



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 18 November 2011**

**17172/11**

**LIMITE**

**COSDP 1092  
POLARM 18  
IND 148  
RECH 377  
ECO 138  
CH 32**

**“I/A” ITEM NOTE**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council

**To:** COREPER / Council

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**Subject:** Draft Framework for Cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports of the Swiss Confederation  
- approval

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1. On 11 November 2011, the European Defence Agency's (EDA) Steering Board noted the draft Framework for Cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports of the Swiss Confederation. In accordance with Article 24 of the Council Decision 2011/411/CFSP of 12 July 2011 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency<sup>1</sup>, whereby administrative arrangements are to be concluded by the EDA Steering Board upon approval by the Council, the EDA Steering Board agreed to forward the draft Framework for Cooperation to the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 183, 13.7.2011, p. 16.

2. This decision by the EDA Steering Board follows negotiations between EDA and Switzerland commenced further to a negotiation mandate given to the Head of the Agency by the EDA Steering Board on 14 October 2010.
3. On 17 November 2011, the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX) discussed and agreed the text of the draft Framework for Cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports of the Swiss Confederation, without making any amendments to the text.
5. In these circumstances, COREPER is invited to:
  - confirm the agreement on the draft Framework for Cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports of the Swiss Confederation as set out in the Annex to this note;
  - recommend to the Council to approve the draft Framework for Cooperation with a view to its conclusion by the EDA Steering Board.

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**DRAFT**  
**FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN**  
**THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY AND**  
**THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, CIVIL PROTECTION AND SPORTS OF**  
**THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

The Head of the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS) on behalf of the Swiss Confederation have set this Framework for Cooperation between the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS) (hereinafter referred to as “Participants”). It is noted that this Framework for Cooperation fulfils the requirements of Article 24 of the Council Decision 2011/411/CFSP of 12 July 2011 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency and repealing Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP (hereinafter referred to as "Council Decision").

Principle of the relationship

1. The DDPS and the EDA share a desire to exchange views and information on matters of common interest falling within the scope of the Agency’s mission, and to ensure that the DDPS is kept fully informed of opportunities for future co-operation. The EDA intends to provide the DDPS with the fullest possible transparency regarding the Agency’s specific projects and programmes with a view to the DDPS’s participation therein as appropriate. The relationship between the EDA and the DDPS is limited to research and technology and armaments co-operation at project and programme level. The relationship, including any contractual commitments which may be entered into for the implementation of cooperative projects and programmes, will be conducted with full respect for the decision-making autonomy of both the European Union and the Swiss Confederation, and the single institutional framework of the EU. The Annex to this Framework for Cooperation sets out the procedures for DDPS participation in such projects and programmes.

## Provisions for consultation

2. Representatives of the DDPS will participate in the Consultative Committee foreseen in Article 24 of the Council Decision which will provide a forum for exchanging views and information on matters of common interest falling within the scope of the EDA's mission.
3. In its general composition, the Consultative Committee will be chaired by the Chief Executive or his/her representative and should normally meet twice yearly, and on other occasions when a mutual interest is recognised.
4. The Consultative Committee may also meet in specific compositions dealing with specialised issues such as research and technology or armaments.
5. Information will be provided on a basis of reciprocal transparency. Documents exchanged in the framework of the Consultative Committee will be regarded as officially representing the views of the originating Participant. The Consultative Committee may use a written procedure to exchange information in the framework of this Committee without convening a meeting. The EDA will record these exchanges, solely for archiving purposes.
6. A Point of Contact will be established in the Agency's staff, and a liaison officer will be designated by the DDPS in an appropriate Swiss Office, in addition to the Consultative Committee. The primary objective of this Framework for Cooperation is to speed up the flow of information, in relation to Consultative Committee activities, between the Participants concerning participation in projects and programmes. The Point of Contact and Liaison Officer will also ensure that the appropriate "matters of common interest" are identified for discussion at the Consultative Committee meetings and that those meetings are effectively structured. In order not to impede the information flow, neither the Agency nor the DDPS will be bound by the content of these exchanges. The corresponding documents will have an indicative nature. The EDA will record these exchanges.

7. The Participants intend to ensure that the Consultative Committee and Liaison Officer/Point of Contact arrangements operate with sufficient frequency and transparency:
- to give the DDPS maximum advance warning, visibility and details on which to base its decisions on participation in specific projects and programmes;
  - to provide the EDA with well-based and authoritative information about the potential contribution of the Swiss Confederation to specific projects and programmes, enabling it to provide such information to its Steering Board in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Council Decision.
8. Involvement of the DDPS in EDA ad hoc projects and programmes will be subject to the arrangements specified in Chapter IV of the Council Decision, bearing in mind the principle of the relationship between the Participants referred to in paragraph 1 of this Framework for Cooperation.
9. In accordance with Article 8.7 of the Council Decision, the Steering Board may decide to invite representatives of the DDPS as appropriate, to attend meetings on matters of common interest.

#### Security matters

10. The rules and modalities governing all provision or exchange of information under this Framework for Cooperation, including its Annex, are consistent with the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the EU on the Security Procedures for the Exchange of Classified Information.

Review

- 11. This Framework for Cooperation, including its Annex, may be reviewed at any time in the light of lessons learned and experience gained. Amendments will be agreed in conformity with each Participant's internal procedures.

Coming into effect and termination

- 12. This Framework for Cooperation, including its Annex, will take effect at the date of its signature. It will apply for an unlimited period of time and may be terminated by either Participant at any time.

For the DDPS

For the EDA

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## ANNEX

### PARTICIPATION BY THE DDPS IN EDA AD HOC PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES REGIME APPLICABLE TO CONTRACTS TO BE LET BY THE EDA

1. This Annex sets out the procedures for the participation by the DDPS in ad hoc projects or programmes of the EDA, and the regime applicable to contracts to be let by the EDA in this context.

#### Participation by the DDPS in ad hoc projects and programmes

2. The DDPS may take part in ad hoc projects and programmes in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of the Council Decision.

Where the DDPS wishes to participate in ad hoc projects and programmes, whether or not the EDA is requested to let a contract or contracts by the contributing Members and the DDPS in these projects and programmes, the following procedure will apply with respect to the DDPS:

- (1) The DDPS will send a letter to the EDA identifying the ad hoc project(s) and programme(s) in which the DDPS wishes to participate with other Contributing Members specifying, as the case may be, the modalities agreed upon with the Members contributing to such project or programme and the tasks (if any) required to be performed by the EDA;
- (2) The EDA will seek the Steering Board approval of the DDPS' contribution to the ad hoc project(s) and programme(s) and of the EDA's tasks under such project(s) and programme(s);
- (3) When the Steering Board has approved the ad hoc project(s) and programme(s) with the DDPS' participation, as well as the tasks to be performed by the EDA, the EDA will forthwith inform the DDPS in writing about such approval and/or decisions by the Steering Board.

Regime applicable to Contracts to be let by the EDA

3. Where the Contributing Members and the DDPS in an ad hoc project or programme wish the EDA to let a contract or contracts and provided that the EDA has been given such authority by the Steering Board, the EDA will enter into a contract or contracts in accordance with its own contracting principles for ad hoc projects and programmes. The EDA will, when the DDPS is contributing in such projects or programmes, let the contract or contracts in the same manner as for the other Contributing Members, and will secure the rights and obligations of the DDPS in accordance with the arrangements made among the Contributing Members and the DDPS.

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