

Annual report CIOR 2009

Events during the year in chronological order:

1. Briefing to NATO-MC
2. Seminar (Wesseling, DEU)
3. MidWinterMeeting (MWM) (Brussels, BEL)
4. InBetweenMeeting (IBM) NLD2 (Rotterdam, NLD)
- ~~5. YROS~~
6. Unveiling Monument + NATO-SG (Brussels, BEL)
7. CIOR Language Academy (CLA) 2009 (BGR)
8. Summercongress (Sofia, BGR)
 - Symposium (see annex for report)
 - Military Competition
 - YROW
 - Council
9. Partnership for Peace Seminar (PfP) (Brdo, SVN)
10. InBetweenMeeting (IBM) NLD3 (Breda, NLD)

1. This year (as opposed to last year) the President managed, together with the chairman of NRFC, to brief the NATO-MC on the subject of reserves in general and on the activities of CIOR in particular.
2. The subject of the 2009 Seminar was "NATO's 60th Anniversary". As usual the seminar was well attended with 61 participants from 23 nations. Topics included: History, Future, Afghanistan, NATO Summit, Enlargement. These subjects were presented by high level speakers from the military and the political and from the media.
3. Immediately following the Seminar, the MWM took place as usual in NATO HQ in Brussels with some 250 participants. The CIOR Council, all committees and all working groups had their own meetings to prepare future activities and to finalize reports. Plenary sessions opened and closed the MWM. Decisions taken included the postponement of ratification of the CIOR Presidency for the period 2012-2014, the refusal of the application by a reserve association from Cyprus and the continuation of the membership of the association from Luxembourg. Also we said farewell to the Permanent Representative (and Former CIOR President) LtCol Eric Thiry (BEL).
4. The IBM (the 2nd of the Dutch Presidency) in Rotterdam was attended by all committee-chairpersons and a number of VP's and ASG's. About 30 guests in total. This meeting was held to coordinate activities in the Summercongress. In particular the procedure for determining candidates

for future CIOR Presidencies was discussed and this resulted in the drafting of an SOP.

5. The YROS did not take place this year. Several calls for hosting the event were made, but no offers from countries in the "target region" came. Spain and Switzerland offer to host the YRO-Seminar in 2010, but these are outside the "target region". As part of the Summercongress in Sofia there is the YRO-Workshop, so within the "target region", which made it more acceptable to cancel the YRO-Seminar this year. For 2010, when the Summercongress will take place in Norway, it is more important to have a YROS.
6. On May 18th 2009 we finally managed to unveil the monument commemorating 60 years of CIOR. This monument is located at the premises of the NATO HQ in Brussels. This was followed by a seminar featuring three speakers: 1. a member of the NLD Parliament (currently a member of the European parliament), mr. (and reserve-colonel) Hans van Baalen; 2. a speaker on behalf of SHAPE, LtCdr G. Christofori (ITA) and 3. The Secretary-General of NATO, Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. There were about 210 participants (all reserve-officers) from 13 different nations, although the large majority was from The Netherlands.
7. Like last year the CLA took place in the same country as where the Summercongress took place, but this time immediately preceding the Congress. A number of 90 students followed courses in either French or English at different levels. Unique this year was the graduation ceremony, which took place at the Congress location in Sofia with the CIOR Council as audience.
8. The biggest yearly CIOR event is the Summercongress, this year in Sofia in Bulgaria. Apart from plenary opening and closing sessions, a number of parallel activities took place:
 - Symposium. Theme: Recruitment and Retention of Reserves. Main conclusion: involve employers and explain values.
 - Military Competition.
 - YROW. Theme: Recruitment and Retention and impact on NATO Operations. 43 participants from 15 nations. Before YROW 10 of the participants intended to deploy within the next 2 years. After YROW 35 participants said they were motivated to deploy.
 - Also the CIOR Council (comprising all member nations represented by the Vice-Presidents) and the committees had their own meetings during this congress. Important issues were the formal appointment of Cap(N) Jacques de Decker as Permanent Representative, the formal acceptance of the Association of Reserve Brigades as Member of the Czech Republic, the change in status from Associate to Member for the associations from Albania and Croatia and the designation of France for the CIOR Presidency 2012-2014. Some changes in the constitution were approved and a start was made to make the CIOR Organization

more flexible and more effective by setting up two Working Groups that would report at the next IBM.

- The planned Media Workshop had to be cancelled due to lack of participants (only 4 persons registered for this event).
 - Especially worth mentioning is the fact that MGen Hultman was rewarded for all his contributions to CIOR by awarding him the title Honorary President of CIOR.
9. The PfP seminar held in Brdo (Slovenia) was organized by the Slovenian Officers Association in cooperation with the CIOR PfP-Committee. The President CIOR attended this event in October 2009. There were 64 participants, half of them from the host nation, the rest from 10 other nations.
10. The third IBM of the Dutch Presidency took place in Breda and was attended by 35 guests. The president had individual talks with all chairpersons. The VP's that attended discussed strategic issues in particular the need to change CIOR in order to survive. The 2 Working Groups installed at the Sofia Congress made their reports and this resulted in a frank discussion in which it became clear that there are a lot of different opinions on how the future of CIOR should look like. A number of controversies arose and a great number of issues did not reach consensus, but we feel that we are still one team aiming for the good of CIOR. Other issues covered were planning the MWM (February 2010, Brussels, BEL) and the Summercongress (August 2010, Stavanger, NOR).

Achievements

- Successful Winter Seminar, giving participating reserve-officers an overview of geopolitical issues and vital defence and security issues, thereby giving them a better insight in NATO-policies.
- A successful Symposium and a successful YROW, both part of the Summercongress.
- Successful Language Academy, giving reserve-officers the possibility to improve significantly their language skills, thereby readying them for future deployment in a NATO-environment.
- Resolving the issue of the CIOR Presidency in the period 2012-2014. For the first time in CIOR history a decision on this subject could not be reached by unanimous consensus, but a vote had to take place.
- Frank discussion on future of CIOR.
- A further reduction in costs for participants by not only hosting the IBM's in military facilities, but also offering accommodation in the barracks.

Challenges for the Future

- Handover of the CIOR Presidency from the Netherlands to Norway.
- Discussion on Statutes and By-Laws, implementing necessary changes to the Organisation of CIOR in order to survive.
- Increasing the number of Observers and Associate Members of CIOR.
- Organizing the YRO-Seminar (planned to take place in the Czech Republic in April 2010).
- Organizing the Symposium at the Summercongress in a different format (Symposium day early in the Summercongress, not at the end) in order to get more tangible results.