

## Meeting of the ESDC Executive Academic Board

23 June 2023

*Austrian National Defence Academy and WebEx*

### *Draft Minutes*

#### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

*The agenda was adopted with a modified order of the various items*

#### **2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous EAB meeting**

*The Board adopted the minutes of the previous EAB meeting (ESDC/2023/119).*

#### **3. Information by the Head of the ESDC and the Secretariat**

*The Head of the ESDC updated the Board on the latest developments.*

#### **4. CSDP High Level Course 2023/2024 ‘Manuel Marín González’ – state of play and CSDP High Level Course planning ahead**

*The ESDC Secretariat provided an update on the 19th iteration of the CSDP High-Level Course, which is named after Manuel Marín González. The Secretariat informed the Board about the recently released invitation for nominations and the number of nominations received so far from Member States, the European Union Institutions, and missions and operations. It was also mentioned that there is a proposed change in the dates for the third module, which would now be held from 22nd to 26th April in Paris. The Secretariat requested the Board's recommendation to the Steering Committee for the approval of this change to the course curriculum, highlighting that it would allow for a more consistent and quality-driven program.*

*Emilie Didier (FR) provided justification for the change in the third module dates and assured the Board that it would facilitate the organization and delivery of a more coherent and high-quality course.*

*Regarding the 21st CSDP High-level Course for the academic year 2025-2026, Cyprus proposed General Michail Kostarakos as the Patron of the course during Cyprus's Presidency of the Council of the EU from January to June 2026. General Kostarakos, a former Hellenic Army officer, previously served as Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff and as Chairman of the European Union Military Committee.*

*For the 22nd CSDP High-Level Course in the academic year 2026-2027, Spain's CESEDEN offered to organize the second module in November 2026, and Estonia's Baltic Defence College confirmed their organization of the third module in Tartu, scheduled for March/April 2027.*

*The Board endorsed the proposal from Cyprus and agreed to advise the Steering Committee to approve General Michail Kostarakos as the Patron of the 21st CSDP High-level Course for the academic year 2025-2026.*

## **5. Activities planned by ESDC in collaboration with the ESIWA project**

*ESDC Secretariat informed the Board about the future activities that strengthen the cooperation of ESDC with the Indo-Pacific countries in the four thematic areas of cybersecurity, maritime security, crisis management and counter-terrorism namely:*

*- Second edition of the cyber course on 'The Role of the EU Cyber Ecosystem in Global Cybersecurity Stability' in Brussels from 7 to 9 November 2023, MFA/NL and ESIWA Project under the aegis of the ESDC.*

*- Pilot course on 'Counter-terrorism' in Brussels from 28 to 30 November 2023, GIZ/DE and ESIWA Project under the aegis of the ESDC.*

*The ESDC commended the exemplary work carried out by ESIWA and the training institutes, and the fruitful collaboration with EU delegations in the Indo-Pacific region and the valuable support from the regional desk of the European External Action Service (EEAS).*

*ESIWA has been specifically designed to bolster the European Union's endeavors to enhance security cooperation within Asia and with Asian partners, as outlined in the 2021 EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This includes a focus on conducting capacity-building activities to strengthen security cooperation efforts.*

## **6. EU Policy on Cyber Defence**

*The ESDC Cyber team presented the Board with an update on the latest Commission initiative regarding a Cyber Skills Academy. They provided information on the development of a new set of curricula, which have been aligned with the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework established by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA).*

*a. New curricula:*

- Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)*
- Cybersecurity Architect*
- Cybersecurity Auditor*
- Cybersecurity Risk Manager*
- Cyber Incident Responder*
- Penetration Tester*
- Cyber Threat Intelligence*
- Digital Forensics Investigator*

*b. The curricula alignment updates are as follows:*

*- The existing 'Course on International Law' has been aligned with the 'Cyber Legal, Policy, and Compliance Officer' role defined by ENISA.*

*- The 'Cyber Range - Cybersecurity in Practice' course has been aligned with the 'Penetration Tester' role specified by ENISA.*

*- The 'Implementing Behavioural Science Perspectives for Improved Cybersecurity Awareness Education in Organizations' course has been aligned with the 'Cybersecurity Educator' role outlined by ENISA.*

*The Board acknowledged the provided information and expressed appreciation for the commendable work being carried out by the ESDC.*

## **7. Cyber ETEE curricula title modification**

*The ESDC Cyber team presented the proposed modifications to the curricula/course titles to the Board. Specifically, they recommended changing the current curriculum title "Penetration testing with open source tools" to "Penetration Tester." The Board fully endorsed this modification.*

## **8. Proposal to create a new task-oriented configuration of the EAB on the European Higher Military Education / EU War Colleges**

*France introduced an initiative to the Board, outlining the preparations for the establishment of a new task-oriented configuration. The proposed configuration focuses on the European Higher Military Education/EU War Colleges. After careful consideration, the Board unanimously decided to endorse the new configuration and subsequently advises the Steering Committee to approve its creation.*

## **9. New members of the ESDC Doctoral School on Common Security and Defence Policy**

*The Board endorsed the following institutions as new members for the ESDC Doctoral School on Common Security and Defence Policy:*

*- University of Pitesti, Romania*

*- University of Patras, Greece*

*- University of Amsterdam, Netherlands*

## **10. Additional activities proposed to be included in calendar year 2023**

*The Board gave its endorsement to the following additional activities put forward by the respective training institutions. It was unanimously agreed to advise the Steering Committee to approve these activities:*

*- Diplomatic skills for CSDP Course focus on Eastern Partnership countries, 16-20 October 2023, Cyprus Security and Defence Academy – University of Nicosia (Larnaca).*

- *The Legal Framework of Defence Related EU Policy making Seminar, pilot activity, 13 – 17 November 2023, Ministry of Defence/Helmut Schmidt University (Hamburg).*
- *Common Module on Space Applications for Security and Defence, mid-November to mid-December 2023, Hellenic Air force Academy (Athens).*
- *European Union Military Academies Commandants Seminar, 8-10 November 2023, Spanish Air Force Academy (San Javier).*

## **11. Evaluation reports of recent ESDC training activities**

*The Board reviewed and endorsed the evaluation reports of the following pilot course. After careful consideration, it was unanimously agreed to advise the Steering Committee to approve it as a standard ESDC course:*

- *2023-106 Evaluation Report EU History and Core Values PILOT course, 13-17 March 2023, Lisbon.*

*The Board reviewed and endorsed the following evaluation reports:*

- *2023-071 Evaluation Report Common Module on Budget & Finance in the EU Defence Sector, 27-31 March 2023, Thessaloniki.*
- *2023-078 Evaluation Report Common Module on Unmanned Air Systems, 27-31 March 2023, Athens.*
- *2023-084 Evaluation Report CM Challenges of Securing Maritime Areas for the EU, 27-31 March 2023, Athens.*
- *2023-104 Evaluation report Senior Strategic Course Module 1, 30 January -01 February 2023, Brussels.*
- *2023-105 Evaluation report Senior Strategic Course Module 2, 27-28 February 2023, Berlin.*
- *2023-118 Evaluation Report the challenges of Space for EU and CSDP, 14-16 February 2023, Paris.*
- *2023-120 Evaluation report Diplomatic Skills for CSDP, 27-31 March 2023, Larnaca.*
- *2023-124 Evaluation report Advance Modular Training Module 1, 24-28 April 2023, Brussels.*
- *2023-013 Evaluation Report Cyber Diplomacy Advanced course, Portugal National Defence Institute, 17-19 January 2023, Brussels.*
- *2023-016 Evaluation Report Cybersecurity and International Law, University of Lodz of Poland, 23-25 January 2023, Brussels.*
- *2023-086 Evaluation Report Cyber Defence Policy on National and International levels course, Baltic Defence College, 20-24 March 2023; Tartu.*
- *2023-101 Evaluation Report Cyber Range – Cybersecurity in Practice, Cyber Security Training Centre of Excellence (CSTCoE), 21-23 March 2023, Warsaw.*

## **12. Exchange of views with the new Chair and the chairs of the configurations on futures developments concerning the EAB.**

*After the introductory remarks by Mr. Philipp Agathonos, the newly appointed chair of the EAB, the members of the EAB engaged in a dynamic and productive exchange of views. The topics discussed included the functioning of the Board, transparency, ethical standards, code of conduct, and the number of EAB configurations. Mr. Agathonos emphasized the importance of ensuring that all ESDC activities are adequately represented within the configurations and that the civil-military nature of the College is appropriately reflected.*

*The discussion on these matters will be continued during the next meeting of the Board. The Chair intends to propose new configurations, particularly focused on civilian crisis management, climate change and security, and environmental peacebuilding.*

## **13. Technical extension of the chairs of EUMSSF, EAB Cyber, ESDC Doctoral School and European initiative on the exchange of young officers Implementation Group.**

*After a fruitful and productive discussion regarding the proposed technical extension of the four chairs until October 6th, 2023, the Chair of EAB Military Erasmus proposed amending the agenda item by removing the word "Technical" from the title. This proposal received a majority of support from the Board. Following this, a vote was conducted on the prolongation of mandates for the EUMSSF, EAB Cyber, ESDC Doctoral School, and the European initiative on the exchange of young officers Implementation Group for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.*

*The Board unanimously endorsed the following mandate prolongations:*

*- Dr. Stavros Stavrou (Open University of Cyprus) as Chair of the EAB Cyber for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.*

*- Prof. Foteini Asderaki (University of Piraeus, Greece) as Chair of the ESDC Doctoral School on CSDP configuration for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.*

*- Col. Harald Gell (Theresian Military Academy, Austria) as Chair of the configuration of the European initiative on the exchange of young officers Implementation Group for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.*

*- Lt. Col. Symeon Zambas (Cyprus MoD) as Chair of the EAB EUMSSF for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.*

*The Board advises the Steering Committee to approve this recommendation.*

## **14. Evaluation Report of CSDP High-Level Course 2021/2022 'Walter Hallstein' and State of Play of CSDP High-Level Course 2022/2023 'Otto von Habsburg'**

The ESDC Secretariat provided the Board with updates on the most recent HLC courses:

*- CSDP High-Level Course 2021/2022 'Walter Hallstein': The ESDC presented the evaluation report for the CSDP High-Level Course 'Walter Hallstein' conducted during the 2021/2022*

period. The report detailed the course's objectives, methodologies, participant feedback, and overall outcomes. Key findings and recommendations from the evaluation report were shared with the Board for their consideration and further action.

- CSDP High-Level Course 2022/2023 'Otto von Habsburg': The ESDC Secretariat provided the Board with the latest updates and final results of the CSDP High-Level Course 'Otto von Habsburg,' which took place during the 2022/2023 academic year. The state of play report highlighted the course's progress, achievements, participant engagement, and any noteworthy developments or challenges encountered.

These updates allowed the Board to stay informed about the evaluation of the 'Walter Hallstein' course and to gain insights into the current status and outcomes of the 'Otto von Habsburg' course.

**15. Assessment of ESDC Modular Courses Due to time constraints, this agenda point was postponed to the next EAB.**

Points for the Agenda of the EAB Meeting on September 12, 2023 No specific points were noted for inclusion in the agenda of the upcoming EAB Meeting on September 12, 2023.

**16. Any other business**

- The representative of the Defence Institution Building School (DIBS) of Georgia informed the Board about their plan to organize a Security Sector Reform Basic course towards the end of 2023. This course is expected to be held in collaboration with the Italian Post Conflict Operations Study Centre. Additionally, the representative mentioned the intention to conduct a pilot course on Energy Security in 2024. The EAB supported these initiatives.

- The representative of the National Intelligence Academy (Mihai Viteazul) from Romania provided an update to the Board regarding the upcoming pilot edition of the Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) course. The course is scheduled to take place in Brussels from December 4th to 8th, 2023. It was previously announced during the February 2023 EAB meeting, and it will be included as an additional activity for the 2023 budgetary year.

- The representative of the National Intelligence Academy (Mihai Viteazul) from Romania presented an initiative to align two of its postdoctoral research topics with the areas of European Security and Defence that are of relevance. This proposal is in accordance with the objectives of the ESDC Doctoral School, which aims to create a framework for post-doctoral research activities.

- The representative of the National Defence Institute of Portugal shared with the Board their offer to organize several courses. These include:

- "The Challenges of European Cybersecurity" course, scheduled for the third week of September in both 2024 and 2025. These courses will be conducted online.
- "Orientation Course," planned to take place from November 27th to 30th, 2023, in Lisbon with in-person participation.

- "Cyber Diplomacy" course, tentatively set for the third week of January 2024 in Brussels. Confirmation of this course will be made in coordination with their French colleagues from HIEDN.
  - The fourth module of the High-Level Course 2024-2025, which is planned to be held in Lisbon (June 2025).
- It was clarified that for the current budgetary year, there will be no costs involved from the ESDC. The determination of the specific topics will be carried out through consultations with the ESDC and the EEAS to ensure their alignment with the strategic priorities and objectives of the European Union in the field of security and defence.
- Please note that this is a final reminder for EAB members who have not yet updated their contact details in the ESDC EAB Members Contact List Update. We kindly request those members to complete the update process by July 15, 2023.
- After the aforementioned date, any EAB members who have not updated their contact details will be removed from the EAB email list, and their contact information will be deleted. Ensuring the accuracy of the contact list is essential for maintaining effective communication within the EAB.

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Executive Academic Board work plan (planned meetings) for the academic years 2023/2024

*12 September 2023, Brussels*

*16 November 2023, Brussels*

*21-22 February 2024, Brussels*

*21 June 2024, Thessaloniki*

**For information only**

Steering Committee work plan (planned meetings) for the academic years 2022/2023-2023/2024

*07 July 2023*

*06 October 2023*

*08 December 2023*

*22 March 2024*