

## **“Sustainability in Defence (SiD) Conference - Press Release\_2”**

In Athens, on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, the International Conference “Sustainability in Defence (SiD)” took place and drew the attention of experts and officials from both the Defence personnel and the Sustainability Society.

The “SiD” Conference was the Hellenic Ministry of Defence (HMoD)’s contribution to the current Hellenic Presidency of the European Council in the area of incorporating the principles of Sustainable Development in both the Armed Forces and the Defence Industry.

The Conference, which was held in Athens on June 10-11<sup>th</sup> as mentioned, took place in the Hellenic Armed Forces Officer’s Club and it was attended by more than 200 participants, who represented Military Organizations, Defence Industries and Sustainability Bodies (in both domestic and international level, e.g European Defence Agency -EDA, EU Military Staff, Italian MoD etc), as well as experts from EU Commission, EU Member States’ Ministries of Environment like UK, Netherlands, etc.

The Conference was separated in four sessions, under the titles: “Manpower”, “Infrastructure” and “Financing”, preceded by a “General” one, where more than 40 presentations were given by speakers representing the main stakeholders in both defence and sustainability level.

It was unanimously acknowledged that the main goals of this Conference were achieved. More specifically, from the content of the actual presentations as well as the discussions which took place during the Questions & Answers (Q&A) Sessions that followed the respective presentations, it was stressed that :

1. There is tangible evidence which verifies that certain projects - via using all available EU funding tools, can have a significant impact in improving existing infrastructures and developing innovative sustainable ones
2. These projects can be accompanied by initiatives that sensitize not only MoD’s personnel but also the society in general.

The outcome of this venture will be delivered by the end of the Hellenic Presidency and will be passed to the forthcoming Italian Presidency, to all EU

Member States and to the European External Action Service, in order to provide a useful tool towards the effort of formulation of a Defence Sustainability Concept within EU.

It is worth mentioning that, in the framework of the Conference, certain cultural events took place, like a tour for the participants at the Acropolis Site and Museum and an Art Exhibition with works of Athens School of Fine Arts graduate students on sustainable themes (under the title : “Young Artists Look on Sustainable Spirit”).

For more useful information about “SiD” Conference, please refer to the event’s official portal ([www.mod.mil.gr/GreenArmedForces/SiD](http://www.mod.mil.gr/GreenArmedForces/SiD))