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## HUNGARY

### Position Paper

Peace and security are the common pursuits of the humankind, and has always been at the core of the European value. Nevertheless, given the increasingly volatile international environment and ever-changing world orders, the European Union (EU) is facing huge internal and external challenges, and the imperative to step up the concerted effort to strengthen the European Defence Community has become more urgent than ever.

Internally, migration crisis has been an serious issue plaguing Europe for years and, despite the European Commission's declaration that the crisis was over, its negative impacts on the continent, such as the concerns for border security, illegal immigrants, cross-border criminal activities, were still evident to date. The outbreak of the humanitarian crisis was unfortunate though, the issue exposed both structural and systematic problems within the EU, which remains to be an inconvenient truth for us to reflect upon and tackle. Externally speaking, while threats from the East, which mainly stemmed from Russia's conflicts with Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine since 2014, are still existing, globally widespread extremism and terrorism continues to jeopardize long-standing international security and stability. Meanwhile, some other potential dangers, such as cyber attacks and disinformation on the Internet, persist, and the uncertainties and adverse effects in respects of regional defence and security brought about by the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU are yet to be fully assessed.

### Position

It is against such backdrop that Hungary strongly urges the Member States of the EU to stay united and work closer on the areas of defence and security. Based on the principles enshrined in the *Maastricht Treaty*, *Lisbon Treaty*, and

the *Treaty on European Union*, Hungary firmly endorses the initiative to form a genuine European Defence Community as a high-level institution responsible for the entire Europe's security. Hungary also expresses its strong support for the creation of European Army, for that will enhance Europe's capacity for common defence and interior security by joining the forces of the Member States together, thus forming a stronger military alliance network capable of safeguarding European citizens' security, and operating and performing joint peacemaking and peacekeeping missions worldwide.

As one of the 25 participating Member States of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), Hungary reaffirms its full commitments to the pillars of the *Maastricht Treaty* and the *Lisbon Treaty*, as well as its full support for the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as the integral part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), as framed by the *Treaty on European Union*. Hungary believes that deepening cooperation between governments within the common EU framework is conducive to connecting different military forces across Europe through increased interoperability and enhanced industrial competitiveness. In addition, the formation of PESCO not only met the Europeans' demand for a safer, united and stronger Europe while echoing the EU's strategic objective of a more coordinated and collaborative EU, as laid out in both the EU Internal Security Strategy and the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy, but it also marked a huge progress on the course of establishing a genuine EDC and a European Army, which failed to come to reality half a century ago.

### **Principles of the Establishment of a European Defence Community and the European Army**

Towards a stronger EU on security and defence, Hungary unequivocally shows its support for the establishment of a genuine European Defence Community and the European Army based on the following principles.

#### **Principle 1: Respecting Sovereignty of Member States**

Hungary highly respects the national sovereignty, military independence and autonomy of Member States of the EU. Either the European Defence Community or the European Army should not intervene into nor override the Member States' military capabilities. All permissions of the European Army

should be granted by unanimous vote of each members states, thus ensuring the equal right of decision-making power of each Member States to determine the deployment and actions of the European Army.

### **Principle 2: Principle of common funding for the European Army**

Hungary suggests all Member States make direct financial contributions in order to run European Army and implement its policies and activities. 28 Members States of the EU should contribute to it according to the principles of cost-share formula, based on the proportion of Gross National Income of each countries. With the sufficient of financial support, it would ensure that the policies and the activities could be carried out successfully and fairly.

### **Principle 3: Clearly and cautiously defining the role and nature of European Army**

European Army is the protective umbrella which guarantee peace on the European continent. Hungary recognises that European Army with true joint force, true joint battalions, a shared deployment language and a sustainable long-term structure is needed, which unify the European countries without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation. Humanitarian crisis and terrorism should be considered as the priority of the European Army. Hungary believes that European Army could plug the loopholes that the illegal migrants and people traffickers are continually trying to enter Europe and prevent further terrorist attacks in Europe.

## **Proposals**

Hungary welcomes the collective effort of every Member State to work closely together on strengthening the EU's military capacity and establishing a European Army common European Defence Community. A substantial and comprehensive European integration would only be possible if the scope of cooperation could be further extended to the aspects of security and defence, given the rising pressure arising from rampant terrorist activities and illegal migrants.

Looking ahead, it is imperative for Member States to work together as one united union and respond to the challenges ahead of Europe. To better facilitate

European integration in respects of defence and security, Hungary, therefore, proposes the followings:

**Proposal 1: Optimizing PESCO as the locomotive of the European Defence Community**

First, Hungary calls upon Member States to work closely under one common vision, mission and set of principles of PESCO, a both inclusive and ambitious framework and process with the legally binding commitments as its very nature. While sparing no efforts to achieve the common objectives of deepened cooperation in the areas of investment, capability development and operational readiness, Hungary urges all participating Member States to continuously optimize PESCO by clearly delineating the organizational structure of the European Defence Community as an institution responsible for Europe's security based on the Lisbon Treaty, as well as specifying the authority and duty of each Member States and European bodies, so as to ensure a high degree of operational transparency, checks and balances and accountability, thus avoiding duplication of functions and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness within the EU.

As a long-standing advocate of the European Army initiative, Hungary regards PESCO as a significant driving force and, hence, hereby urges the remaining 3 Member States of the EU, namely Denmark, Malta and the United Kingdom, to join PESCO and contribute to a better and safer Europe with enhance security and defence collaboration.

**Proposal 2: Maximizing the EU's capacity and efficiency in security and defence by reorganizing the existing structures**

Second, to have an effective and efficient administration and division of labour of the European Defence Community, Hungary proposes to restructure, but not overhaul, the current CSDP organization. In particular, Hungary recommends separating defence, security and military functions from the present European External Action Service (EEAS) which oversees both foreign affairs and defence and security policies of the EU, with details as follows:

- Separating security, military and defence functions from the current European External Action Service.

- Reforming and upgrading European Union Military Committee (EUMC) as the primary, independent body responsible for the security, military and defence policy of the EU.
- Reforming the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) as an administrative and operation unit which executes the policies made by the EUMC while overseeing EU military personnel and managing the European Army.
- Reforming the EEAS as the sole EU organ that takes charge of foreign affairs concerning the EU, as well as diplomatic services thereof.

Hungary firmly believes that the creation of a united European Army, together with stronger and deeper security and military cooperation among the Member States through European Defence Community will generate greater synergy among Member States, thus preventing conflicts and maintaining order in Europe, as well as contributing to the international peace and security. Hungary, therefore, calls upon other Member States to show their genuine support both agendas and Hungary looks much forward to have a fruitful and constructive discussion during the meetings.