



EURODEFENSE

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

LUXEMBOURG – Saturday 14 November 2015

Chairing : Eurodéfense-Luxembourg

Statement of decisions

(initial drafting-05 01 2016- not yet approved by the Presidents)

Encl : 1.- Attendance list of the Council meeting in Luxembourg.

2.- List of the European working groups (EWGs)-(ed.16.12.2015).

3 - Planning of EURODEFENSE activities (ed. 16.12.2015).

4.- Partnership agreement EURODEFENSE-EDTA of 12 November 2015

5.- Communiqué EURODEFENSE of 14 November 2015

6.- Press release EURODEFENSE-EDTA of 14 November 2015

The Council greets France and the memory of all the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris on Friday 13 November.

The Council very much regrets the absences of EuroDéfense-Grèce, Italia, Magyarország and Romania.

1.- Approval of the Statement of decisions of Brussels Presidents Council

The Statement of decisions – dated 7 May 2015- of the Presidents Council of 23 and 25 April 2015 in Brussels is approved without any amendment.

2.- EURODEFENSE organisation and internal functioning.

2.1.- EURODEFENSE Presidency 2016.

In accordance with the article 4.1 of the Charter, the President of EuroDéfense-France will be in charge of the network Presidency from the 1st of January 2016. He will co-chair the “Spring Council” 2016 in Lisbon with the President of EuroDéfense-Portugal.

Information post-Council (30 December 2015): The general topic proposed by ED-France for the works of the year 2016 is as follows : “New security challenges : which new ways of thinking the defence of Europe ?”

2.2.- National associations.

2.2.1.- EuroDéfense-Belgium.

The association has produced a very comprehensive and interesting report on the Spring Council meeting held in Brussels. Hard copies have been handed over to those who wished and are available at the association.

2.2.2.- EuroDéfense-España.

The association board has been renewed : Mr Juan Rossell has taken over the presidency from Mr. Arturo Fernández Alvarez, and Ambassador Francisco Fernandez Fabregas the Secretariat general from General Manuel Breton.

2.2.3.- EuroDéfense-France.

The President has delivered three informations :

- the association is going to organize a symposium on the “sovereignty issue” in cooperation with Egmont Institute, probably in the Spring 2016.
- the association will have a stand at the biennial exhibition EuroSatory (Defence and Security International Exhibition - 13-17 June 2016) ; all the national associations EuroDéfense will get an invitation and will be welcome.
- Jean-Paul Perruche is going to hand over the EuroDéfense-France presidency ; his successor will be elected in April 2016.

2.2.4.- EuroDéfense-Italia

Ambassador Calamia is still going on carrying out temporarily the being of the association until a new managing team be appointed.

2.3.- Partnership.

The “*partnership agreement EURODEFENSE-EDTA*” (Encl 4) has been formally signed on 12 November, in front of the EURODEFENSE assembly, by Jean Guinard, Secretary general EURODEFENSE, for the Presidents Council, and by Jan Wind, EDTA president.

2.4.- Extension of the network.

The Secretary general reports the unsuccessful attempts to get some positive reactions to the e-mails or telephone calls to the identified contacts. No national association has reported to have established any contact.

The Presidents agree that the general situation in Europe is not propitious. It is necessary to establish personal contact with reliable personalities, and to go and meet them. Unfortunately, the Secretary general has no budget for travelling ; therefore the information on the network is to be done by any member of EURODEFENSE when they meet European citizens from *non-EURODEFENSE countries*.

The Council greets :

- the EDTA proposal to canvass for new members in the countries where there is a EDTA association, mainly Scandinavian.
- the ED-Portugal proposal to invite to the Spring Presidents Council in Lisbon the previously identified representatives of *Poland, Finland, Lithuania, Slovenia, Bulgaria and (?) Denmark*.

On another hand, it is suggested to establish contact with the European Ambassadors to the EU in order to inform them on EURODEFENSE and to ask for their support.

2.5.- EURODEFENSE website.

The Council ascertains that the gradual development plan decided in Athens (April 2014) is well implemented now : *home page* of the network in French (www.eurodefense.eu) and in English (www.euro-defense.eu) with links towards the websites of the national associations. Six associations have to establish their link to the *network home page* : *CZ, Grèce, Italia, Luxembourg, Magyarország, Romania*.

The Council recalls that there is no objection to the use of the social networks – *Tweeter, Facebook, Linked in* – by the national associations in order to support EURODEFENSE visibility and influence.

ED-France thanks the national associations which have made voluntary contributions for sustaining the costs of development and maintenance of the network website.

At last, the Council requests again from the associations which have not yet done it to appoint an “*internet working group member*”, recurrent request for several years.

2.6.- Communication - information - visibility.

2.6.1.- Communication

The Presidents ascertain that the general situation in Europe is of great concern, and they decide to express their analysis and their proposals to the European authorities through a “*Communiqué*” finalised in session and quickly amended after the terrorist attacks in Paris (*encl 5*). The addressees are, as usual, the *Presidents of the European Council and of the Commission, the High Representative and the President of the sub-committee Defence and Security of the European Parliament*.

On another hand, a press release has been issued about the signature of the partnership agreement EURODEFENSE-EDTA (*encl 6*) ; all the associations may disseminate it.

2.6.2.- Directory

No directory has been issued in 2015 due to the lack of update provided by the national associations. The edition 2016 will be issued if a majority of national associations provide the Secretary general with an update, no later than the end of June

3.- Works of the EURODEFENSE network.

3.1.- Permanent observatory on Mediterranean Basin (ED-España)

The Council confirms the TORs of this working group and gives approval to the four topics for discussion submitted by ED-España :

- threats other than immigration in the Mediterranean space,
- consequences of the political and security situation in Turkey,
- radical islamist threat on Tunisia and Algeria,
- CFSP/EU and threats stemming from the upheavals in the MENA countries.

ED-España will submit for late March 2016 a “early warning” paper focused on Tunisia, then for June the annual report on the Mediterranean space.

3.2.- EWGs – European working groups (*encl. 2*)

3.2.1.- Groups in progress

- **EWG 17 (ED-UK) – “Cybersecurity”.**
The final report submitted to the Council needs some minor amendments ; when completed, it will be sent to the national associations for approval through the silent procedure, then sent to the European authorities by the Secretary general.
- **EWG 18 bis (ED-France)– Carrying out of the works on EDEM-EDTIB.**
The EWG will submit as soon as possible its draft report inclusive the specific comments of ED-Nederland and ED-CZ.
- **EWG 20 (ED-Austria) – “EU – Russia Relationship”**
The EWG will submit a draft report for mid-December to all the associations for their comments and feedback. The final report should be submitted mid-January for approval through the silent procedure, then sent to the European authorities by the Secretary general.

3.2.2.- New working groups (?)

- **EWG 17 bis (ED-UK) – “Cybersecurity”**
That would be the continuation of the EWG 17 survey with a broader mandate on the *code of conduct* ; ED-UK has to propose a draft mandate to be discussed at the next Presidents meeting in Lisbon.
- **EWG 21 (ED-Belgium) – “European White Book on defence”**
EWG 22 (ED-UK) – “Radicalization”
ED-Belgium and ED-UK will submit the mandates of those working groups to be discussed at the next Presidents meeting in Lisbon.

3.3.- Other works.

3.3.1.- Letter to the President of the European Council – 29 April 2015.

That letter on the development of an *European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB)* and the establishment of an *Operations command and control unified Structure*, finalised in session in Brussels (*ref : § 3.1.3. of the Statement of decisions-Spring Council 2015*), had been sent on 29 April by the Secretary general. The Council notes with satisfaction that letter has been dealt with in a kind reply (dated 22 June 2015) from Mr. Piotr Serafin, member of the President office ; that opens the way to future contacts.

3.3.2.- Comparison of the defence efforts of the European countries.

Again, the Council underlines the great interest of this yearly ED-France survey. ED-France is kindly requested to carry on the 2016 up-date of it. It is reminded that the contributions from the national associations are welcome, in particular by conveying the relevant data related to their own country.

4.- Main activities EURODEFENSE 2016 – 2017.

4.1.- Year 2016.

4.1.1.-XXII° International Conference EURODEFENSE - (ICE 2016)

N.B. : *Information post-Council Luxembourg (30 December 2015) :*

The ICE 2016 will be organised by ED-France in Paris on 3, 4 and 5 November. Its general topic will be **“New security challenges : which new ways of thinking the defence of Europe ?”**

4.1.2.- Spring Presidents Council 2016

ED-Portugal has confirmed that it will organize that first meeting 2016 in accordance with § 4.1.2 of the Charter. The meeting will be co-chaired by ED-Portugal and ED-France. It will be hold from Wednesday 13 noon up to Friday 15 April noon in Lisbon.

4.2.- Planning 2016 and beyond (Encl 3)

The Secretary general is delighted to have been able to plan the network activities until 2019. However he calls the attention to the lack of volunteer for the ICE 2018.

4.2.1.- Présidents Council (“Spring Council”)

- in 2016, EuroDéfense-Portugal
- in 2017, EuroDéfense-Austria
- in 2018, EuroDéfense-CZ
- in 2019, EuroDéfense-España

4.2.2.- International Conference EURODEFENSE - (ICE) :

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

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

- in 2017, EuroDéfense-Belgium might organize the event. However, before committing itself to do it, ED-Belgium wishes to get the whole information from ED-Nederland, which was in charge of the last YEEC in 2015. (*EDTA could help*).

As a conclusion of its Autumn meeting, the Presidents Council conveys its thanks to ED-Luxembourg for the friendly welcome into the European vice-capital, for the perfect organisation which has allowed very productive discussions within the workshops, for the very interesting visit to the “*Société Européenne de Satellites*” and, as a whole, for the full success of that yearly event.

5 January 2016

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