



# Invitation

## Impact of Disruptive Technologies on Defence Conference

**Porto, 20 April 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Portuguese Ministry of National Defence and the European Defence Agency (EDA) will organise a research and technology conference entitled *“Impact of Disruptive Technologies on Defence”*. The conference will take place on 20 April 2021, in a hybrid format due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Physical participation in Porto for speakers and panel members only, and virtual participation for the audience.

High-level representatives from Ministries of Defence, defence research centres, industry and European institutions and NATO will discuss how emerging and disruptive technologies will impact defence capabilities, as well as how they can be rapidly integrated in Member States armed forces.

Artificial intelligence and autonomous systems are notable examples of disruptive technologies which have been selected for a dedicated discussion. After keynote speeches and discussion sessions, participants will be able to visit a digital exhibition of EDA research and technology activities, showcasing various Member States' successful cooperation projects. Similarly, a digital exhibition on Portugal research and technology activities, related to the conference theme, will be presented.

We are convinced that this conference will provide an interesting overview of EDA's central role in European defence research and the need for the Union to broaden investment in innovative and disruptive technologies to support state-of-the-art defence capabilities. We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend.

The registration will be limited, in principle, to two representatives per entity due to the constraints of the virtual platform, and granted by considering the relevance of the requests for participation to the scope and the objective of the conference. Registration for the conference should be done via the following link: [Registration – R&T Conference \(eufdefenceresearch2021.com\)](https://eufdefenceresearch2021.com). Registration will close on **Thursday, 1 April 2021**.

Yours faithfully,

João Gomes Cravinho  
Minister of Defence of Portugal

Jiří Šedivý  
EDA Chief Executive