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**ACOM informs:
Joint Action of Military Trade Unions in the Netherlands**

Austerity policy feeds uncertainty about operational capacity of the Dutch army.

The trade unions of Defence of the Netherlands join forces with a petition and an action on 2nd November. Since 2014, although the personnel of the Armed Forces in the Netherlands have continuously been giving the best of themselves to ensure the security of the country and its inhabitants, a new collective bargaining agreement has been missing.

Year after year, the Dutch government has applied a policy of restrictions in the Armed Forces. As a result, the different units of the Armed Forces work under stress and their operational capacity is no longer assured. Once more, the budget for 2018 announces itself to be insufficient. There is a serious lack of staff. At present, there are 6000 vacancies which cannot be filled because the budget is missing. The material and equipment are no longer adapted to modern needs, training is insufficient, lack of ammunition, lack of everything.

An action – with large coverage in the media – has already been organised by the joint trade union forces on 15 September last. For one hour and a half, all entrances of the Ministry of Defence in The Hague were blocked.

If no satisfactory collective bargaining agreement is implemented in the short term, a new action will take place on 2 November, the day before the Dutch Parliament discusses the new budget of Defence. (Today, the Netherlands spend 1.1 % of their GDP on Defence, although the members of NATO committed themselves to 2 % a year).

For more on the action of the Military Staff of the Netherlands, see the ACOM website <http://www.deacom.nl/home/>.

To support ACOM and its action for a new collective bargaining agreement, together with the other trade unions of Defence of the Netherlands, please sign the petition (in English)

[Petition](#)