



# EURODEFENSE

## PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

### BUDAPEST

Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May 2011  
*Co-chairing : Eurodéfense-Belgium & Eurodéfense-Magyarország*

### Statement of decisions

*( initial drafting-10 06 2011- not yet approved by the Presidents )*

- Encl : 1.- Attendance list of the Council meeting in Budapest.  
2.- Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (*ed. 10 06 2011*).  
3.- List of the European working groups (EWGs)-(*ed. 10 06 2011*).

*The Council offers its deep sympathy to Jacques Santer, the President of ED-Luxembourg, on the occasion of the death of his wife occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March but known very late ; it asks Jos Berg, ED-Luxembourg representative to the Council, to pass to Jacques Santer the letter signed by all the presidents. Also the Coucil regrets very much the absences of ED-Grèce and ED-Romania.*

#### **1.- Approval of the Statement of Baden Council decisions**

The Statement of decisions – dated 7 December 2010- of the Presidents Council of 04 and 6 November 2010 in Wien-Baden is approved with one amendment : § 4.2.2., the ICE 2011 in Brussels will end on Friday 21 October at noon (and not on evening).

#### **2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and functioning.**

##### **2.1.- National associations.**

###### **2.1.1.- EuroDéfense-Luxembourg.**

The link with the association has been restored. The functions of Secretary general are temporarily held by Marc Martin, Board member.

###### **2.1.2.- EuroDéfense-Magyarország.**

The association is growing slowly ; due to the Hungarian EU Presidency, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have supported it for the Presidents Council organization.

Now the Secretary general of the association is Dr. Tamás Ráth, Col(retd).

###### **2.1.3.- EuroDéfense-Portugal.**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, Colonel Miguel Fradique Da Silva has replaced Rear Admiral José Alvès Correia as the Secretary general.

## **2.2.- Extension of the network.**

The Council approves the first contacts with the Polish Embassy in Paris. The secretary general is requested to carry on them with a view to create an EuroDéfense-Poland association. If needed, Ed-Belgium could help in Brussels.

## **2.3.- EURODEFENSE website.**

The Council recognizes the difficulties – especially the financial ones – for developing a specific EURODEFENSE network website. Also it notes the excellent development level of the sites of some network members. Therefore it requests the working group to build an organisation mainly with the existing sites of the national associations.

## **2.4.- EURODEFENSE notoriety development.**

The Council stresses that EURODEFENSE must be known and acknowledged in order to promote the defence of Europe efficiently. Therefore it wishes to carry on the following actions at network or national associations level :

- to produce useful and innovative reports ; therefore the topics of the EWGs are to be carefully chosen in order to be of interest to the European and national political authorities , and to the leaders of the European institutions ; in that respect, the work of ED-France on the comparison of the defence budgets, the presentation of which has been requested by the European parliament, is an excellent example ;
- to develop institutional links with some European bodies ; the first one might be the SSI ; a partnership might be established with it in order to manage actions with cooperation ;
- to look for partnerships with think tanks in order to organise symposiums on defence topics ;
- to try to set off the disappearing of the ESDA-WEU by developing relations with the Parliament members in charge of the defence issues ;
- to develop lobbying to the political people and to the administrations with motions identical to those on PSC and parliamentary scrutiny approved by the Council in Wien-Baden ;
- to organize activities for youth ; the biennial organisation of the YEEC is to be perpetuated ;
- to take part in European activities in order to be known, like the “Berlin Congress” or the European Trophée on “citizenship, security and defence”.

## **2.5.- EURODEFENSE activities support**

The Council approves the project of committing the national association the country of which is on presidency with the organisation of the network events of the year - ICE, Spring Council, YEEC - as far as it is possible ; that would be Greece and Italia in 2014, Luxembourg in 2<sup>nd</sup> half year 2015, Netherlands in 1<sup>st</sup> half year 2016, .....

### **3.- Works of the EURODEFENSE network.**

#### **3.1.- Continuation of the 2009 – 2010 cycle.**

The Council conveys its satisfaction again for the high quality of the XVI<sup>o</sup> ICE held in Wien-Baden in November 2010. It requests ED-Austria to produce the complete report as soon as possible according to the provisions of the Charter (annex 3 - §2.4.).

#### **3.2.- EWGs – EURODEFENSE Working groups.**

- **EWG 11 (ED-France) – “Security and stability within the Mediterr basin”.**  
The group is held in standby. However, due to the present events in the Mediterranean Basin, ED-France is requested to write a short note on the situation in the area.
- **EWG 13 (ED-Portugal) – “Climate changes and international security”.**  
**EWG 15 (ED-Deutschland)–“Convergence of external and internal security”**  
The Council approves the conclusions of both working groups subject to some minor amendments. The finalised reports will be sent by the Secretary general to the *High Representative of EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy* with a cover letter signed by ED-Belgium President, acting President of the network. Each national association will be allowed to send them to its own authorities.
- **EWG 14 (ED-España) – “Futures and capabilities”.**  
In Wien-Baden, the Council has agreed to the proposal of the working group to focus on the writing of a text for the “general public” aimed to be published simultaneously in the national papers of the 13 countries of the network. However the Council requests the project to be amended in order to be understandable by people not aware of the defence issues.

#### **3.3.- Other reflections.**

The Council discussed different topics on the defence cooperation in Europe. Among those, General (rtd) Zoltan Szenès reported on a seminar on pooling and sharing of capabilities ; that symposium was held with some Central Europe countries : Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia. That report initiated a debate which induced the Presidents to think of setting up a working group on that topic. However, no decision was taken.

### **4.- Main activities EURODEFENSE 2011 – 2014.**

#### **4.1.- Year 2011.**

##### **4.1.1.- Topic of the year 2011**

The Council has already approved the topic chosen by the President of ED-Belgium, acting president of the network EURODEFENSE (*cf. Statement of decisions 7December 2010 – Wien-Baden - § 4.2.*) : “ CSDP : Political and Practical”.

#### 4.1.2.- XVII° International Conference EURODEFENSE (ICE) 2011 – ED-Belgium.

The Council approves the project of organisation presented by the ED-Belgium President :

- from Wednesday 19 October 14 h 00 to Friday 21 noon ;
- location : Brussels – Royal Military Academy – Royal Higher Institute for Defence ;
- plenary session (with authorities and public) ; Thursday 20 October ; the list of the speakers is not fixed yet ; Mr van Rompuy and Mrs Ashton have been asked;
- Presidents and working groups meetings : Wednesday 19 afternoon and Friday 21 morning ;
- Ladies'programme on Thursday 20 ;
- With the available budget, the possible number of guests to the receptions would be limited to 2x13 couples. Therefore the Council suggests that the receptions be opened to paying guests. ED-Belgium will give information as soon as possible.

#### 4.2.- Year 2012.

##### 4.2.1.- Presidents Council.

According to the “activities planning EURODEFENSE”, the first Presidents Council 2012 will be organized by EuroDéfense-Romania in accordance with the rules of the Charter -§ 4.1.2.; it will be co-chaired by ED- Romania and ED-España.

##### 4.2.2.- Young Europeans EURODEFENSE Conference (YEEC)

Due to the economic crisis, ED-Portugal gives up organising the YEEC 2012. They propose to organise it in 2013 in cooperation with ED-España which agrees. It will be necessary to decide when the next YEEC takes place : 2014 ?, 2015 ?, 2016 ?

##### 4.2.3.- XVIII° International Conference EURODEFENSE - (ICE 2012).

It is confirmed that the ICE 2012 will be organised by ED-España.

#### 4.3.- Planning 2012 – 2014.

*The planning of the 2013 and 2014 meetings **is to be** imperatively settled during the Presidents Council in Brussels (October 2011).*

##### 4.3.1.- Présidents Council :

- in 2012, EuroDéfense-Romania ;
- in 2013, EuroDéfense-France
- in 2014, ????

##### 4.3.2.- International Conference EURODEFENSE - (ICE) :

- in 2012, Euro-Défense-España ;
- in 2013, ????
- in 2014, ????

**4.3.3.- Young Europeans EURODEFENSE Conference - (YEEC) :**

- in 2013, EuroDéfense-Portugal and EuroDéfense-España ;
- in 2014 or 2015 or 2016 ?

As a conclusion of this two days meeting, the Presidents Council conveys its thanks and its congratulations to ED-Magyarország for the success of that first meeting in Budapest with its very warm welcome, the very good organisation and the quality of the speakers and discussions.

*10 juin 2011*

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