

Welcome address of the president

Dear Excellencies, Generals, Officers, Soldiers, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, friends of AMI!

Being here in front of you and opening our this year's AMI-conference in RETIE is a great honour and challenge for me. Allow me to express again my gratitude for your trust when you elected Austria and me and my team take the presidency of AMI for the upcoming three years.

Although he is not present at the moment I want to thank Brigadier General Reinhard KLOSS for leading and serving AMI the last six years. I feel that he brought us, together with his team, in a new, more efficient direction, especially concerning all questions touching and forming part of the military and a soldier's life.

At this moment I want to express my thanks and my gratitude to Belgium and the Belgian Armed Forces, their military bishop His Eminence Andre LEONHARD, Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels, and the responsible team for organizing our conference in this excellent manner.

I want to mention that in fact it is just a really small organizing team, and especially Annie and her husband do excellent work.

I am proud of welcoming twelve nations coming from four continents and taking part in our conference and will contribute to our common goals.

What I am really glad about is the fact, that Kenya is again with us and The Gambia is having its debut. With these two delegations I warmly welcome all others taking part in our conference.

What we expect is a period of intense working. Beside this we will have the opportunity to see a little bit of our beautiful host country Belgium with its great and so manifold history – as all European countries do have. I am sure that we will learn also about the culture and hear about current problems, as Europe as a whole is facing at the moment.

Let me conclude: more information and the ideas of this year's conference I will pass to you tomorrow morning when officially opening the conference.

For now I wish us and the conference successful days which should be created by the delegations and the delegates and not only by the presidency.

Thank you for coming and may God be with us!