

EDA Annual Conference 2010

**BRIDGING EFFORTS**

**Connecting Civilian Security and Military Capability Development**

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*Bruxelles – February 9, 2010*

**Introduction**

Lady Ashton, General Syrén, Dear Mr. Weis,  
Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen

I, and with me the whole ASD community, feel very honoured to have received the invitation for a keynote speech at today's event.

As the President of the Aerospace & Defence Industries Association of Europe, I represent a vital part of Europe's high technology industry, with more than six hundred thousand employees, thousands of companies, many of them Small and Medium sized and a global turnover of roughly one hundred thirty five euro billion.

You have chosen a very challenging subject for today's conference, a subject that first and foremost is of concern to politicians and our military and civilian units, as they implement the European Security and Defence Policy.

Industry's mission will be to provide the best tools so that everybody is able to work hand-in-hand in the most effective fashion with minimal risk for all involved.

Looking back over the many years of practical experience in EU missions under the Common Foreign & Security Policy and the now Common Security & Defence Policy, we observe a constant improvement in the way these missions are built, fielded and executed. This is true in the soft as well as in the hard elements of the “soft power projection”, that is at the core of the European Foreign Policy.

The Lisbon Treaty does represent a major step forward for Europe to become more effective as one of the key players on the international scene.

In particular, the Treaty provides the European Union with a more adequate legal framework and new instruments enabling it to act as a “soft power”.

### **Industry and investments**

This is a unique opportunity for the EU and Member States, and for the European industry as well, to discuss and plan together on how to design and manage the appropriate tools in order to attain this strategic target.

Our industry is ready to cooperate with EDA and EU institutions, aiming at finding the right technological solutions on security and defence, with a special focus on the emerging trend of civil-military synergies and dual-use applications.

In this broad perspective, industry intends to drive the attention of EU institutions and policy makers on specific topics of common interest, and wishes to encourage a flexible and pragmatic dialogue that takes into account both customer requirements and industry needs and peculiarities.

It is worth remembering that investment in technology in the areas of security and defence is driven by public requirements and hence public procurement for the public good.

Investment therefore serves the double purpose of both stimulating a knowledge-based and competitive industry and acquiring the means to address Europe's political security objectives with indigenous technology.

### **The broad security dimension**

Security has broad strategic implications, encompassing several fields:

- defence (security of supply, maritime surveillance and border control)
- energy (supplies, control of production, infrastructure and distribution)
- transport (maritime transport, port and airport security)
- civil protection (space earth monitoring, situational awareness, crisis management)

A more effective response to European security needs in these areas implies that more investment should be allocated by the EU.

A peculiar feature of the evolving security dimension is the more and more blurring distinction between homeland and international security, as well as between civil and military applications.

Let me underline that, for what concerns homeland security, a particular emphasis has to be put on the very concept of "homeland", which in the future shall refer more and more to Europe rather than to the single Member States.

Concerning the progressively shading distinction between civil and military, it has to be considered that hi-tech products and services have almost always dual applications with spin-offs in other sectors.

The opportunities for R&T investment and procurement synergies between EDA, ESA, the Commission and NATO will also have to be better understood and optimised.

For all these reasons, and in the light of the Lisbon Treaty provisions, ASD would welcome a determined focus on:

- coherence in responsibility and governance inside the European Commission, between the European Commission and the Council, between the EU and the Member States;
- the importance of entering a new investment cycle with the establishment of large scale technology demonstrator programmes involving at the same time security, defence and space: only a systemic approach can in fact provide the conditions for enhancing Europe's competitiveness and deliver a system-based response to public security needs;
- optimisation of the use of space systems as strategic assets, in view of facilitating the development of an autonomous European decision-making process and contributing to the efficiency of ESDP operations;
- coordination of the EU, EDA & ESA research areas and exploration of synergies between civil & military and dual-use R&T, with the growing identification of Common Security and Defence Policy operations with security leading to new joint activities between security and defence, related to a new perspective for the EU external dimension.

## **European Defence Agency**

Now let me come briefly to EDA.

In my view, EDA shall provide an added value for both European military and industrial capabilities.

To reach this goal, it is necessary to overcome the impasse between capabilities and research activities.

From one side, the steps made towards an effective Capability Development Plan are in fact interesting but do remain up to now of minor impact.

On the other hand, recent EDA activities to support research and development are appreciated by industry, but are still not adequate to really sustain industry due to the lack of funding by Member States.

Nevertheless they are more coherent with the operational needs and are part of a shared process, as shown by some of the major programs:

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: MIDCAS
- Integrated Training Systems (AEJPT)
- Communications (Software Defined Radio)
- Space Surveillance (MUSIS)
- Force Protection
- Avionic Systems (SIMCLAIRS)

A continuous improvement on both capabilities and research is mandatory for a complete fulfilment of the EDA mission.

Let me make a specific example, the one of “situational awareness”, which is a key ingredient of sound decision-making and it has to rely on timely and high-quality data capture and delivery.

The basic tools exist, but they should be updated throughout the civil & military continuum.

Key supporting technologies reside in unmanned air, space and radar systems and of course key software components.

Preparing the future for Unmanned Air Systems has been a key effort of EDA and the EU Commission now for more than two years, with the support of ASD.

A prime example is the European effort to open non-segregated airspace to UAS operations: a timely success will not only enhance situational awareness, but also allow the European Union to set *de facto* standards globally, which in turn reinforces our industry’s position on the global scene.

One still missing point in the UAS context is an EU-level demonstrator programme of a scale capable of federating numerous individual efforts undertaken by Member States with significant industrial financial support.

The second area of focus in the context of situational awareness is space.

Europe already has a strong basis in the key areas of secure telecommunications and earth observation from space, but the existing national capacities need to be sustained, networked and improved to fully

match the operational requirements and evolve into a global awareness system for security and defence.

Radar-based applications are also a great benefactor to situational awareness.

Europe possesses leading edge capabilities in all radar domains: their utilization and continuous evolution must be another essential ingredient in capability development.

### **Final remarks**

In conclusion, I think that a synergy amongst all the actors – the EU institutions, the Member states and industry – is the real key to exploit at best a new framework which could help all of us overcome this difficult moment.

A coherent political vision of the EU in 2020 is a pre-condition for Europe's continued and global success.

The unique opportunity brought about by the new Treaty and by the new Commission and European Parliament should be seized to achieve a consensus on the way ahead:

- reinforcing the major employment pools such as the aerospace and defence supply chain;
- building a robust European defence and security technological industrial base;
- providing the necessary framework conditions and new incentives for the competitiveness of SMEs, operating either in civil or defence areas;

- strengthening the legal framework for IPRs, which constitute an indispensable condition for the European technological industrial base;
- adopting and enforcing common European industry standards.

The big issue here is coordination and coherence throughout the “subsidiary chain”.

The themes of “common” or “pooled” resources come to mind: to achieve this goal some adequate form of architectural framework, in which industry is ready to play its required part, must be implemented.

Only managing all these elements within the frame of a common strategic vision we will be able to give Europe a real chance to lead again the world towards a true renaissance, more stability and stronger security.

Thank you.