

Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure



As part of its work on improving the **resilience** of the **defence and security sector**, the **European Defence Agency (EDA)**, through the **Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure (PCEI) Experts Group**, explores options for **protecting defence related Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI)** from existing and emerging risks and threats, including hybrid and asymmetrical warfare, climate change and natural hazards.

“Protecting the Union and its citizens”

is one of the three **strategic priorities** of the **EU Global Strategy**, with the need for **“strengthening the protection and resilience of its networks and critical infrastructure”**.

- A **Member State** by itself cannot ensure **autonomy** based only on national capacities **but** has to **consider interactions** within its network of strategic partners;
- **Strategic autonomy** does not imply having access to infinite domestic resources but having a **diversity of options and choices** within the nexus of the **EU wide Energy eco-system**;
- ...it is time to **move to a broad consensus** on how to **better increase the resilience of the defence related CEI** and thus **protecting** collectively and effectively the **EU common interests** in an optimum way.

PCEI Experts Group

The **objective** of the **PCEI Experts Group** is to raise awareness of the significance of the **PCEI in the EU Defence and Security sector** and to contribute in the **enhancement of CEI protection and resilience**. In particular, it aims to:

- identify common challenges, including shortfalls and opportunities, **related to PCEI in the defence sector**;
- provide a framework for **increasing resilience** and to identify **how PCEI contributes to securing Energy Strategic Autonomy for the European Defence and Security Sector**;
- identify **concrete actions** for developing appropriate methodologies and tools through **cooperative projects** with the **support of the EU** to **help each Member State increasing its resilience**.



To address the diverse challenges, potential disruptions and infrastructure failures in the nexus defence/security and energy sector, it is necessary to **Secure Energy Strategic Autonomy for European Defence (SESAED)**.

- The EU needs to explore options to support the **Member States** in **strengthening** the protection of **all defence related CEI**.
- **Member States** need to **foster an EU shared culture** in **protection and resilience** of **PCEI in European defence**, for instance through joint training or exercises.
- The PCEI Experts Group has developed the **“PCEI Conceptual Paper: focus on European Defence”** to support the efforts of the EU and its Member States in enhancing the resilience of defence related CEI and to provide **an impetus for future work** on the issue.

“It is my belief that by adapting and implementing EU policy, based on Sustainable Energy and Environmental Security priorities, the Union will ensure a pathway which leads towards a Sustainable Defence Sector. Building on the PCEI Conceptual Paper, Member States supported by EU can move towards a broad consensus on how to invest in resilience and protection of defence related CEI in a collaborative manner with the civil sector. Increasing the resilience and protection of defence related CEI is an investment for saving lives.”

Jorge Domecq

Chief Executive

European Defence Agency



“Increasing the resilience and protection of defence related Critical Energy Infrastructure is an investment for saving lives”



Background

The **EDA cross Directorate ESI-CAT PCEI Experts Group** was set up within the **European Commission-funded** and **EDA-led Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS)**. The Ministries of Defence of Cyprus and Greece offered to take the lead along with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, research centres and national academia; Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH), Cyprus University of Technology, European University Cyprus, KIOS Research and Innovation Center of Excellence - University of Cyprus and the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). Bulgaria, Estonia, France and Ireland also have participated in the Group. The European Commission DG Energy and Joint Research Centre (JRC) as well as the NATO accredited Energy Security Centre of Excellence (ENSEC COE – as observer) supported the work of the PCEI Experts Group through sharing their expertise.

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