

## LETTER TO ALL ERGOMAS MEMBERS

Dear colleagues and friends of ERGOMAS,

I would like to thank you all very much for trusting me for the new presidency of ERGOMAS. I would like to fulfill everyone's expectations since Prof. Yagil Levy, our chairman until now, has set very high standards with the successful Tel-Aviv conference hosted by the Open University of Ra'anana. Most of you know me not only from ERGOMAS activities but also from RC01 where I first participated 20 years ago and the French speaking colleagues from the AISLF military sociology working group. I think that I have already discussed with many of you in the past but I especially remember Mr. Giuseppe Caforio who strongly encouraged me to be candidate and to take the high responsibility of the chairman position for the next two years. It is a great challenge for me, and we will try to do our best to organize 2017 conference in the Hellenic Army Academy in Athens on June 12-16. As for me, when I first became an ERGOMAS member 20 years ago it was only a wishful thinking to organize one day to my country a conference. It is now time to bring the next event in Greece where the values of Democracy, Freedom and the basic principles of Philosophy were born thousands of years ago.

There is no doubt that if Philosophy is considered the king of human sciences, Sociology should be the queen. Most of us are teachers of Military Sociology or researchers in very famous Military Institutes, Faculties, Schools and research institutions and we can understand the importance of our charge to promote with our congresses social research in the important area for several reasons: First of all because the soldiers are part of us, of our society so we have the duty to understand their particularities in order to make them more open and useful for us and our security. We must remember that their duty is to guarantee our security. A much more important reason is to help improving the army function because we must not forget that militaries are managing with human factor. Half of the army is guns but the other half is human. As a Sociologist I would even say the second half is superior, and I say this because, in order to convince society to follow up to a war of justice and freedom, a strong and healthy relationship between the soldiers and their leader is essential. A leader must be able to show the right path and prove the point of a war. As Homer wrote about 3 000 years ago in the Odyssey, Ulysses' companions follow him until the end because he was the perfect leader for them and managed to lead them to a justified war.

Sociology is not only theory but can propose actions for making to improve our everyday life on this planet. It is essentially based on the observation of events. These social events among militaries are tools to make theories and then to see if there is something to do about them. Not only us but each and everyone has the scientific duty to contribute to something new, which can be useful for a good relationship between army and society. This is the main reason we are here and the main reason that Sociology, the Queen of Social Sciences as I said previously, after about two centuries of existence has been specialized to Military Sociology.

As many past chairman have ever underlined we are entering a new era in the relations between the military and the general society, and we must try to conceptualize these changes. I am looking forward to mapping these

developments with all of you in our conference in Athens that will be hosted by one of the biggest Army Academies from the point of view of number of cadets (1100 Cadets, 250 officers, 180 teachers), the Hellenic Army Academy on June 2017. Our Academy founded in 1828 by the first governor of the kingdom of Greece John Capodistrias has already about two centuries of glory history and blood of cadets and officers death during past wars for Freedom and Democracy. I think it is time to make there our conference in order to improve in these very difficult crisis years for Greece the willing to study more and more the most unknown thing for sciences until today which is the Human being. I can propose a title for this conference: *Army and Society: A strong relationship in the past, challenges and perspectives for the future; what military sociologists have done for this?*

I have the promise of our General Commander Dimitrios Reskos and our Academy Dean Dr Andreas Dimitriou, my Greek colleagues, my cadets who cannot wait to see it, that they will totally support this effort to host one scientific event, under the Athenian blue sky and the shadow of the Parthenon. Our great expectation is to make this upcoming conference the best ever hosted until one of us in the future makes a better one.

I hope that I have expressed your acceptance to lead for this conference and assume the President's responsibility; I would like to thank you for your attention and say that we are waiting you in Athens nearby the Aegean blue sea and our hot summer sun to enlighten more sociological research among militaries.

Thank you

Georges Kaffes

Assoc. Professor of Military Sociology

Hellenic Army Academy

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