



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Office of the President
Deputy Head of Cabinet

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Mr Arturo Fernández ALVAREZ
President of EuroDéfense-España
Acting President of EURODEFENSE

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Dear Mr Alvarez,

Thank you for your letter of 8 November addressed to the President of the Commission, enclosing the proposals you made to the President of the European Council.

The Commission has a strong interest in strengthening the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). In his State of the Union address, President Barroso stressed the need for a Europe capable of deploying military missions to help stabilize crisis zones. Amongst other things, he called for a comprehensive review of European capabilities and for collective defense planning.

The Commission shares your view that security and defence is of great importance for the EU's future, and that this deserves the attention of the European Council. The geo-strategic context, financial constraints and the economic impact they have had on the defence industry, together with the need for increased defence cooperation, requires political involvement at the highest level.

The CSDP procedural conclusions adopted by the European Council last December are a promising development. These will set in motion work strands, which should provide the basis for a debate among heads of state and government next December.

The Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will report by September on initiatives and further proposals and actions to strengthen the CSDP and to improve the availability of civilian and military capabilities. The Commission will contribute to the European Council discussion on defence with a communication on defence industries and markets, which we intend to publish by the summer.

Member States will be closely involved in the preparation of the December European Council CSDP discussion, and will propose ideas for a more coherent and effective CSDP, which will be debated in upcoming EU meetings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a vertical line and a small flourish at the bottom.

Hugo SOBRAL