

EuroDéfense – Nederland

presents

*The sixth Young European
EURODEFENSE Conference*

EUROPEAN SECURITY & DEFENCE:
THE FUTURE IS NOW

2 - 7 August 2015

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Royal Military Academy
Breda, the Netherlands



**Europese Beweging
Nederland**



EURODEFENSE

1. Introduction

The 6th Young European EURODEFENSE Conference (YEEC), organised by EuroDéfense – Nederland, will take place from Sunday 2 August to Friday 7 August 2015 at the Royal Military Academy in Breda, the Netherlands. All EuroDéfense national associations are cordially invited to be represented during this conference. This document provides general information on the conference and the go ahead in appointing the delegates.

2. Conference aims

The aim of the conference is to bring together a group of 70 ambitious and informed students and young professionals from all countries of the EURODEFENSE network, in order to foster the awareness of the common interests of the European countries and to develop a greater sense of the importance of European defence cooperation. More specifically, the conference aims to inform the delegates about the current state of European defence cooperation and the main issues for now and the longer run. In both formal and informal settings, the delegates will have the opportunity to learn about each other's views on European cooperation in the field of security and defence. The delegates will be actively encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas on this topic and to formulate common positions.

2. Theme and sub-themes

The central theme of the conference is "European Security & Defence: the Future is Now". In this century, the EU is facing real and imminent security threats stemming from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, through the Middle East and the Caucasus up to Ukraine and the Russian border. Extremism in the European neighbourhood and radicalisation at home act as "communicating vessels" and blur the difference between what is internal or external to the EU.

At the same time, security and defence are still considered a national affair by many EU Member States. In combination with years of budget cuts in national defence spending, the EU's role as a security actor in a multipolar world has declined.

In order to handle the various security threats and to maintain a position as a global actor, the EU should start today with enhancing cooperation in the field of security and defence. The world is rapidly changing, where European decision making and defence planning are in essence processes of the longer run. Therefore it is necessary to start thinking today about the most important security challenges for the next decade and what is needed for the EU as a security actor to be prepared. For that reason, but also in a literal sense, as the conference will gather future policy and decision makers from all over Europe, the conference theme is "European Security & Defence: the Future is Now".

Within this broader concept of thinking about and preparing for the future, the following sub-themes have been selected:¹

- The world in 2025: core challenges;
- Security of the European homeland;
- EU Maritime Strategy
- Challenges in strengthening the European defence industrial and technological base;
- Multinational operational formations.

Each sub-theme should be seen as demarcated by the others, leaving little room for overlap.

3. Conference programme

The conference programme will consist of plenary lectures by experts, workgroup sessions, field trips, cultural visits, sports and social activities. The delegates will be assigned into workgroups, each workgroup focusing on one of the conference sub themes. In these workgroup sessions, the delegates will be tasked to produce a common position paper. The main conclusions of these sessions will be presented during the closing ceremony on Friday afternoon.

A detailed conference programme will be made available in due course.

The working language of the conference will be English. No translation/interpretation services will be provided.

4. Breda & the Netherlands Royal Military Academy

4.1 *Breda*

Breda is an historical city in the southern part of the Netherlands. With a population of more than 174,000, Breda is currently the ninth largest city in the Netherlands. Its name is derived from brede Aa ("broad Aa"), referring to confluence of the River Aa with the smaller River Mark. The landmark of the city is the Great Church of Our Lady (Grote of Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk), one of the most astounding Gothic churches in the country. It was constructed between 1269 and 1547. Its tower culminates at 97 meters.

The city is renowned for its beer (Breda Royal Beer and Oranjeboom) and is the place of origin of the Mentos chewing gum. Since the 19th century, the city is home to the Dutch Royal Military Academy.

¹ The selection of these sub-themes might be subject to change.

4.2 *The Royal Military Academy*

The Royal Military Academy is the service academy for the Royal Dutch Army, the Royal Dutch Air Force and the Royal Marechaussee. In 1826 King William I of the Netherlands ordered the establishment of the Royal Military Academy (*Koninklijke Militaire Academie*; KMA) at the military premises of the Castle of Breda (*Kasteel van Breda*). The first cadets arrived for their military training at the Military Academy in 1828.

Today, the Military Academy, as part of the Netherlands Defence Academy (*Nederlandse Defensie Academie*; NLDA), trains about 700 future officers per year. The KMA offers a study programme which lasts four or five years, depending on the academic major. In today's programme cadets are awarded a bachelor's degree upon graduation, and are commissioned in the Royal Dutch Army, the Royal Dutch Air Force or the Royal Marechaussee. The training of the officers of the Royal Dutch Navy and the Dutch Marine Corps is mainly done by the Royal Netherlands Naval College (*Koninklijk Instituut voor de Marine*; KIM) in Den Helder.

The address of the Military Academy:

Kasteelplein 10
4811 XC Breda

4.3 *Accommodation*

All participants of the conference will be accommodated at the premises of the Military Academy. The premises offers separate facilities for men and women.

4.4 *Getting there*

Located in the city centre of Breda, the Academy is easily accessible by train from Schiphol Amsterdam International Airport (60-80 minutes), Rotterdam - The Hague Airport (60-80 minutes), Eindhoven Airport (65 minutes) and Brussels Airport (90 minutes). From Breda Central Station, the Academy is in about 10 minutes' walking distance.

Due to the early morning start of the plenary programme on Monday 3 August, the delegates are requested to arrive at the Military Academy on Sunday 2 August, not later than 20:30. On Sunday 2 August at 21:00, the official conference programme will start with a word of welcome and a briefing on the house rules. Attendance of this briefing is mandatory for all delegates. Delegates are welcome to arrive at the Military Academy from Sunday 13:00. Please note that during the weekend, no catering can be provided at the premises of the Military Academy.

Please note that on Friday 7 August after breakfast, the delegates will depart from Breda to The Hague for a site visit and the closing ceremony of the conference. Participants will not be facilitated

in returning to Breda after the closing ceremony. It is therefore highly recommended that participants travel via Schiphol or Rotterdam - The Hague Airport.

4.5 Expenses

The expenses for accommodation, meals of the delegates and group activities will be covered by the Military Academy and EuroDéfense - Nederland. Costs for transport to Breda and from The Hague are not covered by the conference organisers. Delegates should have their health and travel insurances arranged and covered for their participation in the conference. EuroDéfense - Nederland does not accept any liability for loss, damages, expenses or liability whatsoever arising from participation to this conference.

5. Delegations and registration

Every national EuroDéfense association is invited to appoint 5 to 7 delegates.

5.1 Background and competences

Delegates are to be in the age between 21 until 28, holding the nationality of one of the EU Member States. In order to foster debate and critical thinking, EuroDéfense - Nederland encourages the selection of delegates with diverse and multidisciplinary backgrounds.

Please note that all delegates should be able to actively engage in all programme items, including group discussions and the production of a position paper. Therefore, it is of great importance that all participants should have a genuine interest in Defence & Security, as well as a professional working proficiency of the conference language.

5.2 Registration

The national EuroDéfense associations are kindly requested to inform the secretary of EuroDéfense - Nederland before Friday 22 May 2015 per email on the composition of their respective delegations, with per delegate the following details enclosed:

- Full name;
- Date of birth;
- Gender;
- Nationality;
- Field of study and/or occupation;
- English proficiency; and
- Email address and telephone number.

After this pre-registration is concluded, EuroDéfense - Nederland will contact to the selected delegates via e-mail in order to complete their full registration by the end of May 2015. Upon completion of their full registration, delegates will receive a conference information package. This package includes:

- Detailed conference programme;
- A list of recommended readings,
- Practical information and house rules of the Netherlands Defence Academy;

6. Contact information

Further enquires can be addressed to:

EuroDéfense – Nederland

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