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# Study to Inform Strategy on Counter-Surface-to-Air Fire (C-SAFIRE) in EU-Led Military Operations: Public Executive Summary

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## 1. Introduction

In Crisis Management Operations, aircraft are likely to be crucial to achievement of EU objectives, whether the mission/operation is humanitarian or military. However, adversaries could use Surface-to-Air Fire (SAFIRE) capabilities to interfere with, and potentially jeopardise, EU air operations. Counter-Surface-to-Air Fire (C-SAFIRE) capability is, therefore, required on EU-led military operations in order to prevent the threat or use of SAFIRE being a risk to mission success, excessively constraining air assets' freedom of action, or imposing avoidable costs or casualties.

This study supports the EU approach to facilitate Member States' participation in EU-led military operations under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), while supporting mission effectiveness and operational risk management for participating air assets. The study states the C-SAFIRE capabilities required for participation in EU-led military operations and addresses how air platforms with different capabilities can be employed.

## 2. Objectives

The objectives for this study are to:

- a. Collate findings from previous EDA studies on C-SAFIRE.
- b. Produce a technical, organisational and procedural guide on C-SAFIRE in EU-led military operations, which participating Member States or other partners can follow in order to minimise operational risks in EU-led military operations.
- c. Enhance the understanding of potential contributors to EU-led military operations regarding the C-SAFIRE capabilities required to join operations.

In order to:

- d. Assist participating Member States and other partners in assessing and developing the level of their C-SAFIRE capabilities while enhancing interoperability among them.
- e. Contribute to the development of a future C-SAFIRE strategy for EU-led military operations.
- f. Allow EU Operational/Force Commanders to understand the C-SAFIRE capabilities of contributing air assets, in order to support risk management on operations.

### 3. Methodology

The methodology for the study was:

- a. The Kick-Off Meeting with Project Team C-SAFIRE confirmed and clarified the study requirements and influencing factors.
- b. The Contractor (SCS Ltd) was provided with the relevant EDA studies, which were collated and integrated.
- c. Consultation was conducted with participating Member States, relevant EDA units and the European Air Group (EAG). Consideration was given to relevant EU studies.
- d. Relevant NATO doctrine was considered, to avoid divergence or nugatory duplication, but the study was not constrained by NATO publications and non-European factors were not determining factors.
- e. A Workshop was held with stakeholders, the basis for which was drafts of the *Guide* and the *Collated Findings*. The drafts were developed based on Workshop inputs.
- f. Developed drafts of the *Guide* and the *Collated Findings* were provided to Project Team members and their comments were incorporated. The documents were then finalised.

### 4. Outputs

The objectives of the study were achieved by the study outputs and by its conduct, which encouraged and facilitated participation of all Member States. The study outputs are:

- a. The *Guide*, which provides:
  - i. An integrated guide for actions at strategic, operational and tactical levels.
  - ii. An integrated overview of C-SAFIRE encompassing the full range of operational scenarios (from low to high intensity), all aircraft roles and types (including military and civilian-operated), aircraft and non-aircraft agencies (operations planning, battlespace management, air traffic control, ground force protection), and arrangements to support participation by aircraft of all nations, including those with limited C-SAFIRE equipment.
- b. The *Collated Findings* document, which provides a single-source reference for the findings of EDA studies on C-SAFIRE.
- c. The *Final Report* which presents the study objectives, the methodology undertaken, results and the development of the deliverables of the study.
- d. The *Executive Summary* which is releasable to the public.

### 5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the *Guide* should become part of the documentation which shapes the training, planning for and conduct of operations at the strategic, operational and tactical levels, in order to enhance operational effectiveness and interoperability and to assist in assessment and development of C-SAFIRE capabilities.