



EURODEFENSE-PORTUGAL

Lisboa, 7 March 2016

Dear Colleagues, Dear Secretary General

Pursuant to our email of 12th January I have the great pleasure to reiterate our formal invitation for you to participate in the upcoming EURODEFENSE Presidents' Council Meeting in Lisbon from 13th to 15th April 2016. We are endeavouring to afford you great satisfaction in your staying in Lisbon as well as to put before you a very fruitful meeting as per the attached abridged programme.

In addition to the points concerning EURODEFENSE current activities, whose agenda will be sent out the Secretary-general in due time, I would like to draw your attention to the Conference on **"Economy of Defence: dual-use research and technology projects –" The Turtle Project"**, designed to examine the opportunities offered by the European structural funds for strengthening the European security and defence capabilities. This is a matter of utmost importance and timeliness, with a special emphasis on the presentation of the TURTLE Project, developed by a Portuguese Consortium, with the involvement of three fundamental axes: user (Navy), technological centres and industry.

This Project aims at developing new energy efficiency technologies that can be incorporated into robotic vehicles for investigation of the bottom of the sea as well as for maritime and military operations. In the European Defence Agency's 2014 Annual Report, reference was made to the Turtle Project as a pilot project and a case study. In fact, it has applied, the first time ever, for an innovative methodology for financial incentives made available by the European Commission to the Technological Centres and Industry in developing dual-use research and technologies.

Furthermore, we think it will be also of great interest to inform you about some national initiatives aiming at strengthening our national technological and industrial defence-related sector. On the same vein, I think it would be interesting to introducing you to a dual-use product designed and developed by TEKEVER, which is by and large a successful Portuguese SME working on RPAS systems innovation and integration.

We wish our spring meeting in Lisbon to be an excellent opportunity for a fruitful reflection and debate on the huge challenges European security and defence must live up with in the very complex and difficult times of today. Indeed, above all we eagerly wish this meeting to be a frank and friendly gathering within our EURODEFENSE family.

Expressing again the pleasure to welcome you, I kindly request that you confirm the participation of your Association by sending back the enclosed registration form not later than 20 March 2016.

Looking forward to meeting you in Lisbon, with my best wishes

António Figueiredo Lopes

President

ED-Portugal