

4th NATO CYBER DEFENCE SMART DEFENCE PROJECTS' CONFERENCE

PORTUGAL – Military Academy, 19 April 2018

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Your Excellences

Admirals, Generals,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Guests,

As the 4th NATO Cyber Defence Smart Defence Projects Conference is coming to a close, let me draw a brief summary of this rich and very dense day of presentations and discussions.

The Portuguese MoD opened the event. *After warmly welcoming all participants, he presented a comprehensive overview of the cyberspace political and strategic international framework. He stressed the importance of synergies and cooperation in Cyber Defence in the context of a rapidly evolving threat landscape.*

During the first round table, speakers exchanged views on NATO-EU cooperation in Cyber Defence and considered the risk of duplication of both capability building and strategy/planning efforts. They agreed that the 2016 NATO/EU Joint Declaration creates the conditions for complementarity rather than duplication, and has already led to concrete and fruitful collaborative initiatives.

The first panel highlighted the essential role of Smart Defence and Pooling and Sharing initiatives to foster synergies and international cooperation on Cyber Defence. *Based on current examples of collaborative projects, such as MISP, MNCD2, MNCDE&T, CDTEXP, the Cyber Range Federation or the Cyber Defence Strategic Agenda, they showed how these cooperative concepts can efficiently meet NATO requirements to generate modern defence capabilities in a more cost-efficient, effective and coherent manner. They also shared views and ideas for improving NATO-EU cooperation in this field.*

The **second panel** raised human resources issues, as speakers discussed efficient and innovative ways to educate and train tomorrow' cyber workforce. *They considered how innovative E&T models can address the cyber competences gap and can contribute to the development of highly skilled staff, by adapting and transforming the content and delivery means of E&T courses. They highlighted the need for cheap, flexible and up-to-date training blocks to reach out to the largest audience possible including the under-represented, and agreed that integrated, comprehensive and encompassing approaches are essential to foster a committed community.*

These very rich debates took us to a well-deserved yet very productive lunch break which was an occasion for many of us to further discuss these issues in a more informal environment.

When we reconvened after lunch, the second round table launched the afternoon session with an analysis of the impact of the digital age of C4ISR and cyber, and the benefits of NATO-EU cooperation in this context. *Speakers provided a thoughtful insight on the resilience challenges the digital age imposes on military organizations, and explained how EU and NATO can contribute to address them.*

Following on, the third panel dedicated to Cyber Defence capacity building was given the hard task to suggest possible solutions to develop and enhance quickly a solid cyber defence capability. *They made a series of sound recommendations.*

The last but not least interesting debate tackled the essential question of the Academia and Industry relationship. *Participants all agreed that Academia/research and Industry/private actors must work closely together through collaborative projects and processes, in order to generate the innovative solutions that can adequately answer States' Cyber Defence requirements, such as The Cyber Academia and Innovation Hub.*

Like previous editions of the NATO CD SDP Conference, our discussions today allowed to achieve our objectives and to contribute to facilitate cooperation and collaborations between NATO Cyber Defence Smart Defence Projects and EU Pooling and Sharing initiatives, as well as to reinforce the links between the Cyber Defence Community.

Once again, the diversity and scope of participants' knowledge, profiles and expertise - from civilian to military backgrounds, from government to private sectors, from national to International participants, was key to address all aspects of this year's themes.

We now hope that our achievements today contributed to reinforcing synergies and cooperation Member States and to the overall objective of fostering a more secure cyberspace.

I wish you all a safe trip back home.

Lt Col Luis Salomão de Carvalho,
MNCDE&T Project Team