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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme
aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the
Union's defence industry (**first reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act
= Statements

Declaration from the Commission with support of the European Parliament concerning the implementation of the Programme

In order to implement the European Defence Industrial Development Programme efficiently and ensure full consistency with other Union initiatives, the Commission intends to implement the programme under direct management in accordance with Article 62(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

Declaration from the Commission concerning the preparation and adoption of the EDIDP Work Programme

In accordance with article 188 of Regulation N°1268/2012, the Commission is responsible for the preparation of the work programme. In this context, the Commission notes that the list of priorities identified in the Regulation establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme should not be exhaustive and therefore, does not believe that the present case should constitute a precedent as to the margins of implementing powers granted to the Commission.

Declaration from the Commission on the selection of experts for the evaluation of proposals under the Programme in the context of the award procedure

The Commission will ensure that the experts selected in the database of independent experts referred to in Article 15 have the necessary skills, experience and knowledge to duly perform their tasks. The Commission may use any relevant source including any information Member States may possess in this regard to this effect while respecting fully to the Financial Regulation.

The Commission will ensure that Member States' feedback with regard to the credentials of the experts in the database of independent experts will be taken into account to the greatest possible extent.
