

THE SMART DEFENCE CONCEPT – A NEW APPROACH OF COMMON DEFENCE WITHIN NATO

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“I know that in an age of austerity, we cannot spend more. But neither should we spend less. So the answer is to spend better. And to get better value for money. To help nations to preserve capabilities and to deliver new ones. This means we must prioritize, we must specialize, and we must seek multinational solutions. Taken together, this is what I call Smart Defence.”

NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen
30 September 2011

The Smart Defence concept was introduced in the NATO policy in a time when the Alliance is confronted with new challenges generated by the global economic crisis, a lack of balance in the participation of the member states in the financing of common operations, threats coming from states that do not adhere to nuclear non-proliferation treaties, as well as the emergence of new state actors at the global level.

By implementing the Smart Defence concept, the Alliance intends to adapt its own means of generating critical capabilities in accordance with the pooling and sharing paradigm, implemented with the European Union, an initiative that might lead to stronger cooperation between the two organisms and to a more efficient use of shared capabilities.

Bringing to an end successfully the programs based on the Smart Defence concept that are currently unfolding will be a positive example for promoting the idea, as well as a contribution to expanding similar projects within the Alliance.

Key words: *smart Defence; pooling and sharing; shared Defence; NATO critical capabilities; AGS System; missile shield.*

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