



EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

Brussels, 21 June 2007

PRESS RELEASE

EDA WELCOMES FRANCO-GERMAN INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE TRANSPORT HELICOPTER JOINT EFFORT (BRUSSELS, 21 JUNE 2007)

The European Defence Agency warmly welcomes the announcement of a Franco-German joint effort for a common project on a Future Transport Helicopter capability in the 2020 timeframe.

The Agency has been fully engaged on the issue of strategic lift, including intra-theatre capability, in its work programme.

“The European Defence Agency has always encouraged Member States to converge their thinking about future needs and to collaborate closely on such ventures at an early stage, with widest possible participation,” said EDA Chief Executive Nick Witney.

The EDA is ready to do whatever is necessary to contribute to the success of this project for the benefit of its Member States and the implementation of the European Security and Defence Policy.

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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 ESDP 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 Solana is Head of the Agency, chairman of the Steering Board, which acts under the Council's authority and within the framework of guidelines issued by the Council.