

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Mr Dirk Dubois
Head of the European Security and Defence College
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1000 Bruxelles
Belgium

EDA201911079/SPU/PG

15 November 2019

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY AND THE EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE*Dear Dirk,*

The mission of the European Defence Agency (EDA), as established under Article 42.3 of the Treaty on European Union and pursuant to Article 2 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835,¹ is to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve the Union's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the CSDP as it currently stands and as it develops in the future. As part of its mission, EDA promotes and supports defence research at EU level and coordinates and plans joint research activities and the study of technical solutions to meet future operational needs.

The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) was established on 21 December 2016 by means of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382 with the mission to provide training and education in the field of the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) at European level in order to develop and promote a common understanding of CSDP and CFSP among civilian and military personnel, and to identify and disseminate best practice in relation to various CSDP and CFSP issues through its training and education activities.

Acknowledging the opportunity to exploit the synergy of our efforts to further a common understanding of cooperation in the domains set out above, I hereby propose the establishment of a cooperative framework through an Exchange of Letters (EoL) between EDA and the ESDC based on the following key principles:

- (a) Cooperation between EDA and the ESDC is to focus on activities of mutual interest, such as studies, seminars, workshops;
- (b) The identification of common activities should focus on supporting participating Member States;

¹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835 of 12 October 2015 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency (OJ L 266, 13.10.2015, p.55).

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- (c) The administration of activities shall be done in full transparency, in accordance with the EDA and ESDC internal processes, procedures and rules respectively;
- (d) This Exchange of Letters does not imply any financial engagement by EDA or ESDC. For specific activities, such as the establishment of the EDA Doctoral Fellowship Programme, the delineation of potential funding commitments shall be defined in specific documents for each event, service, or activities as appropriate;
- (e) EDA and the ESDC remain responsible for its own personnel in relation to the activities undertaken pursuant to the present Exchange of Letters. Unless otherwise specified, each will cover any expenditure it incurs under this Exchange of Letters (e.g. travel and subsistence of their respective staff);
- (f) Personal data processed in the context of the implementation of this EoL will be done in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1725.²

Areas for cooperation could include the following:

- Participation of EDA in ESDC bodies (e.g. ESDC Steering Board, the ESDC Executive Academic Board on Cyber);
- Cooperation on CSDP courses hosted by ESDC, notably EDA staff contributions thereto and participation therein, including in particular on the European Armament Cooperation Course;
- EDA support to ESDC Cyber Education, Training, Exercise and Evaluation platform;
- Establishment, subject to respective decision-making processes, of an EDA Doctoral Fellowship in cooperation with ESDC Doctoral School, with modalities to be further specified;
- and other cross-cutting activities.

I am confident that, through our cooperation, EDA and the ESDC can bring added value to our EDA participating Member States by improving exchange of expertise and facilitating common action making the best use of our respective resources.

² Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39–98).

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If the above principles and areas for cooperation are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter, together with your affirmative reply, constitutes our common understanding. The cooperation between EDA and ESDC based on the present exchange of letters shall have an indefinite duration of time, until either of the parties will communicate to the other its intention to terminate it with a notice of two months.

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention that the Agency has established its Register of documents³ in line with Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No.1049/2001 and intends to publish this EoL once signed in an effort to achieve the objective of transparency.



Yours sincerely,



Jorge Domecq

³ <https://www.eda.europa.eu/info-hub/eda-documents>



**HEAD
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE**

Mr Jorge DOMECCQ
Chief Executive
European Defence Agency

Brussels, 03 December 2019

Dear Jorge

Subject: Cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the European Security and Defence College

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your letter from 15 November 2019 and to confirm the acceptance of establishing cooperation between the European Security and Defence College and the European Defence Agency. Such cooperation is in line with the mandate of the ESDC, as set out in particular under Article 5 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382.

I hereby indicate my agreement with the principles and areas for cooperation proposed in your letter which, together with my response herewith, constitute our common understanding.

The cooperation between the ESDC and EDA is effective upon the date of signature of the present letter.

We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Dirk Dubois
Head ESDC

Cc: Ms Alexandra KATSANTONI, ESDC