

Reference:

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## REACH & DEFENCE

# Challenges and perspectives for strengthening European military capabilities

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Industry Strategy and EU Policies (ISP) Unit

6th ESA REACH Workshop  
17 June 2025



# EDA - Who we are & What we do



**Intergovernmental Agency**  
of the Council of the European  
Union



**Established in 2004**  
Based in Brussels

## DESIGNED TO BE

1 Main  
intergovernmental  
**prioritisation  
instrument**  
at EU level in support  
of defence capability  
development

2 Preferred  
**cooperation  
forum**  
for technology and  
capability  
development

3 **Military  
interface**  
between Member  
States and EU wider  
policies



**EDA Steering  
Board**  
27 Defence  
Ministers

chaired by



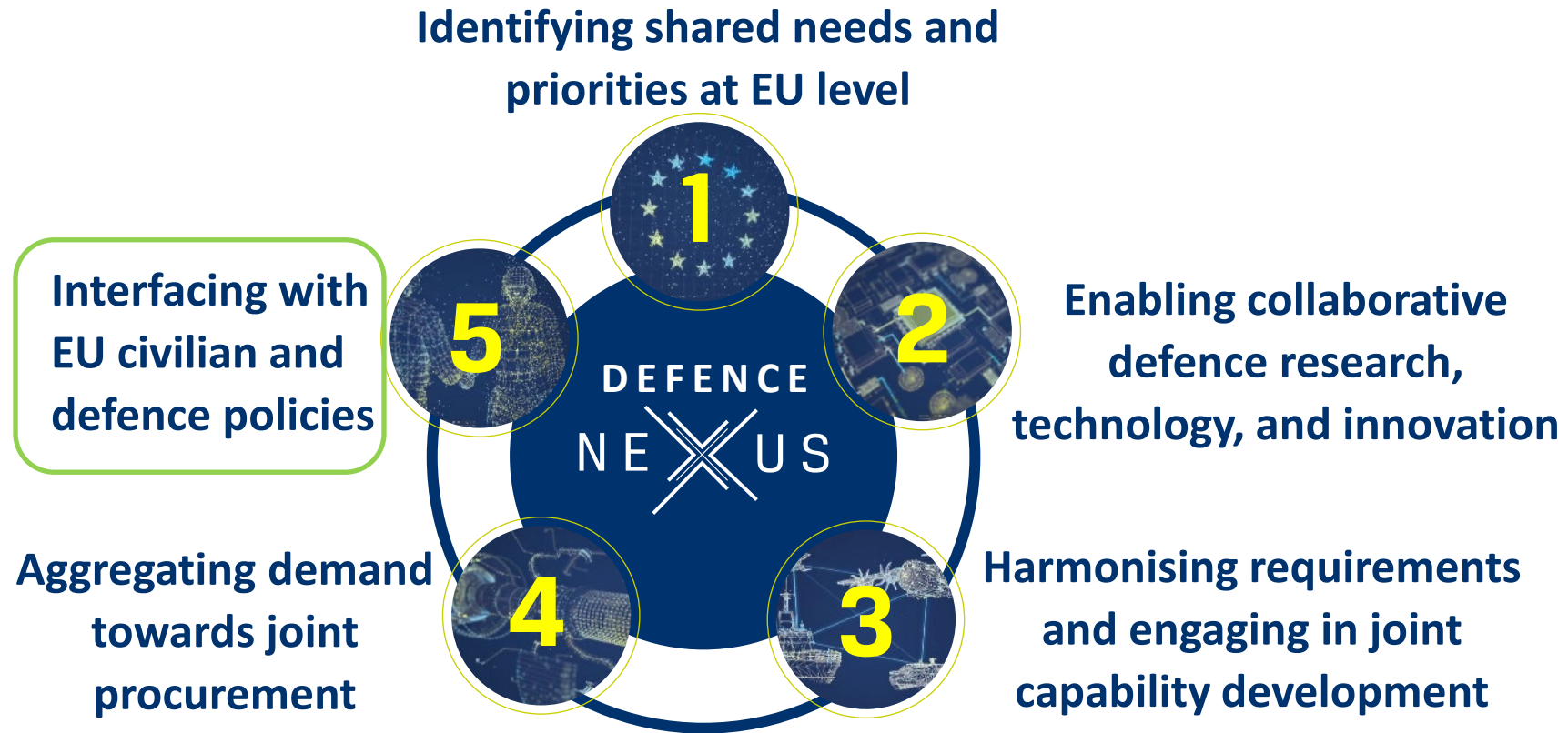
**Kaja Kallas**  
Head of European  
Defence Agency,  
HR/VP



**EDA Chief  
Executive**  
André Denk

# EDA priority workstrands

2024 Long-Term Review - EDA's reinforced mandate and Core Tasks



**LEVERAGING SYNERGIES WITH  
EU STAKEHOLDERS**



**DEVELOPING COOPERATION  
WITH THIRD PARTIES & NATO**

# EDA REACH+ Activities - Objectives



Central role in defence-related REACH+ matters &  
Forum for structured dialogue with key stakeholders

## AIM

- ▶ Establish **best practices/common understanding** in REACH implementation
- ▶ Support the main purpose of REACH while **mitigating** its impact on defence and **ensuring the operational effectiveness** of the European Armed Forces
- ▶ Facilitate **common coordinated actions**, in close cooperation with the Commission, ECHA and industry
- ▶ Support **harmonisation** and transparency of national defence exemption procedures



**Since**  
2009



**Participating Countries**  
All 27 EDA participating  
Member States + Norway



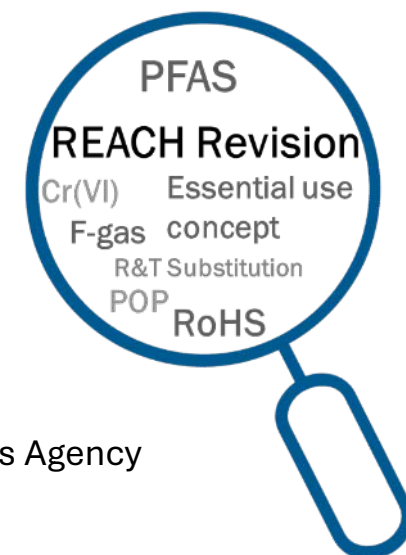
**Partners**  
European Commission, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), European Space Agency (ESA)



**EDA REACH Task Force**  
REACH/defence experts from **11 MS + NO** supporting EDA's work at technical level



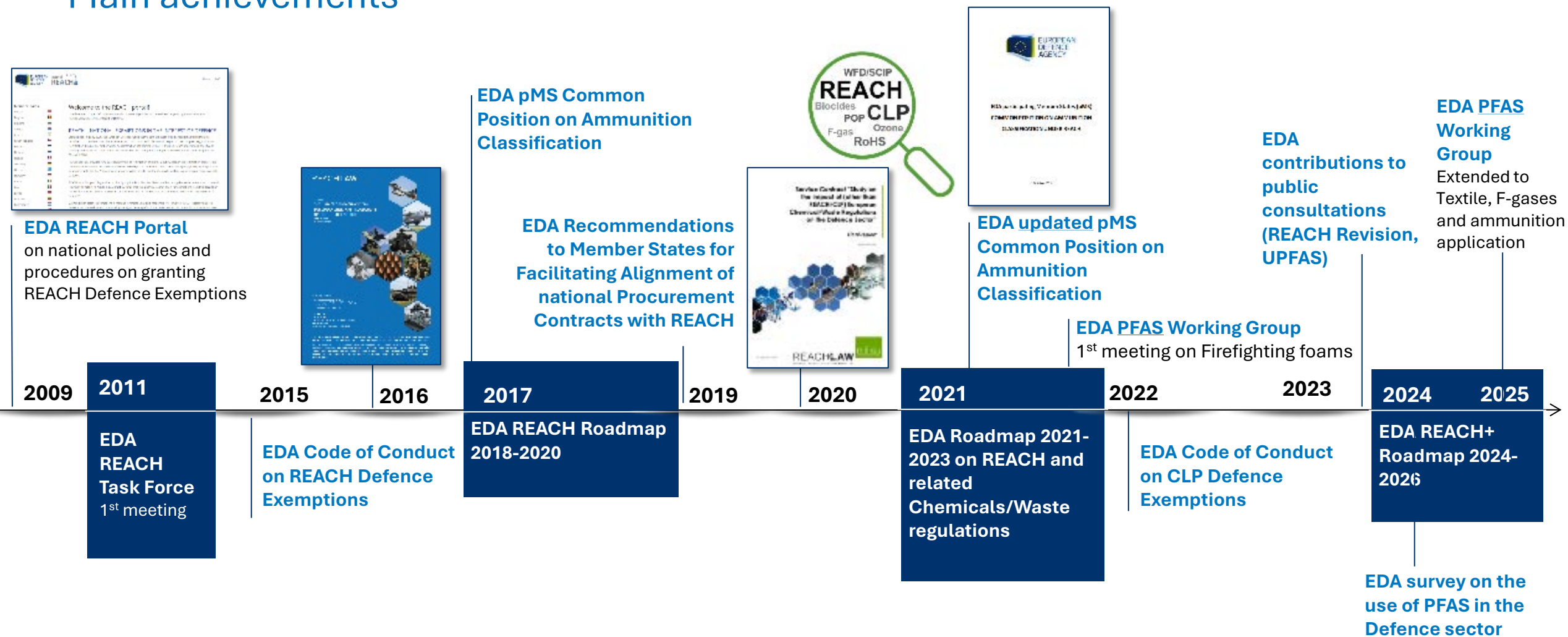
**REACH+ Roadmap 2024-2026**



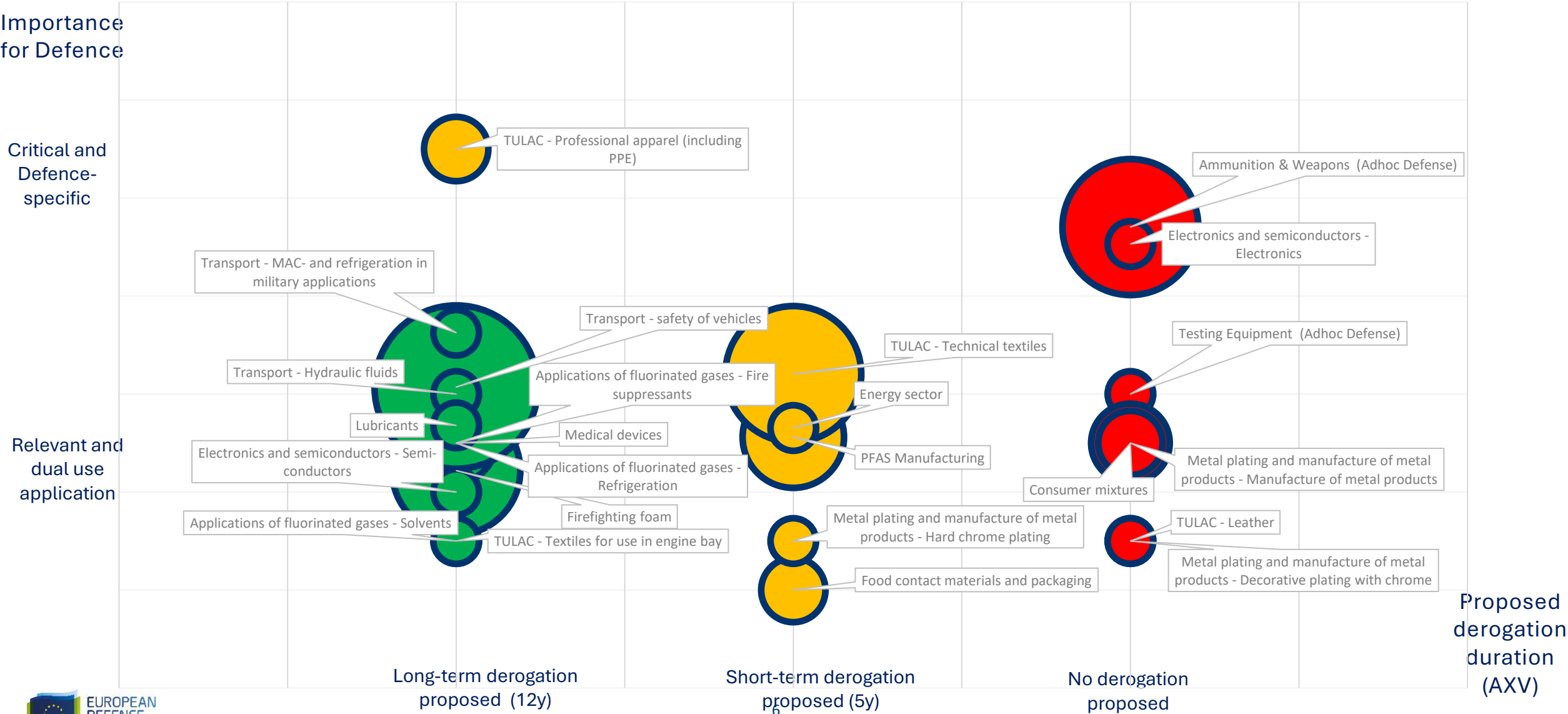


# EDA REACH+ Activities

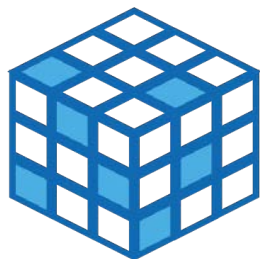
## Main achievements



# EDA survey on the use of PFAS in the Defence sector (2024)



# EDA activities on PFAS



DEFINE THE SCOPE  
OF WORK



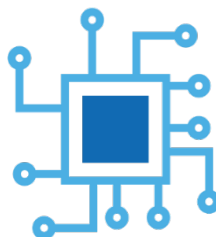
IDENTIFY RELATED  
STANDARDS/REQUIREMENTS



IDENTIFY DEFENCE  
USES AND  
SPECIFICITIES



SHARE NATIONAL INITIATIVES  
AND EXPERIENCES  
(RESEARCH, TESTING ETC.)



DISCUSS TRANSITION  
CHALLENGES

Obj 1

**Raising awareness and  
discussing details of PFAS  
restriction proposals with  
Member States's experts**

Obj 2

**Strengthen research efforts  
to develop adequate  
solutions for Defence  
applications**



Firefighting foams



Fluorinated gases



Military textiles

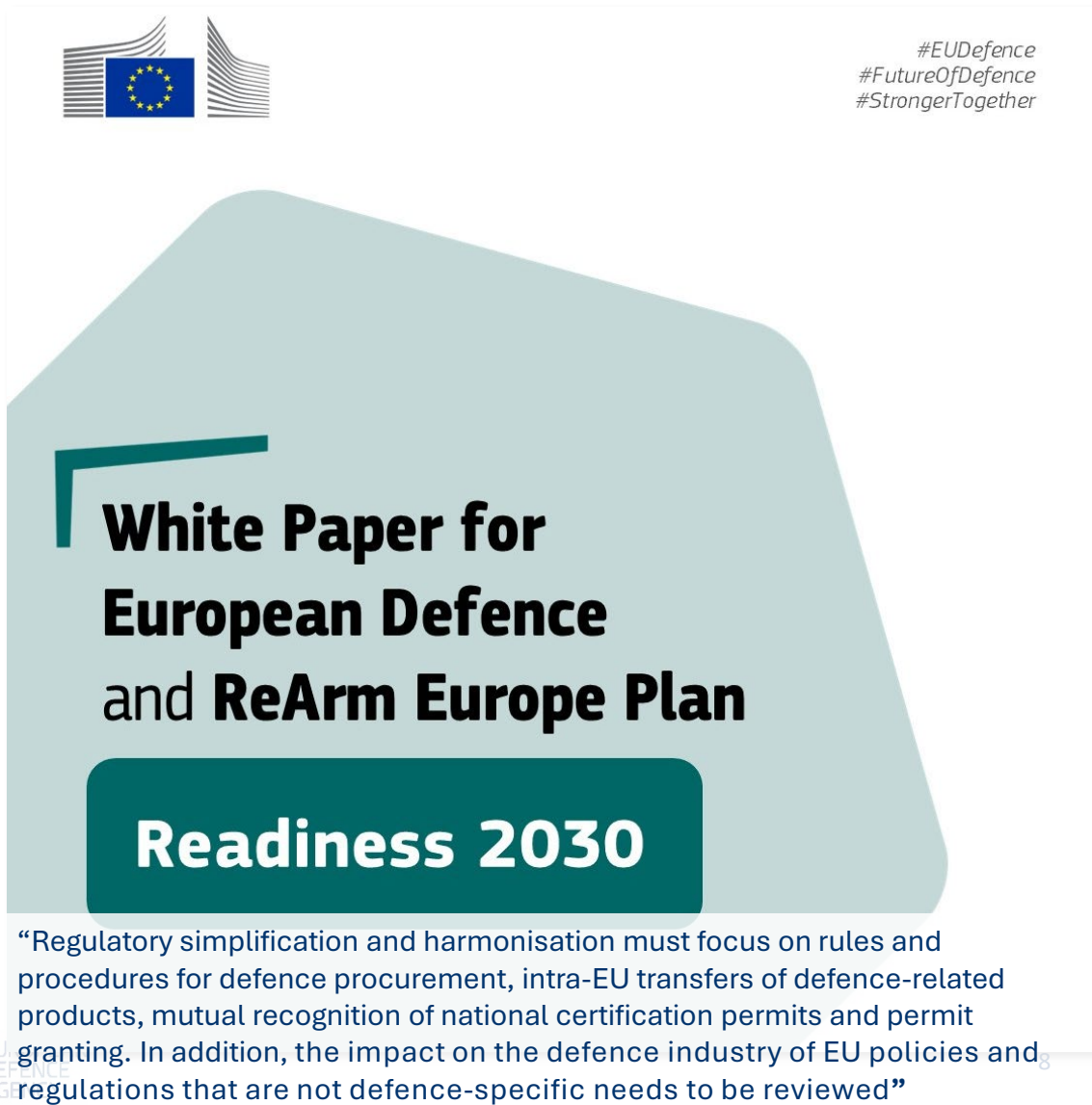



Ammunition and  
Weapons systems



# New EU initiatives

## Implications for the Defence domain




 #EUDefence  
#FutureOfDefence  
#StrongerTogether

### White Paper for European Defence and **ReArm Europe Plan**

## Readiness 2030

“Regulatory simplification and harmonisation must focus on rules and procedures for defence procurement, intra-EU transfers of defence-related products, mutual recognition of national certification permits and permit granting. In addition, the impact on the defence industry of EU policies and regulations that are not defence-specific needs to be reviewed”



# Chemicals Industry Package

Timetable and key milestones 2025

Henrik Laursen, DG ENV



## Commission hosts a High-Level Meeting on the upcoming Chemicals Industry Package

Today, Executive Vice-President Stéphane **Séjourné** and Commissioner Jessika **Roswall** have convened key stakeholders across the chemical sector value chain to exchange views on the upcoming Chemicals Industry Package. The discussion will help to prepare targeted initiatives to enhance the sector's competitiveness, modernisation as well as support production and innovation across Europe, while ensuring a high level of protection of human health and the environment.

# REACH and Defence

Key aspects for enhancing EU military step up

Enhancing the consideration  
**OF DEFENCE CONCERNS**  
in the chemicals regulatory process

## **DEFENCE EXEMPTION**

a limited and temporary solution which does not ensure the availability on the market of a dual-use substance

Enhancing consideration of  
**LONG-TERM PROVISIONS**  
to safeguard Defence Repair and Maintenance activities

## **SECURITY OF SUPPLY**

maintaining european chemicals supply chain to enhance the European strategic autonomy

# Main takeaways / conclusion

- EDA is supporting the continuous effort **of MS to comply with REACH+ regulations** while maintaining the operational effectiveness of the EU Armed Forces.
- The **exchange of information** on regulatory developments within different sectors is crucial to identify direct and indirect impacts:
  - EDA maintains close coordination with all involved stakeholders at EU (EC, ECHA, ESA, EU industry associations/ASD) and national (MS Competent Authorities, National Defence Industry Associations) levels.
  - **16th EDA REACH Plenary Meeting** in Brussels : **22 October 2025** (Day open to Industry)
- The potential impacts stemming from the **restriction proposals on PFAS, Chromium(VI) substances and the proposed REACH revision** are of major concerns for the European Defence sector.
- **EDA's role with MS to:**
  - provide comprehensive evidences for early screening (prior to RMOA)
  - Further assessment on critical chemicals for Defence (Security of Supply / Key Strategic Activities)
  - Strengthen R&D for safer substitute



Thank you for  
your attention!

Any questions?