



EURODEFENSE

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

ATHENS

Thursday 10 and Saturday 12 April 2014

Co-chairing : Eurodéfense-Deutschland & Eurodéfense-Grèce

Statement of decisions

(initial drafting-03 05 2014- not yet approved by the Presidents)

- Encl : 1.- Attendance list of the Council meeting in Athens.
2.- Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (*ed. 12 04 2014*).
3.- List of the European working groups (EWGs)-(*ed. 12 04 2014*).

The Council regrets very much the absences of ED-Italia,Luxembourg and Magyarország.

1.- Approval of the Statement of decisions of The Hague Council

The Statement of decisions – dated 28 October 2013 - of the Presidents Council of 11 October 2013 in The Hague is approved with no amendment.

2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and functioning.

2.1.- Secretariat General EURODEFENSE

In accordance with the article 4.3. of the EURODEFENSE Charter, the commission assigned to ED-France by the Council in Friedrichshafen (April 2010) is coming to its end. The Council unanimously asks ED-France to keep that responsibility for a new mandate (2018).

2.2.- Statements of decisions of the Council

In order to secure the right distribution of the “statements of decisions” to all the Presidents, the Secretary general is requested :

- to send them within the two weeks after the meeting ;
- at the beginning of each Council meeting, to hand a hard copy of the statement of the previous meeting .

2.3.- National associations.

2.3.1.- EuroDéfense-Deutschland.

As announced in The Hague, Admiral Lutz Feldt has taken over from Admiral Joerk Reschke the presidency of the Association. The Council decides to greet Admiral Reschke and to convey its gratitude for his commitment to EURODEFENSE through a letter signed by all the Presidents.

2.3.2.- EuroDéfense-España.

The Association is going to establish soon a branch “youth”.

2.3.3.- EuroDéfense-Grèce.

EuroDéfense-Grèce is no longer linked to the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA). However it continues to organize “summer schools” for young people ; all the associations EuroDéfense are invited to send their members.

2.3.4.- EuroDéfense-Portugal.

The Association is no longer hosted by AIP and has become closer to the MOD ; therefore its statute, coordinates, website are going to be amended. Nevertheless it goes on with the organisation of some events (symposiums, lectures) opened to all the EuroDéfense associations.

2.3.5.- EuroDéfense-Romania.

The Association is working on its reorganisation (statute, structure,...)

2.4.- Partnership

The partnership with FEDTA (Federation of European Defence Technology Association) is not formalized yet, but the cooperation is growing *de facto* through the contacts between FEDTA President, Jan Wind, and the group leader of EWG 18-*European budget*, Philippe Roger (*see below* §3.2.2).

The partnership with the ESDA (Colin Cameron) is to be formalized also.

The Council has been interested by the partnership developed separately by ED-France and ED-Nederland with the branches France and Netherlands of the European Movement

2.5.- Extension of the network.

2.5.1.- Czech Republic.

Dušan Švarc, in contact with ED-France for several months, has let known that an EuroDéfense association might be established in accordance with the Charter. The Council asks the Secretary general to proceed with their membership to the EURODEFENSE network and to invite the President of this new association to participate to the ICE in Berlin. .

2.5.2.- Lithuania and Poland.

The contacts established in 2013 by ED-France have been broken by the “*disappearing*” of the personages likely to establish an association EuroDéfense. The Council asks ED-France to try resuming the known contacts.

2.5.3.- Other contacts.

In spite of the failure of searching contacts, the Council confirms the extension policy explicated at the Bucharest meeting (June 2012). It confirms that the most important criteria of choice is the pro-European feeling, whatever the political membership is. It agrees to the ED-Romania and Grèce proposals to canvass in Bulgaria.

2.6.- EURODEFENSE website.

The Council ascertains again the lack of involvement of the associations in the *permanent working group*. Hence it confirms its choice to concentrate the efforts on developing the network “*home page*” :

- ✓ an 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.

Moreover, the Council gives its full support to the recommendation of the permanent working group to appoint an “*internet corresponding member*” in every association, recurrent request for several years.

2.7.- Communication – Information - Visibility.

2.7.1.- Press release.

Through its decision not to publish a “statement” on its works, especially on the situation in Ukraine, the Council emphasizes its attachment for the rule set in 2007: the writing and the publishing of a press release on the Council meetings belong to the host Association, in Athens to ED-Grèce. But that issue will be discussed again.

2.7.2.- Social networks

The Council has shown interest on the possible uses of the social networks, especially “*tweet*”, but has postponed the discussion on their use.

2.7.3.- Directory

The Council reminds the decision taken in The Hague to carry out in 2014 an updated issue of the directory. Thus it strongly encourages the Associations to provide the Secretariat General with the needed information, not later than end of July ; the 2014 issue will be distributed electronically in Autumn..

2.7.4.- EURODEFENSE flag.

The project of an EURODEFENSE flag, suspended at The Hague meeting, is given up.

2.7.5.- European Award for “Citizen ship, Security and Defence”.

On the same way as the network participation in 2011, the Council encourages the Associations to participate individually in 2014. Dead line for applying :15 October ; Award ceremony on 3 December in Berlin.

3.- Works of the EURODEFENSE network.

3.1.- Continuation of the 2012 – 2013 cycle.

3.1.1.- Autumn meeting 2014 – The Hague

The Council conveys its thanks again to ED-Nederland and its satisfaction for the high quality of this EURODEFENSE meeting held in The Hague on 10 and 11 October 2013. It underlines the effort made by ED-Nederland to organise it as a two-days event instead of one day only, in spite of a very difficult economic context.

3.1.2.- EWG 11bis (ED-España)- “Arab upheavals 2011 and Security of Europe ”. “Observatory of the situation in the Mediterranean Basin”

The Council gives its approval to the Ed-España proposal to prepare a report to be sent to the authorities in Brussels before summer. The first step of that preparation is set on 20 May 2014, dead line for producing suggestions and comments on the last working paper distributed by ED-España (12 April 2014).

In other respects, the Council endorses the proposal made at The Hague Council meeting to change the EWG 11bis into a *permanent working group* named “*Observatory of the situation in the Mediterranean Basin*”.

3.1.3.- Follow-up of the meeting of the European Council of December 2013.

In the continuation of the works carried out in 2013 for preparing the European Council of December 2013, the Council considers to participate again into the preparation of that one of June 2015. As a first step, he agrees the ED-España proposal to write a working paper on “the CSDP ahead”, to be distributed to all the associations not later than 15 October.

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

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

The working paper submitted by ED-UK makes up the first part of the works which ED-UK proposes to continue with a more accurate mandate. That proposal is approved by the Council ; a new group is thus set up, the **EWG 17bis** led by Nick Watts (ED-UK)

3.2.2.- EWG 18 (ED-France) – “European Budget – Research & development”

The Council endorses the process proposed by ED-France: after constituting the working group, accurate writing of the mandate and building up of a work planning (before the end of April 2014). The Associations are requested to quickly designate their representatives.

3.2.3.- EWG 19 (ED-Deutschland) – “Maritime dimension of the CSDP”

Considering that it is too late for influencing the writing of the European Council report “*European Union Maritime Security Strategy*”, the Council approves the process proposed by ED-Deutschland :

- immediate comments from the Associations on the working paper of 17 March ;
- writing of a new draft not later than 14 June ;
- new comments not later than 30 September 2014.

4.- Main activities EURODEFENSE 2014 – 2016.

4.1.- Year 2014.

4.1.1.- Topic of the year 2014

The Council endorses the topic proposed by ED-Deutschland as part of the preparation of the International Conference EURODEFENSE (ICE 2015) : “*CSDP : Success and Challenge*”.

4.1.2.- International Conference EURODEFENSE (ICE 2014)

The Council endorses the project submitted by ED-Deutschland, from Monday 1 December at 14 h 00 to Wednesday 3 December at noon in Berlin..

4.1.3.- National associations

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

4.2.- Year 2015.

4.2.1.- Presidents Council.

ED-Belgium confirms that it will organize the first Presidents Council meeting 2015 (Spring Council) on 22, 23 and 24 April 2015 in Brussels.

4.2.2.- International Conference EURODEFENSE 2015 – (ICE 2015)

In accordance with the suggestion, made in Budapest in 2011 and in Bucarest in 2012, to ask the Association of the country on semester EU Presidency for organising the ICE, the ICE 2015 might be organised by ED-Luxembourg, if they agree.

If they could not do it, ED-France would agree to take charge of it.

4.2.3.- Young European EURODEFENSE Conference – (YEEC)

As of 12 April 2014, no Association is volunteer for organising the YEEC in 2015.

4.3.- Planning 2016 and beyond

4.3.1.- Présidents Council :

- in 2016, EuroDéfense-Portugal
- in 2017, and beyond, ?????????

4.3.2.- International Conference EURODEFENSE - (ICE) :

- in 2016, ED-France ou ED-UK (if ED-France is in charge in 2015)
- in 2017, ED-UK (if ED-France is in charge in 2016)
- in 2018 and beyond, ?????????

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

- in 2017 and beyond, ?????????

As a conclusion of this meeting, the Presidents Council conveys its thanks to ED-Grèce for the success of that second meeting in Athens with its very friendly welcome, the very good organisation and the interesting international symposium “*European Defence, NATO & EU ; the challenges ahead*”

3 May 2013

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