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NETWORK

**IN OUR DEFENCE:
HOW TO INTEGRATE DUAL-USE
RESEARCH INTO EU FUNDING
PROGRAMMES?**

A private Science|Business Network roundtable
16 April 2024 (14:00 – 17:00 CET)
Brussels and online

Defence-related research and innovation (R&I) is rising to the top of the political agenda, both in Europe and beyond. Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, plus geopolitical tensions and volatility around the globe, has obliged the EU to provide a collective response to a new era of security challenges - including, for the first time, an ambitious defence industry policy backed by large-scale investment in various science, technology and manufacturing domains.

In this context, the European Commission is actively exploring how to redefine the relationship between civilian and military research and technology development, and how to design and administer defence R&I funding - a responsibility which historically has been in the hands of member-states. Moreover, with the introduction of programmes like NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) programme, and an increase in endowments to the European Defence Fund, a push for dual-use research to also enter the EU Framework Programme could soon materialise.

Unsurprisingly, there are concerns within the research world about how this trend could affect existing R&I budgets and programmes. In parallel, public and private sector organisations are wrestling with the extent to which they are willing and able to engage in dual-use R&I programmes, while appreciating the opportunities that may lie ahead. Reconciling conflicting views will be crucial to avoid counterproductive tensions between the research and industrial compartments, and to ensure an efficient distribution of money through the appropriate funding instruments. On April 16, Science|Business brings together experts from across its international Network and the wider defence R&I community to dive deeper into these issues and debate the best way forward.

14:00 Welcome & introduction

- **Simon Pickard**, Network Director, Science|Business

14:05 **Totally secure: How should Europe organise its defence and security framework**

The war in Ukraine and growing hostilities in the Middle East have catalysed a paradigm shift in European thinking about its approach to defence and security. Having benefited from 30 years of post-cold war peace, there is now a deep sense of urgency (at EU and member-state level) to make up for lost time. Yet today's crises are nonetheless tomorrow's opportunity – above all, to develop a long-term vision and strategy, underpinned by research and technology development across sectors and borders, that will provide Europe with the essential capabilities it needs.

The first part of the roundtable will focus on the challenge of mobilising Europe's full resources in R&I to achieve this goal. Among the topics to be considered: is the EU ready to embrace a fully integrated, 360-degree ecosystem, and how to organise it in the most effective way? Will dual-use R&I have a critical role to play moving forward, and how to apply across multiple tech domains? Is a new approach needed to align EU and national interests, and to support international R&I cooperation? And where does industry see the key barriers and opportunities moving forward, given wider policy agendas on economic security and competitiveness?

Opening remarks:

- **Gábor Iklódy**, former Assistant Secretary-General, NATO and EU Ambassador to Eritrea
- **Michalis Ketselidis**, Senior Expert, Defence Industry and Space, Secretariat General of the European Commission

15:20 Coffee break

15:40 **Dual by design: How to accelerate R&I performance and prepare for 2028?**

Given legislative constraints, policy makers have the twin challenge of optimising support for dual-use R&I until 2027, while formulating strategic options for the next multi-annual financial framework (MFF) from 2028-2035. The second half of the roundtable will focus on the ways in which these are being addressed – not only in terms of new actions under existing instruments, but also key issues to address in planning for the next MFF.

Among the topics to be considered: how is Europe planning to advance dual-use R&I through to 2027? Are there smart ways to increase the knowledge and innovation flows between civil and defence sectors – both in EU programmes and elsewhere? How to address the financing issue for dual-use and avoid the usual disputes over budget allocation? What are the implications for research security and ethics that dual-use represents? And the elephant in the room for many organisations at the moment – what role for dual-use research in FPI0, the successor to Horizon Europe?

Opening remarks:

- **Nynke Tigchelaar**, Head of Unit, European Defence Fund Implementation – Defence Technologies and Innovation, DG DEFIS, European Commission
- **Nicolas Bessot**, Head of Unit, Innovation and Security Research, DG HOME, European Commission

17:00 End of roundtable, followed by short networking reception



NICOLAS BESSOT

Head of Unit, Innovation and Security Research, DG HOME, European Commission

Nicolas Bessot is the head of unit for innovation and security research in the European Commission's directorate general for migration and home affairs. In his current functions, Nicolas is responsible for the management of the security research part (Cluster 3) of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, by setting the research agenda, in cooperation with the Member States, in the areas of fighting crime and terrorism, border security, disaster resilient societies and infrastructure protection. He is also co-chair of the EU Innovation Hub of EU Agencies in the field of justice and home affairs since 2022. Nicolas has been working in the European Commission since 2006. He joined He joined his current directorate in early 2015 to prepare the Commission's policy response to the terrorist attacks of 2015, and then coordinated the implementation of the strategy within the Commission.



ROBERTO CASCELLA

Chief Technology Officer, European Cyber Security Organisation

Roberto Cascella works as chief technology officer at the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO). He also coordinates the two technical ECSO WGs with a high impact on the European cybersecurity strategy: WG6 defines the cybersecurity R&I roadmap for trusted and resilient technologies, and WG1 focuses on standardisation and certification in cybersecurity with the mission to establish trusted supply chains at EU level. He also represents ECSO in different committees, including the SCCG established under the Cybersecurity Act. He serves as project coordinator of the European Cybersecurity Community Support Project (ECCO) that received funding from the Digital Europe programme to support the activities necessary to develop, promote, coordinate and organise the work of the cybersecurity competence community at European level, within the scope and operations of the ECCO and National Coordination Centres Network.



MICHAEL FRONEBERG

Head of EU & NATO Relations, KNDS

In his first work life, Michael Froneberg spent 25 years as a medical staff officer in the German Bundeswehr. Rather than becoming a physician within the military, he chose to follow a more leadership-oriented path and joined the airborne infantry. During this time, he went to Afghanistan twice and also took part in a military evacuation operation. Among other later assignments, he was part of the German National General/Admiral Staff Officers' Course and had a job as a senior advisor on military and security policy in the German parliament. Choosing wife and son over a further military career, he then joined forces with KNDS Germany, one of the large suppliers of military equipment to Ukraine, including the Leopard 2 main battle tank.



GÁBOR IKLÓDY

Former Assistant Secretary-General, NATO and EU Ambassador to Eritrea

Gábor is currently an independent consultant in security and defence matters. Over the past 14 years he worked in senior positions in the EU and NATO. Lately, he was EU's ambassador to Eritrea. Before, he was director for crisis management and planning in the European External Action Service. Until 2013 he served as NATO assistant secretary general for 'emerging security challenges' responsible for cyber threats, terrorism, energy vulnerabilities, nuclear policy as well as strategic foresight. Previously, he worked for almost three decades in the Hungarian foreign service. When he left he was political director. His posts overseas included Bucharest, Vienna, Oslo and Stockholm: in the last two he was ambassador. Gábor is married and has two adult children.



MICHALIS KETSELIDIS

Senior Expert, Coordination of Foreign, Security & Defence Policy Implementation, Secretariat General, European Commission

Michalis has been working with the European Commission for 30 years. He holds a master's degree in computer science from Imperial College London and a diploma in electrical engineering from the University of Thessaloniki. He started his career with roles at Intracom in Greece and Ericsson in Ireland before joining the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy, in 1994. There, he contributed to space research and participated in project management for Galileo and Copernicus feasibility phases. Between 2002 and 2008, he served in the Commission's directorate general for external relations, managing crisis response projects worldwide. Since 2008, he has been with the secretariat general of the Commission, focusing on cross-sectoral crisis management, classified information handling, and relations with the Council. His portfolio has expanded to include defense industry, space, economic security, dual use, and critical technologies, collaborating closely with various other directorates general such as DEFIS, CNECT, RTD, HOME, JRC, and GROW.



PANAGIOTIS KIKIRAS

Head of Unit, Technology and Innovation, European Defence Agency

Panagiotis Kikiras is the head of unit for technology and innovation at the research technology and innovation directorate of the European Defence Agency (EDA), with over 20 years of experience in computer and network engineering. His expertise spans IoT, wireless sensors, embedded systems, cyber defense, and C4ISR systems. He graduated from the Hellenic Army Military Academy and holds multiple degrees including an M.Sc in management and economics of communication networks and a Ph.D in electrical and computer engineering. Before joining EDA, Panagiotis held leadership roles in industry, governmental agencies, and academia. His experience includes managing European and national projects in homeland security and defense and overseeing large-scale sensor-based IT systems. He was an adjunct associate professor at the University of Thessaly where he created, and was the technical director, of the Wireless Sensor Sensing Laboratory, contributing to numerous patents and scientific publications. Panagiotis has authored over 80 papers and is a senior member of the IEEE.



NYNKE TIGCHELAAR

Head of Unit, European Defence Fund Implementation - Defence Technologies and Innovation, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Nynke Tigchelaar is the head of unit for European Defence Fund Implementation 2 - defence technologies and innovation within European Commission's defence industry and space directorate (DEFIS), where for the previous two years she was deputy head of unit for defence industrial and market policy. She has been working for the European Commission for over twenty years in the defence, internal market and competition directorates, as well as the secretariat general. Before joining the European Commission, from 1999-2003 Nynke worked at the Dutch Ministry of Finance as policy advisor on European fiscal affairs. From 1995-1999, she worked at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency as project advisor and national focal point for the EU research framework programmes and LIFE. In 1995, she graduated from the University of Groningen with a master's degree in international relations and international organisations, specialising in European integration.



SIMON PICKARD

Network Director, Science|Business (moderator)

Simon Pickard leads on network engagement and development for Science|Business in line with the company's growth strategy. He previously held directorial positions with The Academy of Business in Society (ABIS) network and IDAS Global, a technology solutions provider to the global cash industry. Within these roles, he designed and coordinated a wide range of international projects focused on sustainability-driven innovation, both in research and executive education. Simon holds master's degrees in modern languages from the University of Oxford and in business administration from HEC Paris School of Management.

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