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# DIGITALEUROPE launches its Defence Executive Council

To bridge the gap between business and policy expertise and to advance the much-needed digital transformation of the defence industry, DIGITALEUROPE has launched its Defence Executive Council. The Council – comprising 9 senior executives from leading global technology, defence and cybersecurity companies – is committed to the modernisation, innovation and rapid adaptability of the Defence ecosystem.

**Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE, explains why this Council is so important:**

*“Europe’s future security depends on digital technology, not just on ammunition and tanks. Modern warfare has shown that traditional defence systems alone cannot ensure security. Hybrid threats—cyberattacks, misinformation, and attacks on critical infrastructure—pose growing risks to Europe’s security and resilience. The question is: Are we prepared to defend against these evolving threats?”*

*The answer lies in innovation, rapid adaptability, and strong partnerships. Europe must move beyond traditional defence frameworks, leveraging industry expertise to develop advanced digital and dual-use technologies. Through the launch of the Defence Executive Council, we are bringing together senior industry leaders to shape a more resilient and competitive European defence sector.*

*We need urgent action: enhancing collaboration with Ukraine, protecting critical infrastructure, accelerating production, and strengthening EU-NATO cooperation.”*

## About the Defence Executive Council

The Defence Executive Council is one of four Executive Councils at DIGITALEUROPE, alongside our Energy, Health and Finance Executive Councils.

Bringing together senior leaders from across the defence ecosystem, the Council reflects the need for Europe to move beyond traditional defence frameworks, leveraging its industries and research capabilities to develop

advanced dual-use technologies that can protect critical infrastructure and counter hybrid threats.

With companies at the forefront of defence technology, cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection, the Council leverages its business expertise to provide concrete examples and actionable insights needed to support the policy dialogue on the future of European defence.

### Members of DIGITALEUROPE's Defence Executive Council



**Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General, DIGITALEUROPE**



**Andrea Rigoni, Global Government and Public Services Lead Security, Accenture**

*"Digital technology is redefining the paradigms of conflict, expanding the battlefield and altering the way nations approach cybersecurity. To safeguard Europe's peace and stability, we must forge a new alliance between technology, defense and industry."*



**Karen Florschütz, Executive VP Connected Intelligence, Airbus Defence and Space, Airbus**

*"Current geo-political conflicts show the importance of collaboration within and beyond Europe, that is especially true for the expanding importance of digital technologies for defense. To secure our peace, Europe needs a strong and*

*independent digital security ecosystem that can ensure the sovereignty of its member states while driving collaboration and implementing joint activities."*



**Andreas Conradi, Executive VP,  
Head of Defence Europe,  
Capgemini**

*"By joining the Defense Executive Council within DIGITALEUROPE, we take an active role in shaping the future of defense technology. This engagement enables us to contribute to policy discussions, collaborate with key decision-makers, and drive the development of trusted digital solutions for European defense.*

*As the defense sector rapidly evolves, digital technologies become the foundation of modern operations, defining operational effectiveness and resilience. At the same time, the European defense industry is shifting towards integrated software and hardware ecosystems, where digital capabilities are essential for both operational success and long-term business sustainability. Ensuring interoperability, adaptability, and innovation will be key to maintaining a competitive and secure defense landscape in Europe."*



**Agostino Santoni, VP South Europe, Cisco**

*“Technology plays a pivotal role in strengthening defence capabilities. By harnessing advanced technological solutions, we can enhance digital resilience, ensure rapid response to emerging threats, and improve collaboration. I look forward to working with the DIGITALEUROPE Defence Executive Council to deliver secure and innovative technologies that safeguard stability and prosperity.”*



**Mike Vallillo, VP of Defence & Space EMEAI, Honeywell Aerospace Technologies**

*“As we face critical security challenges, embracing defense digitalization is essential for Europe. Ongoing conflicts around the world underscore the need for advanced technologies, which enhance our operational readiness and resilience. By implementing DIGITALEUROPE’s strategic pillars, we can foster innovation and strengthen our capabilities. Collaborating with NATO allies and prioritizing transparency in our supply chains will equip us to effectively address current and future threats. I call on all stakeholders to unite in advancing a digitalized and resilient defense framework in Europe.”*



**Angus MacGregor-Millar, General Manager for Worldwide Defence & Intelligence, Microsoft**

*"Being part of Digital Europe's Defence Executive Council allows us to engage with key stakeholders in shaping the future of European defense and resilience. The role of technology in the European Defence Industrial Strategy cannot be overstated. We are committed to this effort because cloud service providers play a pivotal role in providing the scalable and resilient infrastructure needed to support European defense efforts. Moreover, the power of AI and Quantum are indispensable in preparing Europe against sophisticated security challenges, enabling us to anticipate threats and respond with agility and precision. Given the urgency of the issue, we must accelerate the use of available technological advancements to ensure a secure and resilient Europe."*



**Giuseppe Targia, SVP, Space & Defence, Nokia**

*"DIGITALEUROPE established the Defence Executive Council at a pivotal moment in the digital transformation of defence technology. Nokia joins the council with a call for the rapid deployment of advanced interoperable connectivity – such as 5G – to boost EU civilian resilience and give the military an 'Information Superiority' advantage."*



### **Kurt Ceuppens, CEO, NVISO**

*“Cybersecurity is crucial in modern warfare, especially for protecting the IT and OT systems of critical infrastructure, which are prime targets in potential European conflicts. NVISO is proud to join DIGITALEUROPE’s Defence Executive Council, reinforcing our commitment to combating cyber threats. As a European cybersecurity firm, we focus on prevention, detection, and response to enhance Europe’s technological defences. Our belief is that facilitating procurement and research for SMEs and strengthening EU-NATO ties are essential elements towards improving Europe’s cyber readiness. NVISO is honoured to contribute its expertise to this collaborative effort, ensuring a secure digital infrastructure across Europe”.*



### **István Sárhegyi, CEO Space & Defence, 4iG**

*“Now, we have a unique opportunity to be at the forefront and shape a resilient, agile defence industry in Europe. In today’s fast-evolving world, interoperability between cutting-edge technology solutions are the game-changers driving our defense strategy, unlocking new opportunities and ensuring we stay several steps ahead in an increasingly dynamic global environment.”*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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