



EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY PRESS RELEASE

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EDA INDUSTRY AND MARKET DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Javier Solana, Head of the European Defence Agency (EDA), announced today the appointment of Arturo Alfonso-Meiriño as the Agency's Industry and Market (I&M) Director.

Alfonso-Meiriño, who is currently Assistant I&M Director in EDA, will take up his post in early January 2009. He will replace Ulf Hammarström, the Agency's first I&M Director.

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of such a talented and well-qualified Director. I am sure he will continue to strengthen the EDA's efforts to create a more competitive defence equipment market and a stronger defence technological and industrial base in Europe", Solana said.

"Alfonso-Meiriño experience, acquired in the European Defence Agency as Assistant Industry and Market Director, makes him most suitable for the new position he is taking up", he added.

A biography of Arturo Alfonso-Meiriño is attached.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

- Background information -

The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established by the Council on 12 July 2004. It is designed "to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the ESDP as it stands now and develops in the future". More specifically, the Agency is ascribed four functions, relating to:

- a) defence capabilities development;
- b) armaments cooperation;
- c) the European defence technological and industrial base and defence equipment market;
- d) research and technology.

These functions all relate to improving Europe's defence performance, by promoting coherence in place of fragmentation.

The EDA is an Agency of the European Union. High Representative Solana is Head of the Agency, chairman of the Steering Board, which acts under the Council's authority and within the framework of guidelines issued by the Council.