

Capability Development Plan (CDP)



The European Defence Agency (EDA) is capability-driven and the objective of its programmes, projects and other activities is to contribute to the improvement of the military capabilities needed for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations in the future. The Capability Development Plan (CDP) is the 'driver' for Research & Technology, Armament Cooperation and for Industry. Therefore, the CDP is the 'overall strategic tool' in the package of the four long-term strategies of EDA.

The CDP provides participating Member States (pMS) an auditable picture and assessment of capability trends and requirements, in the short, medium and long term, in order to inform national decisions on defence investments. It takes into account the impact of future security challenges, technological development and other trends and includes the identification of areas for cooperation in capability improvement.

An initial CDP was endorsed by the EDA Steering Board in July 2008 and an updated version has been produced in 2010 and endorsed in March 2011. pMS also agreed on a set of prioritised actions that will be focal points for the Agency's activities in the years to come.

These actions are divided in three groups:

The "CDP Top 10 Priorities" consist of:

Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED); Medical Support; Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance; Increased Availability of Helicopters; Cyber Defence; Multinational Logistic Support; CSDP Information Exchange; Strategic and Tactical Airlift Management; Fuel and Energy; Mobility Assurance.

A second group consists of "Maturing/Mature Actions", where considerable progress has been made. These are:

Maritime Mine Counter-Measures; Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defence; Counter-Man Portable Air Defence Systems; Military Human Intelligence.

And finally there is a group of "Core Drivers/Environments", corresponding to cross-cutting areas that provide a backbone to CSDP capability improvement. They are: Comprehensive Approach; Network Enabled Capabilities; Radio Spectrum Management for EU Capabilities; Space; Single European Sky.

The four elements of the CDP

The content of the CDP derives from several sources, all involving inputs from the pMS.

- Shorter term elements are taken from the Headline Goal 2010 and the subsequent documentation, such as the Progress Catalogue (Strand A).
- Shorter term elements come also from lessons collected from operations (Strand D).
- Medium term elements are collected from a database of ongoing and planned projects and programmes, enlarged by a landscaping exercise, assessing the impact of these programmes on capability requirements (Strand C).
- Longer term elements derive from a comprehensive analysis of potential trends for the 2025+ timeframe (Strand B).

Time			
	Shorter Term (Strand A + D)	Mid Term (Strand C)	Longer Term (Strand B)
Tasks	HLG 2010 Lessons Identified	Plans & Projects «Landscaping»	LTV Future Trends

Content of the CDP

The detailed content of the CDP is structured by military tasks and by time periods, listing key statements per task per time period, thus bringing the results of the CDP's four elements together into one common format.

For the update of the CDP in 2010, the three time periods correspond to 2010-2015, 2016-2011 and 2025 and beyond. The tasks are taken from a List of Generic Military Tasks with detailed CDP statements provided at subtask level.

