

**Key note speech by Adam Sowa, EDA Deputy Chief Executive
EFC JIP-CBRN workshop 15 September 2011**

- **Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning,**
- **It is really my great pleasure to be here, at the Catholic University of Louvain, one of the best known and most prestigious universities in Europe and to speak to this distinguished audience – guests and participants of the workshop on the Joint Investment Programme on Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear protection within the European Framework Cooperation.**

A few minutes ago we have signed the coordination agreement on the European Framework Cooperation. The European Commission and the European Defence Agency have agreed to harmonize their research activities in this specific case in the field of CBRN. But also in the fields of Situation Awareness and Unmanned Air Systems we are working on maximising complementarity and synergy of civilian security and defence-related research activities. The European Space Agency will join the European Framework Cooperation as well, but will sign in a bit later.

The European Defence Agency has been mandated by its participating Member States to develop the cooperation modalities under the European Framework Cooperation in close consultation with the

Commission and the European Space Agency. We agreed that in support of such coordination the organisations will provide each other relevant project information relating to the preparation of calls for proposals or invitations to tender, the evaluation of these proposals or tenders as well as the implementation of research activities.

Commission, EDA and ESA will equally take part in workshops and seminars throughout the life of the EFC. Today we see the first result! And I appreciate this very much after the extensive preparations that we have taken together.

With the signature of this agreement and the establishment of the JIP CBRN we are answering high level calls from the Member States and the EU institutions, for a better harmonization of the R&T activities in the EDA, Commission and ESA.

With EFC we are also paving the way for future cooperation under Horizon 2020. I believe that it would be beneficial for both civil and military when we could co-finance the dual use technologies that both constituencies need for their applications.

Protection against CBRN threats is the first mature topic within the EFC. The EDA contribution will take the form of a Joint Investment Programme, with a centrally managed budget funded by all contributing Members. So far we have 12 Million Euros for the programme. The JIP-CBRN will be overseen by a management committee comprising representatives from the contributing member states. I welcome the members of this committee here today.

As regards the programme management of the JIP-CBRN, we want to build on the experience of the existing EDA JIPs, where *just return* was replaced by the concept of *global balance* and using competition for the selection of contractors. Results will be available for all the contributing member states. Other issues such as using calls for proposals and invitations to tender, and government exchange of information, are being explored as well. We will stimulate the participation of Small and Medium Enterprises and research establishments.

CBRN Protection is an important dual use domain in which Member States are prepared to jointly invest at a European level. In view of emerging CBRN threats in mid- to long-term, Member States see a need for enhanced technological development. End users require that the CBRN detection technologies be high in performance and low in detection thresholds in a miniaturised, unmanned and autonomous way that is much easier to handle. Better detection of B and C agents is simply needed to have more time to react and protect. The technical content of the program has also to cover the aspects of protection and responding to an occurring event.

The aim is working towards a CBRN architecture with the potential to integrate and transform the results of the different research programs into the needed future capabilities.

The only way to be prepared for a difficult to predict CBRN threat is development of knowledge and technology to prevent and defeat it!

Ladies and gentlemen, today we will hear the views on EFC and JIP CBRN from experts from the different institutions and from our member states and we will have also the presentations from the industrial side and the side of the research institutions on the first call topics detection as well as modelling and simulation.

The management committee of the JIP CBRN will take on board all the good ideas to refine the first call for proposals which is to be launched soon after the signature of the programme arrangement.

I conclude by thanking all of you for attending this workshop. I would like to add my belief that we really are on the right tracks for EFC and future cooperation where both civil parties and the military world can benefit from.

I am grateful for the way the colleagues from the Commission and ESA have worked with the EDA staff to get the EFC launched.

And I would like to thank the UCL Catholic University of Louvain for hosting the event today, here in this nice college room. This is, in my eyes, a very suitable place for discussing our research topics...!

Ladies and gentlemen: I wish you a good and very fruitful workshop!
Thank you for your kind attention!