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Mr.

Erkki Keldo

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (Majandus- ja
Kommunikatsiooniministeerium)

Suur-Ameerika 1

10122 Tallinn

Estonia

Essen, June 2026

Invitation to the Premiere of Euro Defence Expo 2026

Dear Minister Keldo,

The international security order is undergoing profound change. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as recent developments in the Middle East, make it clear that peace, security and stability are by no means a given.

Against this backdrop, security and defence policy issues are becoming increasingly important. At the same time, it is clear how vital close cooperation between government institutions, the armed forces, industry and society in Europe is – whether in the protection of critical infrastructure, in cyber security or in civil protection. The common goal of the Western community of nations is to protect the free and democratic order and to strengthen the foundations of a values- and rules-based international order.

The Euro Defence Expo (EUDEX), which will take place for the first time in Essen from 22 to 25 September 2026, will provide an international platform for this purpose. We expect around 300 exhibitors, as well as high-ranking representatives from the armed forces, government agencies, politics and industry, to attend the new international trade fair for the defence industry to discuss current developments and challenges in the field of security and defence.

In conjunction with Security Essen, the leading trade fair for civil security, which is taking place in parallel, the event will specifically bring together civil and military perspectives to foster a holistic understanding of security.

In addition, the Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC) – a NATO Centre of Excellence – will be hosting its annual conference at the exhibition centre

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at the same time. More than 400 high-ranking participants from over 30 NATO member states and partner nations are expected to attend.

At Messe Essen, we see ourselves as hosts of an open, responsible and legally compliant dialogue on issues of security and defence. EUDEX aims to contribute to promoting professional exchange on the challenges of our time and to bringing different perspectives into dialogue with one another.

It would be a particular honour for us to welcome you in person to Essen for the first Euro Defence Expo. We cordially invite you to attend.

To register, please use our registration platform at:

<https://delegationen.eurodefenceexpo.de/en/>

Should you have any queries or require further details, our Head of Protocol – Mr Andreas John – will be happy to assist you and your team by telephone on +49 201 7244-431 or by email at andreas.john@messe-essen.de.

Sincerely,
MESSE ESSEN GmbH



Oliver P. Kuhrt
CEO



Julia Jacob
Head of Project EUDEX