



EURODEFENSE

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

BRUSSELS

Thursday 23 and Saturday 25 April 2015

Co-chairing : Eurodéfense-Luxembourg & Eurodéfense-Belgium

Statement of decisions

(initial drafting-07 05 2015- not yet approved by the Presidents)

- Encl : 1.- Attendance list of the Council meeting in Brussels.
2.- Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (*ed. 26 04 2015*).
3.- List of the European working groups (EWGs)-(*ed. 26 04 2015*).
4.- Terms of Reference of the *Mediterranean Basin Observatory*

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

1.- Approval of the Statement of decisions of Berlin Council

The Statement of decisions –dated 17 December 2014- of the Presidents Council of 03 December 2014 in Berlin is approved with no amendment.

2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and functioning.

2.1.- Statements of decisions of the Council

In order to secure a good follow-up of the “statements of decisions”, the Secretary general is requested to write and to send to all Presidents, within the ten days following the meeting, the list of the taken decisions and of the actions to be carried out.

2.2.- National associations.

2.2.1.- EuroDéfense-Austria.

Dr. Werner Fasslabend has taken over from Ambassador Erich Hochleitner the presidency of the Association. The Council decides to greet Ambassador Hochleitner and to convey its gratitude for his commitment to EURODEFENSE through a letter signed by all the Presidents.

2.2.2.- EuroDéfense-Italia.

The association is still looking for a President and a Secretary general..

2.2.3.- EuroDéfense-Portugal.

The association has carried on its reorganization. It has developed a cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and with Porto University.

2.3.- Partnership with EDTA

In the continuation of the decision taken in Berlin, the Council approves the writing of the project of the partnership agreement with FEDTA (Federation of European Defence Technology Association). This agreement will be formally signed at the Council meeting in Luxembourg, after the FEDTA approval.

The FEDTA will be requested to provide EURODEFENSE with information on its organisation and its members.

2.4.- Extension of the network.

The Council ascertains with regret that the identified representatives of *Poland, Finland, Lithuania* and *Slovenia*, invited as observers to Brussels, have withdrawn at the last moment. The Secretary general will try again to contact those people.

Confirming the extension policy detailed at the Bucharest meeting (June 2012), the Council requests from all the associations to take all the opportunities to identify contacts in the EU countries which are not yet EURODEFENSE members, then to give the coordinates to the Secretary general who will follow up the contacts.

2.5.- EURODEFENSE website.

The Council expresses its satisfaction for the implementation of the gradual development plan decided at the Athens meeting (April 2014) : “home page” of the network in French (www.eurodefense.eu) and in English (www.euro-defense.eu) with links towards the websites of the national associations, at the present time *Belgium, CZ, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, España, UK*.

About the payment of the costs borne until now by ED-France (about 700 euros/year), the Council approves the Working group proposals to call for voluntary contributions from the national associations, besides already paid by some.

At last, the Council requests again from the associations which have not yet done it to appoint an “*internet corresponding member*”, recurrent request for several years.

2.6.- Communication – Information - Visibility.

2.6.1.- Visibility to the EU.

Until it has a permanent representative in Brussels, and taking in account the difficulty to make appointments with the EU authorities, the Council keeps in mind the possibility to organise events (conferences, colloquiums, etc...) attractive enough to those authorities (cf. § 4.1.3. hereafter)..

2.6.2.- Directory

The Council approves the Secretary general proposal not to edit the network directory in 2015 if the national associations do not send their updates until 30 June.

3.- Works of the EURODEFENSE network.

3.1.- Cycle 2014 – 2015.

3.1.1.- International Meeting EURODEFENSE 2014 - Berlin

The Council conveys its thanks again to ED-Deutschland for the quality of its welcome in Berlin and for the organisation of this annual EURODEFENSE meeting held on 1, 2 and 3 December.

3.1.2.- Letter of 9 December 2014 to the President of the European Commission.

The Council notes with satisfaction that the letter on the role of the Commission in defence policy matters, finalised in Council meeting at Berlin, has been dealt with in a kind reply (dated 30.01.2015) from Mr. Richard Szostak, defence adviser to the President ; that opens the way to future contacts.

3.1.3.- European Council of June 2015 - Letter to the President.

The draft letter proposed by ED-España (upon the Council decision of 3 December 2014 – ref. § 3.2.1. of the statement) on the development of an *European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB)* and the establishment of an *Operations command and control unified Structure* has been finalised in session ; the letter has been sent on 29 April after implementation of the silence procedure until 28 April.

3.1.4.- “Observatory of the situation in the Mediterranean Basin”(ED-España)

The Council approves the “Terms of Reference” of the *Observatory of the situation in the Mediterranean Basin* proposed by ED-España (attach 4).

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

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

The report is not yet finalised ; upon ED-UK request , the discussion is postponed to the next Council meeting in Luxembourg.

Keeping in mind the actuality and the importance of this issue, the transformation of the working group into a permanent group is put under consideration ; this issue will be discussed in Luxembourg.

3.2.2.- EWG 18 bis (ED-France) – “Carrying on the works on EDEM – EDTIB”

The first proposals written by ED-France have been used into the letter to the President of the Commission (ref. § 3.1.2. above), but ED-France is waiting for the comments from the national associations before carrying on the works. It is desirable that each association have a representative in the working group ; therefore the associations are requested to do it.

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

Upon ED-Deutschland proposal, the Council decides to close the working group.

3.2.4.- EWG 20 (ED-Austria) - “EU – Russia Relationship”

ED-Austria will circulate soon a first paper and will organise a meeting/colloquium in Vienne on 28 May 2015. The Council encourages the associations to participate.

4.- Main activities EURODEFENSE 2015 – 2018.

4.1.- Year 2015.

4.1.1.- VI° Young Europeans EURODEFENSE Conference 2015 (YEEC)

The Council thanks very much ED-Nederland and congratulates the “youngs” of ED-Nederland to have proposed to organize the VI° YEEC 2015 ; it will take place in Breda, at the Military Royal Academy, from 2 to 7 August 2015, in the same conditions as the previous YEEC. The Council asks the national associations to reply on a positive way to the ED-Nederland invitation.

4.1.2.- XXI° International Meeting EURODEFENSE (IME 2015)

The Council thanks again ED-Luxembourg for having agreed to organize the XXI° IME. It will take place in Luxembourg from Thursday 12 November at 14 h 00 to Saturday 14 November noon according to the usual organisation with one part dedicated to the EURODEFENSE works and another one public for letting know the network.

Five working groups will meet in Luxembourg : the two permanent groups (*ebsite* and *Observatory Mediterranee*) and three EWGs (*17 bis*, *18 bis* and *20*).

The Council approves the topic proposed by ED-Luxembourg : “*Terrorism : Threats and Challenges by Terrorism, Tactical and Strategic Answers to Terrorism in an Expected Long Lasting International Conflict*”

4.1.3.- National associations

- **ED-Deutschland :**
 - The report of the Berlin colloquium on 2 December is being finalised. It will be sent to the national associations.
 - To be prepared for the Autumn 2015 : a colloquium on the “under water warfare” and a meeting with EDA in Brussels.
- **ED-France :**
 - Two surveys, on “Arctic” and “Sahara”, done by ED-France members, are at disposal of those who are interested ;
 - A report on the opportunity of a European White Book is being finalised ; it will be circulated to all the associations of the network ;
 - A colloquium on “the expression of the sovereignty” is being prepared with Institut Egmont for November in Brussels.
- **ED-Portugal :** the association is working with the Ministry of Defence for writing an advisory paper on the security for the enterprises.
- **ED-Espana :** preparation of a colloquium from 28 June to 4 July in Madrid.

4.2.- Planning 2016 and beyond (see Attach 2)

4.2.1.- Présidents Council :

- in 2016, EuroDéfense-Portugal ;
- in 2017, EuroDéfense-Austria ;
- in 2018, EuroDéfense-CZ.

4.2.2.- International Meeting EURODEFENSE - (IME) :

- in 2016, ED-France ;
- in 2017, ED-UK ;
- 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-Belgium for the success of that second meeting in Brussels, after the one of 2011, with its very warm welcome, the very good organisation, the interesting colloquium “*Operationnal Planning and Defence Planning*”, and an “unusual” visit to FN Herstal in Zutendaal.

7 May 2015

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