

FACTSHEET: EDA LONG-TERM REVIEW 2024

EDA as the intergovernmental Defence Nexus at EU level

At this critical juncture for the security of Europe, **the EU needs to dramatically step up its security and defence ambitions**, as outlined in the Strategic Compass, which calls for the development of innovative capabilities against the full spectrum of threats.

As the intergovernmental defence nexus at EU level, the European Defence Agency has a crucial role in fulfilling these ambitions and is **mandated by Ministers of Defence** to carry out the following core tasks:

Identifying shared needs and priorities at EU level
to ensure that EU Member States' armed forces
have the capabilities they actually require

**Interfacing with
EU civilian and
defence policies,**
voicing Ministries
of Defence's joint
positions



**Enabling
collaborative
defence research,
technology, and
innovation,** to
prepare the future
of EU defence

**Aggregating demand
towards joint procurement,**
to fill capabilities shortfalls

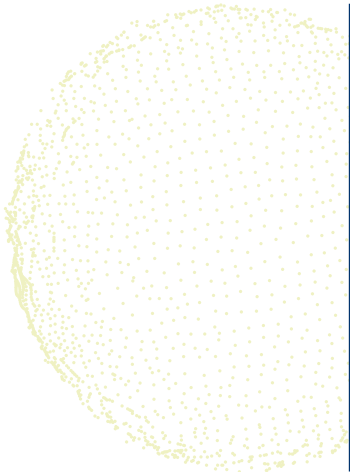
**Harmonising requirements and engaging
in joint capability development,** while
ensuring interoperability

The first four core tasks of the Agency reflect the corresponding, indispensable steps of the capability development cycle: identifying shared needs and priorities, engaging in research, technology and innovation, harmonising requirements and identifying development options, finally aggregating demand toward joint procurement. In line with the Treaty on European Union, **EDA supports Ministries of Defence (MoDs) in each of these steps towards the further development and procurement of capabilities**, but it can also support the execution of the whole project cycle, including limited, off-the-shelf acquisitions, when MoDs so decide.

Under core task five, **the Agency will** cooperate closely with the relevant EU stakeholders to **ensure that EU civilian policies appropriately reflect defence needs**. EDA will also forge stronger and more structured ties with EEAS and Commission services and contribute its expertise to current and future EU defence initiatives, policies, and legislation related to the capability development cycle and beyond. **To voice MoDs joint positions** and ensure the coherent alignment of current and future EU defence initiatives, policies, and legislation, **EDA will act as a facilitator** and, where appropriate, as a balancing actor within the EU. For EDA to be able to achieve these ambitions, Member States will ensure that the Agency is sufficiently empowered to be meaningfully involved in the Commission's growing activities vis-a-vis the European defence industry.

The Agency's cooperation with third parties will remain founded on the principles of added value, mutual benefit and reciprocity. Under MoDs steering, EDA will strive to develop its cooperation with Ukraine as soon as conditions allow, and will assess the merits of new requests for Administrative Arrangements. **Further reinforcing mutually beneficial cooperation with NATO**, to ensure mutual awareness on respective activities, promote complementarity, and avoid unnecessary duplications, is of utmost importance and should be achieved through the conclusion of an arrangement for the exchange of classified information, and an Administrative Arrangement as foreseen in the EDA Council Decision.

Under the ultimate supervision of the Defence Ministers in the Steering Board chaired by the Head of Agency, **EDA is to act as the intergovernmental nexus for planning, prioritisation, and management support for defence users' needs** and requirements at EU level. While remaining the enabler of coherence for Member States across all EU defence-related initiatives, policies, and legislation, EDA will further build on its expertise and project management experience **to deliver ambitious projects leading to actionable results and capabilities**.



EDA is to act as the intergovernmental **NE×US** for planning, prioritisation, and management support for defence users' needs...to deliver ambitious projects leading to actionable results and capabilities.