



# EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **EDA CALLS FOR CONCRETE SYNERGIES BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY**

Today, the European Defence Agency hosts its fifth Annual Conference dedicated to **‘Bridging Efforts: Connecting Civilian Security and Military Capability Development’**, gathering about 250 representatives from Member States, other European institutions and international organisations, as well as industry.

EDA’s Annual Conference focuses on the issue of civil-military synergies, thereby contributing to foster the debate on how best to serve future needs regarding missions and operations led in the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy. On 17 November 2009 the Council underlined the **importance of the EU’s comprehensive approach** to crisis management and the need to identify possible synergies between civilian and military capability development. The Council acknowledged in particular the **possible economic benefits of finding civil-military synergies** in capability development and related investment, and the added value of **dual use** capabilities.

The Conference intends to take stock of experiences and lessons identified with regard to **overlapping capability needs** in civilian and military missions and operations, to investigate opportunities for the **effective coordination** of capability requirements definition and to identify related **dual-use capabilities and explore their development**, including through coordinated **research and technology investments**.

The Conference further looks into **exploring possible ‘ways ahead’ for EDA to act as one of the facilitators** in this overall process.

**High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Head of the Agency Ms Ashton** welcomed this timely conference, highlighting that **“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 strong commitment to provide effective solutions. The Lisbon Treaty provides us with a sound legal and political basis to do so. [...] We have to make real bridging efforts in particular at the EU level but also national level, fully exploring the potential in research for dual-use technologies, because security is indivisible.”**

Pointing at the different work strands in the EDA which are already implying strong civil-military coordination, **EDA Chief Executive, Mr. Alexander Weis**, underlined that **“the Agency is willing to support such process when it comes to generating defence capabilities for CSDP missions and operations, building wherever possible and in a systematic fashion on synergies with our civilian counterparts”**. He stressed that **“*Bridging efforts* does not mean merging or blurring the lines of responsibilities. The different actors will have each a dedicated role to play, though making sure that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing.”**

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### - Background information -

The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established by the Council on 12 July 2004. It is designed “to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), as it stands now and develops in the future”. More specifically, the Agency is ascribed four functions, relating to:

- a) defence capabilities development;
- b) armaments cooperation;
- c) the European defence technological and industrial base and defence equipment market;
- d) research and technology.

These functions all relate to improving Europe’s defence performance, by promoting coherence in place of fragmentation.

The EDA is an Agency of the European Union. High Representative Catherine Ashton is Head of the Agency, chairwoman of the Steering Board, which acts under the Council’s authority and within the framework of guidelines issued by the Council.

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### More information:



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