

# INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SPORT COUNCIL (CISM)



**CISM EUROPE**  
International Military Sports Council

## CISM VICE PRESIDENT EUROPE

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Dear Military Representatives and interested readers in Europe!

As CISM Vice President for Europe, I am pleased to be able to introduce you to our military sports organization "Conseil International du Sport Militaire" (CISM). I will of course put the focus on our very active European continent in CISM.

The International Military Sports Council, known by its french acronym "CISM", is an international sports association composed of the armed forces of member nations accepted by the General Assembly. CISM is open to the Armed Forces of all nations and officially recognised by the United Nations (UN).

The aims of CISM are to develop friendly relations between the Armed Forces of member nations, promote physical education and sports activities, promote mutual technical assistance and support for less privileged members in the name of friendship and solidarity. This includes also our new challenges the inclusion of injured soldiers, whether they are permanently wounded abroad or at home.

CISM as the major worldwide International Military Sport Organization and we as European continent aims to bring together Armed Forces personnel from all nations in the field of sports. Furthermore we should all contribute to international efforts for universal peace.

Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dirk Schwede". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Colonel (GS) Dirk Schwede (GER)

CISM Vice President Europe

## BACKGROUND CISM



### CISM

The International Military Sports Council (CISM) is an international sports association composed of the Armed Forces of member nations accepted by the General Assembly. CISM is open to the Armed Forces of all nations officially recognised by the United Nations (UN). The fundamental aim of CISM is to promote sport activities and physical education between Armed Forces as a means to foster Peace in the World. This ideal is enclosed in the CISM motto "FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPORT".

### BACKGROUND

CISM was founded on 18 February 1948 in Nice, France. The five founding nations were Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

In the aftermath of World War I, an American, General John Pershing, recognized the need to breakdown linguistic and cultural barriers and promote friendship and morale among soldiers of Allied Forces. As a result, he established the Allied Forces Sports Council in 1919 and organized the first international military sport event, the Inter Allied Games, in France. These games involved 18 nations from five continents and 1500 athletes in 24 sports.

Following the World War II, the Allied Forces Sports Council was revived and the second Inter Allied Games were held in 1946 in Berlin. Most notably, allies from Western and Eastern Europe competed in harmony. Unfortunately, because of political disagreements, the Allied Forces Sports Council was extinguished in 1947. However, the ideal was rekindled the following year with the founding of CISM and the rise of a global vision.

### SCOPE AND ACTIVITY

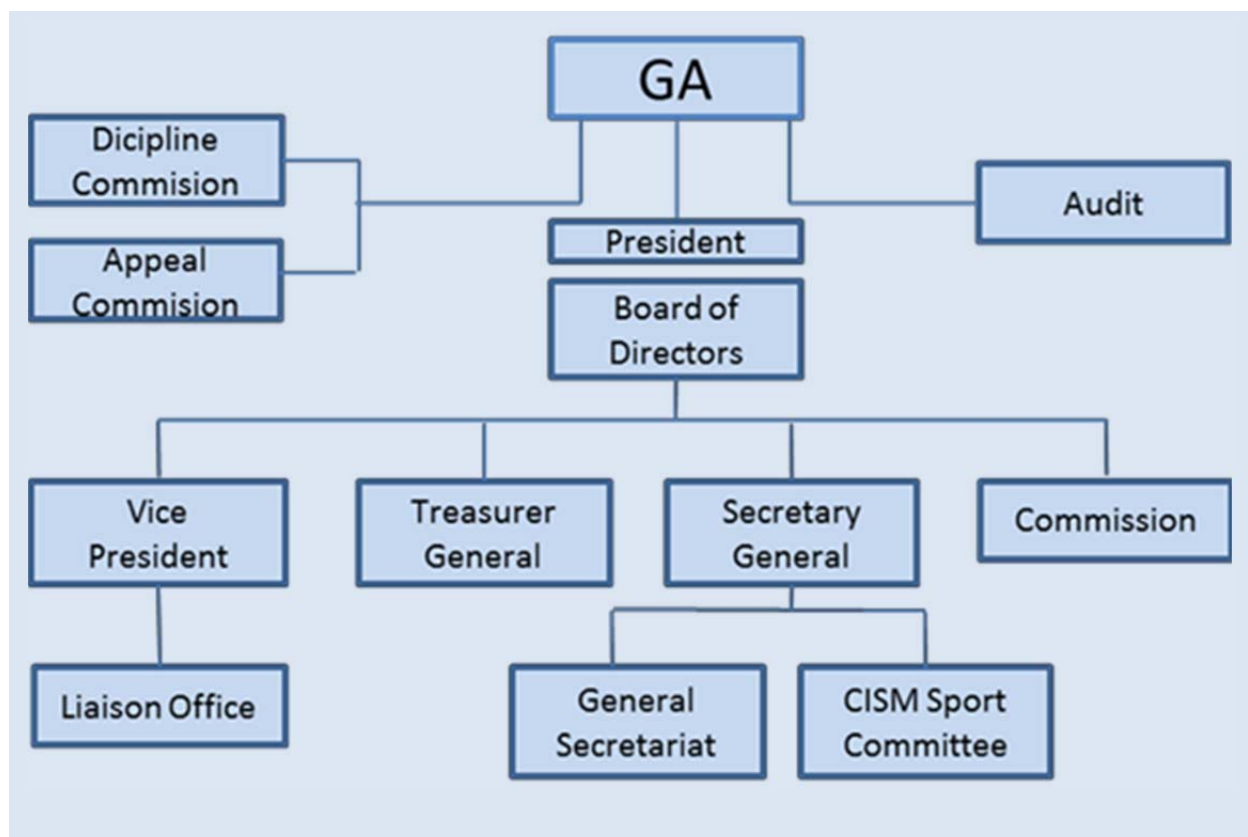
Since its founding in 1948 with five European nations, CISM has grown to over 130 member nations from Europe, Africa, Asia and America. In addition to many continental and regional championships, CISM organizes over 20 World Championships annually and the summer and winter Military World Games every four years with about several thousand participants including Olympic Medallists and World Champions. CISM also provides clinics, technical and solidarity assistance to and between members. In order to achieve these goals, CISM organises scientific, medical and sports symposia and seminars. CISM is involved in promoting peace through sports activities and other 'sport and peace' events.

## CISM STRUCTURE

The supreme authority of CISM is the General Assembly in which all 134 member nations (from Europe, Africa, Asia and America) are represented. The General Assembly approves statutory matters, strategic and annual operational plans and convenes once a year. The General Assembly also elects members to the Board of Directors, which is the policy-making body headed by an elected President. It convenes three times a year. The General Secretariat, located in Brussels/Belgium, is the permanent executive and administrative body.











Each continent has a Vice-President, representing the continent in the Board of Directors. They are supported by a Continental Liaison Office. These Liaison Offices are established in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas and coordinate regional- and continental activities as well as support the CISM Headquarters in Brussels.

The General Assembly and the Board of Directors are supported in their tasks by a number of consultative commissions and committees, who manage, develop, and supervise the technical aspects for each sport. CISM is recognized as a NGO by the United Nations and maintain close contact with various national and international organizations.



# CISM PRINCIPLES

## THE CISM ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION ARE GOVERNED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

-  **CISM** is an apolitical organization which fosters, through sport, friendship between military athletes to promote international harmony.
-  **CISM** values sport in the Armed Forces as an essential pillar of international sport and universal peace.
-  **CISM** adheres to the universal principles of “mens sana in corpore sano”, and “all human beings are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights”, as stated in the universal declaration of human rights and in the United Nations Charter.
-  **CISM** rejects all forms of discrimination towards a nation or a person on the basis of race, religion, political belief, and any other discriminatory practice.
-  **CISM** upholds the universal right of each person to practice a sport of his/her choice, according to his/her needs.
-  **CISM** operates under the democratic principles that a nation represents one voice, the majority rules and the General Assembly of member nations is the supreme authority.
-  **CISM** conducts its activities in conformity with universal, fundamental legal and ethical principles and depends on the voluntary contribution and good will of its member nations.
-  **CISM** encourages member nations to organize a maximum of sport competitions in a spirit of equal opportunity, friendship, solidarity and fair play.
-  **CISM** develops sport by practice at all levels and research in physical education and training.
-  **CISM** cooperates with all international institutions and organizations that share the same objectives and encourage the assembly of citizens of the world.





## CISM EUROPE

### CISM EUROPE IS RECOGNIZED AS A STRONG PART OF CISM.

CISM Europe consists of 42 member nations, represented and led by its Chief of Delegation. The Vice-President Europe conducts the leadership of CISM Europe with support from the European Board of Directors Member(s) and the European Liaison Office as support group.

The implementation of an international military sport structure started in Europe. Therefore the continent has a long tradition in CISM events. Europe is a main contributor for CISM to reach its goals.

The European Armed Forces have a long tradition in sports, physical fitness and support the values of democracy.

Nowadays Armed Forces are downsizing their finances and manpower, nations are transforming from conscript to professional armies. We must face these challenges and continue to deal with. Nevertheless the nations emphasize the value of participation in CISM competitions.

Many of our member nations take part in international peace keeping missions. Units of member nations take part in missions' abroad insert and gather broad experience in all areas of life. Also we in CISM try to contribute to more peace in the world through our activities - following the principle of "Friendship through Sport".



### CISM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AT GLOBAL LEVEL FOR THE UPCOMING YEARS:

- Provision of a robust and integrated sports program.
- Active delivery of Solidarity and Technical Assistance Programs.
- Strong relationships with member nations and stakeholders.
- Strong and professional CISM governance structure.

To reach these goals CISM Europe has developed themselves a 4-year continental Strategic- and Business Plan until 2019.

## CISM EUROPE

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**THE CORE BUSINESS OF CISM EUROPE IS TO ORGANIZE AND PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL-, CONTINENTAL- AND REGIONAL COMPETITIONS. THIS INCLUDES OUR NEW TASK TO INCLUDE PERMANENTLY INJURED SOLDIERS, WHETHER THEY ARE INJURED ABROAD OR AT HOME.**

Europe will work for a number of world-, continental- and regional championships for the purpose of creating possibilities for our military athletes to compete.

As a main actor of CISM, Europe will take a solid responsibility in organizing CISM championships at all levels. We wish to promote sport and physical leadership in our nations, our higher military leadership and to our members.

CISM Europe underlines the importance for all members to support continuity in the present sports program, but also looks for alternative opportunities for soldiers to meet in sports. Outside the arena of the existing CISM competitions, we give opportunities to our soldiers to meet by inviting them to national events, operational competitions, patrol races etc.

CISM Europe strongly encourages creations and maintenance of regional and sub-regional cooperation areas such as the Baltic Sea-, Benelux-, Black Sea-, Nordic and the Balkan Regions. In such regions there are good opportunities, with low coordination requirements to create military sports competitions on regional levels and limited budgets.

CISM Europe continues to support the expansion of women in the CISM, both in leading positions as well as athletes.



## CISM Para Sports

**THE IDEA WAS TO INTEGRATE PARA SPORTS IN THE EXISTING COMPETITIONS IN CISM. HERE WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO CARRY OUT JOINT COMPETITIONS FOR SOLDIERS WITH AND WITHOUT HANDICAP.**



For the first time in CISM Germany hosted in 2013 the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Integrative CISM Military European Championships in Track & Field in Warendorf/Germany. Soldiers with and without handicap took part in different disciplines against each other.

In February 2015, France followed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Open CISM Swimming & Para-Swimming Championships in Fontainebleau / France. It was attended by 10 different countries, where 7 of them participated in the Para Sport competitions.



### History Para Sports in CISM

**2008-2011** Over the past several years, there have been discussions amongst a number of the CISM member nations regarding the feasibility of incorporating injured soldiers into the CISM Program. Results from these surveys have been analyzed and have been used to define a pilot project with a working title of “Honoring the Sacrifice” – incorporating injured soldiers into CISM competitions. Under this name, a “CISM injured soldiers project” team worked out the ways of integrating Para-athletes in normal competitions.

**05/2012** US Paralympics Committee sponsored the „Warrior Games 2012“. For the first time CISM Para Athletes were part of the Warrior Games 2012. The experience of that event was used to implement athletes in CISM events in the upcoming years.

**09/2013** The first combined competition, the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Integrative CISM Military European Championships in Track & Field was held at the German Federal Armed Forces Sports School in Warendorf/GER in September 2013. As a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Integrative CISM Military European Championships, athletes and Para-athletes participated for the first time together in a track & field event.

**02/2015** France hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> International Swimming & Para-Swimming Championships in Fontainebleau/FRA in February 2015. 10 countries participated, 7 of them participated in Para-competitions.

**10/2015** For the first time Para-athletes took part in shot put, running and archery competitions during the 6th Military World Games in Mungyeong/Korea. The cornerstone was finally laid for the participation of Para-athletes at future events.



# CISM Para Sports



## CISM EUROPEAN NATIONS

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Albania



Armenia



Austria



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Belgium

Bosnia  
Herzegovina

Bulgaria



Croatia



Cyprus

Czech  
Republic

Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France

F.Y.R. of  
Macedonia

Georgia



Germany



Greece



Hungary



Ireland

## CISM EUROPEAN NATIONS

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Italy



Latvia



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Malta



Monaco



Montenegro



Norway



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Russia



Serbia



Slovakia



Slovenia



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland

The  
Netherlands

Turkey



Ukraine

## CISM EUROPEAN LIAISON OFFICE

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The CISM European Liaison Office (ELO) supports the Vice President Europe and all the European member nations in all CISM matters for the European continent.

The ELO as service provider ensures the flow of information between the Vice President Europe and the European member nations and cooperates with other continental offices and the Headquarters in Brussels. In addition, the ELO maintains a website for the European continent and ensures the flow of information for European member nations. It coordinates sports competitions on continental and regional level. Under the leadership of the Vice President Europe the ELO is preparing necessary European conferences, workshops and other meetings for the European nations.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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CISM European Liaison Office  
German Federal Armed Forces Sports School  
Dr.-Rau-Allee 32  
48231 Warendorf / GERMANY  
Phone: (+49) 2581 - 9411 - 4110/-4111/-4112  
Fax: (+49) 2581 - 9411 - 4398  
Email: [cismeurope@bundeswehr.org](mailto:cismeurope@bundeswehr.org)  
Homepage: [www.cismeurope.org](http://www.cismeurope.org)  
[www.milsport.one](http://www.milsport.one)

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