

SWEDEN**Section I – Impact assessment**

I.1 Has an authority been assigned as responsible for the implementation of the Recommendation? If so, which? Yes No

The Government Offices are responsible for recommendations made within the framework of international organisations, such as the European Council.

I.2 How would you assess the impact of the recommendation on the human rights of members of the armed forces in your country? Please explain your reply.

Fully satisfactory Adequate Insufficient Absent

Human rights are a cornerstone in the Swedish constitution and legislation. The members of the Swedish Armed Forces enjoy all the rights and protection that are mentioned in the Recommendation. The Recommendation was therefore already fulfilled in Sweden when it was adopted by the Committee of Ministers. Because of this, although the Recommendation has served as a useful reminder on this important topic, it is hard to say that it has had any special impact.

I.3 Have specific measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights of members of armed forces been adopted after and pursuant to the adoption of the Recommendation? If so, please provide examples. Yes No

I.4 Which obstacles, if any, have been encountered in the implementation of the Recommendation?

See answer under I.2.

Section II – Dissemination of the Recommendation

II.1 Has an authority been assigned as responsible for the dissemination of the Recommendation? If so, which? Yes No

See answer under I.2.

II.2 Have specific events been organised to ensure the dissemination of the Recommendation? If so, please provide examples. Yes No

II.3 Which obstacles, if any, have been encountered in the dissemination of the Recommendation?

See answer under I.2.

II.4 To which authorities has the Recommendation been distributed?

Swedish authorities are to follow Swedish law and regulations. The Recommendation has therefore not been distributed to any authorities. The Government Offices are responsible for deeming if there is a need for revised legislation. As has been stated under I.2 the Recommendation is deemed to be fulfilled in Sweden.

II.5 Has the Recommendation been distributed to members of the armed forces? Yes No

II.6 Has the Recommendation been translated? Yes No

II.7 If not, is this foreseen? Yes No

II.8 How would you assess the visibility of the Recommendation?
Fully satisfactory Adequate Insufficient Absent

Section III – Implementation of specific provisions

A - Right to life

A.1 Are there measures in place to ensure an independent and effective investigation into suspicious deaths or alleged violations of the right to life of a member of the armed forces? Yes No

A.2 Are there measures in place to encourage reporting of acts inconsistent with the right to life and to protect those reporting such acts against retaliation? Yes No

A.3 Please provide information about the legal framework of such measures and examples of the measures in place. If the reply to one or more of the questions above is “NO”, please explain why such measures are not in place and whether any measure is in preparation.

There is no difference between suspicious deaths and alleged violations to the right to life of members of the armed forces or of others. Suspected crimes are to be reported to the police.

B – Torture and other forms of ill-treatment

B.1 Are there measures in place to protect members of the armed forces from torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment? Yes No

B.2 Are there specific measures in place for more vulnerable categories, such as conscripts? Yes No

B.3 Are there measures in place to ensure an independent and effective investigation into alleged acts of torture or other ill-treatment, or when the authorities have reasonable grounds to suspect that such acts have occurred? Yes No

B.4 Are there measures in place to encourage reporting of acts of torture or other ill-treatment and to protect those reporting such acts against retaliation? Yes No

B.5 Please provide information about the legal framework of such measures and examples of the measures in place. If the reply to one or more of the questions above is “NO”, please explain why such measures are not in place and whether any measure is in preparation.

Military service is not compulsory in Sweden since 1 July 2010. However, see answer under C.1. There were special measures in place for conscripts. These measures will be applied if the system with compulsory service would be reinstated.

Torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment is prohibited by law. The Swedish Armed Forces, as all governmental authorities, has a specific commission on staff liability that handles labour related matters about discipline, suspension, dismissal or discharge. The commission's decisions can result in a warning, a salary deduction, a dismissal or a discharge. The commission is to report a matter to the police if a misconduct is likely to render more than a fine.

C – Forced or compulsory labour

C.1 Is military service compulsory? If so, please indicate whether it is possible to exact an alternative service instead of compulsory military service, and which are the differences in nature and duration of such service? Yes No

Military service is not compulsory in Sweden since 1 July 2010. There is however a possibility for the Government to decide that compulsory military service shall be used if there is a need due to Swedish defence preparedness. This is regulated in the National Total Defence Act (1994:1809).

D – Military Discipline

D.1 Is there a clear legal framework in place governing military discipline in accordance with paragraphs 19-21 of the Appendix to the Recommendation? If so, please indicate a reference to the relevant legal framework. If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

Lagen (1994:1811) om disciplinansvar inom totalförsvaret, m.m. (Act on Disciplinary Liability within the Total Defence) with corresponding ordinance (1995:241) govern issues concerning military discipline. Possible disciplinary sanctions according to the law are warning, extra duty and salary deduction.

E- Right to liberty and security

E.1 Is there a procedure prescribed by law dealing with the deprivation of liberty of members of the armed forces? Yes No

E.2 Is it lawful to detain members of armed forces under the age of 18? Yes No

E.2.1 If so, do detention conditions comply with the conditions set out in Paragraph 23 of the Appendix to the Recommendation? Yes No

E.2.2 If the reply to question E.2.1 is "NO", please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation.

E.3 Are there any limitations or exceptions to the guarantees set out in Paragraphs 24 to 27 of the Appendix to the Recommendation possible? If so, please specify. Yes No

F- Right to a fair trial

F.1 In matters that qualify as criminal under the European Convention on Human Rights, do members of the armed forces enjoy procedural rights and safeguards to the same extent as in criminal proceedings against civilians, in accordance with Paragraphs 28, 30 and 31 of the Appendix to the Recommendation? If not, please explain why and Yes No

whether any measure is in preparation in this area.

F.2 Is there a clear legal framework setting out limitations or exclusions to the right to have access to a tribunal for the determination of members of the armed forces' civil rights and obligations? If any, please provide examples of such limitations or exclusions. Yes No

F.3 Does your country have military courts? Yes No

F.3.1 If so, are they separate from the chain of command? Yes No

F.3.2 If the reply to question F.3 is "yes", are there differences in the organisation and operation of military courts, in comparison with civil courts, in particular as regards the procedural safeguards set out in Paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Appendix to the Recommendation? Yes No

G – Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence

G.1 Are there measures in place to ensure that conscripts are posted near their family and home, and that posting of professional members far from their family and home is not used as a disciplinary punishment? Yes No

Comment: Concerning conscripts, see answer under C.1. Concerning disciplinary punishment, see answer under B.5 and D.1. Posting cannot be used as a disciplinary punishment.

G.2 Are there measures in place to ensure that members of the armed forces posted abroad are able to maintain private contacts? Yes No

G.3 Are there assistance programmes in place for those accompanying the members of the armed forces posted abroad? Yes No

G.4 Can members of the armed forces enjoy parental leave, childcare benefits, access to nursery schools and adequate children's health and educational systems? If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

G.5 Where appropriate, please provide examples of good practices regarding the right of members of armed forces to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, in accordance with section "G" of the Appendix to the Recommendation.

H – Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

H.1 Are there measures in place to allow all members of armed forces to comply, as much as possible, with their religious obligations? If so, please provide examples. If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

H.2 Do conscripts have the rights to be granted conscientious objector status? Yes No

H.2.1 If so, is an alternative service of a civilian nature available? Yes No

H.2.2 If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation.

H.3 Are conscientious objectors exposed to sanctions, disciplinary measures or judicial prosecutions? Yes No

H.4 Can professional members of the armed forces leave the armed forces for reasons of conscience? If so, please explain the conditions and the procedure, and in particular whether the requests can be reviewed by an independent and impartial authority. If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

H.5 Are there measures in place to ensure that conscripts and members of the armed forces are informed, respectively, of the right to be granted conscientious objector status and to leave the armed forces for reasons of conscience and of the procedures available to exercise these rights? Yes No

H.6 Where appropriate, please provide examples of good practices regarding the right of members of armed forces to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, in accordance with section "H" of the Appendix to the Recommendation.

I – Freedom of expression

I.1 Is there a clear legal framework setting out formalities, conditions and restrictions to the right to freedom of expression for the members of armed forces? Yes No

I.2 If so, please briefly present it, by providing in particular examples of restrictions to the right to freedom of expression.

The freedom of expression is guaranteed in the Swedish constitution. Restrictions regarding the freedom of expression when it concerns classified information are regulated in the Instrument of Government, the Freedom of the Press Act, the Fundamental Law on the Freedom of Expression, the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400) and the Criminal Code.

J – Right to access to relevant information

J.1 Are there measures in place to ensure that full and detailed information about recruitment in the armed forces and commitments resulting therefrom are provided to potential recruits? Yes No

J.2 Can former and current members of armed forces have access to their own personal data, including medical records and information regarding exposure to situations potentially hazardous to their health? Yes No

J.3 If so, are there restrictions to this right of access? Please provide examples, if any. Yes No

Medical records might be classified in the own interest of the individual if he or she is undergoing a medical treatment and if it, with respect to the purpose of the treatment is of vital importance that the information is not given to him or her. This is regulated in the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400).

K – Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

K.1 Can members of the armed forces join lawfully established military associations or trade unions? If so, please indicate the conditions and eventual restrictions to this right. If not, please explain why and whether any measure to review or lift the existing restrictions or prohibitions is in preparation. Yes No

The right to join associations and trade unions is guaranteed in the Swedish constitution. There are no restrictions.

K.2 Can members of the armed forces join political parties? If so, please indicate the conditions and eventual restrictions to this right. If not, please explain why and whether any measure to review or lift the existing restrictions or prohibitions is in preparation. Yes No

There are no restrictions.

L – Right to vote and to stand for election

L.1 Are there any restrictions on the electoral rights of members of the armed forces and on membership in the armed forces during a member's candidacy or term of office? If so, please provide examples. Yes No

M- Right to marry

M.1 Do members of the armed forces enjoy the right to marry and to form civil partnership in the same terms as civilians? If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

N – Right to protection of property

N.1 Are there measures in place to ensure that the property of members of armed forces, including conscripts, if retained upon joining the armed forces, is returned at the end of military service? Yes No

Comment: The property of members of the armed forces is not retained upon joining the armed forces.

O – Accommodation

O.1 Are there measures in place to ensure adequate accommodation for members of armed forces and their families, both on the national territory and abroad?

Yes No

Comment: Accommodation is offered to those who undergo basic military training. There are no special measures regarding accommodation for hired personnel and their families in Sweden. There are special measures for personnel on missions abroad.

O.2 Where accommodation is provided in barracks, are there separate dormitories for women and men? Yes No

P – Remuneration and pension

P.1 Do professional members of the armed forces receive remuneration giving them a decent standard of living and an adequate retirement pension? Yes No

P.2 Are there measures in place to ensure that men and women in the armed forces are entitled to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value? If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

Q – Right to dignity, health protection and security at work

Q.1 Are there specific measures in place to protect the dignity at work of members of armed forces, in particular as regards the prevention of sexual harassment? If so, please indicate the relevant legal framework and provide examples. If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

The Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination related to a person's sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age. The Work Environment Act contains rules on the obligations of employers on the prevention of illness and accidents at work. The Swedish Armed Forces is working actively, for example through information campaigns, in order to combat discrimination. - See also answer under V.1.

Q.2 Is medical care provided during and as a result of military operations free of charge for the servicepersons? Yes No

Q.3 Are there allowances or compensation schemes available for members of the armed forces obliged to leave the armed forces because of an injury resulting from the exercise of military duties, or in case of death in service? Yes No

Q.4 Where appropriate, please provide examples of good practices regarding the right of members of armed forces to dignity, health protection and security at work, in accordance with section "Q" of the Appendix to the Recommendation.

R – Nutrition

R.1 Are there measures in place to ensure that members of the armed forces enjoy the right to decent and sufficient nutrition in accordance with section "R" of the Appendix to the Recommendation? Where appropriate, please provide examples of good practices. Yes No

S – Non-discrimination

S.1 Are there measures in place to ensure that members of armed forces enjoy their rights and freedoms without any discrimination, in accordance with section "S" of the Appendix to the Recommendation? Where appropriate, please provide examples of good practices. Yes No

S.2 Are there any limitations to the access of women to the armed forces, or to particular types of occupational activities within the armed forces? If so, please provide examples. Yes No

S.3 Can sexual orientation constitute a ground to prevent access to the armed forces, or for discharge? Yes No

T – Persons under the age of 18 enlisted in the armed forces

T.1 Does your legislation allow the voluntary recruitment into the armed forces of persons under the age of 18? Yes No

T.2 If so, are there measures in place to ensure the full information about the duties involved and the informed consent of these persons and of their parents or legal guardians? Yes No

T.3 Are there special measures in place to protect the physical and psychological welfare of these persons? Yes No

T.4 Can these persons take an active part in the hostilities? Yes No

U – Training

U.1 Are training activities aimed at increasing the knowledge of human rights by members of armed forces in place? If so, please indicate by whom are such training activities carried out. Yes No

The Swedish Armed Forces and the Swedish National Defence College

U.1.1. If the reply to question U.1 is “YES”:

U.1.1.1 Is international human rights law part of the training programme? Yes No

U.1.1.2 Are the human rights of the members of armed forces themselves part of the training programme? Yes No

U.1.1.3 Are prevention of ill-treatment and discrimination part of the training programme? Yes No

U.1.1.4 Is international humanitarian law, including the duties mentioned in paragraph 84 of the Appendix to the Recommendation, part of the training programme? Yes No

U.1.2 If the reply to question U.1 is “NO”, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation.

V – Allegations of human rights violations

V.1 Are there measures in place to ensure that members of the armed forces have the right to bring allegations of human rights violations, in particular of discrimination, harassment and bullying, before an independent body? If so, please indicate to which authorities can such allegations be brought and which is the procedure. If not, please explain why and whether any measure is in preparation. Yes No

Allegations of human rights violations that constitute a crime can be reported to the police. Allegations of discrimination, harassment etc. can be reported to the Equality Ombudsman (DO). DO is a government agency that seeks to combat discrimination on grounds of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age. Allegations of discrimination, harassment etc. can also be reported to the Office of the Chancellor of Justice and the Parliamentary Ombudsmen.

Section IV - Follow-up

IV.1 Which measures would you recommend to ensure that the principles set out in the Recommendation and in its Appendix are complied with in national legislation and practice?

IV.2 Should the Council of Europe continue examining periodically the implementation of this Recommendation? If so, should such examination in future concentrate on specific issues, and which specific issues would you recommend examining in that case?

Possible future examination of the implementation of the Recommendation should focus on the issues which this follow-up indicates have the most shortcomings in terms of implementation.

IV.3 Are there any issues on which the Recommendation and its Appendix should be revised or completed? If so, please indicate them.