

Citizens' summary

reforming the defence and security sector

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Cuts in defence budgets and fragmented European defence markets threaten Europe's ability to sustain effective defence capabilities and a competitive defence industry.
- This state of affairs also jeopardises Europe's capacity to meet new security challenges autonomously and effectively.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The Commission is proposing a new strategy that will:

- lower the barriers between national defence markets
- help the European defence industry become more competitive
- encourage synergies between civil and military research
- explore how other areas, like energy, space and dual-use technologies (with civilian and military uses) can contribute to Europe's defence capabilities.

WHAT EXACTLY WOULD CHANGE?

- The European defence market would be more open and less fragmented, with greater security of supply.
- Europe's defence industry would be more competitive, including
 - EU standards and certification
 - better access to raw materials
 - specific support for small businesses (access to finance, information and other markets)
- R&D efforts would be stepped up in areas of civil-military use, such as communication and surveillance.
- Joint exploration of alternative sources of renewable energy at EU level would help EU countries reduce the energy consumption of their armed forces.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **EU countries** will save time and money through European standards and certification, role specialisation, joint research and procurement, more energy-efficient armies and efficient use of space infrastructure.
- European **defence-related companies**, including small businesses, will benefit from:
 - better access to markets in the EU and worldwide
 - economies of scale through standardisation and common certification
 - greater access to EU funding
- European **tax payers** will benefit from:
 - more efficient defence spending
 - less duplication between R&D civil and military efforts

- more efficient use of space infrastructure
- More energy-efficient armed forces will benefit the **environment**.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- The EU is the most effective level for:
 - creating favourable regulatory conditions
 - removing barriers to creating a truly internal market for defence and security
 - mobilising different instruments to improve the situation of small businesses across Europe
 - encouraging synergies between civil and military research and space infrastructures
- EU countries cannot individually develop and maintain the technologies and capabilities needed for the future.
- While individual countries continue to be responsible for their own defence and security, more can be done to support Europe's defence capabilities through the EU's large internal market and collaboration on industrial policy, research, border protection, maritime security, etc.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- The Commission will present a more detailed action plan in 2014.