

EURODEFENSE

PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

PARIS

Saturday 5 November 2016

Chaired by: Eurodéfense-France

List of decisions

(initial drafting-15 11 2016- not yet approved by the Presidents)

Encl : 1.- Attendance list for the Council meeting in Paris.

2.- Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (*ed. 15 11 2016*).

3.- List of European working groups (EWGs) (*ed. 15 11 2016*).

4.- EURODEFENSE Network

5.-EDTA comments on EU global strategy

The Council regrets very much the absence of ED members from Grece, Luxembourg, Hungary and Romania.

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

The List of decisions –dated 07 05 2016- of the Presidents' Council of 13 and 15 April 2016 in Lisbon is approved with no amendment.

2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and functioning

2.0.- EuroDefense-Deutschland statement

Admiral Feldt, President of ED-Deutschland, stated that, for him, English is the working language of EURODEFENSE. He regrets that many interventions have been made in French during the 3 November conference.

Moreover, he explains the great difficulties of EuroDefense-Deutschland for finding finance and recruiting young people. Others presidents mention similar difficulties and suggest relying on young people who

participate in the « Young European EURODEFENSE Conferences » and to build partnership agreements with pro-European associations.

2.1.- National associations.

2.1.1.- EuroDéfense-Italia

Professor Fabrizio W Luciulli had been invited to participate at the Presidents Council as an observer. Vice-president of the Italian North Atlantic Treaty Association, professor at the Italian higher defence studies centre(CASD), he is very much involved in defence matters. He said that he would be interested in revitalising EuroDéfense-Italia and had contacted ambassador P. Calamia.

2.1.2.- EuroDéfense-Grèce

President Theodossis Georgiu had apologised for not being able to participate at this Council where he had intended to be present.

2.1.3.- EuroDéfense-Luxembourg

The association did a great deal of work to organise the November 2015 IME. Unfortunately, EuroDéfense-Luxembourg had kept silence since that time and had not answered any attempts at making contact.

2.1.4.- EuroDéfense-Magyarország

President Thamas Rath had tried to come to Paris but had not found the necessary finance.

2.1.5.- EuroDéfense-Romania

President Liviu Muresan apologised for not being able to participate in the Council but wishes to stay linked via the net.

2.2.- Extension of the network.

EuroDéfense-Deutschland had contacted the Poles through “Navy” links, but thought that the time was not ripe.

EuroDéfense-Nederland regretted the absence of Sweden, and suggested that EuroDefense-Deutschland contact Swedes via its “Navy” links.

EuroDéfense-Belgium said that its efforts towards Finland had had no success. EuroDefense-France proposed to try through its contacts in charge of armament procurement.

EuroDéfense-France mentioned that all attempts towards the Baltic countries had failed.

2.3.-Communication-Information

2.3.1.- Compendium

The Council asked the secretary general of the net to make a compendium of recent EURODEFENSE studies to facilitate the associations' presentation.

2.3.2.- Directory

The Secretary general confirmed that the 2016 edition of the directory is progressing in spite of secretarial difficulties.

3.- Activities EURODEFENSE 2017-2019.

3.1.- Meetings

3.1.1.- Spring Presidents' Council

EuroDéfense-Austria confirms its invitation for the 30 and 31 March 2017 in Vienna and proposes to invite neighboring countries as observers.

3.1.2.- XXIII° International Meeting EURODEFENSE (IME 2017)

This will take place in London in September 2017. ED-UK intends to link the IME with the DSEI military equipment exhibition.

3.1.3.- Young Europeans EURODEFENSE Conference(YEEC)

EuroDéfense-Belgium proposes to try to organize the conference in summer 2017 but is waiting for an answer on support from the Ministry of Defence. Failing a positive answer, the solution would be to delay the conference until 2018.

3.2.-Activities planned for after 2017 (see Annex 2)

The Secretary General commented 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-España

3.2.2.- International Meeting EURODEFENSE - (IME)

- in 2017, ED-UK
- in 2018 ???
- in 2019, ED-Austria

4.- Work in the EURODEFENSE network.

4.1- Permanent groups/Observatories

4.1.1- Mediterranean basin Observatory

EuroDéfense-España has produced two very interesting papers:” Political situation in the Middle East” (June 2016) and “Report for IME, Paris”, (November 2016). They will be put on the internet website. The Chairman of the Observatory, taking into account the EWG work in Paris, will send again all the documents. The item on Migrants, requested by EuroDéfense-Nederland will be taken into account by EWG22.

4.1.2- EURODEFENSE website

. EuroDefense-France, president of the group, is sorry for the absence of its experts. EuroDéfense-UK mentioned that some associations have no links with the net website and that we need to appoint an "internet working group member” in each association.

Robin Ashby recommends using Facebook and Twitter as in Great Britain, (he will send mails to explain the method to be used).

EuroDéfense-España explains that its website has been totally renewed.

EuroDéfense-Belgium has a website but does not use the social networks.

EuroDéfense-Portugal has a website but it is not linked with the net website.

4.2.- EURODEFENSE Working Groups (EWGs)

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

The report proposing a “Code of conduct” was sent to the EU authorities before the summer. The issue of communications surveillance in our democracies is very tricky. We ought to obtain a voluntary adhesion to a common European “Code of Conduct”. The member States might undertake not to spy on each other and to mutually inquire about the used means.

The report is on the way waiting for French and German contributions.

It is not decided to create a permanent observatory group.

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

Today the strategic autonomy necessity for Europe is well recognized and clearly expressed in the recent "EU Global Strategy” document and the Commission recognizes the need to finance defence R&T.

The report explains the need to finance the defence “Research and Development” (financings of programs) to fulfil the EU’s capability needs. Moreover, there is no reason to exclude defence industries from receiving EU financial support or to wait for the arrival of new technologies...in the years 2025.

The report will be sent to all associations to be approved by silence procedure and then to EU authorities. It will be put on the EDTA website. The cover letter will be written by the President of EuroDéfense-France.

4.2.3.- EWG20 (ED-AU) - EU-Russia relationship

The report written by EuroDéfense-Austria has been finalized by the working group. The Chairman believes that it is useful to post it on the net, but it is not necessary to send it to the EU.

The French working group proposed another document showing the role which might be played by EU in the occidental world/Russia relationship. This document is now the working paper for the EWG20 to be amended and sent to EU.

EuroDéfense Nederland believes that for Russia we need to have a policy of “containment” in the military, political and economic areas. To avoid escalation all the speakers agreed to express the necessity, besides the military measures, to maintain dialogue with Russia avoiding an USA/Russia face to face without any European presence.

4.2.4.- EWG21 European Defence cooperation

The working group finalized a mandate to be sent to the associations for silence procedure agreement. The new group name is “specific proposals for European Defence cooperation”. The aim is to find ideas for military cooperations among EU members. The envisaged areas are:

Conduct of operations, employment of the "European Corps” as an operational joint headquarters, a permanent training command, the possibility to employ those training commands as operational headquarters, any type of specific cooperation among European armies (common units or bases, logistic, exercises...) These ideas will be expressed in the mandate.

EuroDéfense-Nederland recalled the need to agree mission types before setting up common training commands. EuroDéfense-Austria noted the diminishing military means in Europe and by consequence large-scale cooperation needs. EuroDefense-CZ insisted that this should be linked with NATO.

4.2.5.- EWG22 (ED-DE) Migrant and refugees

After this working group meeting EuroDéfense-Deutschland will propose a finalised mandate and a draft report. EuroDefense-Nederland asked why it was impossible to stop the traffickers who organize the dangerous sea transits; the argument to be obliged to respect the territorial waters is not valid for a failed state.

4.2.- Studies in progress

4.2.1.- Survey "Attitude of our 14 European nations towards security problems”

Patrice Mompeysson mentioned that he had sent the synthesis of the three documents received (CZ, SP, FR), but noted that the findings became rapidly out of date.

The Council stressed the great interest of this work and requested all associations to send answers before the end of the year. It is noted that to be able to compare countries, answers to common questions are necessary. EuroDéfense-France will resend the mandate which contains draft questions.

4.2.1.-Comparison of national defence efforts

EuroDefense-France sent out the 2016 document in July. It would be useful that national associations convey the relevant data of their own country to EuroDéfense-France.

5.- Current European issues

5.1- Brexit

The President of EuroDéfense-UK believes that UK will have to pay for Brexit, but has already contributed a great deal in the defence area. The British intend to continue cooperating with the rest of Europe. EuroDéfense-Nederland fears a lack of global approach with the UK for crisis management, because that is not possible in the NATO framework.

The Council noted that the ED-UK position will not change for the two years to come; a solution will be found for the future. EuroDéfense-Portugal stressed that the United Kingdom is fundamental for the defence of Europe.

5.2.- Bratislava ministerial meeting

The President of EuroDéfense-Portugal recalled the Bratislava ministerial meeting proposals: the ministers agreed to “Reinforce EU cooperation for internal and external security” and the importance of the next European Council in December.

6.-National associations activities

EuroDéfense-Austria is preparing a European Forum linked with Latvia and Slovakia. Many foreign countries will participate (Nigeria, Pakistan...)

EuroDéfense-Belgium hopes to organize the Young Europeans EURODEFENSE Conference.

EuroDefense-CZ meet once a month in the Senate framework and is preparing a Spring Conference.

EuroDefense-UK meets regularly and is investigating Brexit.

EuroDefense-Portugal enlarged its membership (Parliamentarians, diplomats, retired military) and is focusing on three areas: CSDP evolution, defence industries and the relationship with the young.

EuroDefense-Nederland is organizing partnerships with local pro-European associations. They meet every six weeks with a presentation by an external speaker. The main work areas are the Defence budget and migrants' policy.

EuroDefense-Espana has made a breakthrough: increased membership, a new website, agreements with defence industries associations, revision of its statutes, a new presentation. The 2016 CIDAN/ESDA award for Citizenship, Security and Defence has been attributed to EuroDéfense Espana and Portugal for the YEEC meeting in Toledo in 2013; they will send representatives to the Berlin Security Conference to receive the award.

EuroDefense-France organizes a monthly breakfast debate with a European expert. Partnerships with pro-European associations and with the association of the young members of the High Defence Studies Institute have been set up. Some groups are very active: EU/Russia, the defence industry and political commissions.

7.- Any other business

EuroDéfense-Belgium asked the Secretary General to publish a compendium of EURODEFENSE studies to facilitate presentations by associations.

The President of **EuroDefense-UK** congratulated ED-France for the organisation of the IME and the ED Council for its attitude towards Brexit. He asked for the report on the colloquy on sovereignty organised by EuroDefense-France in Brussels. The report will be posted on the net.

In concluding the meeting, President Fasslabend for the Council thanked EuroDefense-France for the success of the Paris meeting, with its very warm welcome and excellent organization, notably the spouses' program, the quality of the 3rd November conference, and the interesting visit to the Safran plant in Villaroche.

15 November 2016

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