

CODE OF CONDUCT ON POOLING & SHARING

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this Code of Conduct is to support cooperative efforts of EU Member States to develop defence capabilities. The actions herein are aimed at mainstreaming Pooling & Sharing in Member States' planning and decision-making processes. They are to be implemented on a national and voluntary basis, in line with defence policies of Member States.

POOLING & SHARING

- 1) Systematically consider cooperation from the outset in national defence planning of Member States.
- 2) Consider Pooling & Sharing for the whole life-cycle of a capability, including cooperation in R&T, minimising the number of variants of the same equipment, to optimise potential savings, improve interoperability, and rationalise demand.
- 3) Promote where possible the expansion of national programmes to other Member States to encourage the cooperative development of increased capabilities. and facilitate operational deployment.
- 4) Share opportunities that could be open to Pooling & Sharing.
- 5) Consider the joint use of existing capabilities by Member States to optimise available resources and improve overall effectiveness.

INVESTMENT

In accordance with national decision-making processes:

- 6) When a Pooling & Sharing project is agreed, endeavour to accord it a higher degree of protection from potential cuts.
- 7) Harness efficiencies generated through Pooling & Sharing in order to support further capability development.
- 8) Endeavour to allocate the necessary investment to support the development of future capabilities, including R&T, taking advantage of synergies with wider European policies, including regulatory frameworks, standards and certification.

COHERENCE

- 9) Pursue coherence between regional clusters of cooperation, including bilateral and ongoing multinational initiatives, to avoid major gaps or possible duplication and to share best practice, using EDA as a platform for information exchange.
- 10) Increase transparency, share expertise and best practice on cooperative capability development and capability priorities among Member States to enhance the opportunities for cooperation and greater interoperability. Mapping of projects open to cooperation would be supported by EDA tools, such as the Capability Development Plan and the database of collaborative opportunities (CoDaBa).
- 11) Benefit from information through EDA when conducting national defence reviews, for example on Pooling & Sharing opportunities and the impact of budget cuts (an assessment of possible consequences on the European capability landscape).

ASSESSMENT

EDA to submit to Defence Ministers an annual state of play of Pooling & Sharing, on the basis inter alia of inputs/reports from Member States and the EUMC, focusing on new Pooling & Sharing opportunities and also comprising: an analysis of the capability situation in Europe; progress achieved; obstacles; the impact of defence cuts and possible solutions.

More info on Pooling & Sharing projects: www.eda.europa.eu/projects