

Implications of EU Policies on Defence Issues



A range of legislative proposals and EU policy initiatives have implications for defence, following i.a. the EU's institutional transformation through the Lisbon Treaty, the increasing development of dual-use technologies, and the search for better synergies in civilian and military capability development.

Recent developments in the EU Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, the European Defence Equipment Market and the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, the Single European Sky Air traffic management Research (SESAR), and the Commission's Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) for future EU Research and Innovation Funding demonstrate the importance of thoroughly assessing the implications of EU policies on defence issues.

An area of increasing EU activity - with key interests to the defence community - is the space domain. The Treaties now provide that space is a shared competence between the Union and Member States (Art. 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

The EDA Steering Board has already contributed to synergies in particular in the area of research and technology. To avoid duplication and to ensure complementarity of efforts, the European Commission, the European Space Agency and the EDA have enhanced their collaboration

in the areas of unmanned aerial systems and countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. At its meeting on 26 April 2010 in Luxembourg, the Steering Board also initiated discussion on the prospects opened by the Treaties to address defence research at Union level.

Other examples of beneficial cooperation in areas beyond defence capability development are illustrated by the Agency's contribution to the development of EU's maritime surveillance capabilities and the work on civil-military synergies.

Recent developments in the above areas, all specific and varying in scope and impact, underline the need for a coherent and timely input by the defence community to allow for a constructive contribution to the development of EU initiatives and policies.

EU POLICIES RELATED TO DEFENCE ISSUES

EU Radio Spectrum Policy Programme: Radio Spectrum (RS) is a strategic asset for Defence telecommunications, radars, navigation, satellites etc. This domain has just been recently confirmed as a 'core driver/environment' priority in the updated Capability Development Plan (CDP). Pursuant to the Directive 2009/140/EC of 25 November 2009, the Commission transferred its proposal to the European Parliament and Council on 20 September 2010 for the first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) (COM2010/471). It outlines at a strategic level how the use of spectrum can contribute most to the single market and other European Union policies from 2012 to 2017.

European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM): A well-functioning and internationally competitive EDEM is essential for a capability driven, competent and competitive European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) able to ensure long-term security of supply to EU Armed Forces. The development of such EDEM cannot be achieved through regulatory measures only, but needs a twin-track approach combining both sound and practical EU legislation and intergovernmental initiatives – with and through the EDA – aiming at mutual confidence and interdependence as well as at improving the effectiveness of military expenditure.

European Space Policy: The inclusion of 'Space' in the updated Capability Development Plan as a core enabler for defence-related capabilities illustrates the key importance of space-based services in support of a credible CSDP and Member States' ability to sustain a wide range of operations. Space-based assets are of direct relevance for the provision of critical information at strategic, tactical and operational level, communications as well as positioning, navigation and timing.

Commission Consultation on an Industrial Policy for Security Industry: A strong European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, is fundamental for Europe to fulfill its Common Security and Defence Policy ambitions and safeguard appropriate independence. This is not less true for the European Security Industrial Base. Many of the challenges that the Security Industry meets are the same that the Defence Industry faces, e.g. fragmented markets, lack of harmonization, competitiveness and access to third markets etc. The possibilities for synergies and pooling of investment resources are of high importance and should be investigated.

Single European Sky Air traffic management Research: In June 2011, the European Council (Transport) will debate the deployment strategy for the Single European Sky Air traffic management Research (SESAR), the technology pillar of Single European Sky (SES), with a specific emphasis on governance and funding mechanisms. The industrial buy-in supported by sound business cases and the synchronization of efforts among all stakeholders, civil and military, public and private, will be key to the success of Single European Sky in reaching its objectives. How the military will be addressed in the SESAR deployment strategy is as yet unclear. In its contacts with stakeholders, EDA suggested that were a programme management structure to be created, the military should be represented.

Commission Consultation on a Common Strategic Framework for Future EU Research and Innovation Funding: On 9 December 2010 Defence Ministers called for a constructive dialogue between the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Defence Agency and the Member States on the preparation of the future Framework for EU research and innovation (2014-2020) for investment in technology areas of common interest at the European Union level. The Steering Board launched the European Framework Cooperation (EFC) on 17 November 2009. It is designed to maximize complementarity and synergy between defence and civilian security-related research activities. EFC has delivered a first coordinated programme in the CBRN domain, but achieving this single programme will likely take more than two years and will require considerable efforts throughout its lifecycle. It represents a suitable test case; and makes the case for a more effective and more efficient approach under the CSF. The Agency is making the case for expanding the scope of Security Research to the full range of dual use research, and making the case for establishing specifically targeted joint research and development under the CSF that aims at building capabilities needed for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security as well as for crisis management activities. The Agency continues its constructive dialogue with the pMS and the Commission on future research and innovation funding with a view to respond to the Lisbon Treaty's objectives of building capabilities relevant to Member States and the Common Security and Defence Policy, as well as strengthening, through EDA, the technological and industrial base and improving the effectiveness of public expenditure.