



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations

Subject : European Defence Agency
- Council guidelines for the EDA's work in 2008

The Council guidelines for the European Defence Agency's work in 2008 as set out at Annex were adopted by the Council in Ministers of Defence composition on 19 November 2007.

COUNCIL GUIDELINES FOR THE EDA'S WORK IN 2008

The Council noted with satisfaction the positive developments realised by the Agency in 2007 as presented in the Head of the Agency's report, particularly in areas contained in its November 2006 Guidelines.

The Council encouraged the Agency to maintain the twin track approach adopted in 2007, which has proven successful throughout the year with good progress on both long-term strategies where national plans and priorities could converge, as well as shorter-term initiatives to pool pMS' efforts and resources.

The Council agreed that the 2008 Work Programme should be governed mainly by the need for continuation and consolidation of existing work strands (develop and implement long-term strategies as well as other ongoing policies and projects).

1. The Council agreed that much of the Agency's work next year should focus on further developing and implementing longer-term strategies:
 - the Capability Development Plan, which offers guidance on capability development and approaches and – through reciprocal transparency on national plans and requirements – allows for opportunities to be identified and exploited for collaboration . The Council expressed its expectation that actionable conclusions would be ready by summer 2008;
 - the European DTIB strategy approved by the Steering Board in Defence Ministers' formation last May, which should be turned into practical action through the implementation of the roadmaps reviewed by the NADs' Steering Board last September (which include issues such as ensuring security of supply, increasing competition and cooperation, identifying key industrial capacities that need to be developed or preserved in Europe, etc);

- the European Defence R&T strategy framework adopted by the Steering Board on 19 November covering both Ends (specifically a list of technologies that are key for future military capabilities and European industrial capacities) and Means (e.g. models and processes for R&T collaboration, R&T watch, etc); the Council invited the Agency to develop on that basis a full fledged EDRT strategy;
 - the Armaments strategy, which should be developed to (i) define a process for converting an agreed capability need into a cooperative programme, (ii) generate more armaments collaborations, (iii) define the best integration of the through life management into armaments cooperation, and (iv) make greater use of standardisation.
2. The Council also encouraged the Agency to continue the successful implementation of policies and initiatives already launched, while improving them when needed – in particular:
- strengthening the intergovernmental regime to promote transparency and competition in defence procurement, notably by further developing and improving the Electronic Bulleting Board portal - including by encouraging pMS and Industry to ensure that cross border awards happen more frequently;
 - preparing the launch of future Defence R&T Joint Investment Programmes, and improve the generation of R&T (opt-in) projects;
 - implementing the newly adopted Code of Conduct on coordinating Test and Evaluation investments, with the perspective to increase cooperation among pMS and prevent overcapacities in Europe;
 - seeking synergies and ensuring complementarity and coordination between military and civilian efforts (notably Commission initiatives), through existing or new projects in areas such as Software Defined Radio, UAV (with Agency’s initiative on the Insertion of UAV into General Air Traffic); Operational Intelligence; Maritime Surveillance; etc.

- preparing an agenda for Third Party Logistics Support solutions.
 - making progress in key areas where promising work has been undertaken, e.g. NEC, CBRN, strategic transport.
3. The Council encouraged the Agency to pursue its efforts to ensure good coordination and mutual reinforcement with NATO, OCCAR and the LoI Group, in accordance with the provision of the Joint Action. The Agency was invited to continue bringing its positive and substantial contribution to the EU-NATO Capability Group.
 4. The Council called on the Agency and its pMS to intensify and further concentrate their efforts to launch concrete projects and programmes, in the light of the emerging Capability Development Plan - including in response to the Headline Goal 2010 shortfalls, taking into account further prioritisation resulting from the CDP.
