



Deploy Symposium  
“Military Mobility – Key to European Security”  
co-organised by EDA & Bulgarian EU Presidency

Brussels, 07 June 2018

## Closing speech by EDA Chief Executive Jorge Domecq

### **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

- Honoured guests. After an intensive day the Deploy Symposium has come to an end. The issue “Military Mobility – Key to European Security” will continue to seize our attention. We are only at the beginning of a process to improve Military Mobility. Therefore, we need continuous political support and effort by all stakeholders to realize progress in this long-term engagement.
- As the Head of the Agency highlighted this morning we are just at the beginning but we are on the right track and most importantly we have in place a Plan in Action which already delivers results.
- Today we organised two panel discussions. The first one was about the “Synergies and coordination” and the second on “Military Requirements”. Both are core topics if the effort is to achieve success.
- In the discussions of the first panel it has been confirmed that Military Mobility is not owned by and confined to the military domain, or Ministries of Defence alone. Most activities require a national cross- departmental approach based upon a



common understanding among all Member States and Nations involved. We have to analyse the parameters to facilitate this common understanding.

- The second panel focused on the military requirements. “Military Requirements” is an easy to read term, however with a complex content. What are requirements? Who sets those requirements? Are they standard or is it living matter? How do we align these requirements?
- Allow me to highlight some key messages I kept from these two panels which in my view should be the guide and the principles in our future work:
  - A number of initiatives from different stakeholders are planned or are already under implementation; where EU can add value is to ensure coordination, complementarity and coherence.
  - As it was stressed this morning the sovereign decisions of the Member States are fully respected. I am glad that there is no more reference to a “Military Schengen”; it is not about lifting any controls at the borders for military personnel or assets, but rather to facilitate and expedite military mobility across EU and beyond;
  - The Member States’ PESCO commitment to Military Mobility is important. Also, the ongoing work within the relevant PESCO project. Equally important is to evaluate progress made and report through the National Implementation Plans on the commitment.
  - Furthermore, the envisaged Military Mobility Pledge will ensure that Member States take ownership of future actions.

- Military mobility is not just about defence. A whole of government approach is necessary to achieve results. At EU level we already took our share of responsibility and all relevant EU institutions, agencies and bodies are already working in synchronization to better serve the Member States' needs. This is absolutely necessary to happen also at home. Looking at the European Council at the end of June, it is important for the Heads of States and Government to address the issue; this would really mobilize the whole of government approach;
- As it was mentioned also today, the geographical scope should be also considered. Though the challenges may have specific ordinations today, the work on military mobility is aiming to address not only today's crises but also tomorrow's; it is also to address deployment of military assets and personnel by using all European departures when and if necessary; also to address not only crises but also day to day training, exercises or movements.
- Cooperation with partners, notably NATO is key, since as it was mentioned this morning coherence with NATO is essential. NATO's presence today and contribution was therefore highly valued. We are committed to this coherence through the implementation of the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw. Considering that both EU and NATO continue facing common security challenges, preserving Europe's Security, is in our common interest.
- Last, industrial implications should be considered in the overall effort. This also is cross-cutting and involves different sectors where the potential for automation and technological innovation is significant and needs to be



fully explored. Pursuing coordination and coherence again is relevant in this realm.

- While approaching the end of the event allow me to express my gratitude to the Bulgarian Presidency and especially the Minister of Defence Mr. Krasimir Karakachanov and his team dedicated to the excellent co-organisation of this event.
- I think we all agree that the substantial outputs from this conference wouldn't be possible without the inspiring and when necessary provocative statements, discussions and debates thank to our high-level panelists and moderators. I should warmly thank all of them for accepting to be present today and take the floor.
- Last but not least, I would like to thank all participants for making this symposium a success. The fact that this event attracted numerous participation also of high-level representatives demonstrates the importance we all attach to military mobility.
- I am confident that the discussions today will support all stakeholders in their contribution to further improvements on Military Mobility. Coherence of effort and continuous exchange of information and coordination are key to achieve tangible results swiftly.
- As Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, I should assure you that the Agency will continue through our knowledge on how to establish effective cooperation and through our defence expertise to promote actions, projects and initiatives to facilitate and expedite military mobility. This includes our annual reporting to the Defence Ministers in order to keep the momentum and continue apace the efforts.



- Based upon the inspiring discussions of today the road is paved to achieve these tangible results to improve military mobility and thus contribute to the EU Global Strategy's objectives namely promoting EU's peace and guaranteeing the security of its citizens and its territory.
- Thank you very much.