

THE DEFENCE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RESPONSIBLE SECURITY

The tasks of the defence administration support sustainable development. Defence policy, military national defence, the coordinated comprehensive defence approach, assisting other authorities, and military crisis management and peacekeeping operations improve stability and security in society and neighbouring areas. These tasks create the basis and prerequisites for activities that meet the requirements of sustainable development in society.

The goal of the defence administration is to implement the tasks set for the administrative branch in a way that is sustainable socially, financially and ecologically. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Defence adopted the Environmental Programme of the Defence Administration in 2010.

The key areas of the programme are:

- increasing awareness of sustainable development
- developing the assessment of impacts in the defence administration
- sustainable development in the work and operation of garrisons (or equivalent military areas)
- adopting a good employer's approach and promoting the welfare and safety of personnel and conscripts in training
- sustainable procurement
- promoting sustainable development through military crisis management
- promoting security and protection in the Baltic Sea region
- promoting the goals of environmental policy and energy policy.

The defence administration continues to implement the Programme whose implementation is monitored, assessed and reported on a regular basis.

The pledge of the defence administration to take these measures is a part of the implementation of the Environmental Programme for sustainable development.

The defence administration is pledged to take measures

1. Motivational conscript service

The goal of the defence administration is to train the entire age class of males who are fit for service and women who are willing to enter military service on a voluntary basis and who are fit for service.

The defence administration has pledged to develop advance medical examinations, advance preparation and service conditions. Training will be provided by taking into account the skills, competences and capacity to act of the individual. The goal of this measure is to ensure that in 2020 the number of those who discontinue service will be at the 2013 level at the most.

2. Sustainable procurement

A further goal is to enhance material efficiency and decrease detrimental environmental impacts over the entire lifecycle of a product or service. Material efficiency can be improved by doing a needs test, procuring durable products, appropriate storage and responsible use, maintenance and disposal.

The defence administration aims at improving the material efficiency of military explosives during their lifecycle by increasing the recycling and materials recovery of material to be disposed of. The defence administration has pledged to require that service providers practise material efficiency and commit themselves to the principles of sustainable development in the end use of military explosives.

3. Healthy and safe service environment

The goal of the defence administration is to create an environment which is free from occupational accidents and service-related accidents as well as occupational illnesses and service-related illnesses. Accidents and illnesses can be prevented for example by education and training and improving occupational safety and safety while in service, and by decreasing health and safety related risks in the working environment and service environment.

The defence administration aims at decreasing the number of occupational accidents and service-related accidents by 25 per cent from the 2013 level by 2020.

4. Environmentally responsible activities

The goal of the defence administration is to take account of environmental aspects with an advanced and proactive approach in all activities. Environmental damage caused by shooting and exercises will be prevented and minimised by making use of and developing techniques and practices that are suitable for the environment and represent the best available techniques (BAT) and practices.

In line with the best available techniques (BAT) and practices and within the financial resources available, the defence administration has pledged to introduce solutions in the shooting ranges by 2019 which will protect the environment.

The defence administration will develop environmental solutions for the firing ranges and training areas of heavy weapons in line with the best available techniques and practices by 2020.

5. Energy-efficient defence with responsibility for the climate

The defence administration aims at improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy sources in energy consumption and leaning on domestic energy sources where applicable. These goals will be achieved by increasing space efficiency, improving energy efficiency in the use of premises and in conducting operations, and leaning on renewable and alternative energy sources where applicable.

In co-operation with the owner, the defence administration aims at decreasing energy consumption in the premises by 20 per cent and greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent between 2010 and 2020.