



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

To

The presidency of Asia-Pacific Model European Union  
European Council

Athens, 19 April 2019

## **Hellenic Republic Position Paper**

### **1 Introduction**

Until now, as the front line of the European Union's southern border, Greece has made great effort to secure the safety of the European Union Member States. The efforts include closely cooperating with other members of NATO, defending the European Union from Arabic civil wars, and managing the refugee problems. Nonetheless, following these defense activities revealed the necessity for closer ties between the European Union to publish and execute the policies for security. Greece is convinced that we need the creation of European Army on top of vitalizing the diverse defense policies in PESCO.

#### **1.1 The Security issues EU currently is facing**

These days, European Union is suffering from various threats, starting from continuous tensions with Russia to the brutal violence of ISIS and refugee crisis triggered by civil wars in Africa. Especially, ISIS's murderous assaults on civilians generated the casualty over 2,043, causing over 350 deaths within the European Union territory. These vicious terror activities initiated in Paris 2015, sacrificed 130 of casualty, and continues to be a great threat despite all directional defense and high-security surveillance of each country. Even further, as the number of refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea increases, rating of more than 5 million accumulatively since 2008, various issues related to refugee and asylum have grown.

#### **1.2 Ongoing efforts of EU and Greece's effort**

Facing the current security issues, each member of the European Union spends an average of 1.2% of GDP, a total of 220 billion dollars accumulatively over EU countries in 2017, to defend the territory and secure the nations. Greece spent 2.5 % of its GDP in 2017, which is the highest rate among European countries for military defense, even during the aftermath of the economic crisis.

## **2 Proposal**

### **2.1 The Future of European Defense Community:**

To strengthen the level of security and keep the peace across the continent, European Defense Community proposed to set out PESCO. Consequently, in 2017, with the goal of achieving reliable security environment and implementing Union's international responsibilities, PESCO was launched. It aimed to execute the unified missions and desires of EU, having 25 Member States as participants. This cooperation is differentiated with other alliances in characteristics and ranges, since it thoroughly accords and deeply engages in pending issues, such as mobility of military within European countries and emerging cybersecurity threats.

In the beginning, PESCO included 17 projects which were categorized by 5 sectors, putting emphasis on basic elements of territory security and cooperating activities. After the first 17 project proposals were initiated, the European Council brought another 17 projects to supplement and lead PESCO towards more concrete cooperation. Among these newly suggested projects, the ones concerning 'air systems' and 'space' was included, proving PESCO's will towards enhancing the quality of air force training and pursuing the competency on space.

Greece participates in 12 projects and leads 5 of them as the coordinator. Especially, by taking advantage of geographical advantages, Greece greatly influences Maritime projects, participating in all projects in this sector. Moreover, as the coordinator of 'Upgrade of Maritime Surveillance', Greece devotes to secure the territorial water of European Union and relieve the tensions in the Mediterranean Sea. On top of that, Greece, having advanced knowledge on educating intellectual tactics and cybersecurity, coordinates the strategic projects, including 'Joint EU Intelligence School' and 'Cyber Threats and Incident Response Information Sharing Platform'.

Through the projects PESCO comprises of, European Defense Community envisions maximized use of military resources in its member countries and EU's high profiles in the global society. However, since PESCO is still in the early stage of its implementation, it not only has to well execute 34 projects currently ongoing but also has to develop its components incessantly. Even though PESCO tries to balance the importance of each sector, its current projects lack cooperative movements in and out of the community.

Facing varied menaces from inside and outside of the community, integrated military activities are indispensable to accomplish more effective defense. Thus, Greece proposes PESCO to incorporate new projects concerning combined activities between military forces of each country and combined strategies that would extract the synergistic effects. Examples of such projects would include:

- Combined Operations of the armed force: The army, navy and air force
- Combined Operations between militaries from different cooperation

Tight commitments and interoperability of the armed force would concretely ensure the security of the Union, omnidirectionally protecting it from external influences. Moreover, collaborative strategic defense through concerted operations with different institutes, such as military forces from non-EU member countries or intergovernmental military alliances would enable the EU to play a primary role in the international society to secure peace. In this sector, the strategical projects, which establish and plan the cooperated military exercises with EU countries, or the theoretical projects, which discuss the possible collaborative activities for world peace can be proposed.

However, these combined operations are not only hard to organize but also complicated to be executed through the current system of PESCO, since these operations require confidential affairs, including the size and responsibility of each military and strategic tactics. Therefore, Greece contemplates that the European Defense Community has limitations to thoroughly extract what it has anticipated if it continues the current form of PESCO.

## **2.2 Creation of European Army**

As EU Member States proceed the defense cooperation process through PESCO, the final stage of such efforts will lead to the creation of an integrated armed force. Greece defines European Army as 'A single army which consists of forces from each EU Member State that report and is deployed by the European Union.'

EU's current combined effort in defense system forms around NATO. Greece continues to maintain the position that NATO should and will be the cornerstone of European defense and security. However, since NATO is an *intercontinental* organization, it is at times insufficient at covering regional issues more directly related to the EU Member States. Thus, arises the need for a *regional* defense organization that can react on behalf of the EU: European Army.

Greece believes that European Army should be an inclusive effort as illustrated by PESCO but due to a stronger military characteristic, European Army should hold a different approach to membership. Greece proposes that the countries participating in European Army should satisfy a single criterion: EU Membership. In order to assure full defense coverage of Europe, all EU Member States should take part in European Army. By including the only EU Member States, European Army differentiates itself from NATO in that it consists precisely of European countries. Due to this regional aspect, European Army will operate more effectively and efficiently. Greece believes that with this regional aspect, European Army shall be complementary to NATO.

Directly linked to national security and sovereignty, formation of European Army requires a thorough and inclusive process of intergovernmental negotiations over the course of years. Greece feels that although it is important to have a foreseeable goal in a designated timeframe, it is more important to reach a full consensus among the Member States.

Although the details regarding European Army remain to be negotiated, Greece feels that it is necessary to discuss the fundamental principles of when the European Army should be deployed. Greece believes that protecting the safety of Europe and going so far as to the safety of international peace should be the premises of European Army. Under this fundamental belief, Greece proposes the following three principles for when the European Army should be deployed:

- 1) European Army react to threats EU Member States face. EU Member States geographically face multiple regions and as a result, may face conflicts. In such cases, national defense system may lack the capability to react to the situation in a quick and effective matter, causing the safety and the wellbeing of the citizens to be threatened. Under such circumstances, European Army should be utilized in order to assist them humanitarian aid of the Member State.
- 2) European Army contributes to settling international conflict relief. When the neighboring countries are in need of humanitarian aid, as a capable member of the global community, European Army should participate in saving lives. Conflict occurring in non-EU Member State countries will involve European Army in two ways: when there is a request for aid from the country or when there is not a request, but situation deems necessary. Preserving the nation's sovereignty is crucial but if the citizens are in dire need of outside intervention, with a unanimous decision from the High Representatives, European Army

should take an active role.

- 3) European Army does not interfere in Member State's domestic conflict. Greece believes national defense system of Member State should cover domestic conflict to the extent that one's own system is capable of handling. However, when inhumane activities are happening inside a Member State, it is the responsibility of European Army to secure peace within Europe. Without undermining a Member State's sovereignty, European Army may be deployed.