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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directives 2009/43/EC and 2009/81/EC, as regards the simplification of intra-EU transfers of defence-related products and the simplification of security and defence procurement **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

Joint statement by the European Parliament and the Council on the simplification of intra-EU transfers of defence-related products and the simplification of security and defence procurement to be entered in the Council minutes

The European Parliament and the Council acknowledge the urgency of establishing a defence-readiness mindset in the European Union and of decisively ramping up Europe's defence readiness by 2030. They recall that the Defence Readiness Omnibus V provides an immediate response to that urgent need by simplifying procedures and reducing administrative burdens in the Union's regulatory framework, allowing Member States to achieve defence readiness by 2030.

The European Parliament and the Council emphasize the importance of taking all appropriate measures to strengthen and further develop the EDTIB, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and of removing bottlenecks in order to enable procurement processes to proceed in a faster and more agile manner, thereby supporting the achievement of capability targets and increasing production capacity across the Union defence industry value chains. They also stress the importance of a well-functioning European market for defence products across the Union, including intra-EU cross-border access to defence supply chains and intra-EU transfers of defence products.

The European Parliament and the Council recognize that further efforts are required to reach Defence Readiness by 2030. The European Parliament and the Council therefore call on the Commission to consider, as appropriate, putting forward as soon as possible any further initiatives necessary to strengthen the EDTIB and foster defence readiness. The European Parliament and the Council stress the need to enhance the Union's strategic autonomy and capacity to respond to emerging security challenges.

For this purpose, the European Parliament and the Council have agreed on important simplifications for Intra-EU transfers of military equipment and defence procurements for the Defence Readiness Omnibus V. At the same time European Parliament and Council acknowledge that diverging views exist regarding the need to include specific eligibility criteria in the context of defence procurement and the instrument to achieve a harmonized implementation of transfer simplification procedures in order to achieve this objective.

In the framework of the review of the defence procurement Directive, further developments should be based on an impact assessment evaluating, inter alia, the effects on the specific needs of defence and sensitive security procurement, administrative burden, the need for enhanced security of supply and the effects of measures to stimulate procurement from the EDTIB. In the framework of the evaluation of intra-EU transfers Directive, future developments should aim at further simplifying transfers of defence products, addressing bottlenecks and strengthening the European market for defence equipment across the Union. All initiatives in the area of defence procurement and intra EU-transfer should take into account national responsibilities.

The European Parliament and the Council agree to examine and assess accordingly the need for any such initiatives without delay and in a spirit of mutual sincere cooperation, without prejudice to the legislative discretion of the co-legislators on the basis of the assessment of the outcome of such examinations.