

Chief Executive

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA) AND THE EUROPEAN UNION SATELLITE CENTRE (SATCEN)

Cher Pascal,

The European Defence Agency was established by the Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP (recast Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835 of 12 October 2015 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency) to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve the Union's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the CSDP as it currently stands and as it develops in the future.

The European Union Satellite Centre was established by the Joint Action 2001/555/CFS on the establishment of a European Union Satellite Centre repealed by Council Decision 2014/401/CFSP of 26 June 2014. The Centre supports the decision-making and actions of the Union in the field of the CFSP and in particular the CSDP, including European Union crisis management missions and operations, by providing products and services resulting from the exploitation of relevant space assets and collateral data, including satellite and aerial imagery, and related services.

In the context of CSDP, EDA and SATCEN perform complementary roles and activities in the Space-Based Earth Observation domain and more generally in the space and security sector.

EDA work is focused on harmonisation of requirements and promotion of appropriate schemes for future capability development; SATCEN's activity supports the decision-making and actions of the EU by providing products and services resulting from the exploitation of space assets in particular in the CSDP field.

Acknowledging the fruitful cooperation since 2004 and the opportunity to exploit the synergy of their respective efforts in order to provide an end-to-end support to our respective Member States, I hereby propose the establishment of a structured cooperation between EDA and SATCEN based on the following key principles:

- a) Cooperation between EDA and SATCEN is to focus on activities of mutual interest, such as studies, workshops, projects and programmes;
- b) The identification of activities for developing their capabilities, in order to support their respective users;

- d) Full transparency on the administration of activities shall be in accordance with each Agency's internal processes, procedures and rules;
- e) The handling and release of information and documents shall be undertaken in accordance with the respective rules and regulations of EDA and SATCEN. Any intellectual or industrial property rights, including any documentation, data, or technical information provided will remain vested in their respective owners;
- f) EDA and SATCEN will nominate Points of Contact to facilitate cooperation. This Exchange of Letters does not imply any financial responsibilities on EDA or SATCEN. For specific activities, the delineation of potential funding responsibilities shall be defined in respective planning documents.
- g) Each Agency remains responsible for its own personnel in relation to the activities undertaken pursuant to the present Exchange of Letters. Unless otherwise specified, each Agency will cover any expenditure it incurs under this Exchange of Letters (e.g. travel and subsistence of their respective staff).

Areas of common interest for cooperation start with the following:

- Participation in respective meetings and *fora* deemed relevant for this collaboration;
- Exploitation of available expertise to enhance effectiveness of the processes within existing or newly established activities;
- Use of existing communication channels in order to promote respective activities;
- Optimising the content of *ad hoc* projects, especially where the end users' views need to be considered;
- Test or provide maintenance to demonstrators or IT tools developed in the frame of this cooperation and to share lessons identified and best management practices;
- More specifically, initially identified capability areas for cooperation are:
 - Imagery exploitation;
 - Geospatial analysis and applications;
 - OSINT tools and techniques (for ImInt and GeoInt);
 - E-Learning / Training;
 - Future space-based Earth Observation systems;
 - CIS and Cyber Defence;
 - Big Data exploitation in the Space and Security domain;

- Space Situational Awareness / Recognised Space Picture;
- Maritime Surveillance.

To facilitate effective cooperation, the two Agencies will, within the framework defined in this Exchange of Letters, develop a roadmap for cooperation detailing the activities of common interest as included in the respective Work Programmes (3-year Planning Framework for EDA and annual Working Programme for SATCEN). The evolving aspect of this cooperation shall be ensured through an annual update of this roadmap, agreed at working level and in line with annually approved Work Programmes of the respective Agencies.

I am confident that, through our cooperation, EDA and SATCEN can bring a significant added value to their respective Member States by reducing administrative burden, facilitating common action where possible, supporting better planning, as well as contributing to the best use of our respective resources.

If the above principles for cooperation are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter, together with your affirmative reply, will constitute our common understanding.



Yours sincerely,



Jorge Domecq



European Union Satellite Centre

THE DIRECTOR

Torrejón de Ardoz 18/07/2016
D-AA/SatCen-021/16L

Dear M. Domecq,

Thank you for your letter dated 18/07/2016.

Since 2004, good working-level relationships have been developed between the EDA and the SATCEN, on the basis of the shared interests of the two agencies. These, I believe, have now reached a high level of effectiveness and maturity, to the extent that further common efforts, as advocated in your letter, would be highly valuable.

In view of the topics covered by the two agencies in the area of defence and security, a common basis for development can easily be identified. As such, I share your views on the opportunity to exploit respective capacities in a synergistic way with the aim to provide an end-to-end support to the Member States. Moreover, the SATCEN is a centre of competence that complements the developments elaborated by EDA, and could therefore be considered as a test-bed for definition, demonstration and validation of innovative solutions and operational deployment. This context could stimulate the development of a common understanding and vision which will pursue a wider adoption of a solution by the Member States.

Cooperation between the EDA and the SATCEN should lead to substantive results for the benefit of our Member States, taking into account the upcoming EU Global Strategy, as well as the Commission's Space Strategy for Europe.

I therefore believe that a more structured cooperation between the EDA and the SATCEN would be beneficial to both Agencies, with the view of better accomplishing their mandates and consequently the services provided to Members States and to the CFSP and CSDP.

I fully agree on the principles proposed in your letter, and I am confident that the cooperation will lead towards the enhancement of our capabilities, whilst avoiding duplication of effort.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal Legai

M. Jorge Domecq
Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency
European Defence Agency
BRUSSELS