



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SPACE

The Director-General

Brussels,
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Mr Walter ROBERT
President
European Security and Defence Assembly
Case 44
1, place Joffre
F-75700 - Paris-SP 07

By email: eurodefense.reseau@gmail.com

Subject: EURODEFENCE “Recommendations on EU Energy, Security and Defence”

Dear Mr Robert,

I refer to your letter of 16 February 2023 addressed to President Ursula von der Leyen, presenting the Policy Proposal “Recommendations on EU Energy, Security and Defence” resulting from a EURODEFENCE study. The President asked me to thank you and to reply on her behalf.

I have given full consideration to your submission, which provides valuable information on the future challenges that will be faced by the armed forces within the European Union (EU) when ensuring energy supply for defence capabilities.

I share your analysis of the importance of continuous synergies in the sector of EU energy, security and defence in close collaboration with EU initiatives, such as the European Green Deal, the EU Strategic Compass, the Climate Change, the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), the recent defence packages and other defence-relevant initiatives.

The Green Deal provides a roadmap to make the EU economy sustainable by 2050 by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas, including through the implementation of the European Defence Fund (EDF). In that respect, improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy where possible, and reducing emissions in the defence sector must become integral part of our collective efforts towards climate neutrality by 2050 as well as the protection of biodiversity and a strengthened circular economy. Circular systems can benefit to defence industries and procurement, by increasing resource efficiency, strategic autonomy for certain critical materials, and also prolonging and optimising the life cycle of defence equipment.

The EDF, through its thematic category “Energy resilience and environment transition”, will, contribute on two levels.

Firstly, military equipment is, in many cases, very energy intensive and has a large environmental impact, for instance the use of substantial amounts of scarce commodities. Military assets usually have long operational lifetimes, and systems are modernised and updated on a regular basis. In order to address these challenges, R&D activities on energy and resource efficiency need advanced without compromising the required performance levels of military capabilities.

Secondly, due to climate change, capabilities will have to be deployed in increasingly harsh conditions. Military systems will have to operate in much warmer or colder environments, higher sea levels or more adverse environmental conditions.

This thematic category ensures that the EDF will contribute steadily to these two challenges by funding R&D activities driven by future capabilities needs, as well as making current capabilities climate resilient while extending their operational lifetime and sustainable performance.

Finally, let me stress that ensuring the diversification of energy sources and securing of supply for the armed forces in the EU is also a priority under the EDF.

Yours sincerely ,



Timo PESONEN