



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs  
Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries  
**Defence 2**

Brussels, 5 February 2018

**Draft Minutes**

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the As-If Programme Committee for Defence Research

2 February 2018, Brussels

**1. Approval of the agenda**

The updated agenda was approved.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2017 were approved, without any amendments.

**2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was not public.

The Commission convened the meeting to brief the Member States on the outcome of the evaluation of Calls 2017 and to discuss the Work-programme 2019. There was also an update of the Work-programme 2018 and an exchange of views of the contents of the future programme.

**3. List of points discussed**

**3.1. Calls 2017: Outcome of the evaluation**

The evaluation of the Calls of 2017 was finalised on 15 January 2018. The European Defence Agency (EDA) implemented the technical evaluation and the review of the ethical, legal and societal aspects (ELSA review), while the Commission handled the security scrutiny. EDA made a presentation of all the aspects of the evaluation of the 2017 Calls and made a summary with statistics on participation and relevant information on the project proposals. The Commission reported on the security scrutiny of the projects. The Commission asked the Member States to handle the information sent to the Committee Members with confidentiality. MS asked to receive the Call Evaluation Reports and the Proposal Evaluation Reports. They also asked if they will receive information on the progress of the projects once they started. There were also questions on the selection of experts and the possibility to share information on a CIRCABC.

### 3.2. Work-programme 2018 and Calls 2018: update

The Commission informed that the Inter-Service Consultation on WP 2018 is ongoing and once the feedback from other DGs has been addressed, the WP would be prepared for adoption by the College. Call publication is foreseen for March 2018.

### 3.3 Work-programme 2019: first discussion

The Commission made a presentation of the first draft of the WP 2019 with Calls on

Some Member States were hesitant to support a [REDACTED] Call and found it overly complex and warned that this would turn away smaller entities from participation. Many Member States found the topics of [REDACTED] too dual-use. Some Member States also asked to use existing technical groups for the drafting of the call text on electronic warfare. The Commission clarified that the elaboration of work-programmes cannot be delegated as the Commission is responsible and accountable for the programme and its expenditure. However, any input from EDA to the sub-working group is welcome.

MS are asked to provide written comments to the draft WP 2019 by 16 February 2018.

### 3.4 Future programme contents and update on the subgroup modalities EDRP

The Commission made a presentation with first ideas on the defence research window of the EDF, with a focus on objectives, rationale and substance of the research area. The presentation was for guidance of the debate and did not attempt at reaching final conclusions. The contours of the research window are clearer with the EDIDP proposal that includes prototypes, feasibility studies and architecture. Many Member States agreed with the overall approach and asked the global focus to be on fostering R&T for common armaments projects to cover capability gaps. EU technological non-dependence should be highlighted more. One Member State pointed out that the linkage between the two windows of the EDF was important and that speculative research for defence was missing in the EU and therefore needed space in the programme.

Member States were invited to give feedback to the presentation by 28 February 2018. The Commission informed about the sub-working group on modalities for the EDRP and asked Member States to appoint experts by 16 February 2018.

## 4. Next steps

The Commission asked the Member States to nominate experts for the two sub-working groups of the AIPC by 16 February 2018. It will send invitations for the sub-working groups on modalities for the EDRP, and on the Electronic Warfare in the coming weeks. A schedule of upcoming meetings was presented.

## **5. Any other business**

N/A.

## **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at the end of April 2018.

## **7. List of participants**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Body</b>
Austria	Ministry of defence
Belgium	Ministry of defence
Bulgaria	Ministry of defence
Czech Republic	Ministry of defence
Cyprus	Ministry of defence
Denmark	Ministry of defence
Estonia	Ministry of defence
Finland	Ministry of defence
France	Ministry of defence
Germany	Ministry of defence
Greece	Ministry of defence
Hungary	Ministry of defence
Ireland	Ministry of defence
Italy	Ministry of defence
Latvia	Ministry of defence
Lithuania	Ministry of defence
Norway	Ministry of defence, observer
Poland	Ministry of defence
Portugal	Ministry of defence
Romania	Ministry of defence
Slovakia	Ministry of defence
Slovenia	Ministry of defence

Spain	Ministry of defence
Sweden	Ministry of defence
The Netherlands	Ministry of defence
United Kingdom	Ministry of defence
EDA	Observer