

Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector – 5th Conference

Opening Address
Chief Executive Jorge Domecq

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(Check against delivery)

- Good morning distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.
- A warm welcome also from me to the fifth event of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector here at the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas. I wish to acknowledge the kind hospitality of the Centre and its Chairman Professor Athanasios Konstandopoulos – thank you for hosting us!
- Thank you also Minister Kammenos for your opening address. It was encouraging to hear of the proactive approach which the Hellenic military is taking to

address the challenges and opportunities of sustainable energy. As is well known, Greece is and has been a leader in this field for a long time and I am grateful for your continuing strong leadership on these issues.

- This Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector has been a great success and a showcase of how Member States, the Commission and EDA can work together leading to concrete results. Our cooperation with the Commission and DG Energy has been outstanding and I look forward to continuing our good work together.
- And this cooperation is fully in line with the conclusions and recommendations of the EDA's Long Term Review, endorsed by the Steering Board in Defence Ministers configuration on 18 May, that the Agency is to support Member States in exploiting wider EU policies to the benefit of defence.

- I am also pleased that Denmark is part of the Consultation Forum. As you know, Denmark is not part of the Common Security and Defence Policy, but as the Consultation Forum is funded by a grant from the EU budget at 28, Denmark must of course also be included and we appreciate their participation.
- The EU Global Strategy that was launched in June 2016 firmly established that climate change and energy insecurity endanger our peoples and territories. The EU Global Strategy also underlined that wider environmental stresses can exacerbate potential conflict due to their impact on desertification, land degradation, and water and food scarcity.
- While energy and environmental considerations are unlikely to result in us developing a whole new suite of capabilities, at least in the short to medium term, they will impact on where our Armed Forces will be deployed and the conditions under which they will operate. This

will, in turn, affect the amount of energy they will need and thus affecting capability requirements and budgets.

- Given the changing, and sometimes, uncertain security environment in which we operate in, the defence sector continues to need adaptive capabilities. In combination of defence budgets remaining under pressure, we must continuously embrace new ways of working.
- The Consultation Forum provides an important opportunity for us to work together to make a real change in the provision of defence capability. A more sustainable energy pathway can reduce costs when return on investments are favourable, thereby help us to save money over time that can be used for other military priorities. The work of the Consultation Forum has not duplicated the work done by NATO but will benefit NATO as Europe only has one set of forces.
- So, as we are now nearing the end of the first phase of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the

Defence and Security Sector, I want to highlight some of the achievements since the beginning in January 2016.

- A key success of the Consultation Forum has been the creation of an impressive European network of professionals working collaboratively on sustainable energy projects in the defence sector. While there were many committed individuals working on these issues before around Europe, the Consultation Forum has contributed to bringing them together for increased impact at EU level.
- Another key success is the raising of the debate on sustainable energy in the military, and indeed the quality of that debate. Many MoDs faced the same type of challenges regarding sustainable energy issue but rather than addressing these issues individually, the Consultation Forum has enabled us to analyse them collectively and working out best practice solutions in affecting change in the military approach to energy.

- These successes and others will be detailed in the draft final report which you will be spending part of your time here in Thessaloniki reviewing. Please provide the team of moderators your feedback and any additional perspectives which you may have.
- The goal is to enable you to take the collective results from the Energy Consultation Forum back to your MODs, raising the level of discussion and implementing action appropriate to your organization. It should give you some of the evidence needed to help accelerate the work in your organizations which we are seeking to deliver collectively.
- There is, however, still a considerable amount of work to do to secure a sustainable energy pathway for defence and deliver enhanced military capability.
- It is for this reason, as we move in to the next phase of the work, we should place a greater emphasis on implementation. This is a view I know is also shared by DG Ristori and the Commission.

- The European Defence Agency is very much focused on delivering results through robust project development and implementation. Over the last few months, my team and I have been working with the Commission's team on the structure of a second phase of the Consultation Forum.
- As with this first phase, there will be an element of flexibility in terms of how the content is developed and delivered, and of course you will have an important part to play in shaping the outcomes.
- We will now need to focus on results. This includes the identification of tangible defence energy projects and how to deploy appropriate funding instruments available to us to turn the concepts in to reality.
- This will be done in a way which gives all MODs an equal opportunity to put forward concepts and perspectives which could ultimately be used to deliver defence energy projects.

- However, the general thrust will not change and phase II of the Consultation Forum will remain focused on relevant energy legislation. Any projects which are developed from the Consultation Forum will therefore need to contribute to the intended outcomes of energy legislation as well as the wider objectives of the Energy Union.
- Let me briefly mention some possible projects ideas that can be grouped in three baskets:
- Policy tools and training. For example, the development of high-level energy decision-making frameworks for strategic corporate and business planning on energy use in the military; or development of tools for technology selection; as well as projects on energy awareness raising and training around the relevant legislation on energy efficiency, and protection of energy infrastructure.
- A second basket of projects could focus on Infrastructure improvements. For example, the refurbishment of buildings to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings standards; and the development of smart

buildings using monitoring and data collection technologies; as well as project on the Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure, taking in to account a range of risks including natural hazards, climate change, and security threats.

- A third basket of project could focus on the assessment of renewable energy technologies. For example, projects analysing where investments could be made to make commercial renewable energy technologies suitable for military use and in defence infrastructure.
- Before we move on to the next speaker, I would like to leave you with some figures to illustrate the significance of the work which brings us together for this week.
- It has been estimated that across the EU, more energy efficient appliances are expected to save consumers €100 billion annually – about €465 per household – on their energy bills by 2020.
- In fact, buildings and industry accounts for half of the EU's energy consumption. Moreover, 84% of heating

and cooling is still generated from fossil fuels, while only 16% is generated from renewable energy. Given that MODs are Europe's largest landlords, energy efficiency is a key issue for defence.

- The use of fossil fuels presents us with a risk, not just in deployed scenarios where it affects mission endurance, but also on MODs' balance sheets. Not least from the effect of price spikes – around five or so years ago, the UK MOD calculated that for every penny increase on a litre of oil, the impact on the MOD's energy bill was £13million.
- There are probably examples of this same order of magnitude in many other MODs and it is a huge incentive to increase the momentum towards a sustainable energy future.
- The continuation of the Consultation Forum presents the defence sector with an opportunity in an area of

work which continues to grow in importance. We also need to continue to work collaboratively to capitalize on this initiative and deliver the benefits at national and international levels.

- By maintaining the same level of commitment which I have witnessed over the last couple of years, there is every possibility that in two years' time we will be able to look back at a number of defence energy projects which have been inspired and initiated by the Consultation Forum.
- We have the collective knowledge, experience, and the determination to deliver real change. With the foundations established over the last two years, I urge you to seize this opportunity to continue moving forward.
- Please make the most of the networking opportunities, and please ensure that you stay focused on the

direction in which you would like the Consultation Forum to go – it is after all your forum.

- Thank you!