



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Major General Laurent Marboeuf
Commander EATC
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EDA201907009/SPU/MR

17 September 2019

Cher Laurent,

The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established by the Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP (recast Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835 of 12 October 2015 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency) to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve the Union's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the CSDP as it currently stands and as it develops in the future.

The European Air Transport Command (EATC) was established by the Technical Arrangement of EATC on 1 September 2010. The Mission of the European Air Transport Command is to enhance the combined operational capabilities of Participating Nations and improve the effectiveness and efficiency in conducting air transport, air-to-air refuelling, and aeromedical evacuation missions. This multinational headquarter integrates transferred national responsibilities and resources to ensure efficient operational control, to facilitate harmonization and thus to increase interoperability.

While effective cooperation between EDA and EATC already exists in the specific context of the trilateral Letter of Intent (LoI) concluded between EDA, EATC and OCCAR-EA in January 2018,¹ both EDA and EATC have an interest in strengthening our bilateral cooperation.

Acknowledging the opportunity to exploit the synergy of our efforts promoting the development of comprehensive and coordinated response in the air mobility domain at national and multinational levels thereby providing an end-to-end support to our respective Member States, I hereby propose the establishment of a cooperative framework through an Exchange of Letters between EDA and the EATC based on the following key principles:

- (a) Cooperation between EDA and the EATC is to focus on activities of mutual interest, such as studies, seminars, workshops, projects and programmes;

¹ LoI concerning the joint optimisation and development of the A400M capability within the remit of EATC.

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- (b) Full transparency on the administration of activities shall be in accordance with the EDA and EATC internal processes, procedures and rules respectively;
- (c) The handling and release of information and documents shall be undertaken in accordance with the respective rules and regulations of EDA and the EATC. Exchange of classified information is not foreseen in the frame of this Exchange of Letters. Any intellectual or industrial property rights, including any documentation, data, or technical information provided will remain vested in their respective owners; the disclosure of data shall require the prior consent of the originator;
- (d) EDA and the EATC will nominate Points of Contact to facilitate cooperation;
- (e) The follow-up of the cooperation will be ensured through an annual meeting between the Principals of EDA and EATC;
- (f) This Exchange of Letters does not imply any financial responsibilities on EDA or EATC. For specific activities, the delineation of potential funding responsibilities shall be defined in respective planning documents for specific events, services, or activities as appropriate;
- (g) EDA and the EATC remain responsible for its own personnel in relation to the activities undertaken pursuant to the present Exchange of Letters. Unless otherwise specified, each will cover any expenditure it incurs under this Exchange of Letters (e.g. travel and subsistence of their respective staff);
- (h) Personal data processed in the context of the implementation of this Exchange of Letters will be done in accordance with EU Regulations.

Areas for cooperation include inter alia the following areas:

- Air Mobility (including Airlift, Air dropping activity, Air-to-Air Refuelling, Aeromedical evacuation and logistical and technical supporting functions)
- Fixed-wing training cooperation in the domains listed above
- Military Aviation (including in the context of the Military Airworthiness Authorities Forum and the progressive introduction of a Total System Approach to Military Aviation)



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- Military Mobility in the framework of the EU action plan (including ground handling and dangerous goods activities)
- Other cross-cutting activities subject to interactions

I am confident that, through our cooperation, EDA and the EATC can bring added value to our respective Member States by reducing administrative burden, improving exchange of expertise and facilitating common action thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication and making the best use of our respective resources.

If the above principles and areas for cooperation are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter, together with your affirmative reply, constitutes our common understanding.

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention that the Agency has established its Register of documents² in line with Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No.1049/2001 and intends to publish this Exchange of Letters once signed in an effort to achieve the objective of transparency.

Yours sincerely,

Jorge Domecq

² <https://www.eda.europa.eu/info-hub/eda-documents>

EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND



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Together we go beyond

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17 SEP. 2019

YOUR MESSAGE

YOUR POC

OUR REF

OUR POC

EINDHOVEN

Cooperation EDA & EATC

Dear Mr Domecq,

I have the pleasure of acknowledging receipt of your letter, dated 17 September 2019, and agree with both our organisations establishing a cooperation agreement supporting the principles and areas of cooperation you proposed in your letter.

The cooperation between the European Air Transport Command and the European Defence Agency will become effective upon the signature date of this letter.

My expectations are that this agreement will take us closer to the needs and aspirations of both our organisations.

Yours faithfully,

Major General Laurent Marboeuf
Commander EATC