



MILITARY MOBILITY

Military Mobility aims to ensure the smooth, efficient and effective movement of military personnel, goods and assets across and beyond the territory of the European Union (EU). Military Mobility also enhances the EU's capacity to prepare for and respond to a crises.

EU Action Plan on Military Mobility (2.0)

In March 2018, High Representative, Josep Borrell, who is also the Head of the European Defence Agency, and the European Commission presented an 'Action Plan on Military Mobility' which provided a coherent framework for programmes, projects, initiatives, and activities to further improve Military Mobility in the EU. It identified tasks, responsibilities, and timelines for improving Military Mobility with regard to legal aspects, customs, military requirements and cross-border movement permissions.

In November 2022, a follow-up, Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0 was presented. This new Action Plan provides a strategic approach aiming to effectively involve a wide range of stakeholders, including in the Member States. It thus facilitates the coherence and linkages between the Member States' activities – including through relevant PESCO projects, notably on Military Mobility and Logistical Hubs – and EU-level work strands across the full range of topics.

EDA's role in implementation

EDA is committed to supporting its Member States to harmonise military aspects in regulations and reducing the administrative burden, while involving relevant stakeholders and ensuring coherence with NATO. EDA's main objective is to generate output by implementing activities, projects and programmes in support of the Member States across three concrete work strands.



Cross Border Movement Permission

Cross Border Movement Permission relates to the procedures that Armed Forces need to go through before receiving permission to cross borders; EDA's Cross Border Movement Permission programme has been signed by 27 Member States (including Norway). Three Technical Arrangements (TA) have been developed, which specify the administrative procedures, per transport mode, that have to be followed for cross-border movements.

They describe a desired objective to be reached from a military perspective, while allowing participants to take the appropriate national measures to attain this goal, in line with their national position. The TAs implementation will shorten lead times for the movement permission process. Furthermore, the use of those TAs will reduce the overall administrative burden, allowing EU Member States to use their scarce personnel resources in the most efficient way.



Customs - Harmonising the military requirements

Requests for military transport in and out of the EU are submitted to customs regulations. In this domain, common standard procedures have been developed and deviating



national interpretations on international legislation are being harmonised. This EDA programme has a strong link to the European Commission and has been executed in accordance with the European Union Customs Code leading to the establishment of an EU form 302. This form is to be used by all EU Member States as well as EU CSDP missions and operations to cover customs related activities.

As a next step, the communication process between Armed Forces and customs authorities will be digitalised by the development of a Military Customs System. This will lead to a further reduction of the administrative burden for the Armed Forces.



Coherence with ongoing projects and programmes

Through its 'Project Team Movement & Transport', EDA provides the platform for EU Member States, including third parties and EU and NATO entities to exchange views on anticipated and ongoing activities for Military Mobility.

Two projects related to Military Mobility have been launched under the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO): the "Network of LogHubs in Europe and Support to Operations" (Loghub), the "Military Mobility" project. EDA is strongly engaged in these two PESCO-Projects, in line with the tasking in the Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0 for EDA to investigate synergies between the two projects.

Next steps – The way ahead on Military Mobility supported by EDA

'Improved Resilience' – the resilience of key elements underpinning effective Military Mobility is paramount. Improving resilience encompasses robust information management, fortified cyber defences, and strengthened transport infrastructure, all of which underpin the effective and efficient movement of military personnel, goods and assets.

'Air, Sea and Rail lift capabilities' – an augmentation of European strategic transport capacities in the critical area of outsized cargo is necessary. Assets with new features are required to ensure adequate response to evolving threats and full-range mission capability. EDA is investigating the gaps and needs as a basis for further development of the needed capacities.

'Enhancing Logistics' is a European capability development priority in itself. Some key aspects are essential for Military Mobility and associated collaborative projects. To enhance logistic operations it is required to connect applied (national) CIS/IT for logistic and to digitalise the applied processes. The supporting CIS systems should be cyber-hardened. Tracking and Tracing (T&T) and common warehousing and management are further activities which need to be considered in this regard.

Under the umbrella of EDA, a work strand has been established aiming to elaborate and determine common standards to ensure interoperability and to achieve interchangeability of Additive Manufacturing products.