



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER  
TRANSFORMATION**

**SACT REMARKS to**

**DEFMIN**

**Brussels, 10 February 2016**

**Working Session at 28**

**Session 1**

**Général d'armée aérienne Denis Mercier**



## NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

### SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION

[Merci monsieur le Secrétaire Général, mesdames, messieurs les ministres,]

Faced with the current multiplicity of threats, our Alliance has to establish and sustain a flexible posture, based on an appropriate mix of forces; enabling the Alliance to deliver tailored strategic military effects.

By the Warsaw Summit, the military capacity underpinning this posture will have been significantly adapted.

- We are developing a framework for enhanced, comprehensive and continuous strategic awareness, a prerequisite for the responsiveness and operational agility of our forces.
- Three pilot projects are under preparation for Finland, Jordan and Georgia to test the Individual Tailored Roadmap Concept, aimed at delivering increased coherence in partnership activity.
- The development of roadmaps for the 16 Defence Planning Priorities is ongoing. The filling of these shortfalls by Nations will help mitigate many of the risks we are exposed to, for example, anti-access area denial systems.

In addition, the political and military credibility of our posture will be increasingly demonstrated through our numerous exercises.



**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER  
TRANSFORMATION**

- Our enhanced programme meets SACEUR's intent for a steady drum beat of exercises. 83 will currently support Assurance Measures in 2016.
- All Strategic exercises for 2016 and 2017 are also on track, meeting the requirements of the Readiness Action Plan.

\*

All these adaptations fit into the overall transformation of our posture, for which, as already mentioned by our Secretary General, the Readiness Action Plan is only a first step.

But we have to look well past Warsaw, and imagine what will drive that posture out to 2030 and beyond.

To do so,

- We must foster innovation to enable us to continuously and dynamically adapt our ways and means to adjust to the pace of a rapidly evolving security environment.
- We must maintain a strong Industrial base on both sides of the Atlantic to anticipate and leverage any technological breakthrough that would help offset the capabilities of any potential new opponent.
- We must ensure a closer co-ordination between European and US Innovation Initiatives in order to coherently develop our future capabilities and retain a high level of interoperability.

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**



**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER  
TRANSFORMATION**

- In this perspective, we must ensure we make the right decisions in the near term, to shape a modern, credible, deterrent posture and military capacity for our Alliance in the future.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.