



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER
TRANSFORMATION**

SACT REMARKS on NATO-EU partnership

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Monsieur le secrétaire général, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres,

Les nations de l'espace euro-atlantique sont confrontées à des menaces et défis communs, et la réponse aux crises nécessite une meilleure coordination d'un large éventail d'acteurs. La déclaration conjointe OTAN-UE de Varsovie prend acte de cette réalité, et souligne la nécessité pour les deux organisations de renforcer leur partenariat. Cette intention, politique et militaire, se traduit désormais en actes. J'en veux pour preuve les propositions de mise en œuvre en cours d'élaboration entre le Secrétariat international et le Service Européen pour l'Action Extérieure, auquel ACT est pleinement associé.

Our objective is to develop concrete solutions to enhance this partnership, within the framework of the Joint Declaration.

Alongside its engagement with all the relevant actors, ACT has developed a practical informal relationship with the European Defence Agency.

Please allow me to expand on this last point, which has promising potential for practical outcomes. This ACT-EDA relationship is based on the following guiding principles:

- Avoid the duplication of effort between our organizations,
- Operate without prejudice to the specific character of the defence policy of any ally or member state,
- Mutually benefit from the respective strengths of each organization, such as dual civilian-military programs for EDA, and interoperability programs for ACT.



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Within these principles, we have identified five initial areas on which our respective staffs are working together:

1. Foresight analyses and future perspectives;
2. Impact of hybrid threats on capability development, which leads us to cooperate on technological solutions and on the civilian and military aspects of resilience;
3. Exploitation of lessons learned from operations and exercises to ensure we are able to integrate relevant findings into our respective capability development processes;
4. Capability development itself, with a focus on the medium to long term direction of travel;
5. Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear defence (CBRN), which would encompass both civilian and military aspects of protection.

These five areas present a wide range of possibilities for enhanced cooperation.

Let me expand on three of these identified areas of cooperation.

=== 1. Prospective and futures work ===

First, both NATO, with our Strategic Foresight Analysis, and the EU, with their Strand B, produce analyses on the future trends of conflicts. These trends are obviously similar, even though they may have different military implications for each organization. We ought to develop better ways to share the same prospective view of the future.



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The level of ambition is therefore to develop a common analysis, from which we could derive our respective military implications. This analysis should also include the potential technological breakthroughs for the medium to long-term outlook. As the EU develops its European Defence Research Programme, this analysis would then allow a closer coordination between ACT, the EDA, the NATO Science and Technology Organization and all Defence innovation initiatives.

=== 2. Capability Development ===

Regarding capability development, we already exchange some information about our respective defence planning processes. But, we still face a number of issues: for example, we duplicate capability databases, additionally, as a result of the different input cycles of the two organisations, different set-ups and readiness levels can be recorded for the same capability. If we want to enhance the coherence between both defence planning processes, we need to have one shared set of information for Nations belonging to both organisations.

Let me offer you a few other ideas to enhance capability development:

- First, we could share our analysis of the required capabilities to mitigate the identified shortfalls in our respective planning processes.
- Based on this shared analysis, we would be able to develop innovative solutions to mitigate these shortfalls. This calls for a more coordinated engagement with industry.



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- We could then identify the best option to implement these innovative solutions, including multinational initiatives such as NATO Smart Defence or EU Pooling and Sharing, and determine which organization is best suited to lead.

Getting our capability development processes better aligned could also help leverage European funding for dual use capabilities, such as the European theatre infrastructure enhancement.

=== 3. CBRN ===

CBRN defence capabilities are another promising opportunity as they are also dual-purpose in nature. Our ambition would be to seek how we could develop common protection standards and doctrine.

These are but a few examples. However, all these strands of work, as well as other areas such as logistics and sustainability or cyber, are achievable, and will help build momentum towards real practical outcomes.

This work will need to be transparent to all interested parties. With your political support, and the resolute commitment from relevant actors, we will provide tangible results while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.