



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

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

Space Policy, Copernicus and Defence  
**Director**

Brussels,  
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**NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF MS LOWRI EVANS,  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL DG GROW**

**Subject: Creation of a Commission Expert group – Advisory group for the Preparatory Action on Defence Research– Request for Approval**

The Commission will launch a Preparatory Action for defence research (PA), 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 rules<sup>1</sup>, nor H2020 rules apply. However, the rules of 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. Dialogue with SG.B2 has clarified that the Advisory Group falls within the scope of Commission Decision C(2016) 3301 on Commission Expert Groups and will have to be registered as an informal expert group with a public call for applications for the selection of its members. Any derogation to not publish any sensitive related documents can only be done on a case by case basis.

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, representatives from industry, research organisations and think tanks and representatives from EDA and EEAS (EUMS) – all members should have expertise related to defence policy and defence research.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011

This expert group will be an “informal” one, meaning that, as it is not created by a Commission Decision, following the new rules on Expert groups<sup>2</sup> its creation has to be approved by our Commissioner and Vice-President (Art.4(5)). To that end, we have attached a Note from you to Mr T. Husak, summarizing the main elements of the set-up of this expert group and asking for approval. We thank you to get the hierarchy's approval so that we can proceed with the registration of the group via the Secretariat General.

The [REDACTED] ) of DG GROW is responsible for the file.

*(e-signed)*

Philippe Brunet

Cc: [REDACTED]/GROW.R1

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