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To:	Political and Security Committee (PSC)
Subject:	Security and Defence Partnership Forum – “Schuman Forum”

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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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Security and Defence Partnership Forum – “Schuman Forum”

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Security and Defence Partnership Forum – “Schuman Forum”

I. Issue:

Presentation to PSC of the proposed list of partners to be invited by the High Representative (HR) to the 2023 Security and Defence Partnership Forum (Schuman Forum).

II. Background and rationale:

1. In line with the mandate established in the Strategic Compass in March 2022, the EEAS is organising the first “Security and Defence Partnership Forum”, known as the “Schuman Forum”, to take place on 20-21 March 2023 in Brussels. The objective is to gather representatives of the EU’s closest partners in security and defence for a high level event which will allow the EU to show case its security and defence identity. It will also be an opportunity to engage more actively with its partners.
2. The Schuman Forum will be composed of keynote speeches, high-level panels, plenary sessions and roundtables. The high-level panels will provide an opportunity for politicians and senior decision-makers to express their visions for partnerships in security and defence, and the roundtables will focus on a mix of geographical and functional issues and challenges. Overall, the Forum sessions will help explore how on-going and potential partnerships can contribute to international peace and security.
3. The event is targeted at Ministers of Defence from EU Member States and partner countries, as well as representatives of key international and regional organisations (**United Nations, NATO, OSCE, African Union, ASEAN, League of Arab States and Gulf Cooperation Council**). The event will combine a closed-door session/dinner on the first day and an open “public diplomacy” event on the second day, with the participation also of non-state representatives (academics, think tanks, journalists, civil society). Ministers of Foreign Affairs from EU Member States will also be invited to the dinner.
4. The proposed invitation list combines partner **countries that will be systematically invited, as well as countries invited on a case-by-case basis**. It takes into account the views already expressed by EU Member States in PSC in September 2022 when the concept of the first Schuman Forum was presented by the EEAS.
5. For the first category (**countries systematically invited**), the invitation list below is based on the following criteria:
 1. Countries having concluded Framework Participation Agreements (FPA) with the EU and/or contributing to the EU’s CSDP missions and operations;
 2. Countries having other close cooperation with the EU in security and defence, e.g. established security and defence consultations/dialogues, participation in PESCO projects.

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Countries	FPA	Contribute to CSDP missions and operations	Security and defence dialogues / other cooperation
Europe			
Albania	X	X	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X	
Georgia	X	X	X
Iceland	X		X
Montenegro	X	X	
North Macedonia	X	X	
Norway	X	X	X
Rep. of Moldova	X	X	X
Serbia	X	X	
Swiss Confederation***		X	X
Turkey	X	X	X
Ukraine	X		X
United Kingdom			X
Americas			
Canada	X	X	X
Chile	X	X	X
Colombia	X	X	X
Peru**	X		X
United States	X		X
Asia Indo-Pacific			
Australia	X		
India			X
Indonesia*			X
Japan			X
New Zealand	X		
Rep. of Korea	X	X	X
Vietnam	X	X	X
MENA			
Jordan**	X		
Africa			
Kenya			X
Rwanda****			X

*Indonesia will also be the chair of ASEAN in 2023.

**FPAs signed but not yet ratified (Peru 14.10.2022, Jordan 07.08.2019).

***Switzerland contributes to CSDP missions and operations via a series of ad hoc Participation Agreement, rather than a FPA.

**** Security and defence consultations with Rwanda are foreseen for January 2023.

6. In addition, recognising also that several regions of the world would otherwise be underrepresented, it is proposed to invite a limited list of additional countries which are of strategic importance as regional actors in peace and security; are otherwise important partners for the EU's security and defence agenda. This list should be refreshed for each iteration of the Forum. The proposed list for this first inaugural event has taken into account recommendations of EEAS geographical services.

MENA: Egypt, Israel, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE;

Africa: Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa;

Asia: Singapore, Philippines;

South America: Brazil.

III. Next steps

Following PSC discussion on the list of invitees, the HR will send formal letters of invitation to the identified partners.
