

SMEs & DEFENCE INITIATIVES: Unlocking Opportunities & Overcoming Challenges

30 November 2021 | 09:30 – 12:30

Online via WebEx

Register [here](#)

The European Union's new defence initiatives, including Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF), aim to increase cooperation between Member States and the defence industry, where joint investment in research and capability development is crucial. The Republic of Slovenia supports the position that upgrading the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, founded on the inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), is especially important for countries that do not have their own large dedicated defence industry.

The forthcoming EU Strategic Compass, which aims at directing and operationalizing various defence initiatives and harmonizing them in a common European crisis response, will not only evaluate concrete capability projects, but also focus on a defence innovation hub and new instruments in critical technologies. In order to achieve these goals, it will be necessary to connect various forms of industry and technological research institutes and universities, where SMEs will play a key role.

The workshop will focus on the involvement and participation of SMEs in defence initiatives and resulting consortia to provide mechanisms for maximizing the openness of European supply chains. The workshop will be moderated by Dr. Daniel Fiott, Security and Defence Editor at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

Draft Workshop Programme

09:15 Participants can enter the WebEx meeting room

09:30 Opening & Welcome Speech

- *Uroš Lampret, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia*
- *Jiří Šedivý, Chief Executive, European Defence Agency*

09:45 EDA work supporting access to EU funding for the defence sector

- *Dr. Pierre Di Toro, Policy Officer, European Defence Agency*

10:00 Guiding SMEs to opportunities offered by the EDF through the ENDR and other networks and tools

- *Paul Anciaux, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Defence Industry and Space & European Network of Defence-related Regions*

SMEs in praxis: Experiences and views

10:25 Guardianis' best practice guidelines in defence related EU projects

- *Denis Rožaj, Managing Director, Guardianis*

10:30 Energy and environmental challenges in defence

- *Matej Gajzer, President of the Steering Committee, Slovenian Energy and Environment Partnership in Defence (SiEnE)*

10:40 Airbus led space industry consortia and SME engagement

- *TBD, Airbus*

10:55

Break

11:10 Round table discussion on good practices & challenges facing SMEs, large industry and Member States

Moderator:

- *Dr. Daniel Fiott, Security and Defence Editor at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)*

Participants (10-15):

- *SME representatives (2-3)*
- *Slovenian Defence Industry Cluster (GOIS)*
- *Airbus*
- *Slovenian Ministry of Defence (+ additional Member State)*
- *European Defence Agency*
- *European Commission, DG DEFIS*
- *European Network of Defence-related Regions (ENDR)*
- *Slovenian Energy & Environment Partnership in Defence (SiEnE)*
- *Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)*

12:10 Conclusions of the round table discussion

- *Dr. Daniel Fiott, Security and Defence Editor at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)*

12:15 Networking in practice: Live demo of EDA B2B Platform

- *Marian Savu, Policy Officer, European Defence Agency*

12:30 Wrap up, conclusions and end of workshop

- *Dr. Daniel Fiott, Security and Defence Editor at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)*



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