



EURODEFENSE

PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

LISBON

Wednesday 13 and Friday 15 April 2016

Co-chairing : Eurod efense-Portugal & Eurod efense-France

List of decisions

(initial drafting-07 05 2016- not yet approved by the Presidents)

- Encl : 1.- Attendance list for the Council meeting in Lisbon.
2.- Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (*ed. 26 04 2016*).
3.- List of European working groups (EWGs)-(*ed. 26 04 2016*).
4.- EURODEFENSE Network

The Council regrets very much the absences of ED-Gr ce, Italia, Magyarorsz g and Romania.

1.- Approval of the list of decisions of the Luxembourg Council

The List of decisions –dated 05 January 2016- of the Presidents' Council of 14 November 2015 in Luxembourg is approved with no amendment.

2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and functioning.

2.1.- National associations.

2.1.1.- EuroD efense-Luxembourg

The association did a great deal of work to organize the November 2015 IME. Unfortunately there has been no contact since that time.

2.1.2.- EuroD efense-CZ

The association is active, but could not participate in the Lisbon meeting.

2.1.3.- EuroD efense-Romania

The association has some financial problems, and has not participated in meetings for two years.

2.1.4.- EuroD efense-Magyarorsz g

No contact with the Hungarians since 2013.

2.1.5.- EuroD efense-Italia

There is now no president, and ambassador Calamia, Secretary General, is doing nothing. A group of young Italians was ready to relaunch the association and organised large delegations for the Young EuroD efense meetings in Toledo & Breda, but received no support

from Pietro Calamia. The Council requests Francisco Fabregas to contact Calamia to try and insist that Italy be represented.

2.1.6-Comparison of national defence efforts

Renaud Bellais is preparing the 2016 document for July. It would be useful that national associations convey the relevant data of their own country to EuroDéfense-France.

2.2- Follow-up of the Council decisions

To follow up the decisions taken at the Luxembourg meeting it is recalled that the associations receive the following documents:

- The post Luxembourg press release.
- The comparison of defence efforts.
- The resolution on the "Attitude of the European nations toward security problems after the Paris outrages".
- The Luxembourg decision list.

3.- Organisation of the EURODEFENSE network

3.1.- Extension of the network.

The Secretary General noted that five associations out of fourteen are not present in Lisboa: do we need to extend the net?

The Presidents do wish to extend the net. Several ways are suggested:

To try to organise an event in the EU presidency country.

To use the useful documents produce by the network to convince new members.

Not to put the research burden only on the Secretary General.

To invite an EU representative for the next IME and Presidents' Council.

To continue organising Young European Eurodefense Conferences.

To better diffuse the documents elaborated by our net.

To have commentaries by all on initial writings to have better documents.

To ask the press to participate at the IME.

To create links between the EuroDéfense associations and local think-tanks.

To use established contacts between associations:

e.g. Belgium towards Sweden and Germany towards Poland.

To contact PSC members to ask them how to contact non represented countries.

To develop personal contacts, which would require a travel budget.

3.2.-Activities planned for after 2016 (see Annex 2)

The Secretary General commented on on the lack of volunteers for the IME 2018.

3.2.1.- Presidents' Council :

- in 2017, EuroDéfense-Austria ;
- in 2018, EuroDéfense-CZ.
- in 2019 EuroDéfense-Espana

3.2.2.- International Meeting EURODEFENSE - (IME) :

- in 2016, ED-France ;
- in 2017, ED-UK ;
- in 2018 ???
- in 2019 EuroDéfense-Austria

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

- in 2017 EuroDéfense-Belgium would like to organise this conference, but requests time to confirm.

3.3- Directory

The Council approves the Secretary general's proposal to update the network directory in 2016. The updates for national associations should be sent before 30 June.

4.- Works of the EURODEFENSE network.

4.1- Permanent groups/Observatories

4.1.1- Mediterranean basin Observatory

EuroDéfense-Espana has produce two very interesting papers on Libya and Tunisia. The Council decided to put them on the internet website. Admiral Feldt proposed to set up an observatory for the Arctic.

4.1.2- EURODEFENSE website

EuroDefense France , president of the group, explained that the net web site is more and more consulted.

However:

Some associations have no links with the net website.

There is a need to appoint an "internet working group member" in each association.

The welcome page of the website has to be improved with good documents.

Robin Ashby recommends to use "tweets" as in UK.

Regarding 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, (some contributions had already been received).

4.2. Working Groups (EWGs)

4.2.1.- EWG 17 (ED-UK) – "Cybersecurity"

The final report has not yet been sent. John Howe said that it had been approved in Luxembourg. Robin Ashby will send it again to the net as soon as possible. He reminded the Council about the difficult balance between security and privacy. The Council decides to send the report to Brussels.

4.2.2.- EWG 18bis (ED-France) – EDEM – EDTIB"

Patrick Bellouard representing the French presidency request that delegations look with particular attention at the conclusions of the "Group of Personalities report", which clearly establishes the need for autonomy for Europe, and that the way to obtain this autonomy is to finance military R&T projects. This report is to be presented by Ersnt van Hoeck in detail and will be sent to all associations. However Patrick Bellouard thinks that it is necessary to go further, proposing that EU should finance R&D military programmes, so as to fulfil EU military capacities needs.

Lutz Feldt believes that the funding of R&D programmes is possible taking Galileo as an example, but only on specific programmes and step by step, not for R&D in general.

Ernst van Hoek presents the “Group of personalities paper” (See annex 5). In conclusion he supported an AED role with Commission financing.

Willy Herteleer recalls that this document concerns R&T financing by the Commission; it is the role of the EWG18 to apply it to R&D. Why not develop a workshop between European navies to think about future programmes?

John Howe is in favour of an intercountry cooperation, but thinks it is dangerous to speak about EU financing, especially now before the UK referendum.

Patrick Bellouard in conclusion said that the EWG18 will send a report in some months (October at the latest) proposing some specific programmes to be financed by EU, going further than present thoughts on R&T defence financing.

The Council agreed to the participation of Jan Wind, ETDA member, in EWG18 work.

4.2.3.- EWG20 EU-Russia relationship

The Austrian presidency would appreciate comments on the just distributed document and reminds that the aim is to set up a long term strategy.

The subsequent ideas arise from the ongoing discussion:

It is not acceptable that Russians put pressure on countries where Russian speaking populations live.

We need to deter while not being aggressive and should not speak about red lines.

This question is a propaganda item on both sides: it needs a balanced approach.

Sanctions have to be maintained, but our interest is long term cooperation.

The presidency will send a draft taking into account the written commentaries.

4.3.- New groups

4.3.1- EWG 17bis Cyber security

The proposed mandate for EuroDéfense-U is approved. Further decisions will be taken to see if it has to be permanent.

4.3.2- EWG21 European white paper

The Belgium presidency proposes to give the net advice to EU on numerous items:

Sending troops on overseas theatres.

The grouping of naval forces, some European air forces, and army intervention units for training.

The need for an European training Command.

It is recalled that an European Parliament report on this item exists

The next future EU document on European Security Strategy could be deceiving on certain items: we need to be ready to make proposals for improving it.

EuroDéfense-Belgium agree to propose a mandate for such a working group.

4.3.3- Radicalisation Group

EuroDéfense-UK had sent definition proposals to bureau members.

The Council majority express doubts on what could be done with security/military aspects The Council decide not to create an EWG on this item.

However EuroDéfense-España intends to deal with this question in the framework of the Mediterranean Observatory Group.

5.- Activities EURODEFENSE 2016.

5.1. XXII° International Meeting EURODEFENSE (IME 2016)

This will take place in Paris from 12h00 on Thursday 3, to noon on Saturday 5 November with the usual organisation, partly dedicated to EURODEFENSE work, partly public, to publicise the network.

Six working groups will meet in Paris: the two permanent groups (*website* and *Mediterranean Observatory* and four EWGs (*17 bis, 18 bis, 20 and 21*).

The Council approves the topic proposed by ED-France: “*New security challenges: rethinking the defence and security of Europe*”

5.2. Survey ”Attitude of our 14 European nations towards the security problems”

Patrice Mompeysson recalled that he has sent the synthesis of the three received documents (CZ,SP,FR) .Waiting for the documents of the other associations he will send them again. He asks the other associations what was the reaction of their country at the French request to apply article 42-7 of the Lisbon treaty after the Paris outrages.

The Council notes the great interest of this work which provides very good information.

6.- Current European issues

6.1- Refugees and migrants

EuroDéfense-Deutschland presents an interesting briefing insisting on the difference between refugees and migrants in Europe and shows the importance of the EUNAVFORMED mission. Cooperation among all services and navies is seen to be excellent.

This presentation will be sent to the net and EuroDéfense-Deutschland will propose a mandate for an EURODEFENSE action.

6.2- UK referendum

EuroDéfense-UK recalls the positions of the different interest groups and insists on the great number of “undecided” people.

In concluding the meeting, the President of the Council conveys thanks to Jean Guinard for the efficiency of his work and the friendly atmosphere he set up in the council.

The council thanks ED-Portugal for the success of this second meeting in Lisbon, with its very warm welcome, the very good organisation, the interesting conference “*Economy of Defence: dual-use research and technology projects*” and the visit to the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles company “*Tekever Autonomous Systems*”

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