

Strategic Context Cases (SCCs)



When, in June 2018, EDA's Steering Board in Capability Directors formation endorsed the revision of the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and its 11 European Capability Development Priorities (see list below), they also made clear that those priorities should be implemented in an output-oriented way to facilitate the generation of cooperative projects aimed at closing identified capability shortfalls, while striving to contribute to more coherence of the European capability landscape.

To this end, it was agreed that the CDP implementation process had to be supported by the elaboration of so-called 'Strategic Context Cases' (SCCs) to be prepared by EDA in a close dialogue with a wide network of experts from Member States, the EU institutions, other relevant multinational stakeholders as well as defence industry representatives.

The purpose of the SCCs is clear: to guide the implementation of the 11 European Capability Development Priorities in a way that genuinely improves the coherence of the European capability landscape and leads to cooperative projects which contribute to closing identified capability shortfalls.

First SCCs edition, Part One

One year later, on 27 June 2019, EDA's Steering Board in Capability Directors composition endorsed the first edition of the 11 SCCs, one for each priority. The 11 priorities are split into five modules: ground, air, underwater, cyber/space as well as one devoted to cross-domain capabilities.

The documents describe in practical terms what the current capability situation is, including the activities planned or already ongoing at national and/or multinational level in

order to address the shortfalls. The outcomes of the NATO Defence Planning Process and the activities undertaken in the context of the Framework Nations Concept (FNC) are also taken into account in order to ensure coherence of output and avoid unnecessary duplication. The SCCs highlight in particular the major challenges to the coherence of the European capability landscape in each of the 11 EU Capability Development Priorities in the short, medium and long term.

The SCCs also contain those R&T activities identified in the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda (OSRA) which are linked to each capability priority. Cross references to the Key Strategic Activities (KSA), which are considered important for the implementation of the priority such as technologies, skills and industrial manufacturing capacities, are also taken into account.

To this end the Part One of all SCCs are organised in a standardized manner and consist of four chapters ('Part One'):

- » **chapter 1** contains the political background for each module of the respective Capability Development Priority and scope dealt with in the SCC
- » **chapter 2** maps the European capability landscape for each module of the respective Capability Development Priority, including the state of play of ongoing and planned activities
- » **chapter 3** describes the major challenges to the coherence of the European capability landscape for each module of the respective Capability Development Priority within the short, medium and long term
- » **chapter 4** defines avenues of approach across all planning horizons to contribute to both the closing of the identified capability gaps and providing more coherence of the European capability landscape.

Example: The EU Capability Development Priority 'Air Superiority' (see box below) covers the module 'Air-to-Air Refuelling'(AAR). The challenges to coherence are: in the short term to optimise the use of assets; in the medium term to reduce shortfall in a manner that peak demand in AAR could be met; in the long term to close remaining gaps while fully exploiting technological advancements. To address those challenges, the related avenue of approach suggests activities to increase the availability of existing assets for the short term impact, increased participation in existing multinational programmes for the medium term impact and to develop automated/autonomous AAR systems for the long term impact.

Part Two to follow soon

The next step in the elaboration of the first SCCs edition will happen in February 2020 when EDA will present to its Steering Board the remaining part ('Part Two'). The purpose of Part Two of the SCCs is to suggest a work programme that can be supported by EDA. This part will contain two more chapters:

- » **chapter 5** will outline the objectives of the proposed activities
- » **chapter 6** will contain the proposed activities in general terms, again within the short, medium and long term (these activities will be fully in line with the avenues of approach contained in Part One, chapter 4). The activities consist of those currently being undertaken within EDA as well as new activities that could be undertaken by the Agency in the future, subject to decision of the Steering Board.

The SCCs are living documents and will be updated by EDA over time, also on the basis of Member States' feedback, to make sure they always reflect the latest developments in the implementation of each and every priority.

It is anticipated that the first updates will take place at the Steering Board in June 2020, subject to confirmation by the Member States.

Joint effort

To prepare the SCCs, EDA worked closely with Member States, the EU Military Committee and the EU Military Staff. The European defence industry was consulted to collect their views on technological solutions to close identified capability gaps and face new security challenges. The Agency also ran staff to staff meetings with NATO to ensure activities developed by participating Member States within NATO are correctly reflected.

Background

In June 2018, the EDA Steering Board in Capability Directors formation endorsed the 2018 Capability Development Plan (CDP) and approved the 2018 EU Capability Development Priorities. In their Council conclusions adopted on 25 June 2018, EU Member States agreed that "these priorities, as a key reference for Member States' and EU's capability development, will inform CARD, PESCO and the European Defence Fund, which bring a step-change in defence co-operation, thus contributing to coherence among these three distinct but mutually reinforcing initiatives". The June 2018 Steering Board also tasked the Agency to start the preparatory work for the implementation of the 2018 EU Capability Development Priorities, including with a view to the elaboration of SCCs. In November 2018, the Steering Board tasked the Agency to proceed with the development of the SCC and to come up with a first edition by June 2019. Endorsed by the Steering Board, the SCCs were forwarded to the Council as agreed by the Member States in the Council conclusions of 17 June 2019.

EU Capability Development Priorities and Strategic Context Cases



Ground combat capabilities

- » Upgrade, modernise and develop land platforms (manned/unmanned vehicles, precision strike);
- » Enhance protection of forces. (CBRN, CIED, individual soldier equipment).



Enhanced logistic and medical supporting capabilities

- » Military mobility;
- » Enhanced logistics;
- » Medical support.



Air mobility

- » Strategic air transport;
- » Tactical air transport including air medical evacuation.



Integration of military air capabilities in a changing aviation sector

- » Military access to airspace;
- » Ability to protect confidentiality of mission critical information;
- » Coordination with civilian aviation authorities;
- » Adaptation of military air/space C2 capability.



Air superiority

- » Air combat capability;
- » Air ISR platforms;
- » Anti-Access Area Denial (A2/AD) capability;
- » Air-to-air refuelling;
- » Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD).



Underwater control contributing to resilience at sea

- » Mine warfare;
- » Anti-submarine warfare;
- » Harbour protection.



Naval manoeuvrability

- » Maritime situational awareness;
- » Surface superiority;
- » Power projection.



Enabling capabilities for cyber responsive operation

- » Cyber cooperation and synergies;
- » Cyber R&T;
- » Systems engineering framework for cyber operations;
- » Cyber education and training;
- » Specific cyber defence challenges in the air, space maritime and land domain.



Space-based information and communication services

- » Earth observation;
- » Positioning, navigation and timing;
- » Space situational awareness;
- » Satellite communication.



Information superiority

- » Radio spectrum management;
- » Tactical CIS;
- » Information management;
- » Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.



Cross-domain capabilities contributing to achieve EU's level of ambition

- » Innovative technologies for enhanced future military capabilities;
- » Autonomous EU capacity to test and to qualify EU developed capabilities;
- » Enabling capabilities to operate autonomously within EU's LoA.