

Chief Executive

Mr Matti Saarelainen

Director of the
European Centre of Excellence for
Countering Hybrid Threats

Ref: EDA201807081

Brussels, 16 July 2018

LIAISON BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR COUNTERING HYBRID THREATS

Dear Matti,

The mission of the European Defence Agency (EDA) pursuant to Article 2 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835¹ is to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve the Union's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the CSDP as it currently stands and as it develops in the future.

The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE) was established under a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") which entered into force on 11 April 2017 and was granted legal personality through the Finnish Act on the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Government proposal 59/2017) which entered into force on 1 July 2017. Pursuant to Article 3 of the MoU, the Hybrid CoE is expected to serve as a hub of expertise supporting the Participants' individual and collective efforts to enhance their civil-military capabilities, resilience, and preparedness to counter hybrid threats with a special focus on European security.

Acknowledging that EDA and the Hybrid CoE are identified actors on the implementation of the Joint Declaration signed by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Warsaw on 8 July 2016, cooperation between EDA and the Hybrid CoE will promote effective implementation of the Joint Declaration in areas of common interest and notably on bolstering resilience and will contribute in further enhancing EU-NATO cooperation.

Acknowledging the opportunity to exploit synergies in furthering our efforts towards a common understanding of hybrid threats and to promote the development of comprehensive and coordinated response at national and multinational levels thus providing an end-to-end support to our respective Member States, I hereby propose the establishment of an effective liaison through an Exchange of Letters between EDA and the Hybrid CoE based on the following key principles:

¹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835 of 12 October 2015 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency.

- a) Cooperation between EDA and the Hybrid CoE is to focus on areas of mutual interest, as set out below, to be developed through activities such as studies, seminars, workshops, projects and programmes, in accordance with their respective internal processes, procedures and rules;
- b) The identification of activities in support of our respective Member States, notably in countering hybrid threats including their implications on defence capability development;
- c) Full transparency on the administration of activities, in accordance with the EDA and Hybrid CoE internal processes, procedures and rules respectively;
- d) The handling and release of information and documents shall be undertaken in accordance with the respective rules of EDA and the Hybrid CoE. Exchange of classified information is not foreseen in the frame of this Exchange of Letters. Any intellectual or industrial property rights, including any documentation, data, or technical information provided will remain vested in their respective owners;
- e) EDA and the Hybrid CoE will nominate Points of Contact to facilitate cooperation;
- f) This Exchange of Letters does not imply any financial commitment on EDA or Hybrid CoE. For specific activities, the delineation of potential funding responsibilities shall be defined in respective planning documents for specific events, services, or activities as appropriate. In general, and in the frame of cooperative endeavours, EDA and the Hybrid CoE will contribute in a balanced way and fund its own share from its own resources;
- g) EDA and the Hybrid CoE remain responsible for its own personnel in relation to the activities undertaken pursuant to the present Exchange of Letters. Unless otherwise specified, each will cover any expenditure it incurs under this Exchange of Letters (e.g. travel and subsistence of their respective staff);
- h) Both EDA and the Hybrid CoE will undertake all necessary actions within the frame that this Exchange of Letters provides, in order to ensure a sustainable cooperation between EDA and the Hybrid CoE, within the evolving character of their respective organisations.

Initial areas for cooperation, which should contribute to the implementation of the EU capability development priorities derived from the Capability Development Plan: Harbour Protection, Countering Mini Drones, Countering Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear (C-CBRN) threats, as well as Countering Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED).

I am confident that, through our cooperation, EDA and the Hybrid CoE can bring a significant added value to our respective Member States by reducing administrative burden, improving exchange of information, facilitating common action where possible thus avoiding unnecessary duplication, supporting better planning, as well as common support of activities that bring added-value thus contributing to the best use of our respective resources.

If the above principles and areas for cooperation are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter, together with your affirmative reply, will constitute our common understanding.


Yours sincerely,



Jorge Domecq



Mr Jorge Domecq
Chief Executive
European Defence Agency

Helsinki, 16 July 2018

LIAISON BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR COUNTERING HYBRID THREATS

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your letter from 16 July 2018 and to confirm the acceptance of establishing a liaison between the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and the European Defence Agency. The principles and areas for cooperation proposed in your letter, together with my affirmative reply, constitute our common understanding.

The liaison between the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and the European Defence Agency is effective upon the date of signature of the present letter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matti Saarelainen'.

Matti Saarelainen

Director

The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats