At the sitting held on 2 April 2013, based on the discussion conducted at the public hearing on the Position of War Veterans in Serbia, pursuant to article 44 of the National Assembly Rules of Procedure (“RS Official Gazette”, no. 20/12 – consolidated text), the Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction adopted the following:

 **CONCLUSIONS**

**I** It is extremely important to effect a change in the opinion that war veterans are a burden to the society.

 It is important to pass a law on ex-servicemen’s disability welfare which would codify all the regulations in the sphere of ex-servicemen’s disability welfare and simplify the procedure for exercising said right, as well as harmonise the regulations in the sphere with the constitutional changes and arrange them uniformly for the entire territory of Serbia.

The new legislation and by-laws should define the term of war veteran as regards the type of involvement in war i.e. armed combat, territory of his war involvement, time spent in war and the body which would specify these terms.

 **II** We would like to point out the need to revise the beneficiaries of ex-servicemen’s disability welfare so as to eliminate the beneficiaries whose right to said welfare is unfounded, as well as establish real military disability of those beneficiaries who have been granted a percentage higher than the actual one.

 When passing the new legislation, the rights of the beneficiaries who meet the legal requisites should not be reduced but improved.

 **III** It is necessary to simplify the procedure employed when sending the beneficiaries of ex-servicemen’s disability welfare for treatment into military medical facilities, all rehabilitation centres and other institutions where the treatment of the patients had begun, as well as simplify the procedure for the replacement of orthopedic devices.

 It is necessary to consider the options for opening war trauma and psychological counseling centres.

 **IV** We applaud the initiative to build a central monument for the soldiers killed in past wars, as a sign of the society’s positive attitude toward the victims of war.

 We endorse the initiative to make a social map of the beneficiaries of ex-servicemen’s disability welfare so as to introduce the principle of fairness in the further distribution of funds allocated for said beneficiaries.

 **V** By designing various programmes and passing new legislation, it is necessary to exert influence so that the members of this population, if they meet the legal requisites, as well as other candidates, are given priority in employment and the realisation of other social rights.

 It is necessary to improve the cooperation with the National Employment Service and the Union of Employers and prepare employment programmes for war veterans and war disabled.

 **VI** A register of war veterans should be made, based on the defined term of war veteran, so as to ascertain possible material and other assistance and further improve their position.

 **VII** It is necessary to improve cooperation with the ministry in charge of education so as to pass adequate legislation for the protection of war veterans’ children via scholarships, the right to free textbooks and prioritisation when awarding places in student dorms.

 The Committee tasks the Subcommittee on the Issues of War Veterans and Victims of the Wars from 1991-1999 to monitor the implementation of these conclusions and keep the Committee informed about it.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

 Milica Dronjak