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CFSP/PESC 251
CONOP 9
CODUN 2
ATO 11

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2022/...

of ...

**promoting the European network
of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks**

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) On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted the EU Strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction ('the EU WMD Non-proliferation Strategy'), Chapter III of which contains a list of measures that need to be taken both within the Union and in third countries to combat such proliferation.
- (2) The Union is actively implementing the EU WMD Non-proliferation Strategy and giving effect to the measures listed in Chapter III thereof, such as developing the necessary structures within the Union.
- (3) On 8 December 2008, the Council adopted its conclusions and a document entitled 'New lines for action by the European Union in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems' ('the New Lines for Action'), which states that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction ('WMD') continues to constitute one of the greatest security challenges and that non-proliferation policy constitutes an essential part of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP).
- (4) In the New Lines for Action, the Council calls on competent Council formations and bodies, the Commission, other institutions and Member States to give a concrete follow-up to that document.

- (5) In the New Lines for Action, the Council underlines that action by the Union to prevent proliferation could benefit from the support provided by a non-governmental non-proliferation network, bringing together foreign-policy institutions and research centres specialising in the Union's strategic areas while building on useful networks which already exist. Such a network could be extended to institutions in third countries.
- (6) On 19 November 2018, the Council adopted the EU Strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, entitled 'Securing arms, protecting citizens' ('the EU SALW Strategy'). The EU SALW Strategy replaced the EU Strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition, which was adopted in 2005. Illicit SALW continue to contribute to instability and violence in the Union, in its immediate neighbourhood and in the rest of the world. Illicit small arms are fuelling armed violence and organised crime, as well as global terrorism and conflicts, and thwarting sustainable development and crisis-management efforts. They destabilise entire regions, as well as States and their societies, and increase the impact of terrorist attacks. This is why the Council is committed to preventing and curbing the illicit trade in SALW and their ammunition and is promoting accountability and responsibility with regard to their legal trade. The EU SALW Strategy takes into account the evolved security context, including the threat of terrorism inside the Union and developments in SALW design and technology affecting the capacity of governments to address the threat. It also takes into account the guiding principles of the 2016 EU Global Strategy.

- (7) On 26 July 2010, the Council adopted Decision 2010/430/CFSP¹, which established the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks and provided that the technical implementation of that Decision is to be carried out by the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium ('the Consortium').
- (8) The choice of the Consortium as sole beneficiary of a grant in this case is justified because of the will of the Union, as supported by the Member States, to continue its fruitful cooperation with the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks, which is contributing to the creation of a common European culture with regard to non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as helping the Union to develop and shape its policies in those areas and increase Union visibility. The very nature of the Consortium, which owes its existence to the Union and depends entirely on Union support, makes 100 % financing necessary in this case. The Consortium has no independent financial resources or legal authority to raise other funds. Moreover, the Consortium has established a network, managed by six think tanks, that brings together over 100 think tanks, research centres and university departments, combining almost the entire non-governmental expertise on non-proliferation and disarmament in the Union, including entities in all Member States.

¹ Council Decision 2010/430/CFSP of 26 July 2010 establishing a European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 202, 4.8.2010, p. 5).

- (9) On 10 March 2014, the Council adopted Decision 2014/129/CFSP¹, which extended for 3 years the Union's continued promotion and financial support of the activities of the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks and entrusted the Consortium with the technical implementation of that Decision.
- (10) On 3 April 2017, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2017/632², which provides for the extension of the duration of Decision 2014/129/CFSP in order to allow for the continued implementation of the activities until 2 July 2017.

¹ Council Decision 2014/129/CFSP of 10 March 2014 promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 71, 12.3.2014, p. 3).

² Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/632 of 3 April 2017 amending Decision 2014/129/CFSP promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 90, 4.4.2017, p. 10).

- (11) On 4 July 2017, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2017/1195¹, extending the implementation period of Decision 2014/129/CFSP from 3 July until 31 December 2017 to allow for the organisation of one major annual conference on non-proliferation and disarmament in 2017 as well as for the continued maintenance and updating of the internet platform of the Consortium.
- (12) On 26 February 2018, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2018/299², which extended for 3 years the Union's continued promotion and financial support of the activities of the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks and entrusted the Consortium with the technical implementation of that Decision.

¹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1195 of 4 July 2017 amending Decision 2014/129/CFSP promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 172, 5.7.2017, p. 14).

² Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/299 of 26 February 2018 promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (OJ L 56, 28.2.2018, p. 46).

- (13) On 16 April 2021, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2021/648¹, extending the implementation period of Decision (CFSP) 2018/299 to 17 May 2022 because of implementation challenges arising from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/648 of 16 April 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2018/299 promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (OJ L 133, 20.4.2021, p. 57).

Article 1

1. For the purposes of contributing to the enhanced implementation of the EU WMD Non-proliferation Strategy and the EU SALW Strategy, which are based on the principles of effective multilateralism, prevention and cooperation with third countries, the continued promotion and support of the activities of the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks is hereby extended in order to further the following objectives:
 - (a) to encourage political and security-related dialogue and long-term discussion of measures to combat the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems within civil societies and, in particular, among experts, researchers and academics;
 - (b) to provide those participating in the relevant preparatory bodies of the Council with the opportunity to consult the network on issues related to non-proliferation, disarmament and arms export control, and to enable the representatives of Member States to participate in the meetings of the Consortium;

- (c) to constitute a useful stepping stone for non-proliferation and disarmament action by the Union and the international community, in particular by providing reports and/or recommendations to the representatives of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy ('the HR');
- (d) to contribute to enhancing third countries' awareness of proliferation and disarmament challenges and of the need to work in cooperation with the Union and in the context of multilateral fora, in particular the United Nations, to prevent, deter, halt and, where possible, eliminate proliferation programmes of worldwide concern;
- (e) to contribute to the development of expertise and institutional capacity in non-proliferation and disarmament matters in think tanks and governments in the Union and third countries, including by strengthening non-proliferation and disarmament education, raising awareness of those issues among the younger generations and promoting the next generation of researchers and practitioners in this field, especially women, and in the natural and technical sciences.

2. The projects to be supported by the Union shall include the following specific activities:
- (a) providing means for the holding of major annual conferences with third countries and civil society on non-proliferation and disarmament to discuss and identify further measures to combat the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems and interrelated disarmament objectives, as well as to address challenges related to conventional weapons, including countering the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of SALW and their ammunition. The conferences will also promote internationally the EU WMD Non-proliferation Strategy and the EU SALW Strategy, and the role, in this field, of Union institutions and think tanks in the Union, with a view to raising the visibility of Union policies in this area and submitting reports and/or recommendations to the representatives of the HR;
 - (b) providing means for the organisation of annual consultative meetings between representatives of Union institutions, representatives of Member States and experts to exchange views on major issues and critical developments in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms export control with a view to submitting reports and/or recommendations to the representatives of the HR;

- (c) providing means for the organisation of ad-hoc seminars for experts and practitioners on the full range of non-proliferation and disarmament issues, covering both unconventional and conventional arms, with a view to submitting reports and/or recommendations to the representatives of the HR;
- (d) providing means for the preparation and publication of policy papers covering topics under the mandate of the Consortium and putting forward political and/or operational policy options;
- (e) providing means for continued awareness-raising, education and development of expertise and institutional capacity in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament in think tanks and governments in the Union and third countries through:
 - the maintenance and further development of an e-learning course covering all relevant aspects of non-proliferation and disarmament,
 - the setting-up of up non-proliferation and disarmament internships for graduate students or young diplomats from the Union and third countries,
 - the continuation of the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative and the Mentorship Programme,

- the organisation of annual Brussels study visits for the participants in the UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament in order to promote and raise the visibility of Union policies in the fields of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms export control,
 - the organisation of a training course to raise awareness of proliferation risks, including those stemming from science and technology developments, among students of the natural sciences;
- (f) providing means for further maintaining, managing and developing an internet platform and related accounts on social networks to facilitate contacts, provide a unique forum for European disarmament and non-proliferation research, promote the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks, reach out to the global non-proliferation and disarmament community and promote the educational offers of the Consortium with respect to both on-site training courses and e-learning.

A detailed description of the projects is set out in the Annex.

Article 2

1. The HR shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
2. Technical implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1(2) shall be carried out by the Consortium, consisting of the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (FRS), the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK/PRIF), the International Institute for Strategic Studies Europe (IISS-Europe), the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the International Affairs Institute (IAI) in Rome and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). The Consortium shall perform this task under the responsibility of the HR. For this purpose, the HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with the Consortium.
3. Member States and the European External Action Service shall propose priorities and topics of specific interest for assessment in the Consortium's research programmes, to be addressed in working documents and seminars, in accordance with the policies of the Union.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the projects covering the activities referred to in Article 1(2) shall be EUR 4 700 000.

2. The expenditure financed by the amount set out in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 1. For this purpose, it shall conclude a grant agreement with the Consortium. The agreement shall stipulate that the Consortium is to ensure 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 conclusion of the agreement.

Article 4

1. The HR shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision on the basis of regular reports prepared by the Consortium. Those reports shall form the basis for the evaluation carried out by the Council.
2. The Commission shall report on the financial aspects of the projects referred to in Article 1(2).

Article 5

1. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.
2. This Decision shall expire 36 months after the date of conclusion of the agreement referred to in Article 3(3). However, it shall expire 6 months after its entry into force if that agreement has not been concluded by that time.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President

ANNEX

[...]
