

# TO BE READY. TOGETHER. NOW AND TOMORROW.

*Delivering on European defence readiness 2030*

— EDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE | BRUSSELS 28.01.2026 —

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08:00	Registration & coffee
09:00	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> EDA as the EU Member States' platform for achieving European defence readiness by 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>André Denk, EDA Chief Executive</b></li></ul>
09:10	<b>Keynote address: To be ready for today and 2030, together for Europe's defence</b> Protecting our continent and our citizens is central to the European Union's mission. The HRVP/Head of the European Defence Agency shares her vision in the face of today's defence and security challenges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Kaja Kallas, HRVP/ Head of EDA</b></li></ul>
09:30	<b>Plenary address: From opportunity to delivery. How to make our defence investment surge a success for our defence readiness</b> How to expand capacity and sustain Europe's defence industry, driving long-term growth, resilience, and readiness through strategic investment and enduring partnerships? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Andrius Kubilius, EU Commissioner for Defence &amp; Space</b></li></ul>
09:45	<b>Plenary address: Cyprus' EU Presidency Defence Priorities</b> Building bridges at the crossroads of three continents. Advancing the EU defence agenda during the Cyprus EU Presidency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vasilis Palmas, Minister of Defence, Cyprus</b></li></ul>
10:00	<b>Member States high-level roundtable: To be ready together with greater military capabilities &amp; deterrence</b> Senior national officials gather to envision a future of shared strength, where enhanced military capabilities and economies of scale ensure lasting security through cooperation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Pål Jonson, Minister of Defence, Sweden</b></li><li>• <b>Jens Plötner, State Secretary for Defence, Germany</b></li><li>• <b>Juan Martínez Núñez, Secretary General for Defence, Spain</b></li><li>• <b>Joachim Pohlmann, Head of Cabinet of Minister of Defence, Belgium</b></li></ul> <p><b><u>Moderator: Stefano Cont, EDA Acting Deputy Chief Executive</u></b></p>
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	<b>Roundtable: To be ready together for greater industrial sovereignty</b> Policy stakeholders and industry leaders share lessons and explore how Europe can create cohesion and robustness for industrial sovereignty, innovation, resilience, and strategic independence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Micael Johansson, President and CEO, Saab</b></li><li>• <b>Jan Grabowski, Vice-President of the Management Board, PGZ</b></li><li>• <b>Camille Grand, Secretary General of the European Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association (ASD)</b></li><li>• <b>Herald Ruijters, Deputy Director-General and Head of the Task Force Security Action for Europe (SAFE), DG DEFIS</b></li><li>• <b>Baudouin Heuninckx, EDA Acting Director for Industry, Synergies and Enablers.</b></li></ul> <p><b><u>Moderator: Christian Mölling, Senior Advisor, European Policy Centre, CEP</u></b></p>

12:30 **Fireside chat – To be ready together for the changing security environment with Europe's assets**  
Coping with a changing security environment means embracing unity, foresight, and resilience to protect our values and to secure the European Union's role in stepping up its defence capabilities

- **Andrey Novakov, Member of the European Parliament**
- **Hanke Bruins Slot, Major General, Capability Director, The Netherlands**

**Moderator: Robin Emmott, Chief editor, European Defence Matters, EDA**

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13:00 Lunch

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14:10 **Ukraine roundtable: To be ready together to sustain our strong partnership with Ukraine**

This roundtable brings together representatives of the Ukrainian government and policy stakeholders to assess the lessons from our cooperation and reaffirm our shared commitment to a resilient partnership in support of Ukraine.

- **Hanna Hvozdiar, Advisor to the Minister of Defence, Ukraine**
- **Benedikta von Seherr-Thoss, Managing Director for Peace, Security and Defence at the European External Action Service (EEAS)**
- **Lieutenant General Enrico Barduani, Deputy Chairman of the Military Committee of the European Union (EUMC)**
- **Tarja Jaakkola, NATO ASG for Defence Industry, Innovation & Armaments**
- **Franck Desit, EDA Deputy Capability, Armaments, Planning Director**

**Moderator: Daniel Fiott, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS)**

15:10 **Ceremony for the first European Defence Innovation Experimentation Campaign (OPEX)**

In 2025, six European defence companies gathered near Rome to demonstrate unmanned aerial and ground systems as part of European Defence Innovation OPEX campaign. While similar initiatives have taken place nationally, this new EDA-led initiative introduces a new model of cross-border collaboration among Member States.

**Hosted by Nathalie Guichard, EDA Director for Research, Technology & Innovation**

15:20 **Roundtable: To be ready together for the future of warfare**

Innovation in capabilities is the cornerstone of preparation for the future of warfare, ensuring our armed forces remain agile, resilient, and ready to meet hybrid & emerging challenges.

- **Brigadier General Pierpaolo Dotoli, Director of CEPOLISPE, Italy**
- **Ulrike Franke, European Council on Foreign Relations**
- **Kusti Salm, CEO of Frankenburg Technologies**
- **Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General, DIGITALEUROPE**
- **Federica Valente, Manager of EDA's Hub for European Defence Innovation (EDA)**

**Moderator: Luigi Scazzieri, Senior Policy Analyst (EUISS)**

16:20 **Closing remarks**

- **EDA Chief Executive, André Denk**

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16:30 Networking cocktail

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