

General Assembly of the International Military Apostolate

27. September - 02. October 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania

- Minutes -

- Theme:** **40 Years Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) - Our Mission goes on**
- Who are we?
 - What did we do and accomplish?
 - What are we expected to do and to achieve in the future (point of view of the Holy See and of our members)
 - Challenges and chances to be met by AMI, Armed Forces and Pastoral
- 1. Programme** The General Assembly (GA) of the year 2005 took place from 27 September - 02 October 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Annex 1.1
Participants were delegations from Austria, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Germany, Kenya, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- 2. Opening** The GA was opened by the President of AMI, General Miguel Alonso Baquer, Spain. The Commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, Major General Valdas Tutkus and the Representative of Lithuania as host country, Chief chaplain and Vicar General Colonel Juozas Gražulis welcomed the Assembly. Annex 3.1.1
A greeting address was given by the representative of the AMCF, Major Mark Fillingham Annex 3.1.4
- 3. Presentations and reports on activities given by Delegations** Each delegation presented itself and the individual members. The annexes, as far as available, represent the written presentations on the activities of the respective countries. The delegations of Austria, Germany and Kenya took the opportunity to present their teams for the Presidency respectively the Secretariat General, for which these nations had presented their candidatures. Annex 3.2.1
Belgium Annex 3.2.2
Germany Annex 3.2.3
Kenya Annex 3.2.4
Nigeria (in spite of its absence from the General Assembly)
- 4. Lecture given by the President** Lecture given by the President of AMI, General Miguel Alonso Baquer, Spain, on the Conference Theme: "40 Years of AMI" Annex 4.1.1
- 5. Report given by the Secretary General** Report given by the Secretary General of AMI, Colonel Jürgen Bringmann Annex 3.1.2
At the beginning of the afternoon session on 30 September the participants celebrated 3 Minutes of Silence in the memory of Major General Dr. Kurt Landl, Austria, who died the day before, 62 years old, in Baden/Austria. General Dr. Kurt Landl had been working with and supporting AMI for long years and was, during the Austrian Presidency from 2000 to 2002, AMI Vice-President. AMI will honour his memory.
An address of the President of the Conference of International Catholic Organisations (CICO), Prof. General Ernest König, Austria, was made known to the participants Annex 3.1.6
- 6. Report given** The Ecclesiastical Assistant of AMI, Mons. Dr. Werner Freistetter, gave a Annex

by the Ecclesiastical Assistant	brief report on his main activities during the last year.	
7. Lectures	Lectures on the first Theme of the General Assembly “40 years of AMI”	
	a) The President of AMI, General de Brigada Miguel Alonso Baquer, gave a lecture on 40 years of AMI in which he participated and expressed his view on the future of AMI.	Annex 4.1.1
	b) The main lecture was given by Bishop Dr. Josef Clemens, Secretary of the Pontifical council for the Laity. Combining the views of the Vatican’s Secretariat of State and of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, he evoke the question “How does the Holy See assess the work of the International Military apostolate – what do we expect from you?”	Annex 4.1.2
	c) A further lecture on “What was, what is AMI – History and Future” was given by the Secretary General of AMI, Colonel Jürgen Bringmann.	Annex 4.1.3
	d) Contributions by delegations Some delegations presented their contributions to the conference theme, amongst them in written form:	
	- Austria	Annex 4.2.1
	- Belgium	Annex
	- Germany	4.2.2.1
	- Kenya	Annex 4.2.3
	- The Netherlands	Annex 4.2.4
	- Spain	Annex 4.2.5 and 4.2.5.1
	e) Finally, the Ecclesiastical Assistant, Mons. Dr. Werner Freistetter, gave a lecture on “The spiritual Dimension of an International Military Apostolate”	Annex 4.2.6
8. Lectures on Lithuanian Armed Forces	During a visit to the National Defence Staff, the Chief of National Defence Staff, Brigadier General Vitalijus Vaiksnoras, welcomed the members of the General Assembly. Two lectures were given by the Staff: - Present situation, reforms, peacekeeping operations“ of the Lithuanian Armed Forces - Transformation process of society and Church in post-soviet countries“	Annex 6.4 Annex 6.6 Annex 6.3
9. Elections of Presidency and Secretariat General	Following the Statutes of AMI, at the end of a three years mandate, a new Presidency (till now Spain) and a new Secretariat General (till now Germany) had to be elected. Germany and Kenya had presented their candidatures for the Presidency, Austria had presented its candidature for the Secretariat General. The results of the elections are reported on in the	Annexes 5.8 and 5.9
10. Closing Holy Mass	The handover of responsibilities took place during the closing Holy Mass which was celebrated by h. E. the Apostolic Nuncio to the Baltic States, Archbishop Dr. Peter Stephan Zurbriggen (Switzerland).	Annex
11. Decisions taken by the General Assembly	All decisions taken by the General Assembly are reported on in	Annex 5.8
12. Forum with Military Bishops	The Military Chaplains present met for the traditional Forum to discuss actual questions of AMI and of the Military Chaplaincy. The Forum was presided by the Lithuanian Military General Vicar, Colonel Juozas Gražulis. The Forum was moderated by Mons. Dr. Werner Freistetter.	

- 13. Visits** In the framework of the Conference, the General Assembly had the occasion to visit the City of Vilnius, its old town and its churches. A Visit to Trakai and its castle followed.
- 14. Next General Assembly of AMI** The next General Assembly will, on invitation by Kenya, most probably take place from 23rd September (arrival) to 30th September 2006 (departure) in Nairobi, Kenya.
- 15. Final Session of the General Assembly** At the End of the working part of the General Assembly on 02nd October 2005 the President of AMI, Brigadier General Miguel Alonso Baquer, closed the General Assembly. He thanked the Lithuanian Military Bishop, Mons. Eugenijus Bartulis, and his Vicar General, Colonel Juozas Gražulis, as well as the members of the Military Ordinariate of Lithuania, for the preparation and conduct of the GA. He also said thank to his co-operators in the Presidency, namely to Capitán de Navío Rafael Bittini, and to the members of the Secretariat General, Colonel Jürgen Bringmann, Colonel Franz Thiele and Lieutenant Colonel Ralf Wittkamp. Finally, he invited AMI Members and Friends to participate in 2006 in the oncoming General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Annex 3.1.7