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**NOTE**

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From:	Political and Security Committee
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Opinion of the Political and Security Committee on the Notification regarding the request by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to participate in PESCO project Military Mobility

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Delegations will find in Annex the Opinion of the Political and Security Committee on the Notification regarding the request by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to participate in PESCO project Military Mobility, as agreed on 19 October 2022.

**OPINION OF THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE ON THE  
NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE REQUEST BY THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO PARTICIPATE IN PESCO PROJECT  
MILITARY MOBILITY**

1. In accordance with Article 2 (4) of Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639 establishing the general conditions under which third States could exceptionally be invited to participate in individual PESCO projects, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) is to provide its opinion on the notification<sup>1</sup> regarding the request by the United Kingdom (UK) to participate in PESCO project Military Mobility. On the basis of this notification and following the PSC opinion, the Council will 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 Military Mobility project meets the conditions set out in Article 3 of Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639. The below opinion together with the notification, which includes the project description, the scope, form and extent of the participation of the UK, its compliance with the general conditions as well as the request from the UK in attachment, is submitted to the Council for it to take a decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Notification to the Council and the High Representative regarding the request by the United Kingdom to participate in the PESCO project Military Mobility doc. ST 13591/22 of 14 October 2022.

2. The PSC takes note of the description of the Military Mobility PESCO project as provided in the notification, including its objectives, organization and decision-making as well as focus areas of work. It also notes that no EU classified or sensitive information is shared within the project. The project is not implemented with the support of the European Defence Agency<sup>2</sup>. The project does not involve armament procurement, research and capability development, or the use and export of arms or 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.
3. Following the assessment of the request from the UK by the project members of the PESCO Military Mobility project and their agreement by unanimity on that request, the PSC agrees with the proposed scope, form and extent of the participation of the UK in the project as described in the notification. It acknowledges that the UK has expressed that it fully supports the scope of the project as defined in the notification.
4. The PSC confirms the view unanimously agreed by the project members that the UK complies with the general conditions set out in Article 3 of Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639, as follows:
  - the UK meets the conditions set out in Article 3 (a), which requires sharing of 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; not contravening the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States, including respect for the principle of good neighbourly relations with the Member States, and having a political dialogue with the Union, which should also cover security and defence aspects when participating in this PESCO project.

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<sup>2</sup> Within the meaning of Article 3(g) of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639.

- regarding the condition in Article 3 (b) on the substantial added value of the UK to the Military Mobility project, the notification provides a detailed outline of the UK contribution including on the scope, form and extent of the participation in the project, which substantiates the fulfilment of this condition.
- when it comes to Article 3 (c), the UK participation in the Military Mobility project will contribute to strengthening the CSDP and the Union’s level of ambition including in support of CSDP missions and operations, as also detailed in the notification.
- regarding the condition in Article 3 (d), the Military Mobility 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. In this context, the UK participation in this project will not lead to dependencies on that third State or to restrictions imposed by it against any Member State of the Union.
- the required consistency in Article 3 (e) with the relevant more binding PESCO commitments, as specified in the Annex to the Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315, is also met, as further detailed in the notification. As the Military Mobility project is not a capability-orientated project, the condition concerning the contribution of the UK participation to fulfilling priorities derived from the Capability Development Plan and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) or having a positive impact on the European Defence Technological Industrial Base (EDTIB) is not applicable in this context.
- the requirement in Article 3 (f) is fulfilled as the Agreement between the European Union and the UK concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information security of information has been in force since 1 May 2021.
- the condition in Article 3 (g) is not applicable in this case, as the Military Mobility project is not implemented with the support of the EDA and therefore an administrative arrangement which has taken effect with EDA is not required.

- when it comes to Article 3 (h), the UK has committed to seek to conclude a project specific Administrative Arrangement and any other necessary documentation in accordance with PESCO decision (Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315) and PESCO governance rules (Decision (CFSP) 2018/909).
5. On this basis, PSC welcomes the commitment expressed by the UK in its request as well as the notification by the project members, and agrees that the UK meets the conditions set out in Article 3 of Decision (CFSP) 2020/1639 in order to be invited to participate in the Military Mobility project. PSC therefore invites COREPER to take note of this opinion and to recommend that the Council take a positive decision as to whether the participation of the UK in this project meets those general conditions.