



7th meeting of the Special Group of National Focal Points for the European Defence Fund

Brussels, 13 December 2023, 13:30-17:30

Summary Record

1. INTRODUCTION

The meeting took place in a hybrid format.

2. POINTS DISCUSSED

The members of the group addressed the following items during the meeting:

- **European Defence Fund calls for proposals:** The Commission presented a preliminary overview of the applications under the EDF 2023 calls for proposals and main submission statistics. The number of proposals has increased significantly (238 proposals, which represents an 70% increase compared to 2022) with participation from all Member States and Norway.
- **Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP):** The Commission presented the developments related to ASAP implementation.
- **European defence industry reinforcement through common procurement act (EDIRPA):** The Commission presented the main objectives of EDIRPA, its state of the play and indicative timeline.
- **Consultation process with stakeholders aiming to deliver a European Defence Industrial Strategy:** The Commission informed about the preparation of the European Defence Industrial Strategy (EUDIS) including the context and ambition of the strategy as a long-term policy. Member States, industry, think tanks and the financial sector are consulted through workshops, bilateral meetings, and written contributions.
- **Outreach activities:** The Commission presented the progress of the Business Coaching service for SME beneficiaries of EDF projects. An overview was also provided of upcoming events under the European Network of Defence-related Regions (ENDR). Lessons learned and planned participation in defence exhibitions and EU-wide and national EDF Info days were discussed.

- **EDF Interim Evaluation:** The Commission presented the preparatory work for the interim evaluation of the Fund, recalling its legal basis and informing about the structure and content of the evaluation, topics to address and the envisaged timeline.
- **EDF Project in support of the EDF National Focal Points' Network:** The coordinator of the NFP project and the work package leaders informed the network about the recent start of the project and the envisaged activities.
- **Exchange of best practices on NFP engagement with stakeholders:** The Dutch NFP presented the role of Netherlands Enterprise Agency and the successful experiences of the organisation of a bilateral (Dutch/Greek) matchmaking event in the context of the DEFEA defence exhibition in Athens in May 2023.

3. AOB

The Commission will examine the possibility to adjust the network Rules of procedure to allow additional participants from MS/NO to attend the NFP meetings.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Austria	Austrian Research Promotion Agency
Belgium	Federal Public Service of Economy
Bulgaria	Ministry of Economy and Industry
Croatia	Croatian Defence Industry Competitiveness Cluster
Czechia	Defence and Security Industry Association
Denmark	Defence and Security Association
Finland	Business Finland
France	Systematic Paris Region
Germany	VDI Technology Center Permanent Representation of France to the EU
Greece	Ministry of Defence
Hungary	Ministry of Defence
Italy	AIAD - Federazione Aziende Italiane per l'Aerospazio, la Difesa e la Sicurezza Italy
Latvia	Ministry of Defence
Lithuania	Ministry of Defence
Luxembourg	Luxinnovation
The Netherlands	Netherlands Enterprise Agency
Poland	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology Ministry of Defence
Portugal	Ministry of Defence
Slovakia	Ministry of Defence Permanent Representation of Slovakia to the EU
Slovenia	Ministry of Defence
Spain	Ministry of Defence
Sweden	Ministry of Defence
Norway	Ministry of Defence Norwegian Defence and Security Industries Association
EU	European Commission, DG DEFIS