



## ESTONIAN DEFENCE WEEK

**Dr Mohammed Nasser al Zaabi**

Secretary-General at the Ministry of Defence Oman

11.08.2026 No 9-4/26/167

Dear Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi,

On behalf of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia, I have the honour to invite you, or your appointed representatives, to participate at the Estonian Defence Industry Symposium (organised by the Estonian Defence Industry Association) taking place in Tallinn on 21 and 22 September 2026 as part of Estonian Defence Week (EDW).

Estonian Defence Week has developed into one of the central sectoral events in the Nordic-Baltic region, bringing together senior decision-makers, defence industry leaders, investors, innovators and end-users from Europe, NATO and partner countries. Building on last year's momentum - more than 80 exhibiting companies, over 4,000 visitors, 36 countries represented and 50 leading industry journalists - the 2026 edition is expected to gather high-level state representatives, national delegations and international media.

This year's symposium theme is "Next in Defence: AI, Space & Resilience". The 2026 focus is on three closely interconnected axes: developments in autonomous systems, the space domain as the "backbone" of next-generation capabilities, and defence industry readiness for growing demand.

The symposium will take place in parallel with the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) industry ministers' meeting, further underlining Tallinn's role during EDW as a regional meeting point for policy, industry and capability development. The European Union will also be represented in the programme at the highest sectoral level by Mr Andrius Kubilius, European Commissioner for Defence and Space.

The letter is accompanied by an invitation addressed to Omani defence sector companies and organisations to take part in Tallinn Defence EXPO as exhibitors. We would be grateful if the Ministry of Defence could kindly share this opportunity with relevant industry and institutional partners, as EDW offers a practical platform for showcasing capabilities, building partnerships and engaging with Nordic-Baltic, European and allied stakeholders.

### Key moments:

- **21 September 2026 (evening):** EDW Networking Reception (19:00-22:00) an informal setting to connect with senior stakeholders from government, industry and partner countries;
- **22 September 2026:** Estonian Defence Industry Symposium plenary programme, including high-level keynote addresses and discussions on AI, space and resilience;
- **22 September 2026:** VIP lunch for ministers, keynote speakers, selected delegates and sponsors, designed for meaningful off-stage exchanges.

We would be pleased to align your participation, or your appointed representatives, with your schedule and protocol requirements, including the preferred format and timing of your intervention.

Please accept, Dr. Al Zaabi, the assurances of my highest consideration.

With respect,



**Kaimo Kuusk**

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



## **Symposium Workshops & Networking | September 21**

**15:00 – 22:00**

The symposium will begin with a series of interactive workshops designed to engage all stakeholders in discussions on the key technological, operational, and industrial challenges shaping the future of defence and security. The workshops will explore the critical enablers of defence innovation and capability development, bringing together stakeholders from government, industry, and technology sectors. Discussions will focus on advancing trusted AI and autonomous systems, leveraging space-based services to accelerate data-driven decision-making, and strengthening collaboration between government and industry to enable rapid and resilient defence production. The programme concludes with a networking reception designed to foster new partnerships and strategic cooperation across the defence ecosystem.

## **Symposium “Next in Defence: Autonomy, Space & Industrial Readiness” | September 22**

**08:30 – 18:00**

The main symposium programme will bring together policymakers, military leaders, industry executives, investors, and technology innovators to examine how Europe can strengthen defence readiness in an increasingly complex security environment. Under the theme “Next in Defence: Autonomy, Space & Industrial Readiness,” discussions will focus on the transition of autonomous and AI-enabled capabilities from prototype to operational deployment, the growing role of space as a critical defence capability layer, and the industrial capacity required to scale production and sustain long-term resilience. The programme is designed to foster practical cooperation, investment, and cross-sector partnerships, addressing how emerging technologies can be integrated into real-world defence capabilities and rapidly delivered to end users.

The more detailed programme for the week is included in the attached EDW introductory one-pager.