



Council of the
European Union

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**CORLX 1051
CFSP/PESC 1519
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PROPOSAL

From:	High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, signed by Mr Stefano SANNINO, Secretary-General
date of receipt:	4 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 in support of the implementation of a project on “Unlocking Innovation: Enabling Technologies and International Security”

Delegations will find attached document HR(2022) 268.

Encl.: HR(2022) 268

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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 04/11/2022

**for a Council Decision in support of the implementation of a project on
“Unlocking Innovation: Enabling Technologies and International Security”**

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COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2022/...

of dd/mm/2022

in support of the implementation of a project on
“Unlocking Innovation: Enabling Technologies and International Security”

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 31(1) thereof,

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

Whereas:

- (1) The 2016 Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy (the ‘EU Global Strategy’)¹ emphasizes that the Union will step up its contribution to collective security.
- (2) The 2018 EU Strategy against illicit firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition, “Securing Arms, Protecting Citizens”² noted that the EU will make use of relevant instruments to support research and development in the field of reliable and cost effective technology to secure SALW and their ammunition and mitigate the risks of diversion. Furthermore, the Council, in its conclusions accompanying its adoption of the Strategy, noted the evolved security context, including the threat of terrorism within the EU and developments in SALW design and technology affecting the capacity of governments to address the threat.
- (3) The European AI Strategy³ notes that the guiding principle of all support for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related research will be the development of "responsible AI". It further notes that, AI being easily tradeable across borders, only global solutions will be sustainable in this domain, and that the Union will promote the use of AI, and technologies in general, to help solve global challenges, support the implementation of the Paris Climate agreement and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- (4) The United Nations Secretary-General noted in the 2021 report “Current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament

¹ European Union, [Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe, A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy](#), Brussels, June 2016.

² Council of the European Union, Council Conclusions on the Adoption of an EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition, Brussels, 19 November 2018, [13581/18](#).

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Artificial Intelligence for Europe, Brussels, 25 April 2018, [COM/2018/237](#)

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efforts”⁴ the growing concerns that developments in science and technology of relevance to security and disarmament are outpacing the normative and governance frameworks to understand and manage the risks.

- (5) The Union wishes to contribute to collective security and the potential to benefit from the opportunities presented by new technologies, as well as addressing their challenges, notably to the multilateral disarmament and arms control system.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. With a view to the implementation of the EU Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy and taking into account the EU Strategy against illicit firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition as well as the EU AI Strategy, the project activities to be supported by the Union shall have the following specific objectives:

1.1 Support the work that UNIDIR conducts within its “Security and Technology Programme (SECTEC)” with a view to enhance knowledge and understanding of new and emerging technologies with relevance for international security.

1.2 Activities under the project will notably:

- a) Monitor, identify and understand new and emerging technologies, as well as novel applications of more established ones, in order to providing policy and decision-makers with accessible knowledge on the technology areas under examination, built on technically and scientifically sound evidence.
- b) Seek to provide better understanding how new enabling technologies could be used, and what effect they could achieve, in security contexts. Work conducted under this pillar will focus also on the increasing convergence of different technologies and their cross-domain applications. In particular, including how advancements in enabling technologies will shape the future of conflict and of the battlefield.
- c) Explore if novel enabling technologies pose new governance challenges and, if so, how the traditional arms control tool-box can be modernized to address them. In addition, the project will also explore the complementarity of traditional arms control measures with broader technology governance measures that may contribute to achieving the same goals of security, stability, safety, risk reduction, and non-proliferation

⁴ United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General, 19 July 2021, [A/76/182](#)

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A detailed description of the project is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

1. The High Representative shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
2. The technical implementation of the project referred to in Article 1 shall be carried out by United Nations Institute for Disarmament research (UNIDIR).
3. UNIDIR shall perform its task under the responsibility of the High Representative. For that purpose, the High representative shall enter into the necessary arrangements with UNIDIR.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the project financed by the Union referred to in Article 1 shall be [EUR XXX].
2. The expenditure financed by the reference amount set out in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rule applicable to the Union budget.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure financed by the amount referred to in paragraph 1. For that purpose, it shall conclude a contribution agreement with UNIDIR. The contribution agreement shall stipulate that UNIDIR is to ensure the visibility of the Union's contribution, appropriate to its size.
4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the agreement referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Decision. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of the conclusion of the agreement.

Article 4

1. The High Representative shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision on the basis of regular quarterly joint reports by UNIDIR. The reports shall form the basis of the evaluation carried out by the Council.
2. The Commission shall provide information on the financial aspects of the implementation of the project referred to in Article 1.

Article 5

1. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.
2. This Decision shall expire 24 months after the conclusion of the agreement referred to in Article 3(3). However, it shall expire six months after the date of the entry into force if no agreement has been concluded within that period.

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Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

