

Emilio FAJARDO

Director Industry, Synergies & Enablers (ESI), European Defence Agency



When he joined EDA on 1 January 2019, Rear Admiral (select) Emilio Fajardo had already more than 20 years of experience in defence cooperation and industrial collaboration.

He joined the Naval Academy in 1977, graduated as a Navy Officer in 1982, served as operational officer in several warships and obtained the qualification in Electronics in 1987.

Graduated in 1992 from the Polytechnic University of Madrid with a Master in Sciences as Naval Architect, his career was oriented to more technical matters and he was integrated in the Engineers branch of the Navy, where he worked in the F-100 frigate program Office, during the feasibility and definition phases.

In 1995 he was appointed as member of the NATO CALS Program (“Continuous Acquisition and Life-Cycle Support”) and later (1999) was promoted by the Steering Committee to Director of the Program Office. During this period, he chaired and led the creation of the NATO Group in “Life Cycle Management”.

From 2000 to 2005, he occupied several positions in the Spanish National Armaments Directorate. His responsibilities were initially related to naval programs but later extended to tri-service defence activities when he took up the role of head of the Multilateral Affairs Office, managing relations with NATO, EDA and OCCAR. In 2004, he managed the Spanish leadership in the NATO initiative of “Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs)” of the NATO Defence Against Terrorism initiative.

As Armaments Councillor (2005) in the Spanish Permanent Representation at NATO and COPS (EU), he further developed his international skills representing the National Armaments Director in NATO (CNAD) and in the European Defence Agency (EDA) Committees as well as in related working groups, participating in the development of a large number of defence cooperative initiatives.

From 2014 to the end of 2018 he has been the Director for Naval Systems in the National Institute of Aerospace Technologies (INTA) and Head of the Hydrodynamics Model Basin Research facilities in El Pardo (Madrid).

He is married and has two daughters.