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COVER NOTE

From:	European External Action Service (EEAS)
To:	Political and Security Committee (PSC)
Subject:	Addendum to the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation

Delegations will find attached the Addendum to the “European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation” (ST 9762/17). This Addendum was approved by the Council on 4 July 2023, via a simplified written procedure (COREUS CFSP/SEC/0184/23 and CFSP/SEC/0186/23) pursuant to Article 12(2) (d) of the Council Rules of Procedure (COREU silence procedure).

The content of this document is identical to ST 10785/23 and replaces it

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Title / Subject	Addendum to the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation
[Ref. prev. doc.]	- Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) Roadmap (WK 17028/2022 INIT)

Addendum to the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation

I. INTRODUCTION

The European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation (TOR) were approved by the Council on 8 June 2017 (ST 9762/17) and incorporate the necessary elements for the establishment of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), in line with the Council Conclusions of 14 November 2016 (ST 14149/16) on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of Security and Defence.

On 21 March 2022, the Council approved the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence (ST 7371/22), which was endorsed by the European Council on 24-25 March 2022. In the Strategic Compass, the Member States committed to *“ensure that the Military Planning and Conduct Capability is fully able to plan, control and command non-executive and executive tasks and operations, as well as live exercises. In this context, we will ramp up personnel contributions and ensure that we have the necessary communication and information systems, as well as required facilities”*. Moreover, the Member States decided that *“By 2025, the Military Planning and Conduct Capability will be able to plan and conduct all non-executive military missions and two small-scale or one medium scale executive operation/s, as well as live exercises”*.

On 10 January 2023, the MPCC Roadmap (WK 17028/2022 INIT) was presented in the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the PSC invited the EUMC to provide its advice and the PMG to provide its recommendations thereon.

On 28 February 2023, the PSC stressed the importance of a timely and pragmatic implementation of the MPCC Roadmap and endorsed the recommendations of the Military Advice (ST 5892/23) and PMG Recommendations (ST 6665/23), with a view to revert to its progress in due course. The PSC also called for the revision of the EUMS/MPCC TORs in line with the MPCC Roadmap, and in view of the amendment of Council Decision (EU) 2017/971 determining the planning and conduct arrangements for EU non-executive military CSDP missions.

In its Military Advice, the EUMC notably supported *“the initial staff ramp up from 60 to 80 (early 2023) and the increase from 80 to 115 (late 2023/early 2024)”*. Moreover, in its Recommendations, the PMG asked that *“an in-depth military analysis on the expansion of the MPCC staff beyond 115 (...)and any further related infrastructure build-up, to be followed by a possible further revision of the EUMS/MPCC TORs accordingly, be developed and agreed by the MS”*.

II. PROPOSED WAY AHEAD

In this context and with a view to facilitating the implementation of the MPCC Roadmap across its various strands of work, it is appropriate that the above-mentioned elements, including the figures endorsed by the PSC on 28 February 2023, be approved by the Council. Additional resources will have to be made available to the EEAS by the budgetary authority in order to enable this action.

To that effect it is proposed that:

- A limited amendment to the 2017 EU Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation, in the form of an addendum as reflected in the Annex to this document, be approved by the Council;
- Pending further political guidance and a related decision on the overall EU Command and Control (C2) structure, also in view of the operationalisation of the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity (RDC), a comprehensive revision of the EUMS TORs should continue to be prepared, with a view to its approval by the Council and a subsequent amendment of Council Decision (EU) 2017/971.

ANNEX

Addendum to the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation

It is proposed that the following text be incorporated as an addendum to the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation ST 9762/17 of 9 June 2017:

The Council underlines the need to ensure adequate resourcing of the further development of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) so that it is fully operational by 2025, in line with the Strategic Compass. The Council considers that the MPCC, in particular, has to be able to carry out its functions in the operational planning and conduct of all non-executive military missions and two small-scale or one medium-scale executive operation/s, as well as live exercises.

To this end, the Council stresses the need to increase the size of the MPCC staff to meet in a gradual and systematic manner the objectives defined in the MPCC Roadmap by 2025 (WK 17028/2022 INIT) as follows:

- a. A gradual increase in MPCC staffing, up to 115 cost-shared seconded national experts by 2024 (from 60 to 80 in 2023, and from 80 to 115 in 2024), to be financed through a net increase to the EEAS' resources;
- b. A further reflection on how to ensure adequate staffing beyond 2025 in line with the Strategic Compass objectives.

This staff increase only refers to the permanent-based personnel in Brussels and does not limit future decisions regarding the size of the MPCC staff.