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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Notification to the Council and the High Representative regarding the request by the United Kingdom to participate in the PESCO project Military Mobility

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (12.12.2022)

Delegations will find in Annex a Notification to the Council and the High Representative regarding the request by the United Kingdom to participate in the PESCO project Military Mobility.

**NOTIFICATION
TO THE COUNCIL AND THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING
THE REQUEST BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
PESCO PROJECT MILITARY MOBILITY**

INTRODUCTION

The Netherlands as the project coordinator of the PESCO project Military Mobility (hereafter ‘the project’) herewith notifies the Council and the High Representative of the wish of the project members to invite the United Kingdom (UK) to participate in the PESCO project Military Mobility in accordance with article 2(3) of Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639 of 5 November 2020 establishing the general conditions under which third States could exceptionally be invited to participate in individual PESCO projects (‘the Council Decision’).

The project members have assessed the request of the UK and **on October 6 2022** agreed unanimously:

- a) that they wish to invite the UK to participate in the project;
- b) on the scope and the form of the participation of the UK as described in this notification, and;
- c) that the UK complies with the general conditions set out in Article 3 of the Council Decision.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The PESCO project Military Mobility is part of a broader set of initiatives to improve military mobility within the EU. It serves as the central policy platform to discuss military mobility in Europe. It is also the forum where the national and international efforts in this area are aligned, including with the EU Action Plan on Military Mobility. The project thus brings together the political-strategic level with subject matter experts, serving as an incubator for tangible progress on

military mobility. The project does not consist of separate stages and no fixed end date is foreseen. Decisions relating to the project are taken unanimously by the project members. All project members take part in the various activities within the project. When developing concrete proposals, one or more project members may take the lead.

The work in the project until now has focused on: (1) the implementation of the national military mobility deliverables that were defined by the Foreign Affairs Council in June 2018¹; (2) the sharing of national best practices; (3) the alignment of the work strands stemming from the EU Action Plan on Military Mobility with the national military mobility efforts by facilitating a forum for discussion between the project members and the EU institutions and bodies. The harmonization and alignment of efforts between the project members is a priority for this project.

Future work of the project is foreseen in developing the conditions for (enhanced) military mobility in Europe for the next 5-10 years, including more ambitious time bound objectives and working towards further operationalizing the current initiatives. The European External Action Service (including the EU Military Staff), the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the relevant Commission services are invited to the project meetings.

No EU classified or sensitive information is shared within the project. The project is not implemented with the support of the European Defence Agency.² The project does not involve armament procurement, research and capability development, or the use and export of arms or

¹ Conclusions Foreign Affairs Council, 25th June 2018, paragraph 18: “Calls on Member States to take action nationally to improve the efficiency of military mobility, and to simplify and standardize relevant rules and procedures in coherence with the Action Plan and the Military Requirements for Military Mobility within and beyond the EU, in accordance with national legislation of the Member States, as soon as possible but no later than 2024, and aim at the following first steps to be achieved by the end of 2019:

- a) develop national plans for military mobility and give their implementation high priority;
- b) in accordance with relevant standardized procedures and subject to national decision making and criteria, accelerate border crossing procedures, and to that end work with competent national authorities towards granting cross border movement permissions, including requests for entry and movement permission for all modes (surface, air and sea) and aspects of military movement and transportation, for routine activities within 1 working days; and consider to bring this period further down for rapid reaction units;
- c) facilitate and speed up communication and procedures, and to that end create a strong interconnected network of National Points of Contact for all aspects relating to military mobility to, amongst others, be able to quickly handle requests for cross-border movements;
- d) use suitable existing national and multinational exercises to practice more regularly military mobility, including during live exercises, and short notice movements”.

capabilities and technology. Furthermore, the project does not involve entities, investments, funding from PESCO participating Member States or requests for EU funding for project activities.

PROPOSED SCOPE, FORM, AND EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION OF THE UK

The UK's request expresses full support of the scope of the project as defined in this notification. The UK's request demonstrates the UK Armed Forces remain committed to the defence of Europe. The request is also an acknowledgement of the EU and Members States' effective and timely action in the area of defence and military mobility. The UK is committed to support better military mobility across Europe. The UK shares the view of the project members that deployment of forces to provide timely reinforcement in a crisis or military conflict is pivotal to European security.

The UK's interest in joining the project underscores it is both a European Union and NATO priority. It also demonstrates the EU, its Members States and the UK share common security and defence interests.

The UK participation will contribute to enhanced EU-NATO cooperation on military mobility, as a priority at the highest political level for both organisations.³ The longstanding and day-to-day operational experience of the UK with CSDP operations and deploying military materiel and personnel will bring added value to the project.

The UK will participate by attending and actively contributing to the project meetings. It may also suggest or prepare topics for the agenda and when relevant, take part in the various activities within the project. Contributions consist of sharing experience, lessons learned and best practices, as well as developing new proposals, which contribute to the overall aims of the project. As a European partner, the UK can add a pragmatic perspective and constructive ideas on cross-border military transport procedures. The UK will provide experience and expertise on organizing movements in Europe to the discussions with the members of the project.

The extent of UK participation and its roles and responsibilities will be similar to those of the other project members, without prejudice to article 4 (2) of the Council Decision. In ^{2 3} case there are

² Within the meaning of article 3(g) of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639.

³ EU-NATO Joint Declaration July 10, 2018 as well as the Brussels Summit Declaration, paragraph 17 see https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_156624.htm

specific activities within the project that require either EU membership status or additional requirements defined by the project, which are not met by the UK, the UK will not take part in those activities. As far as these are identifiable at this point, they will be included in the Administrative Arrangement to be negotiated with the UK at a later stage in accordance with article 2(6) and article 4 (1) of the Council Decision.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ARTICLE 3 OF THE COUNCIL DECISION

Upon assessment of the request by the UK, the project members within the framework of the project as described above, unanimously agreed that the UK complies with the conditions as set out in article 3 of the Council Decision.

- a) The project members confirm the UK shares the values on which the Union is founded, as laid down in article 2 TEU, and the principles referred to in article 21(1) TEU as well as the objectives of the CFSP in points (a), (b), (c) and (h) of article 21(2) TEU. The UK is committed to upholding the shared values and principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, which underpin its domestic and international policies. It has reaffirmed respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international human rights treaties to which it is a party.

The EU and the UK maintain a political dialogue and conduct consultations on security and defence. These consultations have been addressing a wide range of issues such as cyber, hybrid threats and intelligence. In light of the war in Ukraine particular value is attached to the defence and security exchange of information on shared threats. The UK's Prime Minister, Defence Secretary and Foreign Secretary work closely with EU leaders. That dialogue has

underpinned collaboration on Russia and Ukraine related issues, and the EU and UK's unity of purpose in G7 and NATO Summits. The UK's Foreign Secretary joined the EU Foreign Affairs Council in March to discuss the situation in Ukraine. The breadth of the UK engagement is an illustration of a shared security agenda on Russia-Ukraine, the Sahel, Horn of Africa, Middle East, China and beyond. This is supported by the engagements at working level on a wide range of shared interests with the EEAS and the European Commission on foreign policy, defence, security and industrial topics. The UK takes part in the EU Clearing House Cell to coordinate the military assistance Ukraine and invited the EU to UK-led international donor conferences. As such, and in line with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the foreign policy relationship between the UK and EU is growing, with cooperation and information exchange on the issues of greatest mutual interest.

- b) The project members view the UK's participation as providing substantial added value to the project and contribute to achieving its objectives. This view is based on both its experience and active roles it has already taken on in the area of military mobility in both the Northern Group and NATO. This expertise will further enhance the EU's ability to act and contribute to the EU's ability to protect the Union and its citizens.

UK participation will allow it to share best practices and lessons learned in their many operations and large force exercises in Europe and elsewhere with other project members. The UK's deployments in Eastern Europe can provide synergy and opportunity for increased collaboration and interoperability. This expertise will be of substantial benefit to the project and complement the contributions from the project members.

UK participation in the project is more relevant than ever in the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Arms deliveries to Ukraine and the need to strengthen the eastern flank has increasingly demonstrated the pivotal function of military mobility in Europe.

- c) The project members agree that the UK participation will contribute to strengthening the CSDP and the Union's level of ambition including in support of CSDP missions and operations. By participating in the project the UK envisages to enhance the EU CFSP and CSDP. The UK is already a significant contributor to Euro-Atlantic security. It has demonstrated its commitment to security in Europe, its neighbourhood and beyond.

- d) The project does not address armament procurement, research and capability development, nor the use and export of arms, capabilities and technology. It does not develop any capability or technology. Therefore, the project members agree that UK participation shall not lead to dependencies on that third State or to restrictions imposed by it against any Member State of the Union, in this regard.
- e) The project members have also established that the UK participation will be consistent with the relevant more binding PESCO commitments as specified in the Annex to the Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315. UK participation will more specifically enhance the project members ability to fulfil commitments 12 and 13 with regard to the deployability and interoperability of forces. As this project is not a capability-orientated project, the question to what extent UK's participation contributes to fulfil priorities derived from the Capability Development Plan and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), as well as its positive impact on the European Defence Technological Industrial Base (EDTIB), are not relevant here.
- f) The Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information security of information is in force.
- g) The project members confirm the project is not implemented with the support of the EDA. An administrative arrangement with EDA is therefore not required.
- h) In its request, the UK is committed to ensuring respect for provisions of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315 and of Decision (CFSP) 2018/909.

NEXT STEPS

The Netherlands, as project coordinator, on behalf of the project members, invites the Council, on the basis of this notification and following an opinion by the Political and Security Committee, to take a decision in accordance with Article 46(6) TEU and Article 9(2) of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315 as to whether the participation of the UK in the project meets the conditions set out in article 3 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639.

Attachment: Request for participation from the UK

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