

WELCOME SPEECH OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE INFANTRY ACADEMY

SR CORONEL FRANCISCO JAVIER MARCOS IZQUIERDO

His Excellency Mr. Marcelino Oreja Aguirre, Honorary President of the Royal Academy of Moral & Political Sciences; Brigadier General, Benoit Royal, President of Euroisme; Brigadier General, José María Millán Martínez, Commandant of the Spanish Army War College; Executive Directors, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I want to first begin by introducing myself. I'm Colonel Javier Marcos the sixtieth commandant of this military academy. On behalf of all the officers, NCO's, cadets, students, soldiers and civilians working in this center and in my own name, it is my great honor and privilege to welcome you to the Infantry Academy popularly known as the home of the Spanish Infantry and today also the home of the International Society for Military Ethics in Europe.

I know that you're all selected experts on ethics in military education, an area where all our nations have common goals. And we all know that a rapidly evolving technological landscape is changing the very definition of war fighting where ethics matters.

Consequently, while the nature of war remains constant over time, its character and characteristics tend to change constantly.

Therefore, your vision to foster new opportunities for international collaboration to understand define and explain the implications of emerging technologies in conflict is key to face the current volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment.

In such a challenging situation, your vast knowledge arises the interest of those who are responsible for preparing the future leaders of military units based on core values, as we do in this center. A place where we have been educating and inspiring young leaders for almost two centuries. A place where we must continue to adapt to an ever-changing world where ethical behavior really matters, whatever task they will accomplish.

Therefore, apart from hosting you, we're very interested in your conclusions because you can provide us additional value to the ways we need to better prepare the future officers and NCO's of the Spanish Army.

Their education is our main priority because shoulder to shoulder with your officers and NCO's they will be also accountable for maintaining at tactical level our competitive ethical advantage to provide viable options in the event of a crisis or contingency.

On the other hand, let me remind you that you're not only in the Academy of Infantry but also in Toledo at the heart of Spain. For those who visit Toledo for the first time, which happens to be one of the most impressive and historical cities of Spain, I suggest you to embrace it to go for a walk and admire it. Trust me, it is worth doing it...

With over twenty hundred years of history, this city has the special designation of being a melting pot a place where the various cultures and eras of Spain have peacefully converged.

Turning history into military heritage, since the nineteenth century this academy has witnessed pioneering military concepts in training and education to prepare leaders for a real world.

As I'm ethically obliged to lead by example, I will not exceed the time I have been given.

Just allow me to remark that we are delighted for having you all here and that my desire is to contribute to the success of the meeting by means of our warmest hospitality.

Thank you very much for choosing this prestigious military academy to host the Euro-ISME's 8th annual conference and welcome again.

Thank you.