EDA DEFENCE STANDARDIZATION POLICY

Recognising standardization as a voluntary, consensus-based process, the objective of the EDA is to contribute to the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) by supporting, coordinating and harmonising European defence materiel standardization, with the overall aims of enhancing interoperability, reducing acquisition costs and improving technological competitiveness.

Defence standardization is a strategic tool for improving armaments cooperation and enhancing the EDTIB, and a key enabler of an effective EDEM. It is the most cost-effective way to reinforce and to perpetuate interoperability, and a catalyst for reflecting defence needs in civilian standardization and is achieved by:

- ensuring the coordination with key players and their actions;
- controlling and monitoring European defence standardization activities;
- promoting common standardization requirements; and
- providing a reference set of common standards for European armaments and where appropriate connecting referenced standards with the capability needs of pMS.

Coordination with Key Players

NATO - NATO Standardization through Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) continues to provide the ‘binding’ operational and technical-operational standards for interoperability of defence systems\(^1\). EDA standardization activities should be coherent and complementary with these NATO standardization activities.

EUMS – To provide Lessons Learned from operations which will be analysed in order to identify materiel standards shortfalls and the necessary corrective actions to be taken by the appropriate body.

Industry and Civil Standards Organisations - EDA does not develop standards: thus effective standardization is based on partnering between European governmental bodies, defence industries and civil standards organisations, in particular the European Standardization Organisations, given the preference to using European civilian standards in defence procurement.

The Commission - Responsible for giving standardisation mandates, after hearing the opinion of Member States, to European Standardisation Organisations to develop Standards to support European legislation and policies. In the field of defence, supports developments in European civil standardization that benefit this sector.

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\(^1\) Further NATO Standardization documents such as Standardization Recommendations (STANRECs) should be used whenever it’s appropriate.
Controlling and Monitoring European Defence Standardization Activities

**MSG** - The EDA’s Materiel Standardization Group (MSG) is the supervisory body for EDA standardization management and custodian of the EDA Standardization Roadmap.

**MSHT** - The Materiel Standardization Harmonisation Team (MSHT) is a body of government experts who meet to coordinate views and share best practice, providing guidance to the European Standardization Organisations, and advice to the MSG and other organisations on defence standardization management.

**EDA** - Managing all EDA standardization activities and providing permanent standardization support and advice to EDA Ad hoc projects and programmes.

Common Standardization Requirements

**Civil Standards** - notwithstanding international agreements such as STANAGs, preference is given to using civil standards in defence procurement, which conversely means that civil standards need to be receptive to defence needs.

**EDA Preparation Phase** - Standardization is a strategic tool for procurement and should be considered carefully in the preparation of armaments programmes, particularly cooperative ones. Standards by their very nature provide common references unlike specific (national) technical solutions. When used properly, standards can save time and money and provide enduring commonality.

Reference Set of Common Standards

**EDSTAR** - The EDSTAR is a European Defence Standards Reference system to “best practice” standards and standards-like specifications to support programme managers in governmental organisations and in defence industry for procurement and development of weapon systems. EDSTAR also provides guidance on the selection and application of standards and standards-like specifications to optimise effectiveness, efficiency and interoperability of defence materiel.

**EDSIS** - The European Defence Standardization Information System (EDSIS) provides the reference and co-ordination to achieve the harmonization and rationalization of defence standards’ portfolios and standardization management practices.