



## European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO)



### The **European Bureau for Conscientious Objection**

was founded in 1979 as an umbrella organisation for national associations of conscientious objectors, to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right, on both a national and an international level, at the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and other international bodies.



### **EBCO** calls the Council of Europe governments:

- to abolish all compulsory military service, and meanwhile refrain from prosecuting or otherwise harassing conscientious objectors, with no further action required from such persons; or - secondly - providing a non-punitive and non-discriminatory alternative service of purely civilian nature;
- to ensure that it is possible for all conscientious objectors to avoid enlistment in the armed forces and for all serving members of the armed forces or reservists to obtain release without penalties should they develop conscientious objections;

- to immediately cease any recruitment into the armed forces on of persons aged under 18;
- to accept applications for asylum from all persons seeking to escape military service in any country where there is no adequate provision for conscientious objectors;
- to decrease military expenditure and increase social spending;
- to introduce peace education in all parts of the education system.

### **EBCO:**

- 📖 is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994,
- 📖 provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe,
- 📖 enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe since 2005,
- 📖 is a member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.

**European Map of Conscientious Objection to Military Service**

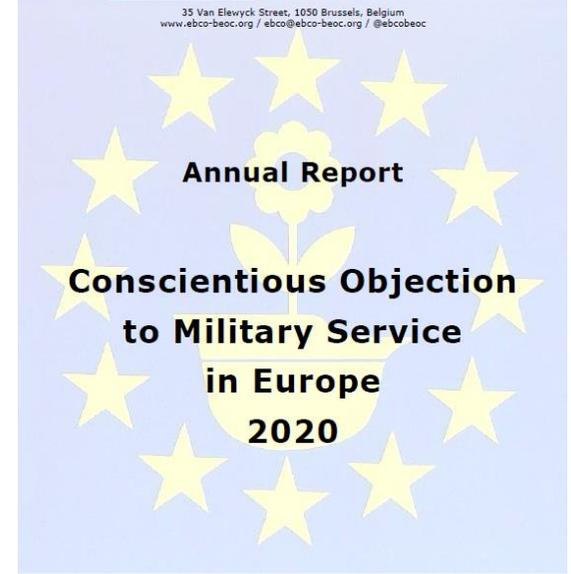
- Conscription: No
- Conscription: Yes - Recognition of conscientious objection: Yes
- Conscription: Yes - Recognition of conscientious objection: No



**EBCO**  
  
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 Created with mapchart.net



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**YOU can join EBCO as an individual or an organisation.**



**Peace cannot be promoted without equally promoting the right to conscientious objection to military service.**

**Contact information:**

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