great number of disabilities in either civilian or military communities are the result of wars and conflicts, and that certain countries do not yet have the appropriate mechanisms to protect them;
2. **Noting** that certain countries have not yet signed or ratified the abovementioned convention, which is an important instrument for the protection of persons with disabilities,
3. **Calls upon** WVF member associations to encourage the governments in their countries to sign and/or ratify this international convention.

Recommendation 2

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Standing Committee on European Affairs,

1. **Considering** the shortcomings that still subsist with regard to the health and welfare of veterans and their dependents and victims of war;
2. **Noting** that in certain cases, due to the current global economic crisis, budget cuts affect the health and welfare treatments provided for these groups;
3. **Noting that** ageing only worsens health problems, necessitating an increased number of better quality and more expensive treatments;
4. **Encourages** WVF member associations to put pressure on their respective governments, not only so that they do not take away existing rights but, on the contrary, so that they work to continue to improve health and support services for those who have risked their lives and health in the service of their countries.

Recommendation 3

RELIEF FOR REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The Standing Committee on European Affairs,

1. **Noting** that due to the armed conflicts of the Nineties in former Yugoslavia, there are hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons in the region;

2. **Considering** that the process of return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes has been very slow and absolutely unsatisfactory so far;
3. **Welcomes** the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia held in Belgrade on 25th March 2010, also attended by the officials of the European Union, UNHCR, OSCE and Council of Europe with its main topic of regional cooperation and search for a sustainable solution of the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons and how to intensify cooperation in dealing with this humanitarian problem;
4. **Calls Upon** the governments of countries concerned to urgently undertake all necessary steps and extend assistance for the unhindered return of all refugees and internally displaced persons who so decide, and to take steps without delay for the restoration of their rights making their life sustainable upon return, in the interest of enhancement of good neighbourly relations and stability in the region. Equal access to rights ought to be extended to all, regardless of their present status and regardless of their decision to return or to be locally integrated, in accordance with international standards.

Recommendation 4

AGAINST XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM IN EUROPE

The Standing Committee on European Affairs,

1. **Recalls** the concern expressed by the 26th Assembly of the WVF held in October 2009 in Copenhagen on the development in Europe of xenophobic and racist movements with no respect for Human Rights;
2. **Notes** that these movements have spread to other European countries since then and that the economic and social crisis in Europe is contributing to this proliferation;
3. **Recalls** the positions constantly held by the WVF as a whole, and by the SCEA in particular, on the dangers that such movements represent and the tragedies which they may lead to;
4. **Believes** that the SCEA, which brings together veterans from all ethnic, philosophical and religious horizons who have confronted one another in armed conflict, even recently, to work together to promote mutual understanding and peace provides a constructive example of the path to be followed;
5. **Calls on** member associations in the SCEA to take all possible action to this end in their respective countries on the basis of that example.