



EUAFA – CC Minutes 2024

Brussels – Belgium

The annual European Air Force Academies Commanders Conference was held during the European Military Academy Commanders Seminar at the Royal Military Academy on 07 June 2024



Introduction

The country that holds the presidency of the European Council also organizes a European Military Academy Commanders Seminar (EUMACS). This event aims to inform rectors of military academies and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) about the progress in the already defined Lines of Development, to convince European countries to continue to actively participate in the [EMILYO](#) network, and if needed to adjust EMILYO projects, and to facilitate existing and future collaborations through a physical meeting of rector-commanders.

In the field of European military cooperation, the European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers (EMILYO) plays an important role. This network, established in November 2008, aims to harmonize the basic training of European officers and increase interoperability. EMILYO promotes the European security and defence culture among young officers and emphasizes that current and future challenges can be better addressed together. Various Lines of Development (LoD) are elaborated during quarterly meetings by representatives of European military academies.

The European Air Force Academies (EUFAFA) Commanders Conference was established as a forum in order to exchange information, co-operate and identify areas of common interest to carry out activities with the largest possible participation of all the member nations, in the field of officer education and training.

EUFAFA mission is to encourage mutual education through the sharing of information on officer training by promoting academic and military exchanges concerning cadet and instructor training. To share information on Officer Training and Education to implement Common Modules Courses Training and Seminars in order to facilitate cadets and instructors exchange.

Participants

#	Family name	First name	NATO Rank / Academic degree	Country	Name of home institution	Position at home institution	Branch / Force	emails
1	Mantyla	Vesa	Colonel	Finland	Finnish Air Force Academy	Commandant	Air Force	jussi.ansamaa@mil.fi
2	Ansamaa	Jussi	Lieutenant Colonel	Finland	Finnish Air Force Academy	Commandant of the Training and Education Center	Air Force	jussi.ansamaa@mil.fi
3	de Goiri Álvarez	IGNACIO FELIX	OF-2 CAPTAIN	SPAIN	ACADEMIA GENERAL DEL AIRE	HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE AT AGA	Air Force	goiri1993@gmail.com
4	Soria Martínez	Pascual	OF-5 COLONEL	SPAIN	SPANISH AIR FORCE ACADEMY	COMMANDER OF THE SPANISH AIR FORCE ACADEMY	Air Force	psormar@ea.mde.es
5	GELL	Harald	OF-5 / Assoc. Prof., PhD, MSc, MSD, MBA	Austria	Military Erasmus (EMILYO) Implementation Group	Chairman	Army	harald.gell@inode.at
6	Serbeszki	Marius	OF-6 (Associate professor)	Romania	"Henri Coanda" Air Force Academy	Commandant (Rector)	Air Force	marius.serbeszki@afahc.ro
7	PADURARIU	DINU	OF 5	ROMANIA	Air Force Academy "Henri Coanda"	Deputy Commander	Air Force	dinu.padurariu@afahc.ro
8	Bořil	Jan	Colonel/Associate Professor	Czechia	University of Defence	Vice-Rector for Research and Expert Activities	Air Force	jan.boril@unob.cz
9	Cur	Krzysztof	Brigadier General Pilot/PhD Eng.	Poland	Polish Air Force University	Rector - Commandant	Air Force	m.bernat@law.mil.pl
10	Bernat	Małgorzata	MA	Poland	Polish Air Force University	Head of the International Cooperation Office	Air Force	m.bernat@law.mil.pl
11	Kramer	Raymond	OF-5/Colonel	The Netherlands	Netherlands Defence Academy/Faculty Military Sciences	Director of Operations Faculty Military Sciences The Netherlands	Air Force	R.Kramer.04@mindef.nl
12	Mørkholt	Lars-Bo	OF-5	Denmark	Royal Danish Defence College	Commandant, Royal Danish Air Force Academy	Air Force	fak-flos-ch@mil.dk
13	Bergman	Carina Rahr	OF-3	Denmark	Royal Danish Defence College	Head of Education at the Royal Danish Air Force Academy	Air Force	fak-flos-u01@mil.dk
14	Huljev	Goran	OF-5 Mag.Sci	Croatia	Croatian Military Academy "Dr. Franjo Tuđman"	Deanery, Head of Air Operations Department	Air Force	ghuljev@gmail.com
15	Costa	Fernando	OF-7	Portugal	Portuguese Air Force Academy	Commander/Rector	Air Force	vlcoelho@academiafa.edu.pt
16	Coelho	Vasco	OF-1	Portugal	Portuguese Air Force Academy	Accompanying Officer	Air Force	vlcoelho@academiafa.edu.pt
17	Rubensbauer	Dieter	OF-5	Germany	Offizierschule der Luftwaffe - German Air Force Academy	Deputy Cdr (Res)	Air Force	OSLwStvKdru.LtrSchulstab@bundeswehr.org

Participant's questionnaire

Ahead of this conference, each nation had received a questionnaire on several subjects relating to education in Air Force Academies. The different responses and *the follow-on discussions results* are summarized below:

- **EUAFA Educational Mapping**

- There is a mix between only Air Force Academies and those which are common with other services of their military structure. *This might influence the way of working between nations.*
- Providing a bachelor's or a master's degree in line with the European Higher Education Process of Bologna might lead to difficulties in changing the academic program but *as long as the sending nations approves the ECTS equivalent the exchange program of students can be promoted without major problem.*
- *Exchange in research programs must be promoted.*
- All Academies provide Basic Military Training but only Air Force Academies provide Basic Professional Air Force Training. The Advanced Professional Air Force Training is carried out by Air Bases and/or foreign partners. *Not real synergies in that specific field are expected.*

- **Military Erasmus Exchange Program**

- There is a very positive feedback on this program foreseen for students and lecturers. This is very beneficial to increase cultural awareness between European Academies.
- *The ECTS need to be recognized by the sending nation (within or not the Education Process of Bologna).*
- Given that the first three years of the Bachelor are 85% common within the EUAFA (technical courses), *the Air Force International Semester (promoted by EMILYO), at the start of the second year of the Bachelor, is to be encouraged. This might require some synchronization measures between the different curricula of the interested academies.*
- Everyone agreed to continue discussing, facilitating and promoting the program in the EUAFA forum.

- **Advanced or New Air Systems and Space Education**

- Academies could be too much influenced by civilian educational programs and therefore not enough focused on military contents. This could lead to reluctance to change or update the courses content into more military technological matters.
- A risk exists that military system specific education could be quickly obsolete within a few years. *All agreed that those new military emerging technologies or systems has an influence beyond the technology itself but should influence the way of thinking and operating (including education process, recruitment, leadership, logistics, ...).*
- One identified challenge is the limited time available to educate a cadet. If we add new education topics, what do we remove? One solution could be to draw up a skills map to concentrate on per job description. Another one is to give priority to technical matters during the Bachelor/Master years in order to

start in the function with sufficient technical knowledge and maybe focus on cognitive matters (leadership, psychology..) later in the education process. *The academies might have different vision on this and are of course totally free to adapt their curricula according their sensitivities.*

- **Information exchange and sharing**

- Everyone agreed on the fact of identifying and sharing everyone's areas of expertise (courses content, research work of students and lecturers) in order to be able to identify synergies.
- *To be effective and efficient, the information sharing must be concise, precise and maybe a bit standardized (read simplified as well).*
- *Existing sharing web access platform are available and might be used*
 - [European Initiative for the Exchange of Military Young Officers \(emilyo.eu\)](http://emilyo.eu)
 - Romanian delegation kindly offers their established platform to be adapted if required [EUFA](#)