

22 March 2010

Dear High Representative, Dear Secretary General,

In a spirit of transparency, and as a contribution to your common ambition to develop pragmatic initiatives between NATO and the EU, we would like to return to the issue of ACT-EDA cooperation.

As you know, Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and the European Defence Agency (EDA) have, in full respect of the agreed NATO/EU framework of cooperation and consultation, initiated contacts since early 2008. More recently, we have taken some further steps to enhance a mutually reinforcing capability development between NATO and the EU.

Our informal contacts include staff-to-staff talks between experts, as well as contacts at our level, to advance what we both consider a key partnership in the area of capability development. In order to work in full transparency, representatives from the NATO Headquarters International Staff (Defence Policy & Planning, Defence Investment) have been included.

In the course of these consultations, we have had exchanges on several identified topics of common interest, with the initial conclusions outlined below:

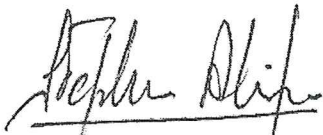
1. Countering Improvised Explosive Devices
  - exchange on concepts
  - identification of training/exercise opportunities
2. Network Enabled Capabilities
  - information exchange
  - harmonisation of roadmaps
3. Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
  - investigating interface MAJIIC
4. Medical
  - identify areas of work for possible coordination
5. Protection against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear threats
  - development of a joint training course on CBRN intelligence

These exchanges have been carried out in the most pragmatic manner and in full compliance with the agreed framework. Along with the complementary perspective brought by ACT and the EDA, this approach has proven successful and mutually beneficial as it reinforces capability development efforts, in particular in the areas of concepts, doctrine, solution analysis and combined training.

Building on our fruitful cooperation so far, we intend to move on in the informal talks between our organisations, to review and update areas of common interest in our respective programmes of work as appropriate, starting with the above mentioned areas. This will be carried out using the same transparent and pragmatic approach that we have been applying so far.

Our intent is to report to you at regular intervals on the progress of our exchanges. Furthermore, we believe that periodical information to EU and NATO members, notably in the framework of the EU-NATO Capability Group, would only be beneficial to this cooperation.

We hope that this outline will help inform your upcoming discussions on how to take forward the EU-NATO partnership in the coming weeks and months and we remain eager to pursue our contribution to this effort under your guidance.



Stéphane Abrial

General, French Air Force  
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation



Alexander Weis

Chief Executive  
European Defence Agency



**EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY**

Brussels, 23 March 2010

***The Chief Executive***

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**NOTE**

**for the attention of**

**Ms. Catherine Ashton, Head of the European Defence Agency**

**cc: Ms. Alice Guitton**

**Subject: EDA - NATO SACT Joint Report**

1. Please find attached a joint report by the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation and me on our informal contacts, initiated since early 2008.
2. First of all the purpose of this joint report is to inform you and the NATO Secretary General on our contacts and on identified areas of common interest with initial conclusions. Both of us consider these contacts as being very promising and worth to be further developed. We consider each other as key partners in the area of capability development. This partnership is of course not an exclusive one but both of us emphasise that our pragmatic approach must be preserved.
3. Furthermore, the purpose of this joint report is to prepare a basis for your upcoming discussions on how to take forward the EU-NATO partnership.
4. With regard to further handling of this joint report, it will be up to you and the NATO Secretary General to decide upon at your meeting on 24 March. However, I would recommend to inform the EDA participating Member States immediately after your meeting with the NATO Secretary General. The next step could be – subject to your approval – to discuss the topic at the EDA Ministerial Steering Board on 26 April 2010 in Luxembourg.

Alexander WEIS

Attachment: EDA-NATO SACT Joint Report