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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the European Defence Industry Programme and a framework of measures to ensure the timely availability and supply of defence products ('EDIP Regulation') **(first reading)**

- Adoption of the legislative act
- = Statements

Greece has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

Greece remains firmly committed to strengthening the European Union's defence readiness, resilience, and capability development. In this context, we have consistently supported the establishment of a strong European defence industry, to strengthen the EU's strategic autonomy, without dependencies from third non like-minded parties.

In this regard, we wish to underline that, in the absence of a comprehensive and robust control framework in place, the existing text may allow for the participation of third countries, or third country entities, which could affect the defence and security interests of the Union and its Member States.

Nonetheless, in a spirit of flexibility and constructive approach, Greece will not vote against - nor abstain from - the final draft of the EDIP Regulation, provided that our relevant concerns be properly addressed in the course of its implementation.

Cyprus has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

Cyprus supports all actions that would contribute to consolidating, augmenting and strengthening the European defence industrial base as this is indispensable for reaching the ulterior Union objective of strategic autonomy and readiness by 2030.

In this regard, Cyprus considers that cooperation with entities controlled by like-minded third countries can be beneficial for the Union defence industry, provided that the Union's and the Member States' interests are protected and not contravened. This should be appropriately addressed in the course of EDIP's implementation.

Given that EDIP is a pilot/emergency programme aiming at strengthening the European Defence Industry in the current geopolitical context whilst setting the first basis for the future MFF, Cyprus supports its adoption and acknowledges its added value and benefits for the defence industry and Union autonomy.

However, Cyprus also considers that in the future MFF framework, a robust procedure should be established, under which the security interests of the Union and its Member states are assessed, to ensure that such collaboration would not contravene the security and defence interests of the EU and its MS. This is in line not only with the strategic objective of EDIP or the future defence programs but also with the fact that EDIP is a Union program funded with the Union's and citizens' money and hence it should be used to support primarily the European defence industry.

Hungary has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

While supporting the objective of the Regulation, Hungary considers it essential to record the following in relation to the Ukraine Support Instrument (USI):

Hungary supports all efforts aimed at launching substantive negotiations toward a sustainable, stable peace that guarantees the long-term security of the European continent. Hungary believes that with the start of the peace negotiations, led by the United States, the conflict has entered a new phase to which the EU needs to adapt its policy-making.

In light of the above, and in line with its longstanding commitment to peace, Hungary does not support the creation of new EU financial instruments that contribute militarily to the war in Ukraine and endangers the success of peace negotiations, therefore Hungary abstains from the adoption of the EDIP Regulation.

Netherlands, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Poland have requested that the following joint statement be entered in the Council minutes

Netherlands, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Poland remain committed to strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). We fully support the goal of enhancing European security and resilience through increased defence cooperation and investment. The adoption of the European Defence Industry Program (EDIP) is an important step towards achieving that goal.

We face an urgent threat to European territory and interests. We need to rapidly expand our defence investments and scale up production. European armed forces face critical shortfalls, particularly in air and missile defence. We therefore welcome the flexibility in EDIP for industrial cooperation with non-associated third countries, in particular regarding subcontractors for larger components and licensed production. In our view industrial cooperation with our allies strengthens - not weakens - the EDTIB. It reinforces supply chain resilience, fosters industrial expertise, enables life-cycle support, and deepens interoperability.

Therefore, we emphasize that future EU instruments strengthening the EDTIB must also demonstrate sufficient flexibility in this regard. Eligibility criteria should take into account existing supply chains and the industrial cooperation with non-EU partners as well as allow to meet the capability requirements. More flexibility will bridge the gap between immediate capability needs and Europe's long-term strategic independence, while also safeguarding support to Ukraine, ensuring close cohesion with NATO capability requirements and increasing interoperability.
