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**DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
of 7.1.2025**

on the establishment of a Commissioners' Project Group on Defence Union

**Decision of the President of the European Commission
on the establishment of a Commissioners' Project Group on Defence Union**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, and in particular Article 3(6) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Defence and Space will work closely on building a true European Defence Union.
- (2) To frame the new approach, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Defence and Space will jointly present the White Paper on the Future of European Defence in the first 100 days of the mandate.
- (3) The European Defence Union will inter alia further strengthen the EU-NATO partnership, find specific ways to substantially increase European defence investment, create a Single Market for Defence, further improve Military Mobility throughout the EU and facilitate Member States acquiring much-needed defence capabilities to deter against common threats through flagship European Defence Union Projects and ramping-up industry output.
- (4) Building a true European Defence Union requires a comprehensive approach requiring input and engagement from several Members of the College.
- (5) To help the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Defence and Space deliver on their mission, it is appropriate to establish a Commissioners' Project Group on Defence Union to steer the work on the agenda set out by the President in the Political Guidelines and the respective Mission Letters.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

- (1) A Commissioners' Project Group on Defence Union is created to help deliver a coordinated approach, reflecting the political priorities of the Commission, shaping coherent policies and building joint ownership.
- (2) Without prejudice to the decision-making process of the College and the responsibility

of the collegial preparatory bodies, it shall ensure timely coordination on topical issues and provide political steer for the development of initiatives and implementation of priorities.

The Project Group shall ensure coherence with work in other areas notably in the areas of preparedness and economic security.

Article 2

(1) The Commissioners' Project Group on Defence Union is chaired by the Commissioner for Defence and Space. Whenever the President attends a meeting of the Project Group, she may decide to chair it.

(2) The composition of the Project Group shall be as follows:

- The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President
- the Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy
- the Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
- the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration
- the Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration.
- The Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism

(3) Other Executive Vice-Presidents and Commissioners may participate in relevant meetings of the Project Group and contribute to the work upon their request or invitation by the chair.

(4) Each participant can be accompanied by two staff members, from the Cabinet and Services. The Chair may decide a different format of the meeting.

(5) The Secretary-General of the Commission or a Deputy Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service or his/her Deputy, the Director-General of the Legal Service or his/her Deputy, the Director-General for Defence Industry and Space or his/her Deputy, the Director-General for Communication or his/her Deputy and the Cabinet of the President, have standing invitations to attend the meetings of the Commissioners' Project Group.

Article 3

(1) The Secretariat-General and the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space shall jointly ensure the secretariat of the Project Group.

(2) The secretarial tasks consist of:

- assisting in the organisation of the Project Group's meetings;
- sending invitations on behalf of the Chair to the participants of each meeting of the Project Group;
- ensuring the timely preparation and/or circulation of meeting documents (agendas, short discussion notes);
- preparing draft minutes of the meetings and circulating them after their approval by the Cabinets of the President and the Chair.
- updating a six-monthly rolling calendar of the Project Group;

Article 4

(1) The Project Group shall meet on a regular basis, whenever deemed necessary by the Chair or by the President.

(2) Participants shall be invited by the Chair through the secretariat of the Project Group, no later than ten days before each meeting, except in exceptional circumstances.

(3) The agendas of meetings of the Project Group shall be decided by the Chair in agreement with the Cabinet of the President. Participants may suggest items to be included on the agenda no later than one week before the meeting.

(4) The Chair shall draw the conclusions of the meeting. He shall approve the minutes of the meetings of the Project Group in agreement with the Cabinet of the President. The minutes are not subject to correction after circulation.

(5) Possible documents for meetings of the Project Group shall be concise and politically focused and identify the main questions and options, to help steer the discussions of the Project Group.

(6) The list of documents to be discussed at meetings of the Project Group shall be approved by the Chair in agreement with the Cabinet of the President.

Article 5

(1) The Project Group is established for an initial period of one year.

(2) The Project Group may continue to operate subsequently if the President decides to renew its mandate under the same or revised terms.

Done at Brussels, 7 January 2025.

The President

Ursula VON DER LEYEN