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EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

Director Industry & Market

17-23 Rue des Drapiers
1050 Brussels
Tel: +32-2.504.2940
Fax: +32-2.504.2945
e-mail: iandm@eda.europa.eu

To Dr Marius-Eugen Opran
EESC/Member of the Executive Bureau

Copy to Prof Henri Malosse
EESC/President of the Employers' Group

SUBJECT: "A Strategy for a Stronger and more competitive European Defence Industry"

Dear Dr Opran,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12 September 2009 and your brochure on "A Strategy for a stronger and more competitive EU Defence Industry" which was initially brought to our attention on 16 July 2009 by Professor Malosse.

In this brochure you present a very comprehensive and imaginative view on the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base. We will have it in mind in our work and hence appreciate very much your IPR-related offer.

Let me mention that some of the issues you address are already on our agenda. In this regard we could for example mention the "Collective Benchmarks" approved by the Steering Board of the Agency on 19 November 2007 where our participating Member States agreed to collectively spend at least 2% of their total defence expenditures on Research and Technology and at least 20% on collaborative research.

Another outcome of the Agency's work is the "Strategy for the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base" approved by the Steering Board on 14 May 2007.

With regard to your proposal on creating an enhanced co-operation between the EDA and OCCAR, let me inform you that we are already well advanced in a process of negotiating a formal Administrative Arrangement to govern our co-operation.

Let me conclude by thanking you once more for your initiative and dedication to enrich the debate about possible measures to strengthen the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.

Sincerely,

Arturo Alfonso-Meiriño