



EURODEFENSE

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

PARIS

Wednesday 17 and Friday 19 April 2013

Co-chairing : Eurodéfense-Nederland & Eurodéfense-France

Statement of decisions

(initial drafting-03 05 2013- not yet approved by the Presidents)

Encl : 1.- Attendance list of the Council meeting in Paris.

2.- Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (*ed. 03 05 2013*).

3.- List of the European working groups (EWGs)-(*ed. 03 05 2013*).

4.- Presentation about the website EURODEFENSE.

5.- Logo for the EURODEFENSE flag.

6.- Information on the EURODEFENSE Youth Conference –Toledo – 14-20 July 2013.

The Council regrets very much the absences of ED-Grèce and Italia, both excused.

1.- Approval of the Statement of Madrid Councils decisions

The Statement of decisions – dated 28 September 2012 - of the Presidents Councils of 19 and 21 September 2012 in Madrid is approved without any amendment.

2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and functioning.

2.1.- News from the national associations.

All the associations have reported some functioning difficulties due to the decrease, and even the suppression of the public and private grants. There are difficulties for organizing the activities, but everyone has agreed on the necessity to maintain the Presidents Council meetings and the activities for youth.

2.1.1.- EuroDéfense-Italia.

Ambassador Calamia has let know that the nominations of the new President and the new Secretary general are uncertain. Meanwhile, he will stay as the point of contact between ED-Italia and the network..

2.1.2.- EuroDéfense-Luxembourg.

Marc Martin stays as the Secretary general.

2.1.3.- EuroDéfense-UK.

EuroDéfense-UK has been relaunched as a not-for-profit company under English law. The President is John Howe CB OBE, the Vice-President Maj Gen Alan Sharman and the Secretary general Robin Ashby.

2.2.- Partnership

Under proposal from Philippe Roger, member of both associations, EuroDéfense-France and EDTA (European Defence Technology Association), the Council agrees in principle to a partnership EURODEFENSE – EDTA. However, it requires to make the objectives and the clauses clear before any official commitment.

2.3.- Extension of the network.

2.3.1.- Lithuania.

The Council notes that, after several months of stagnation, the view of the EU Lithuanian presidency has relaunched the plan of founding a EuroDéfense association in Lithuania. Therefore the Council allows again (*cf. Council in Bucarest 2012*) the Secretary general EURODEFENSE to invite a Lithuanian representative to attend as an observer the Council meeting in The Hague (October 2013) in accordance with the provisions of the Charter (annex 1 - §2.). That representative might still be General Valdas Tutkus, former Chief of Staff of the Lithuanian Forces.

2.3.2.- Poland.

The appointment of General Czmur, ex-advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as an Ambassador has cut the contacts in progress. The Council endorses the ED-Austria proposal to look for new contacts and requests the Secretary general to work with ED-France support in order to resume the known contacts.

2.3.3.- Other contacts.

In spite of the failure of searching contacts with Finland, Sweden and Cyprus, the Council confirms the extension policy explicated at the Bucharest meeting (June 2012). It agrees to the ED-Austria proposals to canvass in Poland (*cf. § 2.3.2.*) and in Slovakia, and those of ED-Deutschland to do it in Czech Republic.

2.4.- EURODEFENSE website (*see Encl n°4*).

The Council ascertains again the lack of involvement of the associations in the permanent working group. Hence it approves the following proposals :

- to concentrate the efforts on developing the network “home page” :
 - ✓ a interactive map of the network ;
 - ✓ the introduction of the national associations, with a link for those which wish it ;
 - ✓ an access to some important documents.
- to support the EuroDéfense associations in the development of their own website.

2.5.- Communication – Information - Visibility.

2.5.1.- Directory

The Council confirms its interest for the “EURODEFENSE directory” and the necessity of keeping it up-dated by passing the right information to the Secretary general ; the 2013 issue will be distributed electronically in Autumn 2013.

2.5.2.- EURODEFENSE flag.

The EURODEFENSE flag will be a white flag bearing a large logo above the name EURODEFENSE (*cf. PJ n°5*). All the associations will have the same flag ; those flags will be used as often as possible in the public events.

The Secretary general is requested to negotiate with the cheapest supplier the flags making price and the sending to the associations which will pay.

2.5.3.- Public events.

As EURODEFENSE did it in 2011 by participating in the European Award for “Citizenship, Security and Defence”, the Council fosters all the associations in participating in the events likely to give visibility to EURODEFENSE.

Especially, the EuroDéfense associations members who attend conferences, colloques, symposiums, TV debates or who write in the newspapers, should introduce themselves as such.

3.- Works of the EURODEFENSE network.

3.1.- Continuation of the 2011 – 2012 cycle.

3.1.1.- ICE 2012 – Madrid

The Council conveys its satisfaction again for the high quality of the XVIII^o ICE held in Madrid on 19, 20 and 21 September 2012.

Especially, *the time schedule of the EURODEFENSE internal activities (19 and 21 September) has included not only the meeting of the Council (in two sessions), but also a working afternoon of the EuroDéfense national associations representatives in “workshops”, what is the “unique” annual occasion for the working groups to meet physically* (Statement of decisions of the Council – 28.09.2012).

And last, the Council emphasizes the quick writing and distribution of the final Report, without any damage to its quality.

3.1.2.- EWG 16 - CSDP development -.

In pursuance of the Council decision taken at the meeting of 21 September 2012 in Madrid, a synthetic letter of the EWG 16 works signed by ED-España President, President “in office” of the network, has been sent on 8 November to the four following authorities :

- *High Representative of EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,*
- *President of the European Council*
- *President of the European Commission*
- *President of the Sub-Committee Security and Defence of the European Parliament.*

It has been replied on 1 February 2013 by one letter from *Hugo Sobral, deputy Head of office of Mr Barroso, President of the European Commission.*

In addition, this letter has been copied electronically to all the EuroDefense Presidents who have been requested to use it towards their national authorities.

3.1.3.- EU operations planning and command structures.

The report approved by the Council in Madrid has been sent to Brussels in the same way as the letter on EWG 16 works (*cf. above § 3.1.2.*). There was no reply from the European authorities.

3.2.- EURODEFENSE Working Groups (EWGs) in progress.

3.2.1.- EWG 11bis (ED-España) – “Arab upheavals 2011 and Security of Europe ”.

Three or four associations only are members of that working group on this important issue ; hence, the others are encouraged to participate. The Council requests that the survey be refocused according to the developments of the situation (Egypt, Syria) in order to prepare a draft report to be submitted to the Council at the 2013 Autumn meeting

3.2.2.- EWG 16 (ED-France) – “CSDP development”. EWG 18 (ED-France) – “EDEM – EDTIB”

After the sending of the EWG 16 letter to Brussels authorities (*cf.* § 3.1.2.), the Council has endorsed the ED-France proposal to carry on the works of the groups 16 and 18 in the prospect of the preparation of the European Council of December 2013 on the defence affairs (*see below* § 3.3.).

3.2.3.- EWG 17 (ED-UK) – “Cybersecurity”

The working group has presented the review of its works. ED-UK plans to organise an experts meeting in London. The Council has requested that the group submit the first conclusions at its next meeting in The Hague.

3.3.- Contribution to the preparation of the European Council of December 2013.

The Council has endorsed the principle of sending to Mr Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, some “strong” proposals for developing the CSDP. Hence, it has taken the following decisions :

- form: short but dense cover letter with a document developing the four following ideas:
 - to be clear on the level of ambition and the range of the CSDP ;
 - to improve the capability for rapid reaction of the EU (battle-groups) ;
 - to reinforce the command and control system de l’UE ;
 - to reinforce European defence industry ;
- writing of the draft by ED-France, then submitting to the 12 national associations for ***approval through the silent procedure*** ;
- joint signatures by ED-Nederland President, “President in office” of the network, and ED-France President, coordinator of the works ;
- sending of that letter before Summer to the *President of the European Council*, with copies to the *High Representative of EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*, to the *President of the European Commission* and to the *President of the Sub-Committee Security and Defence of the European Parliament*.

4.- Main activities EURODEFENSE 2013 – 2015.

4.1.- Year 2013.

4.1.1.- Topic of the year 2013

The Council endorses the topic proposed by ED-France as part of the preparation of the Spring Council : “CSDP and European Council of December 2013”.

4.1.2.- V° Young Europeans EURODEFENSE Conference (YEEC)-(ED-España).

The Council conveys its satisfaction for the project of organisation presented by ED-España (*cf. Attach n° 6*). Under the general title “The defence of Europe : past, present and future”, the proposed programme aims exactly the EURODEFENSE objectives. Organised in Toledo from 14 to 20 July 2013, that event might welcome 6 to 8 young people (21-28 years old) from each association. Only the cost of transport to Toledo is to be paid by the participants. The deadline for registration is on 15 June.

4.1.3.- Autumn 2013 Council meeting – ED-Nederland.

The Council thanks ED-Nederland to agree and welcome this Council meeting in spite of the current material difficulties. The project is as follows :

- date : Thursday and Friday 10 & 11 or 24 & 25 October according to the choice of Lady Ashton (to ensure her presence);
- place : The Hague, probably at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ;
- programme : on whole Thursday, “conference” with official guests, including Lady Ashton ; on Friday, visit and Council meeting ;
- no meetings of the working groups due to the restricted number of delegates (2 or 3 for each associations + ladies) imposed by the financial constraints ;
- specific programme “ladies” if sufficient number.

ED-Nederland requests to be informed of the number of delegates not later than 1 June.

4.1.4.- National associations

The Secretary general reminds the associations which organize public events (conferences, symposiums, seminars, etc...) to inform the whole network.

4.2.- Year 2014.

4.2.1.- Presidents Council.

ED-Grèce has to confirm that they could organize the first Presidents Council meeting 2014 (Spring Council). If not, ED-Austria might do it (?).

4.2.2.- International Meeting EURODEFENSE 2014 – (IME 2014)

ED-Deutschland is volunteer for organizing the International Meeting 2014 – and thus the second Presidents Council meeting (Autumn Council) - in Berlin, on 26 and 27 November.

4.3.- Planning 2015 and beyond

ED-Belgium is volunteer for organizing the Spring Council meeting 2015 ; the possible dates are 22, 23 and 24 April.

No more activities might be planned.

3 May 2013

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