



## Invitation to the Common Security and Defence Policy Orientation Course

(Activity Number 24-25/3/5)

**Sofia, 7-11 October 2024**

The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and the Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute (BDI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria have the honour of co-organising the **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Orientation Course**, which will be held in **Sofia, Bulgaria, from 7 to 11 October 2024**. A special focus of this course will be the cooperation in the Black Sea region within the current European security architecture.

The CSDP Orientation Course is a major component of the ESDC's training activities. It aims to develop and promote a better understanding of CSDP as an integral part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union. It will provide participants with an overview of the civilian and military aspects of the CSDP, going into more detail as the course progresses.

The course consists of an eLearning part and a residential session to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria; both parts are compulsory. A certificate will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the full course.

We would like to **invite you to nominate suitable candidates for the CSDP Orientation Course**, thereby supporting the overarching goal: providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel, able to work in CSDP-related fields.

**Fergal O REGAN**

Head of the European Security  
and Defence College

**Tanya MIHAILOVA**

Director of the Bulgarian  
Diplomatic Institute

### Annexes:

1. Administrative instructions
2. Draft programme

## Administrative instructions:

- **Target group:** the course is open to both civilian and military personnel, including police and diplomatic staff. EU institutions and agencies, Member States and CSDP missions and operations are kindly invited to nominate one candidate each. However, more places could be allocated, based on the total number of applications. Third countries and international organisations are also welcome to put forward candidates.
- **The European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** aims for an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We do not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status or sexual orientation in any of our activities or operations. The ESDC and the training institutions will not tolerate any conduct that runs counter to these values.
- **Places and nominations:** there is a maximum of 35 places on the course. Typically, one place per Member State, third country or international organisation will be allocated. However, depending on the total number of requests, additional places could be offered.
- **Applications:** designated nominators have to register the applicants via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST **by 13 September 2024**. The list of [designated nominators](#) is available on the ESDC website. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat. Further detailed information on the course will be sent by email to the course participants as soon as the list of participants is finalised.
- **Third countries and international organisations** that receive this invitation should send their applications to the ESDC Training Manager responsible for this course – email: [stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu) with a copy to: [jordan.stoitchkov@mfa.bg](mailto:jordan.stoitchkov@mfa.bg).
- **The application should indicate:** full name; personal email address (functional mailboxes will not be accepted); nationality; passport number; passport expiry date; date of birth; institution; a brief explanation of how this course would benefit the applicant.
- **Registrations** will only be complete once the ESDC Secretariat has sent a confirmation to the approved participants via ENLIST.

- **Language:** the language of the course will be English (without translation).
  
- **The course consists of two phases:** an **eLearning** part to be carried out on the ESDC eLearning platform ILIAS, set to start on **16 September 2024**, to be completed **before the residential phase** to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 7 to 11 October 2024.
  
- **Information on the course venue** will be provided in due time to all confirmed participants. Both parts of the course are compulsory. Participants must attend the entire residential phase of the course (i.e. all days).
  
- **A certificate** will be awarded to those course participants who complete the full training, including the eLearning part of the course.
  
- **Costs:** the sending country/authority/organisation must cover all costs for international travel, accommodation and meals during the residential part of the course.
  
- **Liability and insurance:** in the event of a medical emergency, the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/authority/organisation must cover all the costs. The course organisers do not provide personal health or accident insurance for this course.
  
- **Additional info:** you can consult the [CSDP orientation course standard curriculum](#) on the [ESDC website](#) (education and training / view curricula).
  
- **Points of contact:**
  - Course Director, Mr Jordan STOITCHKOV  
([iordan.stoitchkov@mfa.bg](mailto:iordan.stoitchkov@mfa.bg))
  - ESDC Training Manager, Ms Stanislava KRAYNOVA  
([stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu))

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**  
**COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY ORIENTATION COURSE**  
**Cooperation in the Black Sea region within the current European security architecture**  
**7-11 October 2024**  
**Sofia, Bulgaria**

Monday 07/10/2024	Tuesday 08/10/2024	Wednesday 09/10/2024	Thursday 10/10/2024	Friday 11/10/2024
<p><b>08.30-09.00</b> Registration</p> <p><b>09.00-10.30</b> Opening &amp; intro <i>BDI/MOD/ESDC</i> Group photo</p> <p><b>10.30-10.45</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>10.45-12.00</b> EU in the evolving European and global security architecture</p>	<p><b>08.45-09.00</b> Overview of the day</p> <p><b>09.00-10.00</b> CSDP institutional framework</p> <p><b>10.00-10.15</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>10.15-11.15</b> Decision-making process and planning in European security and defence</p> <p><b>11.15-12.15</b> EU strategic documents (EU Strategic Compass)</p>	<p><b>08.45-09.00</b> Overview of the day</p> <p><b>09.00-10.00</b> Horizontal issues in CSDP: hybrid threats, cybersecurity</p> <p><b>10.00-10.15</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>10.15-11.15</b> Horizontal issues in CSDP: climate change and security</p> <p><b>11.15-12.15</b> Horizontal issues in CSDP: disaster relief</p>	<p><b>08.45-09.00</b> Overview of the day</p> <p><b>09.00-10.00</b> Humanitarian action / protection of children / UNICEF</p> <p><b>10.00-10.15</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>10.15-12.00</b> EU-NATO strategic partnership in the context of the evolving European and global security system</p> <p><i>Participant-expert discussion (topic 2)</i></p>	<p><b>08.45-09.00</b> Overview of the day</p> <p><b>09.00-10.00</b> EUMAM Ukraine</p> <p><b>10.00-10.15</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>10.15-11.30</b> Future prospects for CSDP</p> <p><i>Participant-expert discussion (topic 3)</i></p> <p><b>11.30-12.30</b> Closing remarks Certificate ceremony</p>
<p><b>12.00-13.00</b> <b>Lunch break</b></p>	<p><b>12.15-13.30</b> <b>Lunch break</b></p>	<p><b>12.15-13.30</b> <b>Lunch break</b></p>	<p><b>12.00-13.30</b> <b>Lunch break</b></p>	
<p><b>13.00-14.00</b> EU global strategy and strategic autonomy</p> <p><b>14.00-15.00</b> EU strategic partnership: cooperation with partner organisations and countries</p> <p><b>15.00-15.15</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>15.15-16.30</b> Bulgarian priorities and participation in CSDP</p> <p><b>19.00-21.00</b> Ice breaker</p>	<p><b>13.30-14.30</b> EU integrated approach to crisis management</p> <p><b>14.30-14.45</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>14.45-16.00</b> Eastern Partnership and CSDP</p> <p><i>Participant-expert discussion (topic 1)</i></p>	<p><b>13.30-14.30</b> Geopolitical dynamics of the Black Sea region following Russia's invasion of Ukraine</p> <p><b>14.30-14.45</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>14.45-16.00</b> Security challenges in the Black Sea region – implications for CSDP and NATO</p> <p><b>16.00-18.00</b> <b>Networking and sharing</b> (cultural programme)</p>	<p><b>13.30-14.30</b> Energy security / energy diplomacy</p> <p><b>14.30-14.45</b> <b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>14.45-16.00</b> Multilateral diplomacy in conflict prevention and peace building</p>	