

# EDA AT A GLANCE



## A reinforced mission

With the implementation of the EU Global Strategy (2016), defence cooperation has moved to the top of the European agenda and with it the European Defence Agency's role in support of Member States.

In 2017, Member States reinforced the Agency's mission as the:

1. main intergovernmental **prioritisation instrument** at EU level in support of defence capability development, with the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda (OSRA);
2. preferred **cooperation forum** and management support structure at EU level for participating Member States to engage in technology and capability development activities. In 2020, the Agency manages 113 ad hoc Research & Technology (R&T) and capability projects and more than 200 other activities related to capability development, R&T and the defence industry;
3. **interface** coordinating military views in wider EU policies to the benefit of the Defence community and a **central operator** with regard to EU funded defence-related activities, such as the European Commission's Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) and the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in Defence.

## Facts & figures



**set up in 2004** as an agency of the Council of the EU, based in Brussels;



**26 Member States** (all EU countries except Denmark);



**+ 170 staff** plus network of some 2,500 national experts;



Administrative Arrangements with Norway, Switzerland, Serbia, Ukraine;



Managed by Chief Executive **Olli Ruutu** (ad interim) under the authority of **Josep Borrell**, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

## Areas of activities include:

### Defence Research

- o EDA has 12 technical Capability Technology groups (CapTechs) gathering experts from Member States, industry and research organisations;
- o Since 2004, EDA has managed close to 200 Research & Technology (R&T) projects, worth over €1,1 billion.

### Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR)

- o EDA initiated and supports the Multinational Multirole Tanker Transport Fleet (MMF);
- o it supports AAR training exercises;
- o and promotes the optimisation of existing AAR capabilities.

### Cyber Defence

- o Main focus is on research & training and cyber support to operations;
- o Cyber ranges federation and cyber awareness packages developed for CSDP headquarters;
- o EDA produced a feasibility study and supported the establishment of the EU Cyber Education, Training & Exercise Platform in the European Security & Defence College in 2018.

### Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

- o EDA procured two deployable exploitation capabilities, delivered in 2017;
- o Experts are trained to staff deployable laboratories in military operations;
- o European Centre for Manual Neutralisation Capabilities opened in February 2018.

### Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)

- o EDA focus is on RPAS air traffic insertion (ATI) through R&T, development of a community of military users and creation of RPAS ATI Industry Exchange Platform;
- o EDA developed and deployed RPAS training simulators across European military schools;
- o EDA supports Medium Altitude Long Endurance MALE RPAS programme run by DE, FR, IT, ES.

### Military Mobility

- o Since 2012, EDA has worked on projects dedicated to removing obstacles to movement of troops and assets: the EU Multimodal Transport Hub network and the Diplomatic Clearances Technical Arrangement project;
- o EDA ad hoc working group delivered a roadmap in 2018 as the basis for the EU Action Plan on Military Mobility;
- o Two new programmes were launched in 2018: on harmonising and standardising customs regulations and on Cross Border Movement Permissions with the idea to align procedures and develop pre-grants for military movement on surface and air.

### GOVSATCOM

- o EDA's "EU SatCom market" project provides flexible commercial SatCom and CIS services for Member States, Athena Mechanism and CSDP military and civilian missions;
- o EDA launched Govsatcom demonstration project (GSC Demo) in June 2017 to show benefits of Pooling & Sharing. GSC Demo entered execution phase in January 2019.

## Maritime Surveillance

- o EDA facilitates the enhancement of Navies' recognised maritime picture through the MARSUR Networking (18 Member States);
- o The MARSUR technology was employed during a capability demonstration in support of the CSDP Operation SOPHIA in 2017.

## Critical Enablers

EDA helps Member States coordinate and advance work on critical enablers such as:

- o **Standardisation.** EDA works to promote harmonised standards requirements so as to provide a reference set of common standards for European armaments. This is done in close coordination with NATO in order to avoid duplication of efforts;
- o **Certification.** EDA works with Member States to identify EU certification requirements which can then be translated into national procedures & regulations;
- o **Test & Evaluation (T&E).** EDA promotes cooperation through the Defence Test and Evaluation Base (DTEB) which aims to create a wide network of European Test Centres with a view to working towards common T&E requirements and supporting cooperative projects;
- o **Training & Exercises.** EDA organises multinational exercises and trainings in a variety of domains to increase interoperability between armed forces. In particular, it initiated and developed the European Tactical Airlift Centre (ETAC, permanently based in Zaragoza/Spain since 2017), runs the Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) and developed and deployed RPAS Training Technology Demonstrators (RTTD) in several Member States;
- o **Military Airworthiness.** EDA develops common safety requirements for European military aircraft.

## Support to Operations

- o EDA offers projects and expertise to CSDP operations: cyber defence awareness, HR management software, maritime surveillance network, contracting support, etc.;
- o In 2019, EDA concluded multiple framework contracts for the provision of air medical evacuation services to missions;
- o EDA's 'GeohuB', a software tool for safe sharing of geospatial information, was deployed to EUNAVFOR MED in Rome (HQ).

## Defence Industry

- o EDA developed structured dialogue & enhanced engagement with industry in the following priority areas: capability development, R&T, SES, Key Strategic Activities;
- o EDA also supports industry access to information, business opportunities and EU tools (including funding) with special focus on SMEs;
- o Future plans include industry engagement in military exercises.

## Interface with EU policies

- o EDA runs the EU Commission's Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in Defence;
- o EDA helps Member States to identify & minimise impact of REACH (chemicals) on defence;
- o EDA acts as military interface for the Single European Sky (SES) implementation and supports Member States in areas such as Space, Maritime Security and Circular Economy.

# Ensuring coherence

The Agency is involved in major EU defence initiatives to ensure **coherence** and a **capability driven approach**: collaborative projects must lead to a coherent set of usable, deployable, interoperable and sustainable capabilities and forces.

## Capability Development Plan (CDP) revision

- o EDA produces updated CDPs since 2008, in close conjunction with Member States and the EU Military Committee (EUMC), and supported by the European Union Military Staff (EUMS). The aim is to provide an evolving picture of European defence capabilities over time, to make recommendations about future needs and to help Member States' planners identify priorities and opportunities for cooperation;
- o In June 2018, Member States endorsed a revised CDP presented by EDA with 11 updated EU Capability Development Priorities covering Europe's entire spectrum of military capabilities and reflecting the new level of ambition set out in the 2016 EU Global Strategy.

## Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD)

- o EDA acts as the CARD secretariat, together with the EU Military Staff (EUMS);
- o EDA is responsible for gathering information from Member States on defence plans, including spending;
- o CARD Trial Run Report (2017-2018) was submitted to Defence Ministers in November 2018 with findings, recommendations and preliminary lessons learned;
- o The first full CARD cycle was launched in autumn 2019.

## Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

- o EDA acts as the PESCO secretariat, together with the European External Action Service (EEAS) including the EUMS;
- o EDA serves as a platform where PESCO participating Member States can identify, assess and consolidate possible projects – guaranteeing focus on capability priorities and avoidance of unnecessary duplication with existing initiatives;
- o EDA supports the practical PESCO project implementation, at Member States' request;
- o EDA plays a leading role in the annual assessment of PESCO participating Member States' contributions and respect of the binding commitments.

## European Defence Fund (EDF)

In preparation of the European Defence Fund, EDA is already working on:

- o the Fund's 'research window' with the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR), contributing to the elaboration of the work programme (based on the CDP), implementing it on behalf of the European Commission and seeking an uptake of the results in future capability development programmes;
- o the Fund's 'capability window', contributing to the work programme of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) and supporting Member States in preparing projects they intend to propose for EU financial support.