



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 4 November 2022
(OR. en)

14367/22

LIMITE

CORLX 1040
CFSP/PESC 1491
EPF AM 99
CSDP/PSDC 739
CSC 492
EUMC 381
COPS 520

PROPOSAL

From: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, signed by Mr Stefano SANNINO, Secretary-General

date of receipt: 3 November 2022

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Subject: Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Council for a Council Decision on an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Lebanese Armed Forces

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (24.02.2023)

Delegations will find attached document HR (2022) 252.

Encl.: HR (2022) 252

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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**Proposal of the High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
to the Council**

of 28/10/2022

**for a Council Decision on an assistance measure under the European Peace
Facility to support the Lebanese Armed Forces**

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the proposed Assistance Measure (AM) is to enhance the capabilities and the resilience of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to ensure the national security and stability of Lebanon, through the enhancement of its military medical capacities, and the provision of equipment to LAF operational personnel.

With a view to achieving this overall objective, the following strands of support are proposed under this AM:

- Support the military medical services (central and regional centres) with healthcare equipment;
- Provide individual equipment to the logistic brigade.

In the current political, security and economic context, the LAF needs urgent support as detailed in this proposal, with a view to ensuring national security and stability.

Through the proposed AM, the EU will provide support in full respect of relevant international law (IL), in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law (IHRL/IHL). **The envisaged equipment will not include military equipment, or platforms, designed for delivering lethal force.** No equipment will feature on the EU Common Military List.

2. **DELETED**

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3. BENEFICIARY REQUEST

In a letter dated 25 October the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lebanon requested the EU to support the Lebanese Armed Forces.

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4. PROPOSED SUPPORT

The requested support will comply with relevant legal instruments and best practices based on international and EU rules and respect of international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The proposed AM responds to the Government's priorities to enhance military defense capabilities of the LAF. The security context of Lebanon requires assistance to the LAF to support their efforts to ensure national security and stability. Against this backdrop, the proposed AM is aimed at supporting deployed military units by supplying personal equipment, and providing existing medical healthcare services and logistic brigade with the means to perform their duties on the ground.

DELETED Upgrading the military medical capability, including in regional and central military hospitals will enable better medical care for soldiers wounded in current military operations

DELETED The delivery of core medical equipment for the central and regional healthcare centres should contribute to addressing the medical needs of the LAF. Supporting soldiers with individual equipment is key to ensure that the LAF can provide individual protection while on operations.

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The estimated amount to cover the expenditure related to the proposed AM is EUR 6,000,000.00 for a period of 36 months. The measure will be implemented by the Administrator, including through a possible administrative arrangement with *Economat des Armées*.

5. PROJECT SUMMARY

The overall objective of the proposed AM is to strengthen the capabilities and resilience of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to ensure the national security and stability of Lebanon.

The specific objectives of the proposed AM are the following:

- Component one: Medical support

-The LAF central and regional medical services are provided with upgraded medical equipment to ensure healthcare services to the Lebanese military.

The military medical service supporting the LAF provides healthcare and medical services to the troops deployed, and as part of LAF recruitment and retention policy. With the recent socio-economic crisis and the COVID 19 pandemic, medical facilities need to be replaced and/or upgraded to meet the needs regarding healthcare services.

The structure of the Military medical services in Lebanon is based on a central medical health care in Beirut and four regional centres (Tripoli, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and Saida). The military centres in the North, the Bekaa and the South receive a relatively important number of patients per week

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- Component two: individual equipment

-To enable the Army to equip soldiers with individual equipment to replace parts that are worn out. The logistic brigade will be responsible to dispatch the individual equipment to the militaries across the country. It would help to reinforce the “esprit de corps” and show to the soldiers and junior officers that the LAF central services can still support those on the ground.

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The expected results are as follows:

Component one:

- Medical equipment is provided to the healthcare centres to be able to provide the LAF with quality health care services in the regional military healthcare facilities.

The three regional military healthcare centres to be supported under this AM are:

- The North military healthcare centre in Tripoli;
- The Bekaa military healthcare centre;
- The South military healthcare centre in Saida.

Component two:

- Soldiers are provided with personal equipment to be able to properly perform their duties on the ground.

The indicative **activities**¹ to be carried out in the framework of the first component of the AM are as follows:

Component one:

1. Equipping the medical healthcare centre of Tripoli.
2. Equipping the medical healthcare centre of Bekaa.
3. Equipping the medical healthcare centre of Saida.

¹ The amounts indicated are tentative estimates.

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The equipment is delivered to the military central healthcare service, which has the responsibility to dispatch the needed equipment to each of the three regional healthcare centres (Tripoli, Bekaa, Saida).

The delivered equipment should cover medical equipment for the emergency and intensive care (including up to 6 ambulances), reanimation, surgery, and post-surgery services and the laboratory for three regional military services.

This component would have an estimated cost of EUR 3.5 million.

Component two:

The delivery of sleeping bags, tactical vests and field mattresses as the most urgent needs to all the operational units across the country.

This component will have an estimated cost of EUR 2.5 million.

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Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION

on an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Lebanese Armed Forces

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 41(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/5092, the European Peace Facility (EPF) was established for the financing by Member States of Union actions under the common foreign and security policy to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security pursuant to Article 21(2), point (c), of the Treaty. In particular, pursuant to Article 1(2) of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509, the EPF can finance actions to strengthen the capacities of third States and regional and international organisations relating to military and defence matters.
- (2) The national security and stability of Lebanon is key for the EU and the international community. Considerable efforts have been invested to support Lebanon, and in particular the Lebanese Armed Forces, to contribute to this matter.
- (3) Resolutions 1559 and 1701 of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have established the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) mission to support the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to maintain peace and stability in South Lebanon. The EU reaffirms its support to UNIFIL, to which several EU Member States make significant contributions. The UNSC also called upon the international community to support the Lebanese Armed Forces to ensure the national security and stability of Lebanon.
- (4) On 25 October 2022, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy received a request for the Union to support the Lebanese Armed Forces.
- (5) Assistance measures are to be implemented taking into account the principles and requirements set out in Decision (CFSP) 2021/509, and in particular compliance with Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, and in accordance with the rules for the implementation of revenue and expenditure financed under the EPF.
- (6) The Council reaffirms its determination to protect, promote and fulfil human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic principles and to strengthen the rule of law and good

² Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 of 22 March 2021 establishing a European Peace Facility, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2015/528 (OJ L 102, 24.3.2021, p. 14).

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governance, in compliance with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Establishment, objectives, scope and duration

1. An assistance measure benefitting Lebanon (the ‘beneficiary’) is hereby established, to be financed under the European Peace Facility (EPF) (the ‘Assistance Measure’).
2. The objective of the Assistance Measure is to enhance the capabilities and the resilience of the Lebanese Armed Forces to ensure the national security and stability of Lebanon, through the enhancement of their military medical capacities, and the provision of equipment for the Lebanese Armed Forces’ operational personnel.
3. To achieve the objective set out in paragraph 2, the Assistance Measure shall finance the following types of equipment not designed to deliver lethal force:
 - Healthcare equipment to support the military medical services (central and regional centres);
 - Individual equipment for the logistic brigade.
4. The duration of the Assistance Measure shall be 36 months from the date of conclusion of the first contract by the Administrator for Assistance Measures, acting as authorising officer, in accordance with Article 32(2), point (a), including in the context of administrative arrangements under Article 37(3) of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509.

Article 2

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Assistance Measure shall be EUR 6 000 000.
2. All expenditure shall be managed in accordance with Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 and the rules for the implementation of revenue and expenditure financed under the EPF.

Article 3

Arrangements with the beneficiary

1. The High Representative shall make the necessary arrangements with the beneficiary to ensure its compliance with the requirements and conditions established by this Decision as a condition for the provision of support under the Assistance Measure.
2. The arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 shall include provisions obliging the beneficiary to ensure:

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- a) compliance of the units of the Lebanese Armed Forces supported under the Assistance Measure with relevant international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- b) proper and efficient use of any assets provided under the Assistance Measure for the purposes for which they were provided;
- c) sufficient maintenance of any assets provided under the Assistance Measure to ensure their usability and their operational availability over their life-cycle;
- d) that any assets provided under the Assistance Measure will not be lost, or be transferred without the consent of the Facility Committee established under Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 to persons or entities other than those identified in those arrangements, at the end of their life-cycle.

3. The arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 shall include provisions on the suspension and termination of support under the Assistance Measure in the event of the beneficiary being found in breach of the obligations set out in paragraph 2.

Article 4

Implementation

1. The High Representative shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this Decision in accordance with Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 and with the rules for the implementation of revenue and expenditure financed under the EPF, consistently with the Integrated Methodological Framework for assessing and identifying the required measures and controls for assistance measures under the EPF.
2. The implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1(3) shall be carried out by the Administrator for assistance measures, including through administrative arrangements within the meaning of Art. 37(3) of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509.

Article 5

Monitoring, control and evaluation

1. The High Representative shall monitor the respect of the obligations established in accordance with Article 3 by the beneficiary. This monitoring shall be used to provide awareness about the context and the risks of breaches of the obligations established in accordance with Article 3, and to contribute to the prevention of such breaches, including violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law by the units of the Lebanese Armed Forces supported under the Assistance Measure.
2. The post-shipment control of equipment and supplies shall be organised as follows:
 - a) delivery verification, whereby EPF delivery certificates are to be signed by the end-user forces upon transfer of ownership;

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- b) reporting on the inventory, whereby the beneficiary is to report annually on the inventory of designated items until such reporting is no longer deemed necessary by the Political and Security Committee (PSC);
- c) on-site control, whereby the beneficiary is to facilitate and grant the High Representative access to conduct on-site inspections upon request.

3. The High Representative shall conduct a final evaluation upon completion of the Assistance Measure to assess whether the Assistance Measure has contributed to reaching the stated objectives.

Article 6

Reporting

During the period of implementation, the High Representative shall provide the PSC with six-monthly reports on the implementation of the Assistance Measure, in accordance with Article 63 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509. The administrator for Assistance Measures shall regularly inform the Facility Committee established by Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 on the implementation of revenue and expenditure in accordance with Article 38 of that Decision, including by providing information on the suppliers and subcontractors involved.

Article 7

Suspension and termination

1. The PSC may decide to suspend wholly or partially the implementation of the Assistance Measure in accordance with Article 64 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509.
2. The PSC may also recommend that the Council terminate the Assistance Measure.

Article 8

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President