



Quick guide

More information on the European Defence Agency is available at:
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European Defence Agency - Quick guide

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EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

Quick guide

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CONTENT

1 WHO WE ARE	06
Our structure	06
Our missions	07
Our organisation	08
The EDA's added value	09
2 HOW WE WORK	10
Close cooperation with other EU structures	11
Close cooperation with non-EU actors and third parties	11
Pooling & Sharing	12
3 WHAT WE DO	13
EDA's four main capability development programmes	14
Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR)	14
Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems	15
Cyber Defence	16
Governmental Satellite Communications (GovSatCom)	16
Examples of efficient cooperation enabled by EDA	17
Airlift Trainings & Exercises	17
Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices	18
Military Airworthiness	18
Support to Operations	19
Examples of EDA acting as an interface between defence and wider EU policies	20
Preparatory Action for CSDP-related research	20
Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR)	21
Energy & Environment	22
Support to SMEs – Access to EU Funding	23



EU-27¹ DEFENCE SECTOR: KEY FACTS 2014

Number of Military Personnel

1 423 000

Direct Employment in Aerospace
and Defence Industries

794 695

Average Number of Troops deployed

32 000

Defence Expenditure

195 B€

Defence Investment²

34,7 B€

¹ Denmark does not participate in CSDP

² Defence equipment procurement expenditure and Defence R&D (including R&T) expenditure.

1 WHO WE ARE

OUR STRUCTURE

The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established under a Joint Action of the Council of Ministers of 12 July, 2004, "to support the Member States and the Council in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the



European Security and Defence Policy – now Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) – as it stands now and develops in the future". To implement the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, this Joint Action was first replaced by a Council Decision on 12 July 2011 which was revised by Council decision (CFSP) 2015/1835 of 12 October 2015 on the statute, seat and operational rules of the EDA.

An agency of the European Council, the EDA is the only EU Agency whose Steering Board meets at ministerial level. The Head of Agency, who is the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is also Vice-President of the European Commission. The EDA Chief Executive is appointed by the Steering Board. In addition to ministerial meetings at least twice a year, the Steering Board also meets at the level of national armaments directors, R&T directors and capabilities directors.

The EDA's staff is composed of experts in capability development, research and technology, armament cooperation as well as industrial matters from all 27 EDA Member States; it combines bottom-up expert level initiatives (the EDA connects around 2,500 national based-experts) and top-down political direction.

The Agency is organised in three operational directorates: Cooperation Planning & Support; Capability, Armaments & Technology; and European Synergies & Innovation. It also has a Corporate Services directorate which ensures the smooth and efficient functioning of the Agency.

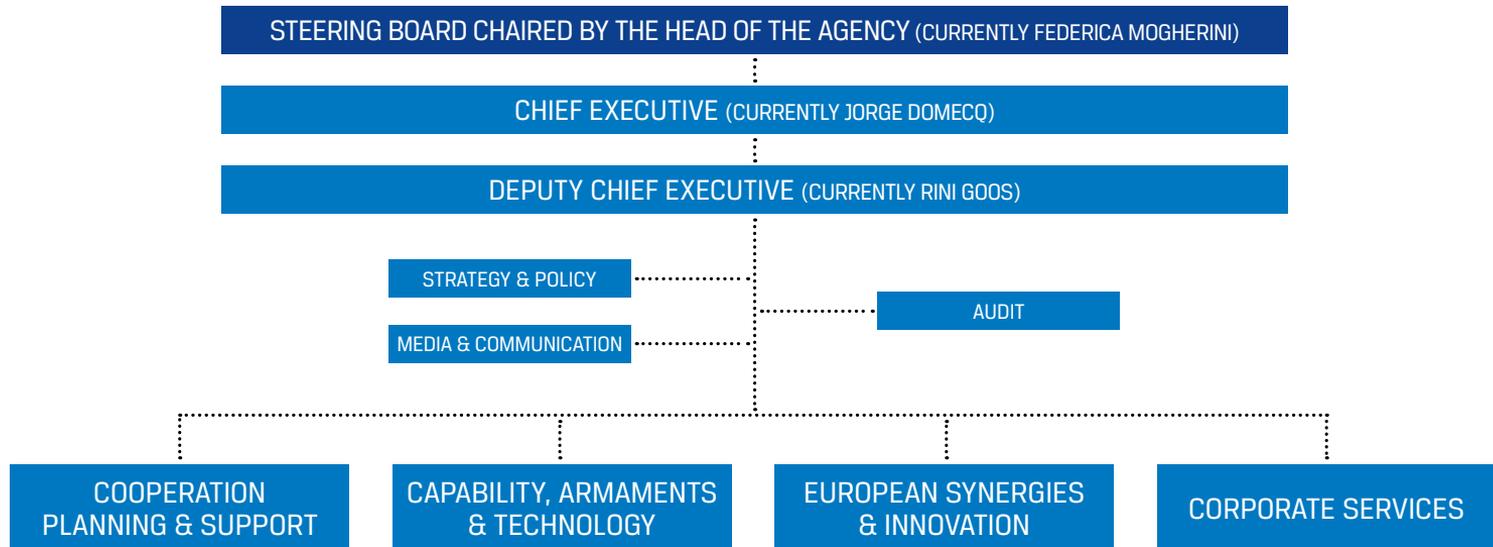
OUR MISSIONS

As stipulated in the Treaty of the European Union (article 42) and the subsequent Council decisions of 2011 and 2015, the main missions of the EDA are to:

- › identify the Member States' operational military capability requirements and promote measures to satisfy those requirements
- › contribute to identifying and, where appropriate, implementing any measure needed to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector
- › propose multilateral projects to fulfil the objectives in terms of military capabilities, ensure coordination of the programmes implemented by the Member States and management of specific cooperation programmes
- › assist the Council in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities
- › participate in defining a European capabilities and armaments policy
- › pursue coherence with other Union policies insofar as they have implications for defence capabilities
- › promote and foster deeper defence cooperation between participating Member States
- › provide support to CSDP operations.



OUR ORGANISATION



THE EDA'S ADDED VALUE

> Flexibility

The EDA works "à la carte", from a minimum of two to all EU Member States (except Denmark) plus Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine. Depending on their strategic priorities, their operational requirements, or their interest in a specific project, Member States decide themselves when and to which extent they wish to participate in the Agency's projects.

> Expertise

The EDA is small in size (around 130 staff) but its specialized personnel works in close relationship with expert counterparts in Member States as well as EU institutions and other multinational structures.

> Cost-efficiency

The EDA functions with a relatively small annual budget of just above €30 million which, combined with its in-house expertise, enables it to act as a powerful lever nevertheless: projects and programmes launched and managed by the EDA generate several hundred million euros worth of ad-hoc investments. Since the creation of the Agency in 2004, approximately €1 billion has been invested in defence research and programmes through the EDA.

Ministries of Defence, armed forces, industry, civil society, citizens: they all benefit from the enhanced cooperation and the resultant cost savings generated by the EDA's work.

The EDA is the place where Member States keen to enhance and develop their defence capabilities through cooperation with other

Member States can do so. The Agency thereby helps creating critical European military capabilities which can be used in EU CSDP and NATO operations as well as in other multinational or national engagements.

> Synergies with EU instruments

The EDA also acts as a facilitator between Member States' military stakeholders and wider EU policies. The Agency represents and defends military views and interests in the shaping and implementation process of EU policies while, at the same time, offering a platform for the European Commission and other EU bodies to dialogue with the Ministries of Defence. It can also facilitate the access of Ministries of Defence and defence industry, notably SMEs, to EU instruments.



2 HOW WE WORK



As an agency of the Council of the European Union, the EDA is an intergovernmental body at the service of its Member States' Ministries of Defence

It supports them in anticipating and managing the defence implications of a range of specific EU policies and initiatives, such as research and technology (R&T), the Single European Sky (SES), energy, space, radio spectrum, dual capabilities related to cyber defence, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and maritime surveillance.

The Agency is the place where defence ministries can identify and articulate their interests vis-à-vis these policies. To play such a platform role, the EDA has established strong relationships with other EU actors including the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the defence-related bodies of the Council (Political and Security Committee, EU Military Committee), the SESAR Joint Undertaking and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), to name only them. The European Parliament, too, is more and more involved and has expressed support for EDA's activities on several occasions. All those close relationships allow the Agency to maximise civil-military synergies.

The EDA also cooperates with certain non-EU countries and third parties. It currently has administrative arrangements in place with Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the European Space Agency (ESA) as well as with the Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement (OCCAR).

The Agency continues to strengthen its working relationship with NATO, focusing on complementary and mutually reinforcing capability development. The EDA is also engaged in developing its relation with other non-EU organisations, such as Eurocontrol.

Maintaining a permanent and close dialogue and ensuring transparency in the relationship with the defence industry is also crucial. The Agency and the AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) are therefore natural partners. However, the dialogue is also open to all other defence industry representatives.

Close cooperations with other EU structures

- The Council
- The European External Action Service
- The European Commission
- The European Maritime Safety Agency
- The European Aviation Safety Agency
- The European Union Satellite Centre
- The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX)
- The European GNSS Agency (GSA)
- SESAR Joint Undertaking/SESAR Deployment Manager



Close cooperation with non-EU actors and third parties

- Administrative arrangements with the European Space Agency and with OCCAR
- Administrative arrangements with Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine
- Working relationship with NATO: pragmatism and complementarity
- European defence industry
- Dialogue and cooperation with a number of other non-EU countries



POOLING & SHARING

Based on a German-Swedish food for thought paper on intensifying European military cooperation in 2010 (the "Ghent Initiative"), the EDA together with its Member States developed the Pooling & Sharing initiative. The concept refers to initiatives and projects to pool and share more military capabilities among EU Member States. In November 2011 the EDA proposed and Defence Ministers adopted an initial list of eleven Pooling & Sharing priorities. Among these projects are Air-to-Air Refuelling, the Helicopter Training Programme, maritime surveillance, or the European Satellite Communications Procurement Cell. In its efforts to promote a systematic approach towards Pooling & Sharing, the EDA proposed and Ministers adopted on 19 November 2012 the "Code of Conduct on Pooling & Sharing". The Code comprises a series of actions to support cooperative efforts of EU Member States to develop defence capabilities.

The actions herein are aimed at mainstreaming Pooling & Sharing in Member States' planning and decision-making processes. The code notably encourages Member States to consider cooperation for the whole life-cycle of a capability.

In December 2013 the European Council made a clear case for increased defence cooperation and welcomed the progress achieved by the Agency's Code of Conduct on Pooling & Sharing. Additionally, Heads of State and Government asked for a policy framework to foster more systematic and long term cooperation by the end of 2014.

3 | WHAT WE DO



European defence matters. For the European Union to protect its interests and citizens at home against existing and new emerging threats and to remain a credible security provider in the world, it requires the full tool suite: diplomatic, economic, development, and of course military.

Recent operations have laid bare critical shortfalls and gaps in European military capabilities. But while defence budgets remain under heavy pressure and investment is in decline, costs of major defence systems are rising.

Cooperation among Member States with a view to pooling & sharing military assets is therefore the most appropriate and cost-efficient solution to make sure Europe can acquire, maintain and develop the critical defence capabilities it needs to face current and future threats.

THE EDA'S FOUR MAIN CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



AIR-TO-AIR REFUELLING (AAR)

Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) is a critical enabler for air power projection as it is indispensable for sustained air combat operations. As a unique force multiplier, it is thus a fundamental technical characteristic embedded in modern aircraft design; not just in combat aircraft but across the full spectrum of current and future air platforms, including Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (drones).

In the past, European armed forces have relied extensively on American assets. This was clearly demonstrated in the Kosovo campaign in 1999 and confirmed during the operations over Libya in 2011. The situation has not substantially improved since then: in 2016, Europe is able to mobilize just above 40 tanker aircraft of 9 different types owned by 7 EU Member States which, when compared with the US resources of over 550 tankers of just four different types, is a clear indication of the European challenges in this field.

Over the past years, the EDA has initiated and supported the establishment of a Multinational Multi-Role Tanker Transport Fleet (MMF), under the lead of The Netherlands and with the support of OCCAR and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA). In summer 2016, a contract for the collaborative purchase of several Airbus A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft by a group of participating Member States was signed with a view to having the new capacity operational by mid-2020. Other Member States were expected to join the MMF soon. The MMF is a major European collaborative achievement in which the EDA played an important initial role

by kicking off the whole project. It will also serve as an example of how, without unnecessary duplication, Europeans can cooperate for the benefit of NATO.

AIM: To facilitate the joint acquisition of additional European AAR capability shared by more and more Member States. To create all possible synergies in the logistics, training and operational functions. To increase the number of contributing Member States by pooling and/or sharing AAR assets or services.

BENEFITS: To increase Member States' operational autonomy by alleviating the existing European AAR shortfall. To increase interoperability and to reduce the overall AAR capability costs. To facilitate the acquisition/operation of an AAR capability and make it more affordable for Member States.

Work is also ongoing to improve the use of already existing AAR capabilities in Europe. In coalition operations, tankers are a valuable pooled asset: a tanker from one nation may be required to refuel aircraft from several other nations in the same mission. To enable this, tanker and receiver need to follow lengthy compatibility assessment procedures before eventually receiving AAR clearance. The EDA supports AAR clearance trials, under the lead of Italy to promote collective AAR clearances on future platforms and generate economies of scale. Finally, the Agency is conducting activities to optimise the A400M as a tanker platform, including assessing AAR compatibility.



REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS)

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly dubbed 'drones', have proven their value in the military sphere in recent operations demonstrating their operational capacities, particularly for surveillance and information gathering. However RPAS also include civil applications such as infrastructure surveillance, fire fighting, disaster or environmental monitoring, as well as border control and management.

The EDA is supporting the development and launch, by a group of participating Member States, of a new cooperative European Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) RPAS programme with the objective to deliver an operational defence capability by 2025. Other Member States could join in later.

In close coordination with the European Commission and other stakeholders, the Agency is also developing critical enablers for the use of RPAS in the field of certification, standardisation and new technologies aimed at facilitating the insertion of unmanned aerial

AIM: To support a comprehensive and collaborative approach towards RPAS including technical, regulatory and operational aspects to prepare the next generation of MALE RPAS and their safe inclusion in European airspace.

BENEFITS: To sustain European technological know-how and non-dependence through investment in RPAS, which offer a wide range of civil and military applications.

vehicles in tomorrow's European skies. The aim is to set up a framework enabling all types of aerial drones to fly safely in the wider context of the Single European Sky, on the basis of dual-use standards and regulation. The Agency is also supporting the development of a European community for the use of existing assets in Europe.

CYBER DEFENCE

Cyberspace is nowadays considered to be the fifth domain of warfare - as critical to military operations as land, sea, air, and space. Success of military operations in the physical domains is increasingly dependent on the availability of, and access to, cyberspace. The armed forces are thus reliant on cyberspace both as a user and as a domain to achieve defence and security missions. EU leaders acknowledged the importance of cyber by adopting a "Cyber Defence Policy Framework" in November 2014.

In the EDA, too, cyber defence is one of the priorities. A project team of EDA and Member States' representatives are responsible for jointly developing cyber defence capabilities within the EU common security and defence policy. A network of EDA and Member States research & technology experts support this work by collaborative activities delivering the required technologies at the right time. Given that threats are multifaceted, a comprehensive approach is taken, seeking to enhance synergies between the civilian and military domains in protecting critical cyber assets.

EDA delivers a variety of cyber security & defence courses from expert level to decision maker training. The Agency also works on Cyber Situational Awareness Packages (CySAP) for CSDP operation and mission headquarters with the aim of integrating cyber defence in the military operational planning process.

The EDA has also assessed the feasibility of an EU Cyber Defence Centre/Capacity. The assessment was prepared in 2014 and 2015 and was forwarded early 2016 to the Politico-Military Group (PMG) and the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) for further discussion.

AIM: To assist Member States in developing appropriate cyber defence capabilities and to encourage cooperation in selected areas such as training and exercises.

BENEFITS: To contribute to European cyber defence capabilities along common standards.

GOVERNMENTAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (GOVSATCOM)

Satellite communications have become critical elements for defence, security, humanitarian, emergency response or diplomatic communications. They are a key enabler for civil and military missions/operations in particular in remote and austere environments with little or no infrastructure. Additionally, there is strong potential for a dual-use cooperative approach.

The objective of EDA's GovSatCom programme, led by Spain, is to prepare the next generation of satellite communication systems by 2025.

AIMS: To develop future satellite communications capabilities in a modular and scalable manner, able to match a wide range of civil and defence applications and missions.

BENEFITS: To introduce an innovative and sustainable cooperation model in the area of GovSatCom including a wide range of institutional and industry partners.

In close cooperation with Member States, the European Commission and the European Space Agency, a common staff target regarding the harmonization of the needs of military users was adopted by all EDA Member States in 2014. Based on this commonly-agreed document, a preparation phase started ahead of the launch of a full-scale cooperative project. By the end of 2016, a business case including more detailed technical requirements as well as a through-life management plan should allow Member States to assess various options in terms of cooperation models and system architectures.



EXAMPLES OF EFFICIENT COOPERATION ENABLED BY THE EDA

AIRLIFT TRAININGS & EXERCISES

By mid-2016, 15 participating Member States have benefited from the EDA Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) which organised in excess of 50 exercises since 2009 with more than 13,000 participants. Recent exercises were held in Finland (Cold Blade, 2016), Italy (Italian Blade, 2015) and Portugal (Hot Blade, 2014). The HEP exercises are only one of multiple projects undertaken by the EDA to increase the overall availability of European military helicopters, with other initiatives such as the Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) or the Helicopter Tactics Instructor Course (HTIC) also ongoing.

Besides, 20 Member States have joined forces in the European Air Transport Fleet (EATF) partnership to develop cost-effective solutions in order to optimise the use of existing and future national fleets of military transport aircraft in Europe. This has led to the organization of

several live-flying and theoretical exercises aimed at enhancing Europe's airlift capability. Initiated by the EDA, run by the Eindhoven-based European Air Transport Command (EATC) and hosted by Member States, these trainings help increase interoperability between European crews, identify common shortfalls and exchange lessons learned. And they are cost-effective too: each training generates estimated savings of more than €500,000 for the participating Member States. A permanent European Tactical Airlift Centre will be opened in Spain by the end of 2016.

AIM: To increase European rotary-wing and fixed-wing capabilities and develop interoperability between EU Member States.

BENEFITS: Pooling resources and sharing knowledge in order to improve EU Member States' efficiency in current and future coalition operations.



COUNTER-IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

Countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) is a key capability needed to ensure that troops and also civilian populations are safe and secure. Both in peacetime and operations, IEDs continue to represent one of the most lethal threats.

The EDA has played an important role in ensuring that skills and knowledge in tackling IEDs are maintained. One important element of its counter-IED work is technical exploitation, notably the recording and analysis of information related to events, scenes, technical components and materials used in IED attacks. The objective of counter-IED exploitation is to gather the technical and tactical data about the attack

whilst at the same time identifying the IED "supply chain" in order to gather intelligence about those involved in IED production and use. Counter-IED exploitation was the rationale behind the 2011-2014 deployment of a multinational theatre exploitation laboratory in Afghanistan, where it helped disrupt networks making and using IEDs.

In parallel to that effort, the "Joint Deployable Exploitation and Analysis Laboratory" (JDEAL) programme was launched in 2013. Under Dutch lead, it established a permanent IED exploitation training facility in The Netherlands, staffed by a permanent multinational team. Under the same project, a first deployable exploitation capability was delivered to the European training facility in spring 2016. The laboratory was financed through the EDA and is now ready for deployment to operations to counter-IED threats on the request of contributing Member States. Moreover, JDEAL is seeking to acquire a second deployable capability.

Initiatives such as JDEAL aim to ensure that the knowledge gained at a considerable price in wartime is not lost to other defence actors, but also made available to the bomb disposal community as a whole, whether military or civil.

AIM: To build up European capabilities in the field of Counter-IED techniques, expertise and equipment.

BENEFITS: Pooling resources to acquire new capabilities and share best practices through multinational and civil-military cooperation.

MILITARY AIRWORTHINESS

European countries currently operate military aviation safety systems independently from each other, with each country being individually responsible for the regulation of its own military and state aircraft. As a result, military airworthiness activities are still being conducted and regulated on a national basis, with European harmonisation only being achieved at an individual programme level and having to be repeated and developed for each new programme. This generates many challenges for multinational aircraft programmes and is one of the primary causes of delays and additional costs.

The Military Airworthiness Authorities (MAWA) Forum established under EDA chairmanship oversees the development of the European military airworthiness requirements and promotes ways of achieving the harmonisation of military airworthiness regulation and certification processes across Europe. So far, the MAWA Forum has already developed and published European Military Airworthiness Requirements (EMARs) for airworthiness management, aircraft maintenance, training/licencing and certification. Those requirements now need to be implemented into national regulations as a basis for mutual recognition.

Work is also underway to develop an airworthiness regulatory framework necessary for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to operate in non-segregated airspace.

AIM: To harmonise European military airworthiness regulations

BENEFITS: To cut costs and delays in current and future multinational aircraft and RPAS programmes.



SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

The EDA sees itself as an intermediary body which facilitates the establishment and running of EU operations in every possible way. Therefore, it offers various types of support to Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations as well as to EU Battlegroups without generating any additional costs for the Member States or the Agency itself. The assistance ranges from expertise and existing projects to providing ready-to-use solutions for contracting and procurement, but also Human Resource management support or cyber awareness trainings.

In the Council decision of 12 October 2015 on the statute, seat and operational rules of the EDA, support to EU-led operations was even promoted to one of the Agency's key tasks.

To date, the EDA has supported many EU-led operations, from operation Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the EU Training Missions in Mali and Somalia or the Military Operation in the Central African Republic. Since 2015, the EDA also provides assistance to operation SOPHIA/EUNAVFOR MED against smuggling and trafficking of migrants in the Mediterranean. Besides EDA cyber awareness seminars and HR management software, EUNAVFOR MED is also using the MARSUR networking project developed within the Agency to facilitate common maritime situational awareness.

There are other EDA projects currently under development which have the potential to be used in CSDP operations in the future, such as smart energy camps, joint deployable exploitation analysis laboratories, awareness training in countering Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED), cyber situational awareness packages for mission headquarters or centralised platforms to share and analyse geospatial information.

AIM: To support EU-led CSDP missions and operations by providing EDA projects, expertise and assistance to EU Operation Commanders.

BENEFITS: To facilitate the establishment and running of EU CSDP missions and operations.



EXAMPLES OF THE EDA ACTING AS AN INTERFACE BETWEEN DEFENCE AND WIDER EU POLICIES

PREPARATORY ACTION FOR CSDP-RELATED RESEARCH

The EDA is involved in preparations for the launch of the European Commission's so-called 'Preparatory Action' (PA) on defence research in 2017. Whereas today's EU multiannual research programme (Horizon 2020) is exclusively dedicated to civilian-focused research, the PA is meant to test defence research implementation and funding within an EU framework with the

aim of having it fully integrated in the European Union's next multiannual framework (2021-2027).

In the run-up to the PA which is expected to start in the course of 2017, the EDA is currently managing and implementing (on behalf of the European Commission) a Pilot Project for defence research which was launched in March 2016 (call for proposals) and through which grant agreements worth almost €1.4 million are awarded for two defence technological projects and one R&D project linked to certification of RPAS (drones) for military and civil uses. The Pilot Project marks the first time that defence research is funded through the EU budget.

Since national research expenditure is in persistent decline, the need for common EU-funded defence-related research has become increasingly pressing – hence the importance of making of the PA a success.

AIM: To prepare the ground for EU-funded defence research as an integral part of the European Union's next multiannual framework 2021-2027, thereby boosting defence research & technology spending.

BENEFITS: With its expertise, the EDA can help Member States and the Commission to identify and define potential objectives and priorities of future CSDP-related EU research.

SINGLE EUROPEAN SKY AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT RESEARCH (SESAR)

The aim of the European Commission's Single European Sky (SES) initiative is to optimise today's airspace organisation and management through a combination of technological, economic and regulatory efforts. Technical aspects of the legislation are coordinated and run by the Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) programme.

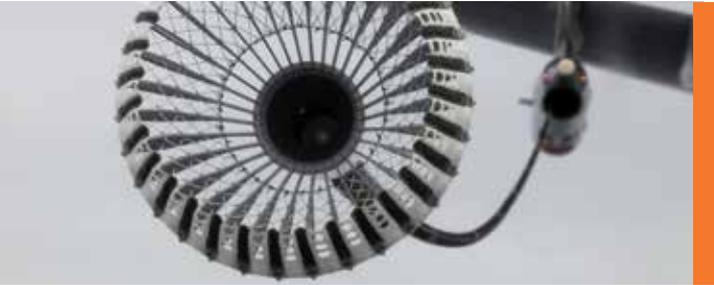
Military aircraft fleets form the single biggest 'airline' operating in European airspace. Considering the need to coordinate the various activities already conducted by the military in SESAR, and in order to facilitate the establishment of a coordinated position of the defence community in Europe, the EDA supports and facilitates the SES/SESAR Military Implementation Forum, a venue where issues of mutual interest are debated between relevant stakeholders.

AIM: To ensure that the military views are taken into account in the deployment of the Single European Sky.

BENEFITS: To guarantee smooth interactions with other EU actors, especially the Commission which needs a consolidated view of the defence community's specific needs regarding the Single European Sky.

The EDA is playing an increasing role in the deployment of SESAR. It supports the Member States in identifying operational and financial consequences as well as opportunities that SESAR may bring to European Air Forces. The Agency also provides support to the European Commission and activities of the SESAR Joint Undertaking in this context. In addition, it facilitates the interaction between NATO and the SESAR Joint Undertaking to ensure mutual reinforcement at technical level. To fulfill this role, the EDA has established the SESAR Cell, which will support Member States in SESAR deployment and increase coordination among Ministries of Defence.





ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The EDA's Energy and Environment Programme supports Member States' Armed Forces in reducing fuel and energy consumption during operations and helps them to use best practices for the development of alternative energy generators at military sites. The programme also assists Ministries of Defence to anticipate the impact of evolving energy policies and technologies on future military capabilities. Collaborative action in this domain makes sense all the more as better energy management can reduce the military's dependency on imported fossil fuels, improve energy efficiency and integrate new energy technologies into military capabilities.

Building on previous work conducted under its MILITARY GREEN initiative, the Agency has launched different new initiatives including: 1) a comprehensive Energy Management Systems (EnMS) Training course for Member States to assist them in the energy management of their armed forces; 2) a Smart Energy Camp Technical Demonstrator which has been deployed in the EU Training Mission Camp in Mali (the first of its kind to be deployed into a truly operational, multinational camp) to test among others the efficiency of flexible combat suitable photovoltaic panels and the integration of renewables with battery storage in a deployment scenario; 3) the Smart Blue Water Camps Project which focuses on water management techniques and technology for fixed military installations with a view to achieving improved security of supply, environment impact reduction, cost savings, better environmental awareness and project replicability.

The EDA also manages the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS) which is a unique platform funded by the European Commission to engage Ministries of Defence and armed forces

in a European Defence Energy Network (EDEN) to improve energy management, efficiency and the use of renewable energy on fixed military installations in Europe.

AIM: To support Member States' Armed Forces in their efforts to switch to a more sustainable energy policy and introduce more efficient and sustainable energy sources and technologies into the military.

BENEFITS: To diminish energy costs, reduce the defence sector's dependence on fossil fuels and improve Member States' Armed Forces' operational effectiveness.

SUPPORT TO SMES – ACCESS TO EU FUNDING

As part of its efforts to promote greater innovation across the defence industry in Europe, the EDA is also facilitating dual-use companies' access to European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). ESIF have indeed the potential to become an additional source of funding for research and innovation dual-use projects in the field of security and defence.



Since 2013, the EDA has been raising awareness on EU funding opportunities by delivering ESIF workshops, seminars and trainings in many Member States; to date (mid-2016), about 1,300 defence-related experts from Ministries of Defence, SMEs, universities, research and technology organisations, etc. have benefitted from them. The EDA's "Guidelines for facilitating SMEs' access to the defence market", revised in May 2015, provide practical recommendations to Member States on how to improve access by defence-related SMEs to information, defence procurement, supply chains and finance. A network of Member States' SME points of contacts has also been established in order to promote and monitor the use and implementation of the guidelines and to discuss further policies and measures on SMEs.

Additionally, the EDA has also provided selected dual-use projects with free technical assistance in order to maximise their chance to access ESIF grants. In 2014, a pilot procedure successfully resulted in one Portuguese dual-use project being 60% co-funded through ESIF. A second successful project, led by a Polish SME and supported by the EDA, was chosen in spring

AIM: To share knowledge about and promote use of EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the benefit of dual-use projects.

BENEFITS: To strengthen the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.

2016 to be co-financed through the same EU funding instrument.

In a study carried out in 2016 on the EU COSME Programme (2014-2020), the EDA has explored the opportunities provided by this new EU instrument which aims to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle. Based on this study, the Agency is working on new initiatives in support of defence-related SMEs.

Other ongoing EDA initiatives in this field include the creation of a SME Corner and the establishment of an EDA SME special adviser.



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