

WEBVTT

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<v SPEAKER\_1>In this TripleHelix episode of the podcast, which we're recording October 14th, 2025, I'm talking to Guillaume Décot from the European Union's Embassy in Ottawa.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We're talking about the partnerships between the European Union and Canada on security and defense, including the recently signed Strategic Partnership on Security and Defense.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>How that initiative, as well as Rearm Europe and SAFE, build off previous European Union measures, and what the potential for collaboration and partnership between Canada and the European Union are, both in the public and private sectors.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, very, very, very good morning, David, and to you all.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, first, thanks for having me.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a pleasure to be with you.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm Guillaume Décot.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm the Political Chancellor of the European Union Delegation in Ottawa.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm a European diplomat.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I was previously based in Baghdad, in Iraq, in a similar position of Political Chancellor.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I worked a lot on all the issues of security and defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And in my previous year, I had the first part of my career.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I was an officer in the French Navy.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So I spent eight years with the French Navy.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I graduated from the Naval Academy in 2009.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Four years on board, four years in headquarters, and two years in the cabinet of the Secretary of Defence in charge of heritage.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So here is my background.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's been two years I served here in Canada all our.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, thank you so much again for joining us today.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And it's great that you got that background and as well as some time in Canada before some interesting developments in terms of potential EU initiatives on defence and security and the possibility that Canada and the EU might leverage some of those initiatives to strengthen some defence and security cooperation.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So I wanted to get you to talk about some of those initiatives.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Rearm Europe is I think the most commonly referred to program or initiative that gets mentioned in Canadian discussions.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I know there's some other things that are associated with it safe.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But could you just start this conversation off by talking a little bit about some of those recent European initiatives and how Canadians should think about what is happening with the EU's evolution of security defence approaches?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, thanks David.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I think first it's a great time that we can speak of the EU-Canada cooperation, what Europe do in terms of security defence, because it has been a huge evolution.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I know Canada, you also have the same questioning, the same trajectory.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But also to speak of the level of our EU-Canada cooperation with everything that is happening.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Just to give maybe a bit of background, two important points maybe to understand how it works, the European policy in terms of security defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>To understand where we come from and where we want to go.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The first one is that Europe, the European Union, it's a peace project.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's in our treaty.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's something that is very important for us.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But as the president of the Commission, Founder Lyon, Ursula, she said, exceptional times come with exceptional measures.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's what we are having right now with the Russian brutal war aggression of Ukraine.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The second point to understand the European policy, and I'm sure Canada, you will understand, has a federation, you will understand it, is the question of competency.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Defence, it's a national competency of our 27 member states.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>This is why the European Union, David, you should really

see us as an enabler, a facilitator for security defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think since the last couple of years, we have mobilised a lot of instruments, we have provided the fiscal space.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>In a way, what the European Union, we do is to create these favourable conditions to boost European defence and to boost what we call this European strategic autonomy.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But back to your question, Rearm Europe, what we have now, where does it come from?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I think we have this first wake-up call with 24 February 2022, Russia's brutal war of aggression and the invasion of Ukraine.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it triggers a huge evolution within the European Union, really the first accelerator.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's no more business as usual.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We understand, and a bit like you in Canada, the threats posed by Russia, we also understand that we have issue with our stocks of ammunition, of defence capabilities and so on.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And we understood that we need to do more.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We need to do better.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We need to do together.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We need to do European and with our allies, for Ukraine, but also for us, for our own European security, but also for the transatlantic security.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And that is really the origin of a first package of instruments that we launch.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So Summer 23, we launch work on ammunitions.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So you remember at the origin, we had decided to do 0.5 shelves per year.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Now with the instruments we have, we reached 2 million shelves per year.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's already a huge boost.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>In Fall 23, we launched this idea and we start really the idea with a common procurement with our member states.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So the instrument is launched and we will see that it unfolds in the SEF instrument and the REHRM Europe.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Spring 24, I know it has echoed in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We had our first industrial defence strategy for Europe.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So that's quite a first package we have.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>A second accelerator came in Fall 24.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We had a new commission.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it means that we have a new government for Europe, if you allow me to say that.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Still, Madame von der Leyen has a second mandate.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And she created the position of Commissioner for Defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We never had it within the European Union.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So today it's Mr.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Andrews Kubilis.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>He's the former Prime Minister of Lithuania.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And he has a huge mandate.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's the President called her Commission, a Commission for Defence and Security.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The impact also of the overall situation, November 24, with the US election and the new posture.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's created a kind of, I will call it a new geopolitical situation that has also impact and you'll leave it on a daily basis in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And that trigger really the second accelerator.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And spring 25, we had a white paper.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's the first time ever we had this white paper for defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's a first, it's a threat analysis.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it means it's the 27 member states that put around the table with the EU and agreed on what is the threats.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What should we do?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We speak and they have validated this concept of European strategic autonomy, which is kind of very important for us.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And we also identify the critical capability gaps to

support our defence industry that we need to close.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And that was based on the NATO shortfall analysis.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Right after, Rearm Europe, I know it's something that has a lot of echo in Canada, is the first operational plan that we have to implement our white paper.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And what we say, it's a very ambitious defence package.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So there is three pillars.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The first one is to ease the fiscal constraints on the, in order to allow our member states to spend more and more resilient defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So we said that 1.5% of the GDP, we will not count it in the in the European, I will not enter in detail of the internal cuisine, but 1.5%, they can increase of 1.5% of their GDP.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And you see that is exactly the match that we have also on the NATO target from 2 to 3.5.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So the EU recreated this fiscal space really to accompany our member states.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The second is how we want to mobilize the private capital.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And mainly, we updated the main debt of the European Investment Bank, the EIB.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's the bank of a member state.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It has the first capitalization on the world.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And before, it was a red line to work on security

defense.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We updated this mandate, and now the bank can fund project on security defense, which means it's a massive possibility of mobilization of European funds.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And the last one, and it's the safe instrument that we have, security action for Europe.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>That has a lot of echo in Canada, and I'm sure we will unfold in this conversation.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It loans.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So we have 150 billion euros of loans, the equivalent, I think, of 200, 215 billion of Canadian dollars for common joint procurement.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>All of that is done in full complementarity with NATO.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I think that's very important.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Now, we know that the EU can do things that NATO cannot do, and there is a perfect alignment and complementarity between all of us, which is a very important point for us.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The last one, and I will conclude by that, is this partnership question.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I know in all what we do, the White Paper, the Realm Europe, there is a huge dimension for Europe to do in partnership, and especially with Canada, and you know that and we will speak it in this podcast, David.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We have a lot of a lot of things has moved with Canada, but it's something that is very close to our our hopes to do it together with our partner.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>OK, thank you.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>That was an excellent overview of kind of where this has come from and some of the other objectives.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Before we get into some of the more specific details around safe, just a couple of questions about some of the things that you're doing to enable investment.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So I think quite clear, basically having a significant portion of additional spending basically taken off of the books that the EU counts towards expenditure restraints as you try and manage the overall fiscal and monetary picture in the EU.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Just maybe just actually to touch a little bit on the capital piece and the changes to investment considerations for that financial instrument.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Is there a specific objective that is trying to happen there with some kind of precise program delivery?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Or is it just in general being able to mobilize more European capital through traditional investment mechanisms to bring them into the defence sector?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Is it just a general shift to change the climate?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Or is there a specific initiative or a specific target in mind with that particular change?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, I think it's...

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Thanks for this question.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I think it's both the European Union.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We're here to...

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What I said really at the beginning, we want to create this favourable framework, this favourable environment by two things, creating the fiscal space for member states and allowing them really to spend more on defence and easing this fiscal restriction that we may have in what we call the Growth and Stability Pact, which aligns with NATO.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And also by providing instruments.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So I do not enter in all the awful acronym we have for our instruments, but all the instruments we have from CEF, from what we call the European Defence Industry Programme, from the ammunition one, from the Common Procurement, it's all to propose incentives and to propose the framework for member states to do more.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So there is a clear objective to mobilise more fund and to do it together.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's really the convening power of the European Union being this integrative power.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's what I said, it's very complementary with NATO, because we can do the European Union, 23 of our member states of the 27, also NATO allies or NATO members.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And we have these convening powers to provide a legal framework and economical frameworks to boost the interoperability, to boost the readiness and to boost our bases.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Plus, to do it with our allies, Canada being one of the first of you.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But we also have the United Kingdom, the United States, we have no way, we have a lot of other countries.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But yes, creating fiscal space, using our instruments, but in the end, defence is a decision of our member states.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But look, we have the European Council.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's the gathering of all the 27 member states, and they gather every month or every two months.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Defence is always the number one subject of discussion.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And we have a lot of what we call the conclusions of the Council.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's the subject number one, and there is a huge agreement amongst the 27 to do more together, to do better, and to do European.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So yeah, I think we are heading really in the good direction on that.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, thanks very much.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I think I note that there's, I haven't seen it come to full detail, but there's a similar initiative in Canada, I think, to change some of the incentives provided to different kinds of financial instruments to provide a similar type of additional involvement to what you were just describing there.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So, but to come back to SAFE, which I think, as you suggested, has really generated a lot of the strong interest in Canada, and that had been talked about quite a bit.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Can you talk a little bit, some more of the detail about what SAFE entails?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And then we can talk about some potential for additional collaboration.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Once you get a better sense of what that specific part of the initiative actually is and is not.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>True, yes.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So we have this, I'm very happy that the SAFE instruments had a lot of echo, which is a clear instrument that can bear very quickly the fruits of boosting, given defence industry, but also our cooperation between the EU and Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So if you allow me, I will speak of SAFE and a bit of the EDIP, which is the European Defence Industry Programme, because it both tackles something that is very important and very, very new for us in the European Union, is this question of common procurement.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's how we do things together.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's really something we do create.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It did not exist two years ago.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's really the objective, how we do better and together.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So CEF, this first instrument, it was adopted on the 27th of May.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So I know, I hear a lot, David, you know, and I read a lot in the press, and I think it was in one of your podcasts.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>This CEF, the instrument, it's in force.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>There is no need for ratification.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So the regulation has been passed, agreed by our member state, the parliaments, and our member states right now, they are working on the plan to already start on the list of the common procurement they want to do.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So no more ratification, the instrument is here.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What is CEF?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>CEF, it's 150 billion euros of loans that we will give to our member states to come and procure together on a list of components for defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So we have some priority areas that we identify in our white paper and on the NATO shortfalls.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think here I will quote them because it's important to try to understand.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a long list, but it's important to understand what we can do.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So the list is where we can work.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's ammunition, missiles, artillery systems, ground combat capabilities, drone, critical infrastructure protection, cyber, military mobility, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare, quantum and strategic enablers.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>This means that these key domains, it's where the European Union can provide the loans to come and procure.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So how it works?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Two member states that decide together to do a common procurement, ask for the funds, and we have a possibility to add partners like Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And I'm sure I will develop in another question for the technical and the technicity of how Canada can join it.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What are the advantages?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It has a buyer country, economy of scale, reduction of costs, enhancing interoperability.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So I think it's really the key.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And for Canada, it's really what might be of high interest for you, of this procuring quickly in a very safe environment.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>This should more in a safe environment and with a system that is already interoperable.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The partnership dimension is important because I can expand more after if you want.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's one of the more open of a European defence programme that we have.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We have 16 non-EU member states that are already inside the programme and that have the capacity to join us.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>In Canada recently, you were the last one because as we signed our security and defence partnership, you are now automatically qualified on that.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>You join the safe family.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>A word on the EDIP programme also, if you allow me very quickly.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a smaller instruments.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We have here 1.5 billion euro.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's grants here, it's not loans.

00:17:21.500 --> 00:17:25.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's money directly given by the European Commission to fund project.

00:17:26.120 --> 00:17:29.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>Exactly, well, more or less on the same thing, common procurement.

00:17:29.700 --> 00:17:34.540

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's our way to boost procurement, but not loans, grants, only to member states.

00:17:34.540 --> 00:17:47.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>And here, we also have opportunity for Canada to join the EDIP programme, not as Canada has a buying country, which is the case for CEF, but for your Canadian entities, for your businesses.

00:17:47.320 --> 00:17:52.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>And here, it's the same priority area for CEF and Canada.

00:17:52.700 --> 00:17:55.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>You can also join the EDIP programme.

00:17:55.120 --> 00:17:57.600

<v SPEAKER\_2>But happy to provide more details on that.

00:17:57.600 --> 00:18:07.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>The last point, and I will conclude on that, we have a limitation rules because, you know, it's at the end, the objective, it's the question of doing together during European.

00:18:09.240 --> 00:18:25.400

<v SPEAKER\_2>And we put in both EDIP and CEF, in both our common procurement instruments, threshold of 35 percent, which means that the cost of the components that originates outside of the European Union, they cannot exceed 35 percent of the end projects.

00:18:25.400 --> 00:18:31.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>There are some possibilities to lift this restriction, but I'm sure I will take it in another question.

00:18:32.460 --> 00:18:40.980

<v SPEAKER\_1>Before we get into some of the detail, can you maybe just talk a little bit about, so you listed the different types of capabilities that the program covers.

00:18:40.980 --> 00:18:42.020

<v SPEAKER\_1>So it's an interesting mix.

00:18:42.020 --> 00:18:49.100

<v SPEAKER\_1>You have some very conventional military technologies, as well as some more emerging technologies, more innovative ones.

00:18:50.800 --> 00:18:55.520

<v SPEAKER\_1>What was the mechanism by which you got to that list and not a different one?

00:18:55.680 --> 00:18:56.840

<v SPEAKER\_1>How did that come about?

00:18:56.840 --> 00:19:03.220

<v SPEAKER\_1>Why are those specific types of investments eligible and others are not?

00:19:04.540 --> 00:19:12.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, first, you see that the list is quite, covers a large spectrum of all the defence capability we have.

00:19:12.080 --> 00:19:13.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>How we worked?

00:19:13.960 --> 00:19:15.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>We have a European Defence Agency.

00:19:15.800 --> 00:19:23.120

<v SPEAKER\_2>They are doing an amazing work in Europe to list all the capacity we have and to list all the shortfalls we have with Europe.

00:19:23.120 --> 00:19:33.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>We learned a lot from Ukraine and I think it's also, when I speak in Canada, the war in Ukraine, we have a lot of lessons learned from Ukraine.

00:19:35.920 --> 00:19:38.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>We worked a lot with NATO to identify these shortfalls.

00:19:38.940 --> 00:19:47.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>In a way, we have done a very holistic work of framing the pictures.

00:19:47.560 --> 00:19:49.680

<v SPEAKER\_2>Where should we do more?

00:19:49.680 --> 00:19:53.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>Where should we ramp up the production quite quickly?

00:19:53.060 --> 00:19:58.520

<v SPEAKER\_2>It comes from our own European Union thinking connected with NATO.

00:19:58.660 --> 00:20:00.780

<v SPEAKER\_2>And we have a lot of coordination EU-NATO.

00:20:02.220 --> 00:20:14.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>There was a third statement of leaders working together, in which NATO welcomed this question of the EU doing more in this critical area where there are gaps.

00:20:14.020 --> 00:20:16.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>So in a way, it's really this connection of everything.

00:20:16.260 --> 00:20:26.580

<v SPEAKER\_2>We connect the dots for everything, and we can with this list, with this long list, I may say, of Eureka, where we can join Procure.

00:20:26.580 --> 00:20:28.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>But it's not exclusive of the rest, David.

00:20:28.440 --> 00:20:39.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>You know, here, this list, which is around, I think, a dozen of components, it's where the European Union will provide a dedicated framework to do more together.

00:20:39.340 --> 00:20:43.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>And where we push member states, we give the loans, we give the grants.

00:20:43.320 --> 00:20:46.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>But you have all the other domains where we can also work.

00:20:47.940 --> 00:20:51.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>And they are still open for work and still open for cooperation.

00:20:51.760 --> 00:20:58.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>For instance, we have a lot of projects, research and development, what we call the PESCO project.

00:20:58.080 --> 00:21:06.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's an awful acronym to say it's member states that work together, mainly on research and development, to think of a material of the future.

00:21:06.320 --> 00:21:14.960

<v SPEAKER\_2>And here, we also have other instruments by on this list where we can do more together, including with Canada.

00:21:17.080 --> 00:21:20.520

<v SPEAKER\_1>This episode of Defence Deconstructed is brought to you by Irving Shipbuilding.

00:21:20.520 --> 00:21:23.040

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00:21:23.040 --> 00:21:30.840

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00:21:33.640 --> 00:21:43.240

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, so on that last part, I'm going to ask you to kind of circle back to that by talking a little bit about, so you've outlined the SAFE program, the specific areas.

00:21:43.240 --> 00:21:46.980

<v SPEAKER\_1>Can you talk a little bit about what cooperation looks like with that program?

00:21:46.980 --> 00:21:52.980

<v SPEAKER\_1>And then maybe as you just suggested, there are a number of other areas where there is still the possibility of collaboration.

00:21:52.980 --> 00:21:56.680

<v SPEAKER\_1>But can you just kind of walk through for Canadians that maybe haven't followed this as closely?

00:21:58.020 --> 00:22:05.000

<v SPEAKER\_1>So SAFE, as of the end of May, that's now in operation, that's in force.

00:22:05.460 --> 00:22:12.860

<v SPEAKER\_1>What are the mechanisms, or what were the mechanisms for other countries that weren't EU members, so automatically eligible to participate?

00:22:12.860 --> 00:22:15.560

<v SPEAKER\_1>What were those mechanisms for participation?

00:22:15.620 --> 00:22:32.560

<v SPEAKER\_1>You can just kind of walk through what that meant, because we just had a few weeks ago, the signing of agreement between Canada and the EU, and just help listeners situate that signing within this kind of continuum of how other non-EU members can participate in some of these initiatives.

00:22:32.560 --> 00:22:33.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>No, sure, David.

00:22:33.280 --> 00:22:44.640

<v SPEAKER\_2>And yeah, happy to go more in details about CEF, because I know it's something that has a lot of echo here in Canada, and to go a bit in the nitty-gritty of how it works.

00:22:44.640 --> 00:22:50.200

<v SPEAKER\_2>So CEF, as I said, instrument, and you recall it, it's important, enforced.

00:22:51.940 --> 00:22:58.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>It proposed the most open architecture of all the European Defence Programme we have.

00:22:58.080 --> 00:23:12.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>With the signature of the Strategic Defence Partnership in June, as you said, Canada automatically qualifies as a biocountry to join the club, and to do common procurement with us.

00:23:12.280 --> 00:23:15.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>Here, I really want to give you the overall structure of how it works.

00:23:15.940 --> 00:23:17.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think it's important.

00:23:17.020 --> 00:23:19.240

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we have four layers to consider.

00:23:20.180 --> 00:23:22.840

<v SPEAKER\_2>The first one is the loans.

00:23:22.840 --> 00:23:29.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think it's the 150 billions of loans that we have.

00:23:29.340 --> 00:23:31.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's only for member states.

00:23:31.340 --> 00:23:42.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>So these teams, you know, from the legal basis we have, that organize what we call the solidarity of the European Union, which means that the loans member states.

00:23:42.020 --> 00:23:46.180

<v SPEAKER\_2>The second layer is the participation to common procurement.

00:23:46.180 --> 00:23:53.900

<v SPEAKER\_2>Who can, I will call it, has a buyer, has a buyer country, can join SEF.

00:23:53.900 --> 00:24:05.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, all our member states, we also decided to have what we call the EFTA countries, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Ukraine, automatically qualified as member states.

00:24:06.040 --> 00:24:17.160

<v SPEAKER\_2>We also put a list, I'm sure you check maybe the regulation, access in countries, candidate countries, and third country with a security and defence partnership.

00:24:17.160 --> 00:24:27.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>So that amount to 16 non-EU countries that can join automatically the SEF instrument as a buyer country.

00:24:27.940 --> 00:24:32.120

<v SPEAKER\_2>Canada, you were the last one to sign a security and defence partnership.

00:24:32.160 --> 00:24:33.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>To date, we have eight.

00:24:33.940 --> 00:24:37.380

<v SPEAKER\_2>A few weeks before, we signed with the United Kingdom.

00:24:37.380 --> 00:24:45.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>We also have Japan, we have South Korea, and now we have planned to sign with Iceland.

00:24:45.880 --> 00:24:50.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>The third layer is the participation of industrial entities.

00:24:50.500 --> 00:24:58.460

<v SPEAKER\_2>So here we speak of your Canadian business, how Canadian companies can also be part of this procurement procedure.

00:24:58.920 --> 00:25:08.040

<v SPEAKER\_2>So, our Norwegian and Ukrainian entities, we had dedicated provision to say they are considered as European Union companies.

00:25:08.040 --> 00:25:22.240

<v SPEAKER\_2>For all the other third countries, there is this restriction, you can participate, all the companies automatically can participate, but with this limitation of 35% of the cost of the final products.

00:25:23.840 --> 00:25:44.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>Interesting to see that, and it's the famous Article 17 that we have in the regulation, it's possible to go by on this flexibility, in a way to go from the 35% to 100%, and in the end that the Canadian businesses, if we have the second bilateral agreements, be considered as European companies.

00:25:46.860 --> 00:25:53.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>We are right now, and I'm happy to provide more details, we will enter in negotiation with Canada on this second bilateral agreement.

00:25:53.080 --> 00:26:22.960

<v SPEAKER\_2>So the European Commission right now is seeking a mandate from our member state to start the negotiation, which will lay out the ground for the conditions, which area, which company, and it also have, so to go to lift the restriction of the 35%, but also the question of, there is the question of a financial contribution that Canada will do to the budget of the European Union to lift this facility.

00:26:24.260 --> 00:26:30.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's the mandate, my colleague, from the European Commission of Seeking, it's for Canada and UK, it will be the first one.

00:26:30.360 --> 00:26:45.120

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it means, here it's important to see the importance we have for Canada and the United Kingdom, because you will be the two first ones as a matter of urgency with whom we plan to enter very soon in negotiation.

00:26:45.120 --> 00:26:58.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>So you see, important to understand this layer, Canada has a buying country, having signed the Security and Defence Partnership, you automatically qualify and you can join the club right now.

00:26:58.880 --> 00:27:06.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>And for the Canadian companies can also participate in the joint procurement with a limit of 35%.

00:27:07.880 --> 00:27:23.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>And when we would have this agreement, the second agreement, the Canadian companies might be considered as European entities and we will get rid of this threshold of 35% and be considered as European companies.

00:27:23.980 --> 00:27:30.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>So which means full integration of Canada in the safe instruments.

00:27:30.220 --> 00:27:31.480

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:27:31.480 --> 00:27:34.220

<v SPEAKER\_1>So I'm just going to ask you to, that was a great explanation.

00:27:34.220 --> 00:27:37.640

<v SPEAKER\_1>Just going to ask you to paint two different pictures.

00:27:37.640 --> 00:27:38.580

<v SPEAKER\_1>Start with the first one.

00:27:38.580 --> 00:27:45.520

<v SPEAKER\_1>If the Canadian government decides that it wants to make an AI investment, we'll just pick that, with an EU member.

00:27:45.520 --> 00:27:54.780

<v SPEAKER\_1>Can you just kind of in broad strokes walk through the different steps that we would need to take to enter into this project from the government of Canada's perspective?

00:27:54.780 --> 00:27:55.040

<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah.

00:27:55.260 --> 00:27:59.300

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think it's a great question because it's the next step.

00:27:59.300 --> 00:28:01.820

<v SPEAKER\_2>Here we have the frame, we have a legal frame.

00:28:01.820 --> 00:28:06.480

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think it's important to put the house in order for us.

00:28:06.480 --> 00:28:12.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>I will say politicians and bureaucrats, you see, to have all the legals and all the pipes done.

00:28:12.700 --> 00:28:15.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>How you fill the pipe is the second question.

00:28:15.280 --> 00:28:16.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>And you're absolutely right.

00:28:16.980 --> 00:28:24.200

<v SPEAKER\_2>So remember that the common procurement, it's something also that is relatively new in Europe.

00:28:24.200 --> 00:28:28.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>The European Union, we have a European Defense Agency.

00:28:28.220 --> 00:28:42.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we will try, we will centralize the list of common joint procurement, which in the end remains a competency, a project

that is in the hands of the member states.

00:28:42.020 --> 00:28:56.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>So in a way, Canada, and I think it's, you will need to use your contact also with member states to already identify which fields you want to work in and which member states you want to work in.

00:28:56.660 --> 00:29:01.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>So right now, the member states, they're working on the list of common procurement they want to do.

00:29:01.320 --> 00:29:05.180

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it can be, you have millions of possibilities.

00:29:05.240 --> 00:29:10.420

<v SPEAKER\_2>You have 27, expose on 27 possibilities in the hands of joint procurement.

00:29:10.420 --> 00:29:20.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>It means that Lithuania can work with Estonia, Czech Republic, Malta, Greece, Italy can work with, well, you name them all.

00:29:20.560 --> 00:29:30.380

<v SPEAKER\_2>So there is this, it might be some challenging, and that's why it may be interesting to focus, and you have a lot to bring us.

00:29:30.380 --> 00:29:46.600

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think of quantum, I think of drone, I think of CBER, a lot of all what you have in Orchid Surveillance, to identify which area you want to join, and which member states might be in lead.

00:29:46.600 --> 00:29:57.800

<v SPEAKER\_2>November, our member state should give us the first draft to the General Directorate DEFICE, which is the General Directorate of Defence Industry, with a list of projects they want to work on.

00:29:57.800 --> 00:30:06.620

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it might be a great opportunity to jump on the trend here, if I may use this expression.

00:30:06.620 --> 00:30:11.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>Another important thing might be to work with the European Defence Agency.

00:30:11.060 --> 00:30:13.240

<v SPEAKER\_2>So work with member states will be very important.

00:30:13.240 --> 00:30:18.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think it's the mobilisation of your diplomatic missions in all the European capitals you have.

00:30:18.760 --> 00:30:22.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I know you have an amazing network of defence attache.

00:30:22.700 --> 00:30:30.620

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thanks to the summit, you will have also a colleague that will be post, and that will deal mainly with this question of defence industry.

00:30:30.620 --> 00:30:36.540

<v SPEAKER\_2>So really use the opportunity of this network on domains that you want to work with.

00:30:36.540 --> 00:30:41.400

<v SPEAKER\_2>The second layer of importance might be to work with the European Defence Agency.

00:30:41.400 --> 00:30:46.200

<v SPEAKER\_2>And here we may need what we call an administrative arrangement.

00:30:46.200 --> 00:31:04.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we need to have, and I know it's something we plan to have between Canada and the EU to work with our defence agency because they will have a dedicated platform where they will do all the lists of the common proclamants that are planned, that are enforced and so on.

00:31:04.700 --> 00:31:12.200

<v SPEAKER\_2>So having this agreement with them will help you to enter in the room, enter in the table and have access to the list.

00:31:12.200 --> 00:31:26.160

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's the things that might be very important for you and very important because it means that exactly your question, we have this beautiful framework, but we need to fill the pipe and to put it operational.

00:31:27.320 --> 00:31:27.720

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:31:27.720 --> 00:31:38.240

<v SPEAKER\_1>Now my second question, to change the lens a little bit, how could a Canadian company that wanted to sell quantum technology, how could they become a participant?

00:31:38.240 --> 00:31:48.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>Slightly different lens, I don't know if it's exactly the same, it would require the involvement of the Government of Canada in the same way or not, but could you just explain how a company asked you how they could be involved?

00:31:48.900 --> 00:31:53.840

<v SPEAKER\_1>How would you explain what their current possibilities are today?

00:31:53.840 --> 00:31:55.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>True.

00:31:55.220 --> 00:31:59.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>So, member states will have the initiative.

00:31:59.340 --> 00:32:05.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>So, they will be the ones that decide to work on quantum, that work on cyber and over.

00:32:05.020 --> 00:32:09.960

<v SPEAKER\_2>So, the idea, and really again, we are at the beginning of this process that we will launch.

00:32:10.080 --> 00:32:20.420

<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm sure if you invite me in one year or two years, I may have different answers because we will put more structure.

00:32:20.420 --> 00:32:35.400

<v SPEAKER\_2>Here, the analysis is really to speak with the member states that have the capacity, speak with the Ministry of Defence in a similar way as you do here in Canada, with your Canadian business working with your Department of National Defence.

00:32:36.400 --> 00:32:46.480

<v SPEAKER\_2>And here, the Canadian business is being in touch with the member states, not the 27, but maybe targeting.

00:32:46.480 --> 00:32:55.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>I know I speak a lot with a lot of business that already focus on some countries and have done a kind of a SWOT analysis with which country might be more interesting.

00:32:55.440 --> 00:33:10.840

<v SPEAKER\_2>But the key entry point here is really the National Defence Ministries of the member states, because at the European Union level, we will just centralise what we have in terms of projects when it comes to safe.

00:33:10.840 --> 00:33:14.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's really, yes, our first analysis.

00:33:14.060 --> 00:33:23.780

<v SPEAKER\_2>And maybe, as I said, it might be different in one or two years when our instruments will be put in place, where we will have more feedback on that.

00:33:23.780 --> 00:33:24.240

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:33:24.240 --> 00:33:33.720

<v SPEAKER\_1>And just to make sure that we're totally clear, the Canadian government would also need to be joining as part of a common procurement for a Canadian company to be involved?

00:33:33.720 --> 00:33:35.240

<v SPEAKER\_2>But the two layers are independent.

00:33:35.240 --> 00:33:39.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>You are, the Canadian, well, Canada has a buyer country.

00:33:39.560 --> 00:33:48.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>You can join a joint procurement from Member States A and B decided to buy a project with no Canadian components.

00:33:48.360 --> 00:33:57.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>But you can have Canadian companies procuring defence capabilities with a Canadian government not joining as a buyer.

00:33:57.760 --> 00:33:59.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>So all options, all options are possible.

00:34:00.580 --> 00:34:07.240

<v SPEAKER\_2>For having Canadian entities joining a common procurement, you don't need Canada as a buyer country.

00:34:07.460 --> 00:34:10.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's true, the two layers are all independent.

00:34:10.980 --> 00:34:13.500

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:34:13.500 --> 00:34:15.080

<v SPEAKER\_1>This has been a really helpful explanation.

00:34:15.080 --> 00:34:24.580

<v SPEAKER\_1>And as I suggested when I asked you to do this podcast, we've had very strong interest in people better understanding exactly what these initiatives entail and how they would work.

00:34:24.580 --> 00:34:26.860

<v SPEAKER\_1>So thank you very much for joining to explain this.

00:34:27.360 --> 00:34:40.080

<v SPEAKER\_1>I guess, Adolf, if you had a final kind of comment about how Canadians should think about these initiatives, I guess maybe one way to frame that is you mentioned a couple of times that these things are still in development.

00:34:40.080 --> 00:34:56.060

<v SPEAKER\_1>I guess, would you say that looking forward, there's room for people that have a strong interest in collaborating to help shape some of those, pun intended on the acronyms, but to help shape some of these ways that these initiatives move forward?

00:34:58.120 --> 00:35:03.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think it's really between Europe and Canada, it's really a partnership way.

00:35:03.660 --> 00:35:11.040

<v SPEAKER\_2>You know, Canada, you were the first partner with whom the European Union, we did engage on security defense.

00:35:11.040 --> 00:35:14.140

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's been since 2015.

00:35:14.140 --> 00:35:21.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>So you might consider it's very new, but it's back to my first answer to your question.

00:35:21.880 --> 00:35:27.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a huge evolution for us to work in that scope, and we really have this partnership approach.

00:35:27.880 --> 00:35:32.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>And maybe a word, you know, on the Strategic Defense Partnership that we signed on the 23rd of June.

00:35:32.280 --> 00:35:33.480

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think so.

00:35:33.480 --> 00:35:43.860

<v SPEAKER\_2>We have spoken a lot of cooperation in defense industry, and I think it's really the priority number one of all our governments of Canada, Europe.

00:35:43.860 --> 00:35:52.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>But within the Strategic Defense Partnership, we have a full spectrum, and we have a very broad framework of where we can work together.

00:35:52.460 --> 00:35:59.820

<v SPEAKER\_2>And in a way, it also answers your question, because we can shape a lot of domain together when we can work together.

00:36:00.340 --> 00:36:03.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>And the list is very long that we put in the SDP.

00:36:03.100 --> 00:36:05.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's a short document.

00:36:05.060 --> 00:36:09.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think it's 12 pages, so it's quite quick to read.

00:36:09.100 --> 00:36:12.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>And we have a lot to learn to do together.

00:36:12.080 --> 00:36:16.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we have support to Ukraine, also our international peacekeeping operation.

00:36:16.360 --> 00:36:19.520

<v SPEAKER\_2>You know, it's what we call the CESDP mission and operation.

00:36:19.520 --> 00:36:22.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>So Canada, you work with us on 13 missions so far.

00:36:24.040 --> 00:36:27.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>Now we have only 3 missions where we have Canadian people.

00:36:27.280 --> 00:36:31.540

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we have a huge way of working together here.

00:36:31.540 --> 00:36:38.420

<v SPEAKER\_2>We spoke of military mobility, maritime security, hybrid threats, foreign interference, home control.

00:36:38.420 --> 00:36:46.860

<v SPEAKER\_2>A very important topic, I know, for Canada is the climate security nexus, in which we also have a lot of work together.

00:36:46.860 --> 00:36:55.600

<v SPEAKER\_2>The European Union, we become observer, for instance, of a NATO centre that was promoted by Canada, the CASCO, in Montreal, and they are doing an amazing work.

00:36:55.600 --> 00:36:58.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>And we also have a question of woman peace security.

00:36:58.320 --> 00:37:08.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>So in a way, and maybe, yes, has a conclusion, defence industry proves to be a fascinating work and domain of cooperation.

00:37:08.100 --> 00:37:16.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think we've said, with EDIP, we are really at the start of doing something very big for the European Union, security and defence.

00:37:16.440 --> 00:37:24.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>And we are happy to have Canada both as a public entity with your government, but also with your businesses.

00:37:24.560 --> 00:37:30.200

<v SPEAKER\_2>We are very happy and we are looking forward to have you with us because you have a lot also to bring to us.

00:37:30.200 --> 00:37:35.460

<v SPEAKER\_2>We have a lot to bring to you, but I think it's really a mutual one.

00:37:35.460 --> 00:37:47.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>But I think, yes, we have also all these domain we should not forget because that can frame also the way we work together and it can frame the instruments we may develop tomorrow.

00:37:49.600 --> 00:37:50.640

<v SPEAKER\_1>Guillaume, thanks again.

00:37:50.640 --> 00:37:52.360

<v SPEAKER\_1>Like I said, lots of interest in this.

00:37:52.360 --> 00:37:57.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>I'm sure listeners will be very interested to get through your different explanations.

00:37:57.180 --> 00:38:08.900

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thank you very much for helping explain these European initiatives and the possibility for collaboration with both the public and private sectors in Canada and the member states.

00:38:08.900 --> 00:38:11.280

<v SPEAKER\_1>The last question to you, we're in the middle of summer.

00:38:11.280 --> 00:38:12.720

<v SPEAKER\_1>What are you reading in the middle of summer?

00:38:14.680 --> 00:38:20.640

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, I'm sure you all noticed that I have a very strong French accent when I speak.

00:38:20.640 --> 00:38:23.380

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's a French book that I do have.

00:38:23.380 --> 00:38:28.860

<v SPEAKER\_2>So you allow me if I give the title in English and in French and I translate.

00:38:28.860 --> 00:38:31.720

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a book of Maurice Gourdault-Montagne.

00:38:32.160 --> 00:38:33.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>He's a former French ambassador.

00:38:33.760 --> 00:38:37.380

<v SPEAKER\_2>And the title is Les Autres Ne Pense Pas Comme Nous.

00:38:37.380 --> 00:38:39.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>The Other Do Not Think Like Us.

00:38:39.060 --> 00:38:46.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>And while you will think I'm too much professional and boring, reading that in the middle of summer.

00:38:46.500 --> 00:39:00.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>But I think it's fascinating and especially for us in the diplomatic service and moving from one country to one another to understand how the other do things and that the systems or difference, whatever part of the world you are.

00:39:00.440 --> 00:39:05.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>So it's a fascinating book, very well written by this former French ambassador.

00:39:05.360 --> 00:39:12.780

<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's developed on China, on Russia, on Africa, and a lot of the parts of the world to try to put yourself in the shoes of the others.

00:39:12.780 --> 00:39:25.860

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I think it's always important because it gives you another perspective of how to think the world and to try to bring a little humble contribution to try to do it better.

00:39:27.840 --> 00:39:28.960

<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, fantastic.

00:39:28.960 --> 00:39:33.060

<v SPEAKER\_1>Guillaume, thanks again so much for joining us on the podcast today.

00:39:33.060 --> 00:39:34.920

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much, David.

00:39:36.940 --> 00:39:39.160

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks for listening to Defence Deconstructed.

00:39:39.160 --> 00:39:44.620

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00:39:44.620 --> 00:39:51.200

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00:39:51.200 --> 00:39:53.200

<v SPEAKER\_1>Defence Deconstructed is brought to you by our team in Ottawa.

00:39:53.860 --> 00:39:57.460

<v SPEAKER\_1>Music credits go to Drew Phillips, and this episode was produced by Jordyn Carroll.