

REINFORCING THE EU DRIVE ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

EDA Chief Executive Remarks at SecDef

- Europe must step up its efforts to collectively provide robust and credible defence capabilities. EDA was established to assist Member States for this very purpose.
- Europe's ability to deliver effective Military capabilities is at risk of erosion from budget cuts. The financial crisis continues to haunt most European governments and the road to financial stability looks like being a long one. We need to act accordingly.
- In today's climate of austerity enhanced defence cooperation, particularly through pooling & sharing of assets and capabilities, is necessary. There is simply no alternative.
- Libya has thrown this into sharp relief, demonstrating not only Europe's defence capability shortfalls but also the need to start taking responsibility for ourselves in light of Washington's new doctrine of 'leading from behind'.
- The United States will not always be there to look after us – Robert Gates' valedictory address at the SDA in June effectively disabused Europeans of that idea.
- New Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta reiterated a similar message, speaking in Brussels last month, calling for more balanced burden sharing.
- If Europe is serious about its ambition to be a global player and following through on its commitment to effectively contribute to international stability and security, these efforts must be supported by a robust Defence Technological and Industrial Base built on a globally competitive European Defence Market.
- We at EDA have already launched a number of initiatives designed to strengthen future European industrial competitiveness, including the Agency's Regime on Defence Procurement, the EDTIB and R&T Strategies. But we also try to do more by providing Member States with shortfall forecasts on non-dependence technologies, the future of military aerospace or precision guided ammunition industrial base. These are simply some of the most relevant areas for defence investment.
- Collectively Europe has to search for innovative ways to deliver more collectively. The alternative is for each Member State to watch its national capabilities dwindle. To do this Member States have to allocate their constrained defence resources where they

can achieve the most output. The Agency exists to show how collaboration can provide efficient and effective solutions.

- We need better and more systematic collaboration, harmonisation, and standardisation to ensure that our Armed Forces get the best possible equipment on time and at best value for money and that our industries stay strong.
- Thus, it is paramount to work together towards removing obstacles to effective defence industrial cooperation, harmonising policies and practices and collectively addressing such issues as work share requirements, foreign investment, government ownership and control of defence companies.
- An intergovernmental approach based on reciprocity, mutual confidence and interdependence can add value to the ongoing regulatory reforms.
- Changing our business practices will also require the continued close involvement of our industry partners. Industry is a key stakeholder with a vital interest in this debate and it is important their voice is heard.
- Today Europe possesses a comprehensive range of defence industrial capabilities and competences; many of which are world leading.
- But, the existence of a competent and competitive EDTIB cannot be taken for granted; its health depends on the investment decisions taken by all Member States.
- We cannot afford the risk to make decisions that for short and medium term financial expediency would have a negative effect on the industrial capabilities required for the future. We clearly need to aim at supporting competitiveness in dual-use cutting edge technologies, amongst other things, by collaboratively initiating research in disruptive technologies.
- We are working to develop policies on technology and industrial non-Dependence building on the model developed by ESA and the Commission for space. While in a globalised world total industrial and technological independence is neither practical nor desirable there must be awareness of where dependencies create risk and options for mitigation.
- Security and Defence are intrinsically linked. The overlap is driven by the development of technologies bridging civil and military use and threats without traditional boundaries, and further motivated by the current economic situation which makes the optimal use of scarce resources essential.
- There is often no clear dividing line between the Defence Industrial Base and the Security Industrial Base. We must therefore benefit from the synergies of common

technologies; something we have been able to do on CBRN protection with the European Commission under our European Framework Cooperation initiative but also wish to extend to areas like communications, information management, cyber security, unmanned air systems and energy

- Europe has a proud heritage in defence and security. The capabilities provided have given Europe important advantages in conflict and crisis abroad and enhance security at home. This has saved lives...
- Future threat scenarios suggest the continued vital importance of both sectors; standardisation and interoperability must therefore be taken as basic requirements. Also, improved training planning needs to be considered on the operational side.
- Past investment in defence and security has not only made Europe more secure it has a major impact on wider European economic growth; on high technology, on jobs with important spill-over effects. The Framework Security Programme adopted from 2007 has been an added value to promote synergies between security and defence, encouraging the dialogue between the two research communities and avoiding duplication of efforts.
- In this context it is important that Europe builds on these strengths and invests wisely for the future. The European Defence Agency stands ready to assist Member States on the decisions ahead.