

Chief Executive

**BG(MC) Dr Stefan Kowitz**  
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Ref: EDA201602128 /JALOS/GAZ

Brussels, 23 February 2016

Dear Director, *Dear General,*

Medical support to military operations and civilian missions is one of the priorities of the EU Capability Development Plan and is a recognized field for the pooling and sharing of European capabilities. Current scenarios demonstrate the need for a strong in-theatre medical capability that requires ever more demanding technical and financial resources as well as advanced expertise.

I am aware of the significant work that the Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine (MILMED COE) has undertaken in promoting common standards for the interoperability of deployable Medical assets. I see potential for significant synergies with EDA's work with Member States on medical support within the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The MILMED COE and the EDA have already enjoyed significant cooperative activities. Valuable examples of this collaboration could be found in the participation of MILMED COE representatives to EDA Medical Project Team (PT) and Ad Hoc Working Groups (AHWGs) meetings and in events organized by MILMED COE such as the "Vigorous Warrior" exercise series.

Acknowledging the important contribution the MILMED COE is making to increase the quality of medical support to troops deployed in theatres of operations by favouring multinational cooperation, I hereby propose the establishment of effective liaison between EDA and MILMED COE, based on the following key principles:

- a) the objective of the liaison between EDA and MILMED COE is to allow for the exchange of unclassified information on activities of mutual interest, such as studies, workshops, projects and programmes;
- b) the identification of potential new activities that would support our respective Member States in developing their medical capabilities will be one of our common objectives;

- c) EDA and MILMED COE intend to interact closely and co-ordinate their work, in order to make a coherent contribution to European and NATO transformational activities respectively, within available means and resources;
- d) The administration of activities will be in accordance with each organisation's respective internal processes, procedures and rules and in transparency with the respective members of EDA and MILMED COE;
- e) The handling and release of information and documents will be undertaken in accordance with the respective rules and regulations of EDA and MILMED COE. Any intellectual or industrial property rights, including any documentation, data, or technical information provided will remain vested in their respective owners;
- f) EDA and MILMED COE will nominate Points of Contact to facilitate and coordinate dialogue.

This Exchange of Letters will not impose any financial responsibilities on EDA or MILMED COE. The delineation of potential funding responsibilities will be further refined in the planning documents for specific events. In general, each organisation will fund its own share of co-operative endeavours from its own resources.

Areas of common interest for the liaison would start with the following:

- medical standards;
- doctrine and training;
- capability development.

I am confident that, through our liaison, EDA and MILMED COE can bring a significant added value to Member States through improved exchange of information, avoidance of unnecessary duplication of effort and common support of activities that bring added-value.

If the above principles for liaison are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter, together with your affirmative reply, will constitute our common understanding.

*Yours,* Yours sincerely,

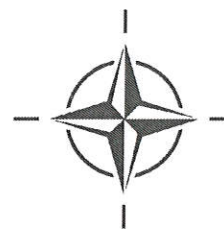


Jorge Domecq



**NATO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
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DIRECTOR**

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24 March 2016

**TO: Jorge DOMEcq, European Defence Agency, chief executive**

**SUBJECT: Exchange of letters concerning cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine**

**REF: A. EDA201602128/JALOS/GAZ, letter to NATO MILMED COE dated 23 Feb 2016**  
**B. Decision sheet of the 14th Steering Committee meeting of the NATO MILMED COE (point 1.g.)**

*Dear Mr. Domecq and EDA Chief Executive!*

The NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine (NATO MILMED COE) presents its compliments to the European Defence Agency.

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2016 with regard to the cooperation between our organizations. In reply, based on Reference B, I am pleased to confirm that the proposal set out in your letter is acceptable to the NATO MILMED COE and that your letter, and this reply, constitutes our mutual cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the NATO MILMED COE.

However, in addition, I would like to supplement this exchange of letters with following: in accordance with the Operational Memorandum of Understanding of the NATO MILMED COE the execution of our cooperation has to be included in the annually draft of the NATO MILMED COE Programme of Work and all tasks deriving from our cooperation are included in the draft budget, both to be submitted for the approval of the NATO MILMED COE Steering Committee, as the highest decision making body.

The NATO MILMED COE avails itself the opportunity to thank the European Defence Agency for its cooperation and I would propose that this letter together with your letter dated on 26 February 2016 should be regarded as constituting an agreement between the European Defence Agency and the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine, which enters into force today.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Dr. Stefan Kowitz**  
**Brigadier General (MD)**