

EURODEFENSE today?

(From LinkedIn)

Robin Ashby: Aims and objectives of Eurodefense (as described in the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding) How relevant are they today? And what if any changes might be agreeable to ALL the ED-EU member nations?

OBJECTIVES

The aims of "EURODEFENSE" are :

>> Within the EURODEFENSE network,

- To deepen thinking about the concept of Europeans security and defence, to debate it and formulate proposals,
- To analyse the vulnerabilities, threats and risks with which Europe is confronted.
- To create opportunities for European meetings in the field of European security and defence,

>> In the European countries,

- To maintain awareness of common interests and to develop a spirit of European defence,
- To extend EURODEFENSE network to all countries of the European Union and to cooperate with other countries whose candidature for the European Union has been agreed,

>> For the national decisions-makers and European Union institutions,

- To promote the findings of EURODEFENSE,
- To formulate concrete proposals and to present EuroDefense thinking to national and EU decision takers,

ACHIEVEMENT OF AIMS

To achieve its objectives actions are undertaken in three ways:

>> Effective relations within EuroDefense

- To establish and put into action an action plan.
- To set into hand and deepen a methodology for cooperation allowing the national associations to work effectively together.
- To set up and active European and national working groups.
- To set out arguments enabling national associations to present and explain outside its own defence network EuroDefense's proposals on questions of security and defence.
- To define and apply a calendar for extending the network.

>> Promotion of European security and defence issues

- To organise for EURODEFENSE, annually, the following events :

--> A meeting gathering as many members as possible from all the national associations and depending on circumstances, guests from EU members and other states, as appropriate.

Meetings will be organised in rotation by one of the national associations and will be called "The ...th International EURODEFENSE Meeting",

--> National seminars to which are invited representatives from all national associations,

--> To run a conference addressed by a EURODEFENSE personality,

- To participate in any events where the aims of EURODEFENSE will be best promoted,

>> EURODEFENSE communication

- To distribute :

--> At least once a year a EURODEFENSE paper,

--> Regularly as appropriate, documents of a specific nature common to national associations,

- To establish and distribute to national associations :

--> A directory of members of national associations,
--> Bulletins and articles whose authors are members of EURODEFENSE,
• To have at its disposal and to operate a EURODEFENSE website,
• To exploit the capabilities of the internet in such manner as to increase the consultation and information exchange between the national associations.

Willy HERTELEER • The aim and objectives of the Network are timeless as long as the European Union is progressing on the way towards a real common Security and Defence Policy. The Treaty of Lisbon formulates and accepts quite a challenge in this field. So the aim and objectives remain relevant.

In this period of economic and financial difficulties National Governments have to take difficult decisions and implement painful measures. The difficulties are the consequences of National policies and decisions, not of policies and decisions of the European Union. The Union, the other nations of the Union, advises and supports those in difficulty, the advice aims at achieving efficiently the end goals and the support is financial. But national political parties and their media corrupt this message into one as if the Union is at the origin of the difficulties and of the painful measures; solidarity, real financial solidarity, is portrayed as unjustified interference. Nations being helped by the Union would be bankrupt by now without that help, a far more difficult and painful position. The EURODEFENSE Network having no National and no European political colour can and should use its objectiveness to help rectify the corrupted message.

Excessive nationalism in Foreign Affairs and in matters of Defence and Security handicap the European Union and the individual European Nations in their influence on issues that more than ever ask for an international approach. In this world with global challenges the "Quality of International Governance" has been identified as one of the important drivers for a quality future. Excessive nationalism undermines the quality of the European International Governance and in doing so undermines the quality of the future. The EURODEFENSE Network can and should help to promote this message asking for a single common position of the European Union and its Nations in Foreign Affairs and Security/Defence matters.

Objective knowledge of history is always extremely important. In the discussion on national sovereignty, related to Pooling and Sharing of military capabilities, we seem to have forgotten how willingly our Nations, during the second World War, gave up, had to give up sovereignty to an Allied Command and how willingly we were preparing to do the same during the Cold War if ever it turned hot, also because of that willingness it did not. Now and then, the choice is and was between almost meaningless verbal national sovereignty or meaningful international cooperation. The EURODEFENSE Network can and should help promote the idea of a growing meaningful European Sovereignty allowing for a real pooling and sharing of military capability based on trust and on the knowledge that we have only one, common quality future.

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