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General Secretariat

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From: Presidency  
To: Friends of the Presidency Group on the European Defence Fund (EDF)

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Subject: Presidency Note related to the upcoming FoP EDF meetings

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Delegations will find attached the Presidency Note related to the upcoming FoP EDF meetings.

To the Members of the FoP EDF

Dear Colleagues!

I hope you spent interesting and refreshing summer holidays. The Presidency team and the GCS managed to draft a so called “Presidency Input Paper” which aims to facilitate further discussions on the proposed Regulation.

The Presidency organized the articles of the “Proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Defence Fund” into two clusters:

- Cluster One contains those articles which did not generate major interventions and are therefore considered as in principle supported by Member States (*colour green*).
- Cluster Two contains articles of which Member States ask either for clarification by the European Commission or for more discussion as well as articles Member States want to have replaced or amended by EDIDP or PADR wording and a few articles where some Member States or the European Commission have different views and therefore need compromise wording (*colour yellow*).

**In column Presidency Proposal of the “Presidency Input Paper” you will find proposals by the Presidency for changes or amendments based on the principles**

- *Take as much agreed language from EDIDP as possible*
- *Take as much agreed language from PADR as possible*
- *Discuss new elements (e.g. indirect costs, disruptive technologies, financial instruments)*
- *Avoid long discussions on horizontal issues (e.g. ethics, combined funding, seal of excellence, climate),*

presented by the Presidency during the last meeting.

Presidency and European Commission together with Member States will try to solve as many open issues as possible before the meetings on 13<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> of September, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October respectively in order to have a partial Council’s General Approach ready for final discussion on 7<sup>th</sup> of November with the aim to have it agreed by COREPER on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November and adopted by Foreign Affairs Council in Defence Ministers format on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

## Proposal for a structured discussion on 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September

The Presidency suggests organizing the discussion as follows:

- Seek “preliminary agreement” on Cluster One after adjustments according to immediate interventions
- Find agreement on going back to agreed language from EDIDP/PADR or receive clarification by the European Commission or find compromise solutions on changes to be made concerning the articles in Cluster Two

### Additional information:

- Even though the articles are organized into two clusters, the idea is to go through them one by one with the assumption that for the green articles less time is needed.
- The Presidency intends to keep the structure of the document with “Titles” and “Articles” but to delete the “Chapter Headings” since some “Titles” have no “Chapters”.
- To the articles comprising financial figures a red colour code is assigned since these provisions are discussed in the AHWP MFF.
- For the upcoming meetings it is still the intention not to discuss the recitals except if there is an immediate need for alignment with the respective article.
- The Presidency will invite the CLS to inform the group about the current legal situation concerning the proposal for the Regulation on “Horizon Europe” and its implications on the proposal for the Regulation “European Defence Fund”.
- Comments provided by MS until the 6<sup>th</sup> of September are taken note of.
- **Early reaction to the “Presidency proposals” in writing is appreciated.**

We look forward to seeing you at the next FoP Meeting,

