AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe

Press Release

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ASD Welcomes Fruitful Dialogue with European Commissioner Julian King on the Occasion of its Board and General Assembly Meeting

Brussels, February 7, 2017 – The AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) was honoured to welcome European Commissioner for the Security Union Sir **Julian King** today, on the occasion of its Board and General Assembly meeting. The meeting allowed for a high-level strategic dialogue on European defence and security.

Mr Julian King highlighted that "*we won't be successful in our endeavors to enhance the collective security of Europe if we don't work hand in hand with industry. The most obvious and least pleasant role of industry is as a target".* In this regard, Mr King added: "*Industry is vital to the good functioning of our society, the well-being of our citizens and the competitiveness of our economy. Because of this vital role, it can be a target for terrorists and criminals. At the same time, Industry is part of the response to security threats. Not only because it must be ready to face attacks and react, but also because it can contribute to designing policies, guiding research efforts and identifying solutions for improving security*".

In his intervention, **Mr Mauro Moretti** stated: "*the Global Strategy and Implementation, the establishment of a genuine Security Union, the EU-NATO cooperation and the European Defence Action Plan are all very important initiatives that we as industry fully support. We welcome in particular that all these initiatives recognise the importance of European industry for the development of the security and defence capabilities Europe needs to protect its citizens*". Mr Moretti also recalled the key role played by research in this context: "*research is crucial to ensure that Industry remains competitive and that our armed forces get the state-of-the-art equipment they need to fulfil their missions. At the same time, research is where cooperation on development and procurement of capabilities starts, and where EU action can make a difference*". Finally, Mr Moretti assured Mr King that ASD "*trusts in your commitment to building a strong Europe capable of defending its values and interests and stand ready to support you in this endeavor*".

About ASD

The AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe represents the Aeronautics, Space, Security and Defence industries in Europe. Based in Brussels, the organisation's membership today comprises 15 major European aerospace and defence companies and 26 member associations in 19 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the UK). These industries reach a turnover of €222 billion; invest €20 billion in R&D; employ 847,700 people; count over 3,000 companies, many of which are SMEs.