

Chief Executive

Major General Giovanni Fantuzzi
Director of the European Personnel
Recovery Centre
EPRC
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Ferrara
ITALY

Ref: EDA201606053

Brussels, 09 June 2016

Dear General,

European Union (EU) Member States participating in the European Defence Agency (EDA) consider Personnel Recovery (PR) as an essential component of future Crisis Management Operations (CMO) under the Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP). It is evident that successful missions can have a tremendously positive impact on operational security, the morale and the confidence of our deployed forces in theatres of operations, as well as public support. For the last eight years the Agency, with its Project Team Personnel Recovery (PT PR), has been working in mitigating identified shortfalls over the full spectrum of PR.

It is widely acknowledged the European Personnel Recovery Centre's (EPRC) substantial effort to enhance and optimise European Personnel Recovery capabilities for the benefit of the Member States' forces. Avoiding duplications and developing common procedures are key factors for successful PR tasks. It is in this context that I see potential for significant synergies between EDA and EPRC.

Acknowledging the important contribution the EPRC is making to increase the PR capabilities, I hereby propose the establishment of effective liaison between EDA and EPRC based on the following key principles:

- a) Liaison between EDA and EPRC is to allow for the exchange of unclassified information relating to activities of mutual interest, such as studies, workshops, projects and programmes;
- b) The identification of potential new activities to support our respective Member States in developing their PR capabilities will be the leading objective;

- c) In order to make a coherent contribution to European transformational activities EDA and EPRC will, within available means and resources, interact closely and co-ordinate their respective work;
- d) Full transparency to the respective members of EDA and EPRC about the administration of activities which will be in accordance with each organisation's internal processes, procedures and rules;
- e) The handling and release of information and documents will be undertaken in accordance with the respective rules and regulations of EDA and EPRC. Any intellectual or industrial property rights, including any documentation, data, or technical information provided will remain vested in their respective owners;
- f) EDA and EPRC will nominate Points of Contact to facilitate and coordinate dialogue. This Exchange of Letters will not impose any financial responsibilities on EDA or EPRC. The delineation of potential funding responsibilities will be further detailed in the planning documents for specific events. As a rule, each organisation will fund its own share of co-operative endeavours from its own resources.

Areas of common interest for the liaison would start with the following:

- Participation to PR meetings or other related activities of each organisation;
- Utilisation of available expertise to allow for effective processes within existing or newly established forums.
- Use of existing communication channels in order to promote PR activities of both, the EDA and the EPRC.
- De-confliction of PR events of both organisations, when appropriate.
- Elaborating concepts or other documents of common interest in order to avoid duplication and to ensure coherence whenever possible.
- Optimising the content of EDA's ad hoc projects of relevance.
- Test or provide maintenance to PR demonstrators or IT tools developed in the frame of EDA and to share lessons identified and best management practices.

I am confident that, through our liaison, EDA and EPRC can bring a significant added value to Member States through improved exchange of information, avoidance of unnecessary duplication of effort and common support of activities that bring added-value.

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


Yours sincerely,



Jorge Domecq



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14/06/2016

SUBJECT: EDA/ EPRC LETTER OF COOPERATION

REF: EDA201606053, DATED 9 JUNE 2016

Dear Sr,

As the European Personnel Recovery Centre Director, I appreciate our common views on the importance of Personnel Recovery in support of operations as you described in your letter. To this end, close cooperation between the EDA and the EPRC will be an important enabler, since our organisations are currently the most relevant European entities that engage in this field.

As a unique centre in Europe, the EPRC is dedicated to this specific mission with personnel from seven European countries, fully involved and willing to support PR capability in cooperation with all the other stakeholders. Being established for one year now, we are very close to declare FOC and will be well equipped to provide viable services to the EU. Furthermore, we are actively seeking new partners, to provide an even broader knowledge base for our efforts.

Both, the 'Key Principles' and the 'Areas of Key Interest' you describe, are in line with our expectations about the baseline of our future cooperation. Therefore, they will form a suitable foundation about the way to achieve and improve cooperation between us, in order to fulfil the requirements to offer a bright, robust and credible PR capability to our European nations and beyond.

I am sure, future operations will benefit from our cooperation and look forward to support the provision of a safer environment to our operatives in the field.

Sincerely

**Giovanni Fantuzzi
Major General (ITA AF)
Director of the European Personnel Recovery Centre**