

**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION**

18th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Nicosia, 5-10 October 2002

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

Submitted by  
the Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe of the SCEA

**ASSISTANCE TO WAR VETERANS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

The Standing Committee on European Affairs,

1. **Considering** that in several countries in Central and Eastern Europe, despite overall positive changes in legislation concerning economic matters, that the situation of war veterans has only improved a little and quite often deteriorated;
2. **Recalling** that in some of these countries there are neither laws nor regulations covering the war veterans and therefore they are not included in the social, healthcare and material subsistence schemes;
3. **Recalling further** that none of the 5 countries of this region (Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine) where soldiers served the UN Peacekeeping operations, has adapted the legislation on war veterans to include this category of personnel;
4. **Taking note** that in some countries of the former Soviet Union the soldiers who took part in the war in Afghanistan have not been formally recognized as war veterans;

5. ***Keeping in mind*** that while the economy in most of these countries is growing, in several instances the rights and privileges, including the ones concerning the health care, are being curtailed, frozen or withdrawn;
6. ***Recommends*** to the governments that war veterans living in these countries should enjoy overall care irrespective of the armies in which they served;
7. ***Recommends further*** to the WVF Executive Board to consider forms and ways of support to enable representation of WVF member veterans organizations from Central and Eastern Europe to participate in WVF General Assemblies, conferences and meetings;
8. ***Urges*** the WVF Secretary - General to appeal, in agreement and cooperation with relevant international institutions including the UN, to the governments and parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe countries to act in accordance with the legislation concerning War Veterans.