



Keynote Speech
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Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address the audience of this year's EDA Annual Conference as a keynote speaker and as the newly appointed Head of the Agency - a task which I am honoured to take on in addition to my responsibilities as High Representative.

Unfortunately I cannot be with you personally due to other important commitments, but I would like to address you in order to provide you with some of my thoughts on the topic of civil-military capability development.

Allow me to start with a reference to the EU Security Strategy. The Strategy acknowledges the need for a wide approach to security, calling upon an EU that is more capable, more coherent and more active. And to reach these aims the Strategy demands better coordination, transparency and flexibility across different agencies, at national and European level.

In crisis management, the EU's strength lies with its ability to combine military and civilian means in support of our missions. This important capability needs to be turned into a more effective EU comprehensive approach.

To date, the EU has conducted twenty-one CSDP missions; six of them military operations, fifteen others are considered civilian missions. Currently, we are running ten civilian missions with more than 2600 women and men deployed and in parallel two military operations, altogether deploying more than 3200 military, from the fight against piracy to Afghanistan, Balkans, and Africa. In Bosnia, our military forces are operating side by side with our civilian personnel. And in Afghanistan and Kosovo our missions operate in the same area as a NATO force.

This shows a trend. More and more, our military and civilian personnel will be operating side by side. Our civilians are equally exposed to road-side bombs and other threats. They also need transport helicopters in countries where road transport is too difficult or too dangerous.

Civilian operators need efficient logistics support and capacities for medical evacuation. They have to communicate, both with their civilian mission structures but also with other actors, including the military. They are dependent for part of their work on timely and reliable information and intelligence.

There are solutions to all of these challenges. Many of these solutions are technological, but often they are also cultural, requiring a new way of approaching our common challenges. By combining

our forces in the most effective way we can reach a new level of synergy between civilian and military capability development.

I would like to refer in particular to the five overlapping areas of capability: protection, mobility, communications, information and logistics. In all these capability areas, we must go beyond case-by-case solutions.

Another important argument for seeking civil-military synergies in capability development is the dual-use character of technologies involved.

The Commission is investing € 200 million per year in research and technological development for 'security' – under the European Security Research Programme – and the same amount for 'space'. In addition, the European Space Agency (ESA) allocates up to € 300 million per year to space-related technology research within an overall budget of € 3bn yearly.

The EDA participating Member States invest a total amount of approximately € 120 million per year in collaborative defence related research.

These investments have one thing in common: this money is European taxpayers' money. And the European taxpayer expects that we make best use of it and avoid duplication of efforts or double spending.

Solutions for more effective capabilities are within reach. For example, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles can monitor movement on the ground in deployed military operations or civilian missions abroad. The same UAVs, equipped with the same sensors, can be used to spot illegal immigrants at Europe's external borders.

Maritime safety and security is another very promising area. Civil maritime authorities need reconnaissance, monitoring and detection capabilities comparable to those in the military inventories. But shore-based assets are limited in their coverage and the further away from coastal waters we go, the more crucial military assets are in order to provide maritime surveillance coverage. Therefore, civil and military capabilities will have to be linked to establish an overall effective maritime surveillance network. EDA activities related to Maritime Surveillance for CSDP need to be linked with the Commission's activities on Maritime Safety and Security. The EDA "Wise Pens" team, which is producing a "think-piece" on Maritime Surveillance, will provide a strong basis document for the Agency's input into this coordinated effort. I am very much looking forward to concrete proposals submitted by these institutions to combine and join the respective efforts in order to initiate the creation of a network allowing the sharing of available information on the Recognised Maritime Picture amongst civil and military maritime authorities.

There are already some early success stories from the past where coordination and synchronisation took place. But we need more of this and we have to look at the whole range of dual use technologies. The first areas will be technologies for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and for protection against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. But also the areas of Information Management, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance will be further investigated.

The Lisbon Treaty has created my new double-hatted function and I will work on bridging the efforts between the Commission and the Council. And as the Head of the European Defence Agency I will ensure that the EDA, a key facilitator and coordinator of efforts in the area of defence capability development, will continue to play a key role in strengthening our capabilities.

Of course we will have to establish the proper processes in order to make the comprehensive approach not only fully effective but also a systematic and natural element of the EU's external action. Some of the procedures and tools already exist, like the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, which now combines the strategic planning of civil missions and military operations. Other tools still need to be established.

But let me emphasise that we cannot wait until all these processes and tools have been fully established. We have to start in a very pragmatic way to coordinate our day-to-day activities at EU-level. We need to be driven by a strong commitment to provide effective solutions. The Lisbon Treaty provides us with a sound legal and political basis to do so. I consider it as a part of my mandate to deliver a new and improved capability for EU's coherent external action.

I firmly believe that we need to focus on concrete topics and aim for concrete results from the outset. This conference is a good opportunity to identify some topics to start with a better coordinated work in order to achieve tangible results. And I appreciate the very pragmatic way in which EDA is addressing this important subject.

Allow me to summarise with the following three key messages:

First, we are at a crossroads.

- With the Lisbon Treaty we have a sound legal and political basis. It allows a more efficient and effective action at EU-level and we have to consider it as a mandate given to the EU institutions but also to the EU Member States with the clear objective to improve their interaction and action.
- Over the last 10 years we have gained experience from 21 civil missions and military operations. We know what capabilities are needed for both the civilian and the military operators in the field. Here the European Defence Agency is to continue to play a pivotal role.
- We have a certain number of civil military capability development tools in place, including tools for the planning and the conduct of operations and missions. I would specifically refer to the newly created Crisis Management and Planning Directorate. It will play a key role in the future needed as far as the capabilities are concerned, but also as far as the planning and coordination is concerned.
- We are operating in difficult economic circumstances. The economic crisis and shrinking budgets – not only defence budgets - represent another challenge to Member States and the EU as such.

Secondly, we have no other choice than to cooperate.

- We have to increase the visibility of incentives for cooperation amongst EU Member States for the whole range of civil and military capability development in order to make European cooperation more attractive.
- We have to make real bridging efforts in particular at the EU level but also at national level, fully exploring the potential in research for dual-use technologies, because security is indivisible.

- We have to think and to behave differently from the past, we need to be innovative and think as one entity as the institutional pillars are now gone.

Thirdly, let's focus us on results and not on procedures.

- With the Lisbon Treaty and a number of Council Conclusions and agreements emphasising the need for combined civil and military efforts, we can now leave the theoretical debate behind us. We need to deliver results and we need to deliver them as soon as possible.

I have the ambition to make the EU's external action more efficient in crisis management by fostering the synergies between civil and military capability development. I believe that this task is of utmost importance, in particular because it can directly contribute to safer conditions and better, more interoperable equipment for our personnel in CSDP operations.
