



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Director-General

Brussels,
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**NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF MR T. HUSAK,
HEAD OF CABINET COMMISSIONER BIEŃKOWSKA**

Subject: Request for the establishment of a Commission expert group to act as an Advisory Group for the Preparatory Action on Defence Research

My services ask for the approval to establish an informal Commission Expert Group to act as an Advisory Group for the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PA).

The Commission will launch a PA for defence research, which will run from 2017 to 2019. The objective is to prepare the ground for a possible future European Defence Research Programme (EDRP). The PA will test the mechanism whereby the Commission uses EU budget to fund research in the defence domain.

As the PA takes place outside Horizon 2020 (H2020), neither Comitology rules¹ nor H2020 rules apply. However, the rules defined for the PA are derived from H2020 and DG GROW would like to use the PA to test aspects of governance usually put in place for the implementation of EU research programmes in light of a future EDRP.

Research programmes are usually supported by an Advisory Group which has no decision making role, but provides input to a scoping paper and subsequent work programme(s). In line with this practice, we intend to create a temporary Advisory Group for the duration of the PA.

The role of this group would be to provide input to the PA's remaining work programmes, if necessary provide advice for the revision of the scoping paper and serve as a stakeholder group for consultations/advice on selected implementation aspects. It should consist of individual experts appointed in a personal capacity or representing a common interest and representatives from EDA and EEAS (EUMS) – all members should have expertise related to defence policy and defence research.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011

This group will be an “informal” one, meaning that it will not be created by a Commission Decision. However, following the new rules on Expert groups² its creation has to be approved by our Commissioner and Vice-President (Art.4(5)).

With this note, I would like to ask for your approval as well as the endorsement by the Vice-President.

Approved by E. Bieńkowska
after endorsement Vice-
President:

Lowri Evans

² Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30/05/2016