

To :

Honorary Major-General Alojz ŠTEINER

General, dear Alojz,

I hope that you are doing well and that you are safe in these complex times of COVID-19.

To inform you that after my tenure as ChoD of Luxembourg, I joined the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs thereafter to act as military adviser to the permanent mission of Luxembourg to the UN in New York and to the permanent mission of Luxembourg to the Political and Security Committee (PSC), EU in Brussels.

In June 2016, I took over the function of strategic adviser to the CEO of LuxGovSat S.A., a private-public venture between the Luxembourg Government and the global satellite operator SES (in the domain of governmental satellite communications) and a second advisory function to the Vice-President, Strategy and Corporate Development of Cargolux S.A. (in the domain of strategic airlift operations).

You might be surprised of my “coming back” to you after this long time, but I was informed, during one of my business trips in the domain of satellite communications to Slovenia, that you are chairing the officers association in Slovenia.

Indeed, in another capacity, I am General President of the Inter-Nations Coordination Commission of Mars & Mercury Europe, chairmanship I took over in 2019.

You might be aware of Mars & Mercury.

Indeed, in the aftermath of the Great War, former officers and reserve officers wished to maintain frequent contacts, in Belgium and abroad, between men determined to apply the spirit of righteousness and mutual esteem in their business relationships. learned under arms. They wanted to make all their skills and business relationships available. Thus, in 1926, the first Circle Mars & Mercury was created in Belgium. One of the goals of Mars & Mercury was to allow officers, having served in the Belgian army, to obtain a job thanks to the help of direct or indirect points of contact with comrades who were lucky to have found a consistent job in the civilian world. This same situation arose again after World War II. Circles of the same ideology were subsequently created in France (1958) and Germany (1959). In 1960, the German, Belgian and French circles signed an agreement establishing the “Commission de Liaison Inter-Nations Mars & Mercure” (CLIMM).

The purpose of this Commission was to promote the establishment of close cooperation links between national Circles of Mars & Mercury in order to study any question, to identify the means likely to increase the effectiveness of their action and to contribute to the development of the professional activity of their members at the international level. Other Circles were created later, in the Netherlands (1960), in Denmark and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg (1975), circles associating to the CLIMM. In 1991, the CLIMM was renamed Mars & Mercury Europe, which intention is to act as an “Inter-Nations Coordination Commission”. Joined thereafter Switzerland and Spain in 1999, and Poland in 2004.

At the time being, Mars & Mercury Circles are established in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

Today, the main purpose of Mars & Mercury is to rally those that have hold or are holding positions as an officer in armed forces and cover responsible functions in society, e.a within the industry, banking, trade, services, consultancy and government, and to exchange on knowledge, experiences and opportunities.

The Inter-Nations Coordination Commission aims to broaden this European community towards new European countries, in particular Slovenia.

So, I would like to seek introductions to boards of associations of reserve officers or active officers to potentially allow to establish a national Circle of Mars & Mercury in Slovenia.

I know that COVID-19 is not easeing things, but I hope that you can support this initiative and I look forward to develop this further with you, if you are interested in the matter. It really would strengthen the bonds of our both nations and Europe.

I put the members of the Executive Board of Mars & Mercury Europe on Cc of this message.

With my kind regards and I am looking forward to hear from you.

Gaston

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