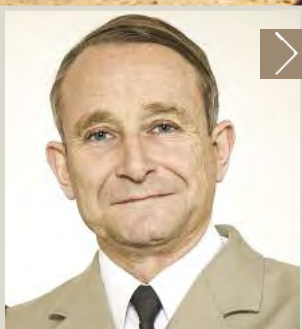




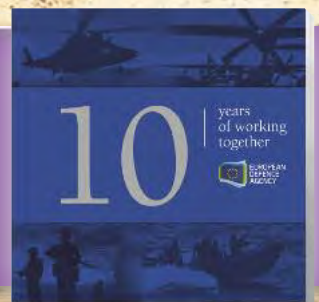
European Defence Matters

Supporting EU operations overseas



➤ Interview:
General de
Villiers, France's
Chief of
Defence Staff

**Celebrating the
first ten years
of the European
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Contents

Welcome

- 5** Director Eric Platteau and Editor-In-Chief
Guillaume Steuer introduce this edition of
European Defence Matters

European Defence News

- 6** EU Affairs
Pooled procurement of Carl-Gustaf ammunition
moving forward, EUFOR engineers improve
access to Bangui airport, EDA stages biological
reconnaissance and defence workshop, Law
enforcement and military combine efforts at first
European homemade explosives course,
Federica Mogherini appointed new head of EDA,
Successful completion of second EU personnel
recovery course in Hungary
- 9** Industry News
Land defence systems companies KMW and
Nexter in merger talks, Latvia to commission
surplus UK armoured combat vehicles, Saab
completes acquisition of Thyssen Krupp Marine
Systems, MBDA signs cooperation agreements
with Polish industry, Taranis UCAV demonstrator
flies in stealth configuration, Airbus Group and
Safran to revamp their space launcher business
with dedicated joint-venture

Ten years of EDA

- 12** Ten years of working together
To celebrate the tenth birthday of the European
Defence Agency, a unique book will be published
at the end of 2014.
- 16** Confronting Europe's defence deficit
Anand Menon, Professor of European Politics and
Foreign Affairs, King's College London
- 20** What are the missing instruments to reach
another level of European defence?
Brigadier General (ret'd) Jo Coelmont, Senior
Associate Fellow, Egmont Royal Institute for
International Relations

Operations and projects

- 24** Supporting the fight
Support to European Union (EU) operations and,
more generally, to the Common Security and
Defence Policy has always been one of the core
missions of EDA
- 28** Building trust for multinational operations
A series of multinational exercises has been
organised this year to enhance interoperability
between European aviators
- 32** Raw materials: securing the supply
EDA is working to ensure that Member States will
have a guaranteed supply of the scarce raw
materials that provide essential structures and
components for complex battlefield systems
- 34** Fit for purpose
It has been almost a year since the Agency
adopted a new structure to improve its support
to Member States

Opinion

- 36** "A window on Europe"
Interview with Michal Wierciński, who has been
directly involved in drafting the first 'National
Defence R&T strategy' in Poland
- 38** "Cooperation can be envisaged in almost
every domain"
Interview with General Pierre de Villiers, French
Chief of Defence Staff
- 41** Pooling and sharing, the academic way
Interview with Hans-Bernhard Weisserth, Head
of the European Security and Defence College

Key Quotes

- 42** Key quotes and facts, index to advertisers

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A decade of cooperation

"When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness", French political thinker Alexis de Tocqueville famously wrote. In these times of global uncertainty about the defence and security challenges lying ahead for the Western world it is perhaps wiser than ever to look back at our common past in order to find answers to the tough questions we face

The story of defence cooperation in Europe is a long and tortuous one. As we celebrate the European Defence Agency's ten year anniversary this year, we took the opportunity to reflect on this history in an exclusive book to be published at the end of 2014, some extracts of which are reproduced in this issue of *European Defence Matters*.

From the first attempts to create a European Defence Community in the 1950s to the birth of Western European Armaments Group in 1993 or the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG) in 1976, one can only reflect that the issue of European cooperation has always been taken seriously by the defence community. Yet progress has been slowed by shifting or unclear priorities and achievements have been scarce, much to the detriment of Member States who are today lacking some of the critical military capabilities they need to achieve their objectives.

The Agency was set up in 2004 to help us work better together, learning from and building on the efforts of the past. It was with great expectations that Heads of State and Government approved the creation of EDA in July 2004: this high-level political support has made a real

difference and has provided a renewed impetus to improve defence cooperation at a European level.

Over the years, the European Defence Agency has remained true to its core mission: to support its Member States in the development of their defence capabilities, while strengthening the critical European defence industrial and technological base. As we report in this issue, many of our ongoing projects converge towards the same objective: to provide support to EU operations wherever and whenever they need. By providing satellite communication services, contracting assistance, medical support, or any other relevant form of assistance (*page 25*), the Agency keeps doing its best to remain the most reliable partner for Member States to turn to when they feel the need for greater cooperation.

Defence matters today, just as it mattered 10 or 60 years ago. As priorities change and new challenges rise, let us not forget the long road travelled by two generations of supporters of European defence cooperation, who went to great lengths to promote the idea that we are 'stronger together'. For it is in our collective past that we might find answers to the new threats and challenges emerging on the horizon. **K**

Eric Platteau Head of Media and Communication **Guillaume Steuer** Editor-in-Chief

EU Affairs



© Lithuanian MoD

Pooled procurement of Carl-Gustaf ammunition moving forward

The European Defence Agency (EDA) and Saab Dynamics AB have signed a multi-annual framework agreement for the provision of different types of ammunition for the 'Carl-Gustaf' recoilless anti-tank weapon. The framework agreement will last five years and includes a possible renewal of two more years, with an estimated value of up to €50 million. The agreement was finalised on 30 June 2014.

This framework agreement comes under a procurement arrangement between EDA

and Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Poland, agreed on 23 April 2013. Under this arrangement EDA acts as the central purchasing body, taking the leading role in the procurement procedure for Carl-Gustaf ammunition in the framework of EDA's Effective Procurement Methods (EPM) initiative.

EDA will also be in charge of managing the framework contract to fully exploit the effects of pooling demand.

This case presents useful opportunities

for pooling of demand due to the communalities of the ammunition. Common procurement was seen as the best option by contributing Member States to benefit from economies of scale, cost reductions, and efficiency in spending. This solution allows contributing Member States to purchase ammunition according to their national needs while coping with different budget cycles. The agreement also allows other EDA Member States to join the initiative at a later stage. ◀

EUFOR engineers improve access to Bangui airport

Italian engineers from EUFOR RCA (Central African Republic) have recently completed improvement works on the access road to M'Poko Airport in Bangui.

A specialist team using heavy vehicles has repaired, in just a week, a part of the

road currently under the control of EUFOR forces.

The improvements will also benefit thousands of internal displaced persons living in the camps nearby M'Poko, assisted by humanitarian organizations. ▶

(Source: EUFOR RCA)



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EDA stages biological reconnaissance and defence workshop

A total of 40 participants from ten EU Member States (the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, Portugal) and Norway participated last summer in a workshop dedicated to biological reconnaissance and defence in Warsaw, Poland.

Biological threats are the most complex area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defence. Addressing the need for effective means of detection, identification and monitoring for this type of threats, the European Defence Agency is conducting a significant number of projects that were discussed during the workshop.

A system approach to the future biological defence capability is under development, integrating individual soldier protection, non-specialist units (tactical area protection), specialist units (operational area protection) and system integration. Also, participating Member



States presented their national biological programmes, on-going projects, developments and future expectations concerning the biological challenge.

It was clear among participants that biological issues are an important concern

among Member States and that the EDA forum is a good place for discussion and to find new opportunities for cooperation. Hungary and Poland provided live demonstrations and allowed participants to visit their second-generation biological laboratories. ❏

Law enforcement and military combine efforts at first European homemade explosives course

Experts from civilian law enforcement and the military have taken part in the first European Homemade Explosives

Training course which took place between 2 and 6 June in the Curragh Camp at the Irish Department of Defence Ordnance School.

The course, run jointly by the European Defence Agency and Europol, brought together 28 experts from 16 different countries.

The participants took part in highly realistic training scenarios involving homemade explosives, in order to improve skills and to share best practices. The training consisted of identifying, processing

and disposing of different types of homemade explosives that can be found in improvised laboratories, such as those of criminals and/or terrorists.

The cooperation between EDA and Europol reflects the need for a combined civil-military approach to the threat not only of homemade explosives but the whole counter improvised electronic device (C-IED) spectrum.

This approach helps to ensure that there are clear lines of communication between the two and the need to share skills and experiences among military and civilian law enforcement agencies.



The course forms part of EDA's comprehensive approach to tackling IEDs. These efforts include areas such as the counter-IED technical exploitation lab Level Two Multinational Technical Exploitation Laboratory (MNTEL) which has been stationed in Afghanistan since 2011, a Manual Neutralisation Techniques Category B programme, for which the first exercise was held in Vienna between 1 and 12 September, the Joint Deployable Exploitation Analysis Laboratory (JDEAL) initiative – which is due to start operations in November 2014 – as well as other ongoing C-IED related activities and projects. ❏

Federica Mogherini appointed new Head of EDA



On 30 August 2014, the European Council officially appointed Federica Mogherini as the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, therefore becoming the new Head of the European Defence Agency.

She will succeed Catherine Ashton, who had been appointed High Representative in November 2009. Following the vote of consent of the European Parliament on the new Commission, Federica Mogherini should remain in her new position until 31 October 2019.

In addition to heading the Agency and leading its Steering Board, Federica

Mogherini will lead the European External Action Service (EEAS) and chair meetings of EU foreign ministers.


Federica Mogherini had been appointed in February 2014 as Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation by Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. A member of the Democratic Party, she was first elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 2008, then re-elected in 2013.

There she was a member and Secretary of Committee 4 – dedicated to defence issues – and also a member of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and of Committee 3 on Foreign Affairs.

On 1 August 2013 she was elected

Chair of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO. She also coordinated the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Development Cooperation.

Federica Mogherini is also a member of the Institute for Foreign Affairs (IAI), the Council for the United States and Italy and a fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

She is involved with the Council of the European Leadership Network for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (ELN) and of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). 

Successful completion of second EU personnel recovery course in Hungary


A total of 22 participants from ten nations (Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, United Kingdom and Sweden plus Norway and the United States) attended the second Personnel Recovery Controller and Planner Course (PRCPC) over the summer in Veszprém, Hungary.

This intensive two-week course – held for the first time at the Hungarian Air Force Air Command and Control Centre (ACCC) – aims at enabling participants to prepare,

plan and execute personnel recovery operations. Previous course participants and indeed all of the instructors have gained operational personnel recovery experience in various operations such as the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Operation Unified Protector (OUP) in Libya and Operation Serval in Mali. "This course is indeed very helpful for our operational planning. The instructors are very experienced and motivated", said course participant Captain Gábor Krenács



from the Hungarian Air Force.

The initiative to standardise personnel recovery training emerged from the Project Team Personnel Recovery in EDA at the end of November 2010. Peter Round, Capability, Armament & Technology Director at EDA, stated: "I am most grateful that Hungary agreed to offer this opportunity and hosted it so successfully at its Air Command and Control Centre's facilities. This initiative has made a significant contribution to personnel recovery capabilities in Europe." 

Industry News



Land defence systems companies KMW and Nexter in merger talks

Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and Nexter Systems recently announced the signature of an agreement to combine the two groups under the umbrella of a joint holding company, thus creating "a Franco-German defence technology group with a current annual turnover nearing €2 billion, an order book of around €6.5 billion

and more than 6,000 employees", according to an official release.

Pending governmental and legal approvals, the alliance could enter into force early in 2015.

Both companies have described this joint-venture project as a decisive step "for the consolidation of the defence technology

industry in Europe". They stressed that their product portfolios and regional presence on the world market "complement each other". While KMW is famous for building the Leopard 2 main battle tank, Nexter is the manufacturer of the French Leclerc equivalent as well the VBCI (Armoured Vehicle for Infantry Combat). ◀

Latvia to commission surplus UK armoured combat vehicles

The UK Ministry of Defence announced this autumn that it had agreed to sell 123 surplus Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) armoured vehicles, or CVR(T), to the Latvian Army. This sale intends to demonstrate UK support to its Baltic NATO allies while allowing Latvian Armed Forces to increase their military capabilities.

According to an official MoD release, Latvian operators will be able to "better

transport infantry, reconnaissance teams, air defence sections and mortar fire controllers", with the new equipment providing "vital battlefield capabilities including ambulances, armoured command vehicles and armoured recovery vehicles". Worth €49 million, including overhaul and refurbishment, the sale was announced alongside the Wales NATO summit.

These vehicles were previously used by British forces who deployed them in Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Iraq and Afghanistan. They became available to foreign customer following the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) in which they were identified as surplus equipment as part of a wider restructuring of the Armed Forces. Three of the vehicles already took part in a parade to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Declaration of the Renewal of Independence in Valmiera, Latvia, on 4 May 2014. ◀



Saab completes acquisition of Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems



In a move aimed at strengthening its position as a provider of naval systems, Swedish defence company Saab announced that it had completed the acquisition of the Sweden-based Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems AB (TKMS AB, formerly known as Kockums) shipyard. Renamed Saab Kockums, this new activity has been integrated into the company's Security and Defence Solutions area.

Reflecting on the acquisition, Saab president and CEO Håkan Bushke stated that it will make its company "a complete

supplier of naval military systems" and will keep providing a "strong local presence in Sweden concerning submarines and warships".

Detailing the activity of TKMS AB, Saab said that it currently had approximately 850 employees and that it supplied systems and products to the navies of Sweden, Australia and Singapore. During the financial year 2012/2013, the company reported sales of approximately €185 million. According to Saab, the cost of the acquisition amounted to €37 million.

As early as June 2014, Saab and the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) had signed a letter of intent regarding the Swedish armed forces' underwater capabilities. The acquisition of TKMS AB ensures Saab will be able to provide its domestic customer with unrestricted access to the knowledge and intellectual properties needed for "continued development, production and maintenance in the underwater sector for both the Swedish and the international markets", an official release published 22 July states. 


MBDA signs cooperation agreements with Polish industry

European missile manufacturer MBDA recently signed two letters of intent (LoI) with Polish companies Mesko and Pit-Radwar as part of the future 'Wisła' medium-range air and missile defence programme.

These aim to reinforce MBDA's presence in the country through close technological and industrial partnerships, ahead of a possible purchase of the Aster surface-to-air missile system by the Polish armed forces.

The LoI signed with Mesko offers an extensive cooperation on Aster 30 Block One missile equipment, as well as involvement in the development of the new Aster Block 1 NT (New Technologies) missile.

The scope of this potential cooperation "starts from the production of main equipment for the missiles and continues through to the final assembly line", according to MBDA which announced the signature at the MSPO military exhibition in Kielce, Poland, on 2 September.

"Advanced technologies such as warhead, booster and servo actuators will be transferred to our Polish partners, as well as missile maintenance and training", the manufacturer added. Similarly, the LoI signed with Pit-Radwar aims to transfer technology and know-how in the field of missile uplink receiver equipment on both the Aster 30 and the Aster 30 Block One NT versions of the missile. 



Taranis UCAV demonstrator flies in stealth configuration



© BAE Systems

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) and BAE Systems announced during the summer that the Taranis Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle (UCAV) demonstrator had successfully completed a second phase of testing in which the aircraft flew in a fully stealthy configuration, making it "virtually invisible to radar", the British company underlined in a release.

This new round of testing followed an initial series of flights during which the basic aerodynamic configuration of the Taranis – considered by BAE Systems as "the most advanced aircraft ever built by British

engineers" was validated. Once this was completed, the team "changed all antennas on the aircraft to signature control variants and the air data boom on the nose of Taranis was removed", BAE Systems explains.

"Following these modifications, Taranis used a specially-designed system which allowed the aircraft to generate a full set of flight data, without the use of an external probe or boom", the aircraft manufacturer adds.

Taranis also used a cutting edge communications system to ensure it was able to stay in touch with its mission

commander without giving away its position to the enemy.

In order to jointly prepare the next generation of combat aircraft, the French and UK defence ministries signed a two-year agreement at the Farnborough airshow on 15 July to conduct a two-year €150 million cooperative study for a Future Combat Air System (FCAS) demonstration.

This will build on the experience gained with the Taranis and the equivalent French-led Neuron demonstrations to establish common requirements for a potential future unmanned combat air system. ◀

Airbus Group and Safran to revamp their space launcher business with dedicated joint-venture

The announcement came as a surprise to many: this summer, Airbus Group and Safran announced their intent to join forces in space launcher activities by creating a 50-50 joint venture dedicated to that business. By strengthening their relationship in this domain, the two companies want to be better armed to "propose a new family of competitive, versatile and efficient space launchers, to serve both commercial and institutional needs", a joint press release stated.

The launch of the future Ariane 5 ME and Ariane 6 launchers is at the core of this new industrial setup, aimed at increasing sector competitiveness and providing customers with more cost-efficient solutions. The two companies will each be

attributed a key role based on their legacy activities in France and Germany, combining expertise in the launcher systems from Airbus Group as well as propulsion systems from Safran.

By signing this memorandum of understanding, the two manufacturers intend to fulfill two major objectives: first, to develop and accelerate entry-into-service of the Ariane 5 ME launcher as a logical evolution of Ariane 5, with an improved upper stage based on the Vinci engine; second, to further develop the future Ariane 6 launcher in a jointly agreed configuration able to fulfill a range of missions as expressed by the European Space Agency, national agencies, Arianespace as well as military and civil satellite operators. ◀



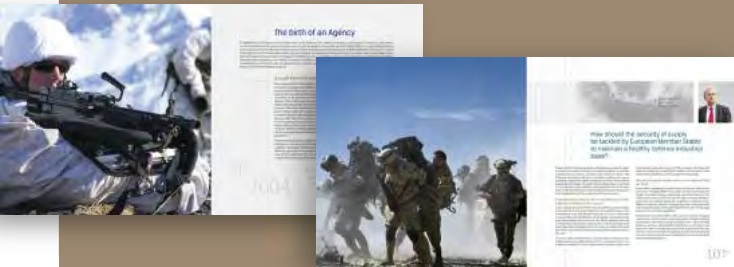
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To celebrate the tenth birthday of the European Defence Agency, a unique book will be published at the end of 2014 and officially unveiled during a special event to be held in Brussels in December. The result of several months of research conducted by the Agency, it will offer an exclusive insight into European defence matters.

Divided in three main sections, the book aims to provide readers with an overview of European defence cooperation history and achievements, seen through the lens of the Agency. In a first chapter, we will review the long and difficult road to European defence cooperation, from the very first attempts of the late 1940s until the birth of the European Defence Agency in 2004. To that end, our editorial team has put a lot of time and effort into retrieving original sources and conducting interviews with some of the key actors behind these early cooperative efforts.

A second movement will be dedicated to showcasing some of the Agency's most successful or promising projects and efforts. Because history is not only a succession of dates and events, the dozen of 'success stories' put forward in the book will shed a different light on a decade of EDA activity. From Counter-IED to remotely air piloted systems, air-to-air refueling or cyber defence, we will go through some of the past achievements and future milestones of the Agency.



In the third section, we have tried to gather a wide selection of independent views from key government, industry and academic experts sharing their analysis, advice and concerns about the way forward in European defence matters. More than 15 Prime Ministers, Ministers of Defence, Chief Executive Officers and leading researchers have agreed to contribute to this first-of-its kind book, excerpts of which are published for the first time in this edition of *European Defence Matters*.



Pooling

> Ten years

The idea of a collective European defence is as old as the story of European integration itself. From the ashes of the Second World War, it wouldn't take long to see an incredible idea emerge: what if European countries, busy stitching their wounds after half a decade of devastating conflict, could start cooperating on defence issues and promote peace together?

Iconoclastic as it sounded at the time, the idea was nevertheless at the heart of some of the very first post-Second World War treaties that were drafted to banish any possibility of war from the continent. But these first small steps towards European defence cooperation were soon to be overshadowed by a much more ambitious endeavour. In the summer of 1950, Jean Monnet, then General Commissioner of the French National Planning Board, expressed his will to organise European defence on a supranational basis, an initiative inspired by French foreign minister Robert Schuman's plan for establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) that would eventually come into effect in 1952. At the same time, the United States



of working together

of America was also asking its European allies to plan for the rearmament of West Germany.

The proposal for what was known as the European Defence Community (EDC) was submitted by French Prime Minister René Plevin to the National Assembly in October 1950. It called for the creation of a European Army to be placed under supranational authority and to be funded by a common budget. A European armament and equipment programme would be drawn up and carried out under the authority of a European Defence Minister, who in turn would operate under a European Defence Council.

The ambitious idea was supported by most Western countries. Although sceptical at first, the United Kingdom also gave its agreement to the initiative. However a devastating blow was dealt to the European Defence Community in August 1954 when the French National Assembly refused to ratify the Treaty, refusing even to discuss the matter. France's position met with considerable

consternation in Western Europe and the United States, not least because this rejection came from the very architects of the EDC plan.

Founded in February 1976 by the European members



René Plevin



First session of the European Convention

of NATO, the Independent European Program Group (IEPG) was envisioned as an international coordinating body whose main mission would be to foster cooperation on armaments procurement.

Using the IEPG as a forum for annual discussions, →

Communication



Developing

Technology



the defence ministers of the 13 member nations (all European members of NATO, Iceland excepted) set out goals and targets in the field of military requirements, system concepts, and collaboration.

Their objectives were three-fold: to strengthen the contribution of European allies to the common defence of the NATO alliance; to improve the European technological base; and to balance US-European defence trade. The IEPG

set out to conduct a number of studies, such as the European Aeronautical Cooperation Study and the European Defence Industry Study.

The declaration agreed by the Western European Union Ministers in Maastricht on 10 December 1991 called for further examination of the possibilities for enhanced cooperation in the field of armaments, with the aim of creating a European Armaments Agency.

At their meeting in Bonn in December 1992, the Defence Ministers of the 13 IEPG countries decided upon the transfer of the functions of the IEPG to the

Western European Union (WEU). [...] At the meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers in Rome in May 1993, participants agreed on a number of organizational aspects of the transfer, which were subsequently adopted formally by the Council at 13.

The Western European Armaments Group (WEAG) was born. Growing to 19 Member States by 2000 (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands,

Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom), it would live on until 2005.

The birth of an Agency

Established by the European Council in December 2001 following the Laeken Declaration, the European Convention (also known as the Convention on the Future of Europe) was a body intended to include the main EU 'stakeholders' in a major brainstorming exercise about the future direction of the European Union.

Its final purpose was to produce a draft constitution



Agreement of the declaration at Maastricht

for the EU to finalize and adopt. [...] Running parallel to that political roadmap, some major aerospace and defence companies in Europe started lobbying for a strong armaments agency that would be able to overcome the shortfalls of all previous initiatives in that domain. "One of the main eye-openers was the pullout of some partner nations from the A400M programme", Michel Troubetzkoy, then EADS (now Airbus Group) senior-vice president in charge of European affairs for the aerospace and defense group, recalls.

Rapidly joined by French defence electronics company Thales, EADS started its lobbying effort towards EU representatives and especially the nascent Convention to sell the idea of what was then referred to by the industry as a 'European Security and Defence Research Agency'.

This bold move from industry representatives partly contributed to the creation of a dedicated 'Working Group on Defence' within the Convention in September 2002. Chaired by Michel Barnier, then European Commissioner in charge of Institutional Affairs for the European Commission in addition to his Regional Affairs portfolio, its official mandate included investigating "the possibility of setting up an arms agency whose tasks (research, development, acquisitions) and operating methods would have to be studied in detail", while acknowledging that "there [was] in fact currently no cooperation on armaments at Union level".

"The time was right", Christine Roger, former French Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee (PSC) who at the time was heading Michel Barnier's private office in the European Commission and was directly involved in the proceedings of the Convention Working Group on Defence, recalls. "Member States all seemed willing to move forward, the industry wanted it as well – there was a wide range of good reasons to make this new Agency a reality. It was a simple idea and a good one", she sums up. In its final report, the Convention working group laid out some of the foundations of what would become the European Defence Agency we know today – although the final name wasn't there yet. "The setting up on an intergovernmental basis of a European Armaments and Strategic Research Agency was supported by many in the Group", the official document stated.

The European Defence Agency comes online

The Convention officially finished its work in July 2003 with the publication of a Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. But running parallel to the Convention effort, Member States representatives were also busy preparing the European Council that would take place in Thessaloniki in June 2003. In its final conclusions published in June 2003, the Thessaloniki Council made it clear that a new European Defence Agency was on the agenda and would soon become a reality. "The European Council [...] tasks the appropriate



Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council addresses the annual conference of EDA

bodies of the Council to undertake the necessary actions towards creating, in the course of 2004, an intergovernmental agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments", the final declaration stated.

The next step would be to actually set this new Agency in motion. Nick Witney, who would become the first EDA Chief Executive in 2004, played a central role in that process. The consensus around the Agency was clearly still there, notably between Paris and London. "This may sound surprising now, considering that relations between the two countries really became tense after the strong French opposition to the Iraq campaign in 2003. However, there was a clear agreement between London and Paris that an Agency would be a good thing and that we would make it happen, even if there was no clear understanding at the time of what the exact role of the Agency should be, or its position on the institutional grid", Nick Witney recalls.

A number of draft paragraphs were submitted to Member States and went back to the Agency Establishment Team (AET) between May and June.

By the middle of June the text was sent to the Relex group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER), in charge of drafting the Joint Action that would officially create the European Defence Agency. On 12 July 2004, the European Council formally adopted this Joint Action, turning the Thessaloniki and the Convention promises into reality. ❏

▣

"The time was right, Member States all seemed willing to move forward, the industry wanted it as well – there was a wide range of good reasons to make this new Agency a reality. It was a simple idea and a good one"

10 years of working together