



NATO Parliamentary Assembly

RESOLUTION 443

on

MAINTAINING NATO'S TECHNOLOGICAL EDGE*

The Assembly,

1. **Recognising** that NATO finds itself in a new and dynamic strategic reality, marked by growing uncertainty, instability, and risks, as well as by a mix of asymmetric and conventional security challenges;
2. **Faced** with an era of rapid technological change, characterised by a shifting science and technology landscape and emerging technologies with the potential to disrupt the global strategic balance;
3. **Taking note** that advanced military and dual-use high-end technologies are proliferating and accessible to an ever-growing number of states and non-state actors;
4. **Acknowledging** that the civilian sector increasingly drives discoveries and innovation with relevance to the defence sector;
5. **Noting** that armed forces often struggle to keep up with the pace of innovation or to leverage innovation effectively and quickly;
6. **Underlining** that today's defence research and development (R&D) lies at the heart of preserving tomorrow's credibility and freedom of action, but **worried** that NATO's technological edge is eroding;
7. **Stressing** that effective defence R&D and innovation rely on adequate and sustained investment as well as organisational adaptation;
8. **Regretting** that defence R&D budgets fell or stagnated in the Alliance after the financial crisis of 2007/2008, but **welcoming** recent budget increases in many NATO member states;
9. **Appreciating** recent defence R&D and innovation initiatives in many NATO member states;

* Presented by the Science and Technology Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 9 October 2017, Bucharest, Romania

10. **Valuing** the crucial roles played in maintaining NATO's technological edge by Allied Command Transformation, the Conference of National Armament Directors, the Defence Investment Division, the NATO Industrial Advisory Group, the Science and Technology Organization and other NATO structures;
 11. **Supporting** NATO's novel efforts, under the auspices of the Conference of National Armament Directors, to promote and facilitate innovation within the Alliance and among Allies;
 12. **Welcoming** the European Union's efforts to establish a European Defence Fund, which could become a crucial part in rebuilding the European pillar of NATO, especially in defence R&D, and lead to fairer burden sharing in the Alliance;
 13. **Stressing** that European defence efforts, including on R&D, must not compete with or duplicate NATO efforts;
 14. **Underlining** that insufficient information sharing and coordination on defence R&D and innovation initiatives could lead to inefficiencies, initiatives at odds with each other, additional technological gaps and interoperability problems within the Alliance and among Allies;
 15. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to live up to the Wales Defence Investment Pledge and move towards spending a minimum of 2% of Gross Domestic Product on defence and more than 20% of defence budgets on major equipment, including related R&D;
 - b. to adapt defence R&D and innovation to current and future strategic and technological realities;
 - c. to share more information on defence R&D and innovation initiatives within the Alliance, among Allies and with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly;
 - d. to improve coordination of defence R&D and innovation initiatives within the Alliance and among Allies;
 - e. to take further concrete steps to facilitate defence innovation within NATO;
 16. **URGES** the European Union:
 - a. to move towards the swift adoption and implementation of an ambitious European Defence Fund;
 - b. to engage in regular information exchanges and coordination with NATO on how the European Defence Fund will complement, but not compete with or duplicate, NATO efforts.
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