



EuroDefense - Portugal

Notes on the EURODEFENSE Network and the National Associations

The CHARTER EURODEFENSE is the framework document of the "EuroDéfense" network, which comprises associations belonging to several Member States of the European Union. Since March 1994 it has sought to promote a common awareness of European security and defence policies, in the belief that guaranteeing peace in Europe and a safe and secure environment for its citizens are foundational objectives of the European project. There can be no defence without Europe and no Europe without defence. Thus, the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), in parallel with the European Foreign and Security Policy (EFSP), is not only a pillar of the EU, but a source of inspiration for the European institutions and also to the EURODEFENSE network.

The CHARTER EURODEFENSE brings together a set of common programmatic principles and guidelines that both the network and national associations must abide to fulfil the objective of promoting the study, reflection and debate on European security and defence issues and deducing their implications for the Member State level. The development of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base and its articulation with national enterprises, as well as with research and technological development centres, are among the network's priorities due to their relevance to the European Union's integration process.

The CHARTER EURODEFENSE assumes that associations should develop their activities in close collaboration with national authorities and similar organizations. With the aim of clarifying public opinion, in particular that of the younger generations, ensuring that society is aware of the need to defend the common interests of Europeans and also the imperative to promote a European culture of security and defence.

The EuroDéfense national associations should constitute a hub of attraction for people from different backgrounds, with especial attention to the younger generations. Among its objectives is the role of a think tank on security and defence issues, taking advantage of the diversity of knowledge and experiences of its members. From those who have had to deal with important and complex issues in the defence and security sector to researchers and practitioners, they all must strive to ensure an added value to the perception of these issues in their respective countries.

This fruitful intergenerational relationship is one of the distinguishing features of EuroDéfense associations, which, for the most part, are integrated and stimulated by personalities who throughout their professional life have occupied relevant positions in the political, military, diplomatic, academic or business sectors.

The CHARTER EURODEFENSE provides to the associations network with a European forum where the ideas, concepts and values that are directly related to the heart of the European Union can be openly discussed, exchanged and promoted. In the end, it is paving the way to a more robust, integrated and effective common security and defence, in line with the strategic goal of building a European Defence Union.

08/062021