

## PRESS RELEASE

### Commission contribution to European Defence : an important step towards the European Defence implementation

March 2022

On February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022, the European Commission issued a Communication regarding the [Commission contribution to European Defence](#) and its related [Roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence](#).

SEA Naval, a SEA Europe working group representing the interests of European naval shipyards' integrators, **widely welcomes the Commission Communication**, which sets a high level of ambition for European Defence.

This communication clearly states the ongoing initiatives and future ambitions of the European Commission in the field of Defence and Security, with the aim to substantially increase the European capability to defend itself, strengthen EU Defence capabilities while connecting and consolidating the collaboration with other partners such as NATO. This exercise offers a broad vision of the current and future EU initiatives related to Defence and Security in a complex and evolving environment in which the EU needs to step up in order to maintain and further its position as global power.

Willem Laros, SEA Naval Chairman, declared : *“The Commission Communication on Defence and Security represents a strong basis to strengthen the European strategic and technological autonomy. The current geopolitical environment, challenges and threats that Europe is facing definitely reinforces the need to reach a more autonomous, resilient and stronger European Defence.”*

More specifically, the willingness to incentivise the Member States joint procurement of defence assets, to enhance the synergies between civilian and military for dual-use R&I and to reinforce the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) is a concrete step forward to strengthen the competitiveness and the resilience of the European defence market in a global perspective. Nevertheless, this high level of ambition implies a continuous support and an adequate budget, as well as the full commitment of Member States and industries – including maritime ones.

Mr Laros continued: *“In the past years, the undoubted and welcomed success of the European Defence Fund and its preparatory programmes PADR and EDIDP demonstrates the high-demand for EU-wide financing programmes for Defence. These programmes have had positive results for Research and Development so far, and it is*

*now crucial to broaden the scope to industrialization and capabilities in a comprehensive way, in order to materialize the efforts undertaken over the years.”*

*“It is vital to ensure that the EU and the Member States have the means to properly finance their own Defence in order to protect the EU borders, including maritime ones: Europe is a sea-oriented continent. Thus, the naval dimension will be crucial for Europe to ensure their own security. SEA Naval and its members, as naval shipyards’ integrators, are fully committed to assist the European Commission, its Member States and other relevant European institutions in that ambition” concluded Mr. Laros.*

#### **About SEA Naval :**

*SEA Naval is a permanent working group of SEA Europe representing the interests of the European naval shipyards’ integrators under the umbrella of SEA Europe. SEA Naval provides a forum for the European Naval industry to discuss matters of common interest to the naval sector. Thereupon, the Group supports European institutions and its Member States with expertise when needed and organises joint participation in EU-funded projects. SEA Naval members represent nearly 90% of naval systems integrators and shipyards in Europe.*

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