



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
to : Delegations

Subject : European Security Research & Innovation Forum (ESRIF)

Delegations will find attached a note from ESRIF Chair in view of the presentation of the ESRIF final report at the forthcoming JHA Council in Luxembourg on 6 April 2009.

The intermediate report (September 2008) can be found on the ESRIF website :

<http://www.esrif.eu>



Note from ESRIF Chair to the JHA Council

The European Security Research and Innovation Forum (ESRIF) was established by European Member States in September 2007 upon the recommendation of its predecessor, the European Security Research Advisory Board (ESRAB). There are more than 600 participants in ESRIF working on a voluntary basis representing end-users, suppliers and civil society. ESRIF seeks to inform security policy rather than define it.

Building on the expert contribution of its members, ESRIF's objective is to write a strategic plan, to 2030, for security research and innovation, known as the European Security Research and Innovation Agenda (ESRIA). The purpose of this agenda is twofold; firstly, to develop a research and innovation agenda that will contribute to the security of citizens, infrastructure and borders as well as enhancing Europe's capacity to deal with crisis. Secondly, the plan focuses on competitiveness, innovation with a view to positioning the Europe as a global leader in the security market.

ESRIF, using scenario based forecasting, has examined threats and challenges over the next twenty years. Security threats, such as terrorism and organised crime are addressed, as are the security implications of natural threats, e.g. climate change. This analysis has informed the ESRIA with regard to security research and market needs over the timeframe.

ESRIF understands, however, that it is not possible to predict or address every possible threat that may arise in the future. Europe's citizens are key actors in security and rely on certain infrastructures (borders, transport, energy, financial etc.) to support their way of life. Prevention and protection remain key security objectives, but ESRIF considers that Europe needs security research and innovation to support societal resilience. Security and society is a value based relationship – we secure only what we value. The importance of trust in this relationship is emphasised by ESRIF.

The security market in Europe relies on research and innovation to bring products to market. ESRIF considers that there are key issues to be addressed within the market if Europe is to secure its place as a global leader in this domain. The agility and dynamism of SME's are imperative to market energy and growth. Strategic investments in technology, such as earth observation technology, are critical to sustainability, particularly in the context of biodiversity necessary for water, food, health and agriculture security. Interoperability is crucial from both an institutional as well as technological perspective. The ESRIA also suggests the need for organising the market and supporting competitiveness through common industry policies.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) underpins many of the societal systems in operation today. ICT will continue to evolve much quicker than other.

However, ESRIF does not consider that ESRIA should focus only on technology and includes regulatory frameworks, procedures, processes and organisation within its scope. The ESRIA places particular emphasis on society itself and stresses the importance of communication, education and training in security, empowering all actors in this domain, notably citizens themselves. Maintaining a systematic approach to security by having a broad and holistic understanding of security and linking with national and international research and innovation initiatives is imperative.

The messages of the ESRIA have strategic focus on a long term vision for security research and innovation. To be relevant over the timeframe is a challenge and requires ongoing, systematic reviews of the ESRIA taking account of changing security, economic and social contexts and adapting the priorities for research and innovation as necessary. These reviews must also coordinate and engage with all security actors to align their respective initiatives and requirements with a view to maximising the impact, dissemination and exploitation of results.

ESRIF recommends the establishment of a formal process, mandated to conduct this review. The process must guarantee accountability by publishing ongoing plans for security research emulating the basic values of ESRIF itself; expert contribution, cross – society dialogue, transparency and innovation.

Dragutin MATE

ESRIF Chairman

Ljubljana, 23 March 2009