



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations

Subject : European Defence Agency
- Council Guidelines for the Agency's Work in 2010

The guidelines for the Agency's work in 2010, as set out at annex, were approved by the Council on 17 November 2009.

COUNCIL GUIDELINES FOR THE AGENCY'S WORK IN 2010

The Council welcomes the results achieved by the European Defence Agency (the Agency) in 2009, and the positive developments in the areas contained in its 2008 guidelines. The Council notes with satisfaction the progress made in generating defence capabilities in support of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

1. The Council encourages the Agency to continue its work on the basis of the long-term strategic framework established by the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and the strategies on European Defence Research and Technology (EDRT), European Armaments Cooperation (EAC) and the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).
2. The Council acknowledges that the CDP, in order to continue to provide timely guidance for Member States' national defence planning and to propose innovative solutions for addressing ESDP capability requirements, will benefit of an update and review. The Council also highlights the importance of the Agency's continuing work on the 12 prioritised actions of the CDP in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders such as the European Union Military Committee (EUMC).
3. The Council welcomes the Presidency's initiative on exploring synergies between military and civilian capability development to improve interoperability and cost effectiveness. In this regard, the Council especially welcomes the Agency's work on Maritime Surveillance and encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure good coordination with all stakeholders and actors concerned. The Council also notes in this context that the Agency could play a supporting role, within its area of responsibility, in fostering cooperation in the development of dual-use capabilities, taking also into account the relevant work undertaken by the Commission and the European Space Agency.

4. The Council encourages the Agency to pursue its role in the establishment of a level playing field for defence equipment, through a capability-driven, competent and competitive EDTIB, and an open and transparent European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM). The Council also emphasizes the importance of close co-ordination with the European Commission's work in these areas.
5. The Council encourages the Agency to continue to investigate innovative methods and to submit proposals for developing and optimising our capabilities with a special focus on specialisation, pooling and sharing.
6. The Council urges the Agency to continue to work on harmonisation of military airworthiness regulations, recognising that the lack of a common approach can increase the cost of air systems and can cause delays in European aircraft programmes. In this context, the Council encourages the Agency to take into consideration the ongoing work related to the Single European Sky.
7. The Council encourages the Agency to continue the good coordination of efforts between the EUMC, the Council General Secretariat, including the EUMS. The Council also reasserts the importance of close cooperation with the European Commission and other European entities including the European Space Agency.
8. The Council underlines the importance of pursuing collaborative projects and programmes in support of the ESDP and the participating Member States. To this end, the Agency would take full benefit of the forthcoming Security of Information Agreement to be concluded between EU and OCCAR and the forthcoming Administrative Arrangement to be concluded between the Agency and OCCAR in enabling a seamless transfer of ESDP capability requirements into collaborative programmes.

9. The Council welcomes the Agency's close cooperation with Norway on the basis of the Administrative Arrangement.

 10. The Council underlined that the Agency should pursue good co-ordination and mutual reinforcement with NATO and LoI in full respect of the Joint Action establishing the Agency.
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