The European Defence Agency was established under a Joint Action of the Council of Ministers of 12 July, 2004, “to support the Member States and the Council in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the European Security and Defence Policy as it stands now and develops in the future”.

THE AGENCY’S TASKS ARE:
• to work for a more comprehensive and systematic approach to defining and meeting the capability needs of the European Security and Defence Policy
• to promote more effective use of defence R&T resources in Europe by increasing collaboration and managing joint projects, with a focus on key capabilities
• to promote equipment collaborations, both to contribute to defence capabilities and as catalysts for further restructuring of the European defence industry
• to work for an internationally competitive European Defence Equipment Market and a strong Defence Technological and Industrial Base.

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THE AGENCY WILL ACHIEVE ITS GOALS BY:
• Encouraging EU governments to spend defence budgets on meeting tomorrow’s challenges, not yesterday’s threats
• Helping them to identify common needs and promoting collaboration to provide common solutions

THE AGENCY’S SUCCESS WILL MEAN:
• Better military capabilities
• Stronger European defence industries
• Better value for European taxpayers
The need to bolster Europe’s military capabilities to match our aspirations is more urgent than ever. And so, too, is the need for us to respond better to the challenges facing our defence industries. This Agency can make a huge difference.