



3rd Conference of the second phase of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS II)

Nicosia, 26 February 2019

Speech by EDA Chief Executive Jorge Domecq

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- Dear Ministers, Generals, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- Allow me to join Minister of Defence Mr Angelides in extending a warm welcome to all of you.
- I am delighted that this conference is hosted by Cyprus as it demonstrates your consistent support to the Agency's work, and particularly in the energy-related work strands. Indeed, the Ministry's contribution to the Consultation Forum, the Energy and Environment Working Group and in the Defence Energy Managers Course (DEMC) is highly appreciated.
- For the record, today we have gathered approximately 160 experts from 27 European countries and several institutions and



entities including the European Commission (DG ENER, EASME, JRC), the European External Action Service including EUMS, ESDC and NATO as well as industry, academia and several energy agencies and centres dealing with research, development, investments and procurement. This extensive participation makes the Nicosia Conference the biggest one so far and confirms an increasing interest of Ministries of Defence in energy related matters.

- The European Union and its Member States are today facing changing global circumstances and threats, and there is a need for the Member States to work more together to better define their objectives and priorities. In this context, the prospect of the diversification of sources can contribute to reducing considerably the EU's energy dependencies and ensuring sustainable development. However, to achieve these objectives, we need to work together and to foster mutual trust. I would like to reiterate that Europe can no longer outsource its security and that national responses are not enough to counter transnational challenges.

- Let me emphasise that the Energy Consultation Forum is a role model of how EDA performs its triple mission supporting Member States in the field of defence as Ministers of Defence decided in 2017. That is as:

- o 1) the major intergovernmental prioritisation instrument at EU level in support of capability development;

o 2) as the preferred cooperation forum and management support structure at EU level for participating Member States to engage in technology and capability development activities;

o and 3) as facilitator towards the European Commission and EU Agencies, as the interface exploiting wider EU policies to the benefit of Defence, and acting as a central operator with regard to EU funded defence-related activities.

- First, we must have the right priorities. Given the limited resources and the diverse challenges we face we need to focus on what has real impact on the defence and security landscape. To this end the Agency has developed, and Member States approved, a new set of output-oriented Capability Development Plan (CDP) priorities last June which are now being implemented through so-called Strategic Context Cases (SCC). One of the SCC addresses the topic of military mobility, the development of enhanced logistics and medical support. If you read this document you will find a clear reference to the Consultation Forum and especially the short, medium and long-term activities to develop energy solutions for addressing current and future challenges.

- In addition, in the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda we have linked the capability and technology domains by using an analytical layer of Technology Building Blocks (TBBs). For example, in the case of energy, the EDA's Energy and Environment Working Group has identified Technology Building Blocks (TBB) for promoting energy



solutions ranging from the energy storage or energy management technologies to wind and solar energy generation. I am expecting that some of the projects identified in the Forum will be implemented within the Energy and Environment Working Group while some of the TBBs can be further elaborated in the Forum in the next phase.

- Let me now turn to the role of EDA as the preferred Member State platform for enabling multinational cooperation in technology and capability development activities. The Consultation Forum has become a dynamic community enabling the share of good practices and knowledge. This is confirmed by the more than 30 project ideas that you proposed of which more than 15 are being further developed. In other words, the Forum provides a unique platform for collaborative projects in the energy domain. I will come back to the projects later in my speech.

- The third role of the Agency is to be a facilitator towards the European Commission and EU Agencies, acting as a central operator of EU funds in defence-related activities. I want to also highlight the central role that EDA is currently playing in identifying the appropriate funding schemes and matching them with the relevant project ideas that you are elaborating. Given the efficient and smooth collaboration with the European Commission for the last four years, we can conclude that the Consultation Forum is an excellent example of collaboration with the Commission, in particular DG ENER and EASME.



- You have achieved considerable progress in ensuring an output-oriented Consultation Forum. All the working groups have developed ideas that can lead to defence energy-related concepts or actions plans. For instance, guidelines for improving the overall management of energy and for improving the energy efficiency of military building stock and fixed infrastructure; the need to address energy considerations by reviewing renewable energy sources and their use in defence infrastructure; or developing guidelines on the protection of defence-related critical energy infrastructure against hybrid threats.
- Your work is vital for enhancing our joint efforts in increasing the awareness of MODs but also of the EU institutions on the need to move towards affordable and resilient sustainable energy models in the defence and security sector.
- The ideas that you are elaborating can lead to tangible results. I am aware that there are some concerns on how the Agency plans to support the transformation of these ideas into real projects. To address this issue, the Agency has developed a comprehensive plan on how to move from the conceptual to the realisation phase which I would like to present briefly to you.
- The first step is to ensure that by May this year the elaboration of the project ideas will be completed. Therefore, please take the opportunity in the next two days to work together and to refine your ideas.

- In parallel, and based on the content of the project ideas, the Agency will match each idea with a wide range of potential funding schemes at the European level. As you are aware, we have already established contacts with several entities at the EU level that are interested in funding defence energy-related projects. During the Warsaw Conference you were briefed on the EDA's "European Funding Gateway for Defence energy topics" as well as possible ways of cooperating with the European Investment Bank (EIB). Moreover, In the next session, the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) colleague will present for the first time the available opportunities to the MODs through the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP).
- Also, for the first time the Agency will provide, through a contractor, technical assistance and support for the preparation of application forms for specific funding for defence energy-related topics. This activity will take place in the margins of the Consultation Forum and will be an ongoing process. In the following sessions, Constantinos Hadjisavvas and Pierre Di Toro will provide further information on how the Agency plans to offer this support.
- Finally, I would like to remind you that some of the project ideas that you will develop can be implemented within the remits of the Agency as joint collaborative ad-hoc projects CAT "A" or CAT "B". During the next sessions, EDA will also provide guidance and hands-on training. In addition to these options, and subject to MODs support, the Agency is ready to assist the implementation of selected ideas



through the Operational Budget dedicated to the energy work-strands.

- To achieve the above objectives, we need to ensure the political commitment from the MoDs, to identify the appropriate funding and to bring together the relevant experts. Last week during the Agency's Steering Board in National Armaments Directors composition, I invited the NADs to support their experts to turn the project ideas into tangible results. We will do what we can to help in this process.
- The Agency is also seeking coherence of output of energy-related projects with other organisations and entities such as NATO. I am glad that NATO participates in this conference and we look forward to exchanging experiences as well as to exploring potential areas for collaboration, such as the protection of critical energy infrastructures against hybrid threats, the smart systems, and the links of energy with the circular economy in defence.
- It is essential to ensure complementarity in our work and to avoid any unnecessary duplication. As you all know, Member States have only one set of forces and capabilities. Let me therefore emphasise that the relations between the EU and NATO are better than ever before and are based on the respect of the decision-making autonomy of both organizations.

- I want to make a special mention of the three key pieces of legislation in the Clean Energy for All Europeans package that has been recently approved; the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive, establishing a binding EU target of at least 32% for 2030, which is planned to increase following review in 2023; the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) setting a 2030 target of 32.5%, also with a possible upward revision in 2023 and the Energy Performance of Building Directive.
- Although the colleagues from DG ENER will provide an update on these Directives, I would like to invite you to continue exploring the benefits that could be derived from implementing these directives in the defence sector and provide recommendations to MODs on how to apply them best. Our joint effort with the European Commission is to encourage National Governments to include the defence dimension in the integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) as this will enhance the possibilities of the MODs to gain access to national funding and technical assistance.
- As you know, the European Union aims at building a resilient Energy Union by advancing its clean energy transition towards 2050. To achieve this ambition, the contribution of all public sectors including the defence is necessary. This means that we still have a lot of work to do and therefore, the Consultation Forum needs to continue with long-term objectives.



- I am pleased to inform you that last month I had a fruitful meeting with the Commission Director-General for Energy, Mr Dominique Ristori where we have agreed in principle on the continuation of the Forum through the third phase with a higher budget and a longer duration. This will enable us to plan better how to bring closer the defence and energy communities as well as to better define our long-term objectives. To further enhance our support to the MODs during the third phase, we intend to organise, in addition to plenary sessions also thematic and regional workshops which will give the opportunity to further develop tasks and deliverables. Please share your ideas and suggestions regarding the scope of the third phase in your feedback after the conference.

- Let me conclude my speech by thanking the Ministry of Defence of Cyprus for supporting EDA in organising this event. Special thanks also to our colleagues from DG ENER and EASME for their continuous support. The success of this Forum is a result of your lasting commitment as well as of the dedication of the moderators, the team leaders and the management team of the project.

I wish you a fruitful conference.

Euxaristo poli.

Thank you very much.