



EDA'S RELATIONS WITH THIRD PARTIES

The European Defence Agency (EDA) has 27 Member States, but also cooperates with third countries, organisations, and entities in the framework of an Administrative Arrangement, in accordance with Article 26 of the EDA Council Decision. To date, EDA has established seven Administrative Arrangements with third parties.

What is a third party

- › For the purpose of this factsheet, "third countries, organisations and entities" will be referred to as "Third Party", meaning a non-EU country, organisation, or entity.
- › EDA cooperation with third parties is based on the EDA Council Decision, as well as political guidance and principles agreed by EDA Steering Board.

Principles for cooperation

- › Cooperation with third parties in the EDA framework shall translate into tangible collaborative activities, contributing to Member States defence capability development and Council objectives in security and defence. Consequently, EDA does not engage in partnership activities to support general political objectives.
- › Enhanced defence cooperation should:
 - Bring added value and mutual benefit, on a balanced and reciprocal basis;
 - Protect primarily the defence interests of all Member States and make the European defence industry more sustainable, innovative and competitive;
 - Avoid any dependencies considered unacceptable or restrictions imposed on any Member State or EDA;

- On the basis of shared values, contribute to the fulfilment of the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States;

Administrative Arrangements

- › Administrative Arrangements (AA) provide the framework for cooperation of third parties with the Agency. An AA is the prerequisite to participate in EDA activities and ad hoc projects, subject to Member States case-by-case approval. Cooperation within the scope of an AA will always be tailored to the profile of each third party. Cooperation will develop in a progressive manner, subject to mutual agreement of the third party and Member States.
- › Third parties with an AA are expected to demonstrate concrete commitment (e.g., regular and active participation in, and contribution to, EDA activities and/or ad-hoc projects opened to them) to engaging in agreed cooperative activities with the Agency and its Member States, with the objective of achieving mutually beneficial output and results. Accordingly, there is no observer status for third parties in EDA.
- › The development of an AA follows an established procedure where the interested third party needs to explain the objective and precise scope intended for the cooperation,

as well as to substantiate the fulfilment of the overarching principles and objectives set out above.

- An agreement with the EU on security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information must be in force prior to the development of an AA. This agreement will serve as a reference for the annex to the AA on the handling and protection of classified information.

Outside of cooperation with EDA

- › Participation in specific activities under an AA will always remain subject to Member States case-by-case approval.
- › Third Parties are neither part of the Agency's decision-making process nor of the related meetings or activities.
- › EDA work related to the implementation of the EU level of ambition through prioritisation at the EU level is restricted to participating Member States only.

EDA's Administrative Arrangements



NORWAY MoD
Since 2006



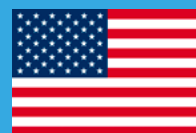
SWITZERLAND MoD
Since 2012



SERBIA MoD
Since 2013



UKRAINE MoD
Since 2015



U.S. DoD
Since 2023



ESA
Since 2011



OCCAR
Since 2012

Want more information?

The Chief Executive's Policy Office (CE PO) acts as point of contact for third parties and can be contacted through cepo@eda.europa.eu