

Chief Executive

Colonel P.J. de Vin
Head OKM
NL-BE Operational School
Marinebasis Den Helder
Postbus 10000
1780 CA Den Helder

Brussels, 13 January 2014

Dear Colonel,

Naval Training has recently been identified by Defence Ministers as a key opportunity for Pooling and Sharing. Initial activities conducted by EDA have resulted in efforts being concentrated in the subject areas of Navigation Training, Naval Mine Warfare and Diving. The implementation of collaborative projects in these domains will promote cooperation and cost-effective use of current resources. This will also increase participating Member States' capabilities for the delivery of more advanced training and contribute to enhancing Naval operational capacity both at national and EU levels. To this end, and being aware of the long tradition that EGUERMIN COE has in the area of Naval Mine Warfare and the specific expertise and knowledge that is held within the Centre, I wish to propose the establishment of effective liaison between our two Organisations.

As the basis of our liaison, the following principles are proposed:

- a) Liaison between EDA and the NMW COE EGUERMIN will allow the identification of mutually beneficial activities that could support EU Member States in developing their Naval Mine Warfare capabilities;
- b) Liaison will allow exchange of information on current and future activities and plans, including NWM capability development and training;
- c) Liaison could allow the exchange of studies' results and other relevant documentation. In this respect, the handling and release of information and documents will be undertaken in accordance with respective rules and regulations of the EDA and NMW COE EGUERMIN. Any intellectual or industrial property rights, including any documentation, data, and technical information provided will remain vested in their respective owners;

- d) EDA and NMW COE EGUERMIN will nominate Points of Contact to facilitate dialogue and identify potential areas for the exchange of information and mutually beneficial activities, such as workshops, seminars, training opportunities and exercises;
- e) Both entities will inform their respective governing bodies (EDA Steering Board and Commissie Toezicht) about the liaison. Future opportunities to develop further cooperation, including the possible development of necessary modalities to enable cooperation in NMW capability development projects and programmes will be discussed in these fora.

I am convinced that through the proposed liaison EDA and NMW COE EGUERMIN could bring significant added value to Member States through improved exchange of information and avoidance of duplication of efforts. If the above principles for liaison are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter together with your affirmative reply will document our common understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Claude-France Arnould



Oostende, 07 februari 14
N°: 14-00069247

MARINECOMPONENT
EGUERMIN NMW COE

Ms Claude-Francine Arnould
Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency
European Defence agency
Rue des Drapiers 17-23
B 1050 Brussels

Dear Madam Arnould

Thank you for your letter dated 13 January 2014.

The Belgian and the Netherlands Navies have participated in the EDA pooling and sharing activities from the beginning, and are still doing so in the subject areas of Navigation Training, Naval Mine Warfare and Diving.

We are always keen to find added opportunities for pooling and sharing and that is exemplified in the close cooperation between our two navies in the Admiral BENELUX organization. We share several schools, training possibilities and maintenance facilities, and we pool especially in the area of logistics.

During the course of the last 50 years, EGUERMIN has acquired specific expertise and knowledge as COE in Naval Mine Warfare which we share with most of the European Navies.

We therefore believe that a liaison between the EDA and EGUERMIN NMW COE would be beneficial to both of us. We fully agree on the principles as proposed in your letter and we are confident that the liaison will lead to better exchange of information and will avoid duplication of efforts. We see it as an important next step in the area of pooling and sharing for Naval Mine Warfare.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Education RNLN

P.J. de Vin
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