

# ORGANISE, FOCUS, ENHANCE

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## A sustained endeavour towards the reinforcement of the European defence industry

An online seminar organised by the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) with the support of the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union.

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1 June 2022, online via Zoom  
09:30-13:00 CET

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### CONCEPT NOTE

Faced with the war on Ukraine and growing global strategic competition, the European Union has recognised the crucial importance of the European defence industry. The lessons from the pandemic and the growing instrumentalisation of technologies and supply chains, has given rise to the recognition that the EU cannot take the defence sector for granted. The war on Ukraine has further underlined the need for the EU to invest more and better together and to strengthen the European defence technological and industrial base. This logic is at the heart of the recently published Joint Communication on the 'Defence Investment Gaps Analysis and Way Forward', which, in response to the Versailles Summit of 10-11 March, called for a European Defence Investment Programme for joint procurement and financing.

Such an approach could not be more timely or pertinent. The war on Ukraine has led to the depletion of military stocks of ammunition and equipment in Europe, and there is a real risk that Europe could face dependencies in critical areas. In addition, there is a danger that the disorganised procurement of new materials may lead to further dependencies and duplications. Further still, Europe is facing long-standing gaps in expenditure, investment and innovation. There is, therefore, every reason to utilise the European Commission's proposal for a short-term financing instrument of €500 million for joint procurement. With ambition, this would pave the way for the creation of a longer-term EU framework for defence procurement.

Organised directly after the special European Council meeting of 30-31 May, this seminar will take stock of the EU's response to the Versailles Agenda. The seminar will provide an opportunity to discuss the way forward on strengthening Europe's defence technological and industrial base and concretely address the conclusions of the Joint Communication on Defence Investment Gaps Analysis and Way Forward. More specifically, the seminar will address the following questions:

- > How should the Union organise, in a perennial manner, the demand for European defence capabilities and procurement?
- > In the short-term, how should the EU ramp up its industrial supply and capacity in response to this more organised demand and with what financial resources?
- > How can more structured cooperation in the defence sector be achieved over the medium to longer term? What is needed for a "quantum leap" in this regard?

A report will be issued to make available the results of the discussion to a broader public, including additional views on the topics from national as well as institutional representatives.

## PROGRAMME

09:30-09:45

### WELCOME ADDRESS

Alexandre LAHOUSSE

**Engineer General for Armaments, Direction Générale de l'armement (DGA)**

09:45-11:00

### PANEL SESSION I – THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EDTIB IN A CONTEXT OF CRISIS

*Moderator*

Daniel FIOTT

**Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies**

*Speakers*

François ARBAULT

**Director, Defence Industry, DG DEFIS, European Commission**

Raluca CSERNATONI

**Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Europe**

Pieter TAAL

**Head of Unit, Industry Strategy and EU Policies, European Defence Agency**

11:00-11:30

### BREAK

11:30-12:45

### PANEL SESSION II – RAMPING-UP THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY: WHAT IS NEXT?

*Moderator*

Daniel FIOTT

**Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies**

*Speakers*

Lucie BERAUD-SUDREAU

**Director, Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme, SIPRI**

Sven BISCOP

**Director, Europe in the World, Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations**

Edouard SIMON

**Research Director, IRIS Institute**

12:45-13:00

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Claire RAULIN

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the Political and Security Committee, France**