



THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL DEFENCE NEXUS AT EU LEVEL



Created in 2004 to **support and facilitate defence cooperation** in Europe, the European Defence Agency (EDA) has become the place where countries willing to develop their defence capabilities collaboratively can do so.



EDA's expertise and activities cover the **whole spectrum of cooperation**: from harmonising requirements to delivering operational capabilities; from research & technology (R&T) and innovation to developing technology demonstrators; from training and exercises to support to CSDP operations.



EDA also closely engages with the **European defence industry** to enhance Europe's defence technological and industrial base and help make the industry stronger and more competitive.



The Agency's role and impact have **constantly grown**, especially with the implementation of the EU's Global Strategy (2016) which also led Member States to reinforce the Agency's mission in 2017.

Facts & Figures



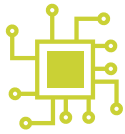
Set up in 2004
as an Agency of the Council of the EU,
based in Brussels;



+ - 200 staff
plus network of some 2,500 national
experts;



Managed by **Jiří Šedivý**, EDA Chief Executive, under the authority of **Kaja Kallas**, Head of Agency and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.



Platform for EU defence cooperation

› EDA offers a platform for its Member States to engage in multinational capability projects: from planning, research and standardisation to development, procurement and training;

› small and flexible, the Agency works 'à la carte': Member States can decide on a case-by-case basis whether or not to participate in projects. EDA currently manages well over 100 research and capability programmes and projects, and more than 200 other activities related to capability development, research and technology and the defence industry.



Architect for EU capability priorities

› EDA's role as 'main prioritisation instrument at EU level in support of defence capability development' was confirmed by Member States in 2017. It is key to make sure collaborative capability development is focused on operational needs identified by the Armed Forces;

› the Agency drives the periodical review of the EU Capability Development Plan (CDP) - which will now guide Member States' national defence planning and serve as a key reference for the EU's defence instruments - as well as of the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda (OSRA) and the Key Strategic Activities (KSA).



Military voice in other EU policies

› EDA was tasked by Member States to be a facilitator towards the European Commission and EU Agencies and to act as the military interface in order to exploit wider EU policies to the benefit of defence. The Agency does so in various domains, especially as:

›› military interface in the implementation of the EU's Single European Sky (SES) and cyber security policies;

›› implementer of the European Commission's Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS);

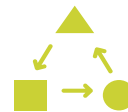
›› interlocutor for Member States wanting to minimise impact of the EU's legislation on chemicals (REACH) on defence.



Manager of EU defence research

› EDA currently implements and manages the European Commission's Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) which is preparing the ground for a European Defence Research Programme under the future European Defence Fund (EDF) as of 2021;

› the Agency's 12 Capability Technology groups (CapTechs) gather experts from Member States, industry & research organisations. Through them, close to 200 research and technology projects have been managed by EDA since 2004.



EU training pitch for more interoperability

› EDA organises multinational training/exercises to enhance interoperability between Member States' troops and military equipment in various domains such as helicopters, air transport, Countering Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED), RPAS training simulation, cyber defence, Defence Energy Managers.



Guardian of coherence

› Since 2016, the EU has put in place several new EU defence cooperation tools: the revised Capability Development Plan (CDP), Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF);

› all these instruments are interlinked: the CDP identifies capability priorities; CARD provides an overview of existing capabilities in Europe and identifies opportunities for cooperation; PESCO offers options how to develop prioritised capabilities in a collaborative manner; and the EDF provides EU funding for cooperative defence projects;

› to make the whole edifice work, all tools must join and interact. EDA plays a central role in this: it is involved in each of the new defence initiatives, and ensures coherence among them, including with NATO.