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“NATO@70 - CSDP@20: A Partnership for the Future” Conference

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## Opening speech

Jorge Domecq, EDA Chief Executive

- Thank you very much.
- It is a pleasure to be here today, celebrating not only 70 years of NATO and 20 years of the Common Security and Defence Policy – but also 15 years of the European Defence Agency.
- Only two and a half years ago all EU Member States and NATO Allies agreed on a common set of proposals to implement the 2016 Warsaw Joint Declaration.
- Now, four months into 2019, we have already reached an unprecedented level of EU-NATO cooperation. Knowing both sides, I personally value this achievement and believe it is important to continue also in the future.
- For EDA, informal output-oriented interactions with NATO are not entirely new and go back to even before the Joint Declaration.
- However, we have now moved to a more streamlined manner of engagement. In excellent cooperation with the Commission and EEAS, EDA works with NATO on some 30 of the 74 actions

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across 6 of the 7 areas, and has the leading role on the EU side on **defence capabilities**.

- A key tasking here – today and in the future – is to ensure **coherence of output** with NATO, and specifically between the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and CARD, and relevant NATO Defence processes. It is important that through this interaction we ensure that the revised EU priorities are fully coherent with NATO targets: that means: they should not diverge or contradict, they should complement, and they should make the European capability landscape more coherent, more efficient.
- Looking ahead, EDA and NATO staffs will continue to benefit from cross invitations by individual EU Member States and NATO Allies to bilateral and multilateral consultations in the respective EU and NATO defence planning processes. By ensuring transparency and reciprocity, we also avoid increasing the reporting burden on nations that belong to both organisations as coherence of output is primarily pursued by the Member States.
- In the frame of the Joint Declaration implementation, EDA and NATO staffs further talk on a day-to-day basis to enhance complementarity and avoidance of unnecessary duplication in multinational capability development, including now in the

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implementation of the CDP priorities through Strategic Context Cases which will propose concrete lines of action of how to achieve those priorities.

- These are concrete examples of our output-oriented cooperation on defence capability development.
- Looking at the big picture on the EU side, the implementation of the EU defence initiatives is now in full swing.
- The CDP, the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), and PESCO represent building blocks of an emerging end-to-end European defence planning framework that aims to deliver concrete defence capabilities to our Member States. The European Defence Fund (EDF) acts as an important incentive towards defence cooperation.
- So we can state clearly that we are already moving towards cooperative solutions as the norm. However, let me be clear: the initiatives – as I have explained in the past – are not being put in place in order to work towards a European army.
- These initiatives should lead us over time to a coherent set of usable, deployable, interoperable and sustainable capabilities and forces.
- In this way, a stronger European defence will also strengthen NATO, enabling us to take our fair share of the burden.

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- Ultimately, the initiatives should contribute to achieving the EU Level of Ambition and an appropriate degree of European strategic autonomy.
- And we should strive to avoid misleading messages on both sides as we otherwise risk the overall progress in EU-NATO cooperation.
- Looking ahead, EDA with its defence expertise will continue to play a key role in its support to Member States in ensuring coherence among the defence initiatives on the EU side, as well as with NATO.
- In the same manner as CDP and CARD are developed and implemented ensuring no unnecessary duplication, no diverging priorities and complementarity, I should stress that PESCO has not been developed in isolation either, as the Member States' notification of PESCO already referred to NATO, and I quote: "a long term vision of PESCO could be to arrive at a coherent full spectrum force package - in complementarity with NATO, which will continue to be the cornerstone of collective defence for its members."
- Moreover, EDA has the important tasking from the Council to ensure that in the PESCO projects – which should facilitate the fulfilment of the more binding commitments – there is no unnecessary duplication of efforts, including regarding NATO.

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- So far, we have assessed all PESCO projects against NDPP targets, and 25 of the 34 also reflect NATO priorities.
- We will continue to pursue this effort, leveraging our direct supporting role to various PESCO projects.
- EDA is a platform under ministerial guidance and integrator of different perspectives in European defence efforts – from capability planning to armament, from research to defence policy.
- This unique nature of EDA is an asset to Member States in the EU-NATO cooperation out of which we should make the most.
- That is why we talk to NATO bodies and agencies across the board, from the International Staff (Defence Policy and Planning DPP; Defence Investment DI; Emerging Security Challenges ESC; Operations) to the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation and the NATO Agencies or STO.
- Through this comprehensive approach, we can further ensure coherence.
- Allow me to conclude by highlighting what in my view are three particular important challenges regarding the way ahead in EU-NATO cooperation:
- First, as defence budgets in Europe are increasing across the board, we have to ensure to also effectively use the resources made available.

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- Two weeks ago in Washington, the NATO Secretary General commended European efforts to increase defence spending.
- Indeed, Europe as a whole is already the second biggest investor in defence after the United States. Together with Canada, European Allies have spent an additional 41 Billion Euros in the last two years only against the 2014 baseline, and this figure will further grow to 100 Billion Euros by 2020 and to a total of 350 Billion Euros by 2024.
- The money must now translate into effective output and a more coherent European capability landscape.
- In other words, and as I said before, a more interoperable, sustainable, usable and deployable set of capabilities and forces. This increase in defence spending has to develop the capabilities our Armed Forces need, to overcome their shortcomings and also to reduce the fragmentation and inefficiencies we witness today.
- The fresh spending also needs to build on research and technological advances as we think not only about today, but also the capabilities our Armed Forces will need tomorrow and in the future.
- This brings me to the second challenge: ultimately, as I always advocate, it is not only about spending more, but about

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spending better and in cooperation, which is exactly what we seek to achieve with the new EU defence initiatives.

- While we are already moving towards more EU defence cooperation, it is a long-term effort. It requires a change of mindset in capitals and buy-in from the Ministries of Defence at all levels and in the different defence communities: from Armaments to Policy, from Defence Planning to Research. It is essential for these new defence initiatives at European level to become fully embedded in national defence plans – coherence also starts in capitals.
- And last but not least, continued interoperability of EU and NATO remains highly important. We need to ensure that Europe, and in particular the EU, remains a reliable and credible partner. This is key for the good health of the transatlantic link, which remains essential for the security and stability of Europe. We therefore have to avoid any technological gap between both sides of the Atlantic. A growing technological gap could easily become a serious operational gap, making our forces less interoperable, and could lead over time to a political gap.
- Interoperability requires investment in research and maintaining strong and competitive defence industries on

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both sides of the Atlantic, underpinning the defence capabilities of our Armed Forces needs.

- Member States and Allies have a single set of forces and capabilities, as well as experts. As the security of EU and NATO is interconnected, we need to continue developing our unprecedented cooperation to take on those challenges that we have in common.
- I would like to paraphrase what SG Stoltenberg stated in the US Congress two weeks ago: that to defend each other, to protect each other, and to keep our people safe, we must overcome our differences, even more so today as we face unprecedented challenges that no nation can take on alone.”
- But I would add: “and no organisation either.” That is why EU-NATO cooperation is so important: not only for the protection of our territories and our citizens, but more importantly of our “way of life”.
- Thanks.