



Annual report 2017

The federation of European Defence Technology Associations (EDTA) was established in 1992 as EDA upon initiative of the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG), a forum for armaments cooperation established in 1976 by the Defence Ministers of the European NATO nations. The federation consist of 11 member Associations in 10 European Nations, each dedicated to Defence and Security Technology development and innovation. The membership in our federation adds up to over 6000 individual and 400 corporate members. Main goals of the federation are to enhance fellowship and cooperation, exchange of information, improve technological knowledge and promotion of public interest in defence related technology.

Organisational structure

The EDTA is a federation of associations without independent capital or further legal affiliation. Activities are anchored in the activities of the national associations and limited coordination by a rotating chairmanship.

In 2017 the presidency was vested in the Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers (KIVI).

President of the association was CAPT (RNLNAVY) Jan Wind (rtd)
Secretary General was CMR (RNLNAVY) Oscar Boot M.Sc.

As a policy, presidents- and other meetings held only when required for important decisions regarding the Federation. For all other communication and decisions, electronic means are used.

Activities

In 2017 most important activities of the federation were:

1. Develop and publish comments on major European defence related policy documents from a technological perspective,
2. Further development of the EDTA partnership with EURODEFENSE, signed in 2015,
3. Distribute invitations of (inter)national relevant activities among members.

European Defence policy

The most important activities in this area were to draft and publish comments on the

- **European Defence Fund,**
- the **Reflection paper on the future of European Defence** and
- a report on **Cooperative military education, training and simulation.**

In annex you will find a summary of each of these papers.

The comments and report were sent to all members of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament (SEDE), shared with the EURODEFENSE network and published on the EDTA website and several social media.



Partnership with EURODEFENSE (European level)

In November 2015 the EURODEFENSE network and EDTA signed a partnership agreement. The complementary goals and interests of EURODEFENSE and EDTA lead to a logical relationship where information exchange and mutual support may help both associations in their endeavours.

During the summer of 2017, many members of EURODEFENSE and EDTA associations in Belgium, France, Netherlands, Spain and the UK collectively compiled a report on **Cooperative military education, training and simulation**, as mentioned above.

In 2017 the EDTA president participated in the annual EURODEFENSE conference, two presidents-meetings and contributed to the European Defence related debate from a technological perspective.

Partnership with EURODEFENSE (National level)

Member association **KIVI (Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers)** reported regular cooperation with EURODEFENSE in the Netherlands (EDNL).

This cooperation comprised:

1. Mutual invitations to conferences and events,
2. KIVI participation in the EDNL council meetings,
3. EDNL participation in the KIVI permanent working group on “Politics and defence technology”, which regularly sends recommendations to the Netherlands MoD and parliament.

EDTA member association **ACID (Asociación Civil de Ingenieros de la Defensa)** reported to have held several meetings with EURODEFENSE Spain and contributed to the EDTA/EURODEFENSE study on Education, Training and Simulation.

Invitations for (inter)national events

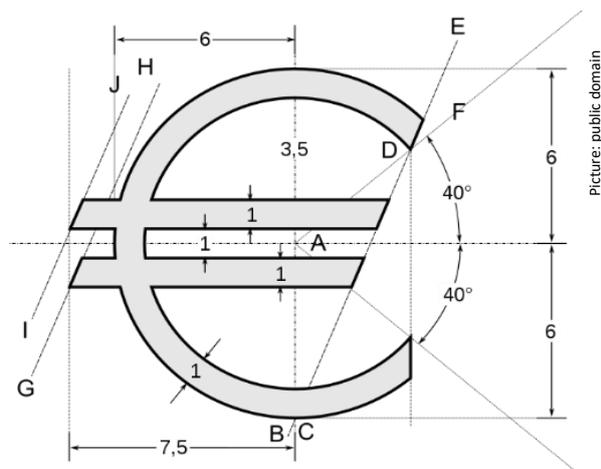
EDTA regularly receives information about international conferences. Commercial and non-commercial events. In case of non-commercial events EDTA distributes this information to the member associations if such event is of particular interest from the perspective of associations of engineers in the defence industry.

As additional requirement for commercial events a considerable discount should be available for members of member associations.

Jan Wind, president
10 March 2018

Annex 1

EDTA comments on the *Communication on the launching of the European Defence Fund* as published by the European Commission on 7 June 2017.



Summary of EDTA comments:

1. Harmonisation and synchronization of capability development projects is deemed necessary for the effectiveness of the fund. To stimulate this we recommend establishing a “European Requirements and Synchronisation Evaluation Office or board”.
2. Technology spin-off into the wider economy is a very important element of defence research and capability development. When considering potentially profitable spin-off from the early start of development, private funding could also participate. Consequently, the need to use defence budget would be less.
3. The most important technical and cooperation decisions of a major capability development project are taken in the early stages. This is also the least costly phase of capability development. As the EC contribution is still limited, we recommend focusing EC funding on the first phase of each project. This would allow supporting more projects and a higher contribution percentage.
4. A financial toolbox with templates and tools will be developed for funding of capability development projects. Financing of technology and capabilities other than through regular single government funding is however a very complex matter. We recommend establishing a knowledge office capable to advice on cooperative and private financial matters.

The full text of these comments is available on the [EDTA website](http://www.fedta.eu).



Annex 2

EDTA comments on the **Reflection paper on the future of European Defence** as published by the European Commission on 7 June 2017.



Photo: MoD NL

Summary of EDTA comments:

1. In scenario B and C of the reflection paper many decisions on capability development will be transferred to European institutions while Member States still have to provide national funding. We recommend developing an incentive to overcome this loss of national autonomy. Lack of a solution could block the route to both scenario B and C.
2. Harmonisation and synchronization of capability development projects is deemed necessary for the future of European defence. To stimulate this we recommend establishing a “European Requirements and Synchronisation Evaluation Office or board”.
3. Cooperation should become the norm in the EU. In scenarios B and C this could however lead to industrial monopolies. We recommend developing a European policy to retain a certain level of diversity in the defence research and capability development sector.
4. Future EU contributions to technology development seem to be focused on the need of European technological autonomy. We recommend shifting this focus to technology and capabilities urgently needed for lacking capabilities.

The full text of these comments is available on the [EDTA website](#).
