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### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 12 November 2019  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Council Guidelines for EDA's Work in 2020

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Delegations will find in the Annex the Council Guidelines for EDA's work in 2020, adopted by the Council at its 3726th meeting held on 12 November 2019.

COUNCIL GUIDELINES FOR EDA'S WORK IN 2020

1. The Council welcomes the contribution delivered by the EDA in 2019 in view of the coherent implementation of major initiatives supporting the EU Level of Ambition in the area of security and defence, thereby enhancing the EU's strategic autonomy and its capacity to act as a security provider and strengthening its ability to cooperate with partners. The Council calls on the Agency to continue supporting such efforts, geared towards building a more coherent, interoperable, deployable and sustainable set of European capabilities, recalling that Member States have a single set of forces. The Council acknowledges that the activities of the Agency will be implemented in line with the three-year Planning Framework which should provide a comprehensive and coherent overview of the Agency's work.
2. The Council further encourages the Agency to continue its work in contributing to the implementation of the common set of proposals endorsed by Member States under the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016 by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, taking also into account the Joint Declaration on EU-NATO cooperation of July 2018. It calls on the Agency to continue pursuing coherence of output, including with regard to the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), with respective NATO processes, thus supporting participating Member States in ensuring that there is no unnecessary duplication with existing initiatives in other institutional contexts.

3. The Council invites the Agency to continue providing support to Member States as major intergovernmental prioritisation instrument at EU level and take forward the implementation of the EU Capability Development Priorities, derived from the 2018 revision of the Capability Development Plan (CDP), while taking also into account the prioritised capability shortfalls and High Impact Capability Goals (HICGs), in order to achieve the EU Level of Ambition. It encourages the Agency to further support the coherent development of the European capability landscape, making use in particular of the endorsed Strategic Context Cases (SCC), including the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda, and the Key Strategic Activities, with a view to informing the CARD, the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and future European Defence Fund (EDF). In line with its Conclusions of June 2019, the Council highlights the need to further reinforce coherence in the timelines of the different processes to further develop interactions, while at the same time encouraging Member States to embed EU defence initiatives in national defence planning processes. In this regard, the Council underlines the importance for the Agency to continue supporting and pursuing coherence in the implementation of EU Defence initiatives, including by regularly reviewing the outcomes of the CDP work strands and the implementation of the EU Capability Development Priorities.
4. The Council looks forward to the first full CARD cycle report to be presented to the Agency's Steering Board and forwarded to the Council in November 2020. The CARD report will be prepared by EDA in close cooperation with Member States and in coordination with the EEAS, including the EUMS, and the EUMC, based on the roles and responsibilities foreseen in the agreed CARD methodology, and taking into account the short-, mid- and long-term trends of capability development.
5. The Council welcomes the support provided by the Agency as part of the PESCO secretariat and calls on the EDA to further contribute to the implementation of PESCO in line with Article 7 of the Council Decision establishing PESCO. The Council invites the Agency to contribute to the next PESCO Strategic Review in 2020, as part of the PESCO secretariat.

6. The Council invites the Agency to provide its views and expertise to the Programme Committee of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) and future EDF, as an observer, based on Member States' further guidance and in line with the applicable regulations, while taking into account the lessons identified of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) and EDIDP. In this context, it welcomes the establishment of an EDIDP/EDF marketplace in EDA, which provides a forum for Member States to have an informal exchange and to stimulate cooperative projects that could receive funding support in the context of the EDIDP and future EDF.
7. The Council encourages the use of the Agency as the preferred cooperation forum and management support structure at EU level for participating Member States to engage in technology and capability development activities, and notes the support provided by the Agency to date on a growing project portfolio, including PESCO projects. In this context, it invites the Agency to further support upon request the implementation of Member States' projects generated in the context of above mentioned initiatives (PESCO, EDIDP/EDF), including in the areas of R&T, capability development and critical enablers. The Council thereby invites the Agency to take benefit from established cooperation and to ensure a structured dialogue and engagement with industry of Member States throughout the Union, including small and medium-sized enterprises and research institutions, as appropriate.
8. The Council encourages the Agency to continue contributing to the area of Military Mobility in line with the Action Plan on Military Mobility and the Council conclusions of 25 June 2018, including through the two EDA ad-hoc projects related to customs and cross-border movement permission procedures. It calls for the Agency to continue to support participating Member States in the PESCO project on Military Mobility.
9. The Council calls on the Agency to further contribute to the defence aspects of wider EU policies such as cyber, space, maritime, Single European Sky / Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SES/SESAR), Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), Energy & Environment, as well as other areas such as hybrid, climate change and artificial intelligence, in line with EDA Steering Board tasking, and in close liaison with relevant EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

10. The Council acknowledges the Agency's work on the development of (financial) incentives in support of defence cooperation in accordance with applicable EU law and respective national regulations, taking also benefit from the interaction with the European Investment Bank, including for the implementation of a Cooperative Financial Mechanism. The Council further encourages the Agency to support Member States in the increasing use of existing incentives.
11. The Council calls on EDA to pursue relations with Third Parties having an Administrative Arrangement with the Agency, and encourages the Agency, under the guidance of the Steering Board, to continue exploring possible working relations with other partners, in full transparency with Member States and in accordance with the EDA Council Decision and the principles applying to EDA's engagement with Third Parties endorsed by Ministers in November 2017.
12. Upon further guidance of Member States and in full coherence with related efforts taken forward by other EU institutions and bodies, the Council invites the Agency to step up its ability of handling and exchanging EU classified information, taking into account Member States' needs, including in the implementation of EU defence initiatives.
13. Taking into consideration the EU's Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, the evolving EU defence landscape as well as the Head of Agency report of May 2019 on the implementation of the EDA Long Term Review Conclusions and Recommendations and of the EDA Council Decision, the Council invites the Agency, in close cooperation with Member States, including at EDA Steering Board level, to revert to the review of the EDA Council Decision in 2020.

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