



EDA CE SPEECH 4TH CF SEDSS II BUCHAREST CONFERENCE

Date	Time	Place
12/06/2019	09:20 – 09:40	InterContinental Bucharest

*Your Excellency the Minister of Defence,
Director General Dominique Ristori,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Dear conference participants,

- In January 2016 the Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action Mr Miguel Arias Cañete and the European Commission's Director-General for Energy Mr Dominique Ristori and I opened the first Plenary conference of Phase I. Back then, our objective was to establish a Forum for bringing closer the defence and energy communities to share information and practices in defence energy-related topics. Today, we are delighted to see this Community has grown and developed into a venue for generating concrete project ideas and guidelines that can assist the Ministries of Defence to move towards affordable, sustainable and resilient energy models.
- The positive impact of this project is also reflected by the attention that the EU puts on the topic at political and strategic level. In a few days, the Foreign Affairs Council in the format of defence will take place. It is expected that for the first time, EU Ministers of Defence will adopt Council Conclusions with specific reference to the work undertaken by this Forum acknowledging its importance.



In the context of the last Foreign Affairs Council, Ministers raised the need to look into the linkage between climate change and defence which is of direct relevance to the work of this Forum. Furthermore, the Steering Board of the Agency has been briefed on a regular basis on a progress made in this domain. Next month, I will update the Defence Policy Directors, the European Union Military Committee on the achievements of this Forum and its contribution to the armed forces in minimising energy costs and footprints.

- The organisation of this conference under the auspices of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and hosted by the Romanian Ministry of National Defence, is a clear indication of the value that the EU and Member States attribute to your work and achievements. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your substantial work and to congratulate you on the results that you have achieved so far.



Dear distinguished guests,

- We have gathered here today to mark the end of Phase II of the Consultation Forum, but also to look ahead as we come closer to realising the Phase III. To prepare for the next steps, I feel the need to take stock of the previous conferences, highlighting the main achievements and key messages, as well as building upon the lessons learned as we move towards the continuation of this project. To address the diverse objectives of the second Phase, the Agency has been conducting a series of activities ranging from plenary conferences, moderator's coordination and management meetings to ad-hoc experts' meetings, video conferences and other bilateral meetings with DG ENER and EASME. In total, we have conducted more than 50 of these meetings and by the end of the second phase we will have issued more than 80 communications, reports, questionnaires, factsheets or other guidelines or food for thought papers.
- Our vision for the second phase was to provide the defence sector with an economic and strategic opportunity for generating collaborative ideas for defence energy policies, action plans and concrete defence energy-related project concepts. In this respect, we have focused our efforts in addressing five primary objectives:



- Fostering further the defence energy community and enabling its members to share best practices, knowledge and experiences;
- Addressing the annotated articles of the energy-related legislation;
- Revising the related parts of the Guidance Document on the implementation of the EU energy legislation in the defence sector which can help the MoDs to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency, without compromising the core mission of the Armed Forces.
- Enabling the EU MODs to develop EU or National Defence Policies/Strategies/Action Plans to address defence energy-related considerations;
- Producing 15 information sheets for defence energy-related project ideas including cross-cutting projects;
- *Allow me now to look back upon the previous conferences of the Phase II and briefly present to you the **key results and achievements**.*



- The Tallinn Conference marked the initiation of the second phase of the Consultation Forum. Building on the achievements of the first phase, this Conference explored further the benefits that could be enabled in support of the European Commission's implementation of the energy-related directives. The conference addressed a wide range of subjects such as how to develop and maintain effective military Energy Management Systems, the potential of fuel cells and hydrogen in infrastructure projects and the EU's approach to critical infrastructure protection. Remarkably, the Forum identified from the outset of the Phase II more than 30 defence energy-related project ideas.



- In Warsaw the participants focused on wider decision-making tools, renovation roadmaps, energy data metering, energy performance contracting regarding Renewable Energy Sources, and best practices towards the establishment of resilient critical energy infrastructures. The Warsaw Conference placed emphasis on the identification and presentation of possible sources of funding by the EU's or other related and applicable funding instruments for defence energy-related projects. This process aimed at enabling the development of European collaborative projects as well as increasing investments in the field of the energy sector. The Working Groups continued pursuing the implementation of the EU legal framework on energy and using the Forum as the platform to share lessons learned and raising awareness of the benefits of improving energy efficiency when applied in the defence sector. DG ENER supported this work by providing an EU long-term foresight on EU energy legislation, in order to help with defence planning. The support of DG ENER and EASME has been proved indispensable in facilitating the interaction between the defence experts involved in energy and the wider energy community including the National Competent Authorities.



- The last conference, that took place in Nicosia was a clear success as it gathered more than 160 participants coming from 27 different European countries and more than 20 entities from industry, academia and research and technology organisations (RTOs). The largest one since the initiation of the project in 2016. In addition to the high numbers, the Nicosia Conference proved fruitful in terms of results. It enabled the participants to advance on the implementation of the project objectives and foster their collaboration within the working groups. Significant progress has been noted in the development of guidelines for improving overall energy management and energy efficiency of military building stock and fixed infrastructure. Also, the participants advanced by reviewing renewable energy sources and promoting their use in defence infrastructure. Another significant milestone was the elaboration of the position paper on the protection of defence-related critical energy infrastructures and the guidance document regarding the protection of these infrastructures against hybrid threats. In Nicosia, the participants also had the opportunity to be updated on the defence energy-related legislative proposals of the “Clean Energy for All Europeans” package.



Dear Conference participants,

- We are aware that one of the main concerns of this Forum is the transition from the conceptual to the realisation phase. Therefore, in Nicosia we have presented our multi-dimensional plan which aims at increasing the possibility of the implementation of the CF SEDSS II project ideas. This plan consists of several options. Here I would like to recap briefly how the Agency implements this plan:
 - EDA has first provided Member States with a dedicated ‘European Funding Gateway for Defence Energy’ to raise awareness and transfer know-how about the spectrum of funding opportunities for Energy in Defence available at European level.
 - As part of the working group programmes, EDA also organised parallel sessions with dedicated experts providing guidance on how to improve further the project ideas, recommendations on how to get funding, information on several funding opportunities coming for instance from the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) or the European Investment Bank (EIB), and guidance for an EDA ad-hoc project generation and hands-on training;



- In the meantime, EDA has developed a tailored methodology, the “IdentiFunding for Energy”, able to match each project idea resulting from the CF SEDDS II with the range of their potentially eligible funding sources at European level. This methodology has been applied to all the 17 project ideas out of initial 30 that the Working Groups have decided to elaborate further. So far, this methodology has delivered the following outcome:
 - ✓ 15 project ideas are potentially relevant for European Structural Funds;
 - ✓ 11 are eligible also under the EU LIFE Programme;
 - ✓ 4 are relevant for the Commission’s Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP);
 - ✓ 2 could be covered by the EDIDP;
 - ✓ one by EIB’s loans, and
 - ✓ one by the financial instruments of the EU COSME Programme.
- Based on the above outcome, the deadlines of related calls, the most mature project ideas within the second Phase and the expressed interest of the MODs, the EDA has identified the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) as the 2019 target for the application of the first 3 projects. With the support of an international consultancy company, EDA supports the structuring, drafting and submission process of these projects in view of 31st October, which is the deadline for the 2019 SRSP call for proposals. As an actual follow-up, relevant ad-hoc meetings have taken place at EDA premises with the Member States interested in the following 3 projects:



- “Building on the Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEBs) Concept in the EU Defence Sector” - for WG-1;
 - “Defence RESilience Hub Network in Europe” (RESHUB) - for WG-2, and;
 - “Standard Procedure to estimate the dependency of large and complex civilian and military assets with respect to public services” (SPEEDUS) -for WG-3).
- Currently the Agency is providing guidance to the lead Member State for organising the official application for funding.
 - In parallel to this process, EDA is supporting the preparation of other projects with a view to apply for other eligible EU funding opportunities in the future. In this respect, I am glad to announce that **EDA is ready to allocate additional budget to support at least 5 other applications.** However, I would like to encourage the process to identify and initiate these five projects as soon as possible. Hence, we can say that during **the last 12 months** we have altogether been making an impressive leap forward: *from the generation of cooperative project ideas in defence to the concrete drafting of energy projects, from the identification of eligible funding at European level to the upcoming official application of first projects.* We are even already building the second wave with a proper pipeline of additional projects and the anticipation of the required EDA’s budget to provide them with the necessary technical assistance for the drafting of the new applications for funding in 2020.



Dear distinguished guests,

- The Agency's interest in energy has been increasing in the last years, primarily because the MODs have identified that it is important to address this topic, and because of how energy affects and will change our life in the future. Disruptive technologies, new business models and practices are reshaping the energy ecosystem and the defence sector needs to be part of this transition. New trends such as digitalisation, electrification, innovative energy technologies in battery storage, smart buildings, solar and wind power, electric vehicles, automation, artificial intelligence and integrated energy management systems as well as unknown malicious or hybrid threats require for the defence not only to adapt but to be able to recover when compromised.
- **Phase II has proven that sustainable energy matters for defence and that a greener defence energy matters for the European Union.** Apart from the Consultation Forum, EDA has developed a suite of defence energy-related activities such as the Energy & Environment Working Group; the first Energy Data Collection & Analysis in Europe (E-DCAS), and the Defence Energy Manager Course (DEMC) aiming at supporting the "Clean Energy for All Europeans Package" and increasing the resilience and operational effectiveness of the EU Armed Forces. The Consultation Forum **proved to be a role model of how EDA simultaneously fulfils its triple mission and deliver results with a strong and fruitful interface role with the Commission.**



- Overall, the MODs have reconfirmed their interest that the Consultation Forum is an appropriate vehicle for sharing best practice and building on this **to develop a more practical defence-centric approach**, through the implementation of relevant project proposals. In this context, **I am pleased to announce together with Mr Ristori** (the initiator of this project) **that we are ready to start the Third Phase with a higher budget and longer duration**. Our staff is currently finalising the scope and the objectives of the agreement for the Phase III.
- Allow me to highlight that to address the new challenges in the defence energy sector we intend to implement several multi-dimensional activities ranging from high-level conferences and thematic workshops to table-top exercises. During the Phase III we will also organise dedicated **Energy Technology Solutions** events engaging in this respect the civil sector, industry and academia. We also intend to optimise the structure of the Working Groups to better reflect the ongoing trends. In this respect, we plan **to establish a new (ad-hoc) Transversal Working Group** which will enable to address topics such as finance, innovation, technology, research, energy management and cybersecurity. Our effort during the third phase is to bring closer the energy and defence communities and to this end we plan **to organise for the first time, with the support of DG ENER, a Joint Defence Energy Conference** before the end of the year, engaging the National Competent Authorities. In the next two days we will share more information with you about the third phase.



- Coming to an end: the defence sector needs to be able to become a **smart user** in the next decades and to **be able to adapt to the new dynamics in the energy sector**, but also to recover when it is compromised. **As the EU is moving towards a resilient Energy Union, the role of defence in this transition becomes vital.** Improving energy efficiency and diversifying the energy supply will enhance our resilience to security challenges while enabling us to reduce both the energy footprint and the energy costs. The third Phase will build on the achievements of the previous phases, but it **will move one step further in terms of application of sustainable energy in the defence sector and promoting smart energy technologies.** The third phase will be an **enabler for economic, operational and strategic results** with regards to project ideas, guidelines and action plans. I would like to ask you to continue using this Forum as the platform of reference for sharing information and knowledge on defence energy related topics.



Dear members of this distinguished Forum,

- Let me conclude my speech by thanking the staff of the Ministry of National Defence of Romania for supporting EDA in organising this event. Special thanks go also to our colleagues from DG ENER and EASME for their continuous and substantial support throughout all these 4 years. I would also like to acknowledge the support and the excellent collaboration with the colleagues from the Structural Reform Service Sources (SRSS) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The success encountered in this project is a result of your lasting commitment as well as of the dedication of the moderators, the team leaders and the project management team. Congratulations to all for your work and ***please remember that your efforts and commitments have contributed to making sustainable energy matter for defence.***

I wish you a fruitful and beneficial conference.

Moultsumesk fouarte moult!!

Thank you very much.