

Sylvia Kainz-Huber is Deputy Head of the defence, aeronautic and maritime industries unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry since July 2013. She joined the unit just when the Commission was about to present its action plan to support the competitiveness of the European Defence and security sector. This action plan formed one of the two input documents for the discussion on the future of the CSDP and Europe's defence industry at the European Council in December 2013. It highlighted the full implementation of the EU Directive on the intra-EU transfers of defence-related products as a key priority. Following a very positive reaction from European Heads of States and Governments, the Commission presented in June this year a more detailed roadmap explaining how it intends to implement its action plan in collaboration with other EU actors, Member States and industry. Before taking up her current responsibilities, Sylvia Kainz-Huber was Deputy Head of the unit responsible for the European space policy where she focused on issues related to space and security. Prior to that, she dealt with horizontal aspects of the EU's industrial policy, the Directorate-General's relations to other EU institutions, and SME policy. Her career in the European Commission also included posts in the Directorate-General for Research and Development where she dealt with SME access to the EU's Research Framework Programme. Before joining the European Commission 1995, Sylvia Kainz-Huber worked with Siemens central business administration division and as journalist specialising in ICT.