



#EUdefence

## DEFENDING EUROPE: *Improving Military Mobility in the European Union*



**"By 2025 we need a fully-fledged European Defence Union."**

President Juncker, State of the Union Address, September 2017

Creating a fully-fledged European Defence Union by 2025 is imperative to Europe's security and to build a **Union that protects**. A smooth, efficient and effective movement of military personnel and assets across and beyond the EU will enhance the EU's preparedness and response to crises. It will enable EU Member States to act faster, in line with their defence needs and responsibilities, both in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations, and in the framework of national and multinational activities. Currently, cross-border mobility is still hampered by a number of barriers that can lead to delays, disruption, higher costs or increased vulnerability.

### EXISTING BARRIERS TO MILITARY MOBILITY:



#### Infrastructure not suitable for the weight or size of military assets

Insufficient height or load capacity of bridges, insufficient load capacity of rail



#### Regulatory and procedural issues

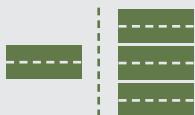
Lengthy and complex procedures, including customs formalities related to military operations, diverging national rules on the transport of dangerous goods in the military domain

### ACTIONS IDENTIFIED:

With the **Action Plan on Military Mobility**, the EU aims to tackle these barriers and facilitate military mobility through concrete measures in a number of areas, in full complementarity with relevant actors, such as NATO, and in coordination with efforts under the Permanent Structured Cooperation. This Action Plan is a follow-up to the Joint Communication on military mobility from November 2017.



Definition of **military requirements** at the European level.



Identification of the sections of the trans-European transport network suitable for military transport, including necessary upgrades of existing infrastructure. The aim is to reinforce **civilian and military synergies**. It is not a question of prioritising one at the expense of another.



Explore the opportunity of a dedicated EU financial support for **dual use civilian-military infrastructure projects**.



**Streamlining and simplifying rules** related to customs, and the transport of dangerous goods.



Support Member States in developing arrangements for **cross-border movement permissions**.

## TAKING WORK FORWARD THROUGH COOPERATION

Working closely with EU Member States, including all their relevant actors, is key for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. All actions will be carried out in full respect of the sovereignty of the Member States over their national territory and decision-making processes related to military movements. Steps will also be taken to enhance cooperation between EU institutions, agencies and bodies and the relevant national EU Member State authorities. Close coordination with Member States' efforts under the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the separate PESCO project on military mobility will also be ensured to reach complementarity of results.

Further cooperation with NATO on military mobility, in the framework of the implementation of the Joint Declaration is key and will be taken forward in full openness and transparency.

## THE WAY FORWARD:

- **By mid 2018:** Member States will validate **military requirements, including for military transport**.
- The European Defence Agency will prepare cooperative projects in the field of customs and cross-border movement permission.
- **By end 2018:** The Commission will explore options for streamlining and simplifying customs formalities.
- **By 2019:** The Commission will draw up a list of priority **dual-use infrastructure projects**. Their cost will be quantified.
- **Summer 2019:** First progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan