

■ **Table of the situation of military service and conscientious objection in the Council of Europe member states**

<u>Council of Europe member state</u>	<u>Conscription (no more conscription since...)</u>		<u>Right to conscientious objection since*</u>	<u>Duration of alternative service</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1. Albania	Yes	12 months	1998 (Constitution)	12 months	22000 active troops
2. Armenia	Yes	18 months	1994	36 months	Armenia has a record number of religious conscientious objectors to military service in jail, despite a 2004 promise to free these prisoners of conscience, Forum 18 News Service has found. 72 Jehovah's Witnesses are now in jail. Four of these prisoners have been jailed within the past month, with an average jail sentence for each of the four young men of just under two and a half years. Armenia claims to have a civilian alternative service, but the allegedly "civilian" service is under the complete control of the Armenian General Staff, supervised by the Military Police under military law, and pacifists are forced to wear uniform provided by the military. Jehovah's Witnesses and Molokans insist that they would be happy to perform a genuinely civilian alternative service – but Armenia does not allow this. The father of a Molokan Protestant Christian conscientious objector told Forum 18 that "we're not satisfied with the current alternative service. It's against our faith to take weapons and to kill people." 2007: 2 in prison; 17 waiting for their trial
3. Austria	Yes	6 months	1975	6 months	about 10.000 COs in alternative service each year

4. Azerbaijan	Yes	18 months	1995 (Constitution)			At the beginning of 2007, the Azerbaijani Parliament made changes in the Law on Conscription Essentials and annulled the draft deferment for the men who care for disabled persons of the second category, those who graduated from University with a bachelor's degree and want to begin studying for their master's degree, as well as for post-graduate students. The altered Law annulled conscription of young men having two children. Previously, only those who had three or more underage children were released from conscription. In 2007, the Azerbaijani Army completely turned to NATO standards. Therefore, the conscription essentials should also correspond with NATO standards, Novruzov stressed.
5. Belarus	Yes	18 months	1994	unkown		
6. Belgium	1995					
7. Bosnia-Herzegovina	2006					
8. Bulgaria	2008					
9. Cyprus	Yes	25 months	2005	34 months		
10. Czech Republic	2006					
11. Croatia	2008					
12. Denmark	Yes	4 to 12 months, average 9	1917	Same duration as military service		
13. Estonia	Yes	8 months	1994	12 months		
14. Finland	Yes	180 – 360 days average 8,5 months	1931	395 days	50 COs in prison each year for not performing over-length of alternative service	
15. France	2001					
16. Georgia	Yes	18 months	1997	36 months	CO declaration only 10 days after call up / no alternative service law implemented so far / annual conscripts males: 38,857/ active troops 40.000 / 25000 Russian troops withdrew in 2007. see also: <a href="http://www.delgeo.cec.eu.int/en/press/4may2004.html">http://www.delgeo.cec.eu.int/en/press/4may2004.html</a>	
17. Germany	Yes	9 months	1949/1956	9 months		
18. Greece	Yes	12 months	1997	23 months		
19. Hungary	2006					
20. Ireland	Never					
21. Iceland	Never					
22. Italy	2006					
23. Latvia	2007					
24. Lithuania	Yes	12 months	1990	18 months		

25. Luxemburg	Never				
26. Macedonia	2007				
27. Malta	Never				
28. Moldavia	Yes	12 / 3 months	1994 (constitution)	no service but payments	
29. Montenegro	2007				
30. Norway	Yes	12 months	1995	12 months	2006: 10.234 in military service 1.298 conscientious objectors / 798 in service 19.737 were not called up
31. Netherlands	1996				
32. Poland	Yes	12 months	1988	18 months	
33. Portugal	2005				
34. Romania	2007				
35. Russia	Yes	18-36 months	2004	48 months	
36. Slovak Republic	2006				
37. Serbia	Yes	6 months	1994/2003	9 months	50% of conscripts in alternative service
38. Slovenia	2003				
39. Spain	2001				
40. Sweden	Yes	7,5 months	1920	7,5 months	
41. Switzerland	Yes	max. 260 days	1992/1996	max. 390 days	
42. Turkey	Yes	18 months	<b>no</b>	<b>no</b>	2 COs in 2006 and 4 COs in 2007 have declared publicly their conscientious objection. There is no alternative civilian service to apply. There is one woman among them supporting male COs. <b>Enver Aydemirhas is 1st to declare his objection based on his belief in Islam.</b>
43. Ukraine	Yes	18 months	1992	double length	
44. United Kingdom	1960				

Quelle: Europäisches Büro für Kriegsdienstverweigerung  
<http://www.ebco-beoc.org>

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