



**EDA Chief Executive Alexander Weis
Introductory remarks
EDA Annual Conference
Brussels, 9 February 2010**

**Bridging efforts – Connecting Civilian Security and
Military Capability Development**

- It is my pleasure to welcome all of you today to EDA's Annual Conference 2010 entitled
 - "Bridging efforts – Connecting Civilian Security and Military Capability Development".

- I have to start with an announcement:
 - Unfortunately, the High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission but also new Head of the Agency, Mrs Ashton cannot be with us today.
 - She has to be in Strasbourg where the European Parliament is going to vote today on the new College of Commissioners.
 - I spoke with her on Thursday last week and she asked me to deliver her keynote speech on her behalf.
 - She apologises for not being able to be with us today but I think we all can understand.

- I would like to express my gratitude to the two other keynote speakers,
 - General Håkan Syrén, Chairman of the EU Military Committee,

- and Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, President of the AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe.

My thanks also go to all Panellists and Panel chairs for joining us today.

- This is already the fifth Annual EDA Conference.
- Many of you witnessed at our conference last year on helicopters - for the first time ever - an active participation of a US Pentagon official.
 - Last year's conference has – amongst others – laid the cornerstone for the meanwhile agreed annual EDA-US dialogue.
 - It also initiated a new EDA Work strand on Pooling and Sharing of Helicopters
 - and has promoted the establishment of the Helicopter Training Programme.
- Two years ago we discussed the potential of Third Party Logistic support for crisis management operations.
 - A striking and concrete result of this conference was the establishment of EDA's Third Party Logistics Support Platform.

- Our first experience has proven that the TPLS platform is not only a key instrument for saving Member States money by facilitating best value contracts.
- But it also showed to be of use for civilian crisis management, be it in the case of the EULEX mission in Kosovo or most recently in the case of the Haiti disaster.
- The topic of this year's conference could not be more timely and relevant.
 - When the Lisbon Treaty entered into force on 1 December last year, the former pillar structure disappeared.
 - Catherine Ashton is now the High Representative responsible for foreign affairs and defence and holds the Vice-Presidency of the Commission at the same time.
 - This new legal and political setting provides us with a huge opportunity for discussing how to coordinate better the civilian and military dimension of the European Union.
- Therefore, this year's annual conference is a specific event where
 - EDA invites all Member States to think out of the box by seeking synergies between civil and military efforts and to support EDA's work in this regard.

- It is also the event where EDA reaches out its hand to our Commission colleagues, colleagues of the European Space Agency and other civilian security actors to move from case-by-case coordination efforts to a more systematic approach.
 - But it is also an event where we should focus on pragmatic approaches and output instead of procedures.
- I do not want to pre-empt the lively debate which is going to take place today. But what are the areas we want to look at?
 - But again, please don't take me wrong - I'm not aiming already at conclusions. These are just first ideas and I hope there will be better ones in my closing remarks:
 - First, we need to **coordinate the demand side**, certainly regarding the operational user requirements from both the civilian and military operators. Here we might focus on the following capability areas: protection, mobility, communications, information and logistics.
 - Secondly, we have to seek **synergies in the area of Research and Development** where very often the involved technologies can be of dual-use.
 - Ministers of Defence have spotted the potential behind such an approach, mandating EDA in November to further develop a **“European**

Framework Cooperation” for synergies regarding civilian security, space and defence research.

- It is our duty to respond to this mandate by identifying **suitable demonstration projects**, closely linked to already identified capability needs.
 - We have started to address the areas of **CBRN** and **UAS related technologies**, but we will also look into **NEC, Intelligence, Surveillance and Information Management**.
 - Everyone who limits the scope of investigation limits the scope of savings.
- Thirdly, we have to look at how to improve our capabilities in the sense of **information-sharing** between civilian and military communities. **Maritime Surveillance** is one of the topics to be addressed. But why not also address the area of **counter-IED**?
- It is true; we do not start from scratch.
 - Under the guidance of its Member States, EDA has already fostered on an ad-hoc basis the **coordination with civilian stakeholders on concrete projects** with a strong civil-military dimension.

- One of the examples is the area of **UAS**: later today two contracts which have been fully coordinated between **EDA and ESA** will be signed with industry in the area of *UAS Air Traffic Insertion and the support space services can provide* in this context.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, “Bridging efforts” does not mean *merging* the two sides or *blurring the lines of responsibilities*.
- The different actors will have each a dedicated role to play, although they need to make sure that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing.
- It is good that we are having an increased *dialogue* among the two sides of the river but we need to do more.
- *A bridge* allows for better communication rather than just by **talking over the water**;
- *A bridge* allows for going over and meeting the other side and understanding to what extent each other’s capability needs and proposed solutions are of relevance.

- But let’s start now with the main speakers, and get into the heart of the debate.

- I believe there are **sufficient issues to be tackled for more than one day**. I am therefore also grateful that discussion will be continued tomorrow during the Seminar organised by the **Spanish Presidency** with whom we closely coordinated.

