ASD Welcomes EU Defence Package Announced Today

- The European Commission presented today several defence initiatives, including a roadmap on technologies, and proposals to foster R&D investment, synergies and joint procurement
- EU initiatives on sustainable finance should remain consistent with the EU’s efforts to facilitate the European defence industry’s sufficient access to finance and investment
- ASD welcomes the proposals and views outlined in the package and stands ready as a competent partner for their implementation

Brussels, February 15, 2022 – Today, the European Commission presented several initiatives on defence and security. The package entails two Communications on a roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence, and on Commission contribution to European defence.

The roadmap on critical technologies builds on the Updated Industrial Strategy and the Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries and focuses among others on measures to boost European research and innovation cooperation, and to reduce strategic dependencies on critical technologies and value chains.

The Communication on Commission contribution to European defence proposes several measures towards a more competitive and harmonised European defence market, including stepping up investments for defence research and capabilities developed in EU cooperative frameworks, facilitating synergies between civilian and defence R&I, and incentivising the joint procurement of defence capabilities.

Jan Pie, Secretary General of ASD, said: “We welcome today’s defence package. We particularly appreciate that it aims to maximise the positive effects of the European Defence Fund on the European defence market and industry.”

The main objective of the European Defence Fund (EDF) is to foster transborder cooperation in defence research and development in the EU. Yet, the EDF can only be successful and hence sustainably support the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, if it is embedded in a holistic approach, including not only research and development but also later phases of the industrial cycle such as industrialisation and acquisition. ASD considers it as an important step forward that today’s package outlines different proposals to incentivise joint procurement of defence capabilities developed in a collaborative way within the EU.
“We also appreciate the roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence and its objective to boost research, technology development and innovation (RTD&I) and to reduce the EU’s strategic dependencies in critical technologies and value chains for security and defence. This is an important step in Europe’s aspiration to attain an appropriate level of technological sovereignty”, added Mr. Pie. “ASD stands ready as a competent partner for the Commission and Member States to successfully implement today’s proposals.”

With a view to the ongoing discussion on the EU taxonomy, Mr Pie concluded: “It is encouraging that the Commission today stressed that EU initiatives on sustainable finance should remain consistent with the EU’s efforts to facilitate the European defence industry’s sufficient access to finance and investment.”

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About ASD Europe

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