



**Slovak Republic (Slovakia)**

**Prime Minister: Peter Pellegrini | Minister of Defence: Peter Gajdoš**

Dear President Tusk, Heads of state, Heads of the Government and Ministers of fellow member states:

It has been a pleasure for the Council to be here in Brussels to discuss the future security of Europe. As part of the Council, Slovak Republic reaffirms the importance of unity and collective defence among the member states under the constitutional framework of Treaty of Lisbon Article 28 A Point 49 and Treaty on European Union Articles 42 to 46, in Chapter 2, Section 2 of Title V. The collective security of Europe is vital to the self-sustainability and integrity that Europe has the capability to defend its own in the future. Slovak Republic noticed the necessity to establish a comprehensive and effective security institution of the European Union in response to the foreseeable changes of defence relations with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Slovak Republic is also in favor for the establishment of the European Army in order to have a more effective and directive deployment on crisis management, peacekeeping mission, illegal migrant management and challenges from the third countries.

Slovak Republic reaffirms the importance of the issues on establishment of European Defence Community (the Community) and the European Army (EU Army). The new challenges have posted a new threat to the security of Europe, having regard to the current security relations with the United States. It is of best interest for the Council to establish a new institution to promote European security interest exclusively. Slovak Republic noticed the concern regarding the overlapping duty of both NATO and the Community. The Community will integrate the defensive strategies, benefitting every member state in the Council. Thus, the establishment would enhance the military cooperation with NATO and our allies under a cohesive structure. Slovak Republic believes that the council would have a greater protection under a new security framework with the deployment of the EU army. Every member state of the council will enjoy the equal defensive protocol and a greater coordination with our allies.

Slovak Republic believes that the establishment of the Community and the EU army would enhance our security capability on the defence of central Europe from new challenges and threats from the third countries, terrorism and illegal migrants. The newly established Visegrád Battlegroup under the structure of EU battlegroup, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), alongside with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, will provide a rapid response force to the European Union. It reveals the determination of Slovak Republic to contribute and devote for the greater security of our people in the future. With harmony of the EU army and military equipment,

Slovak Republic would bear a greater responsibility to defend Europe with the upgraded equipment and defensive funding from European Defensive Fund.

Slovak Republic reaffirms its readiness of taking responsibility to defend Europe alongside with our members in the council. Together with the member states of the Council, Slovak Republic believes that the proposal will bring a stable and safe Europe to our people in the future.

**Therefore, Slovak Republic propose the following:**

1. To discuss the possibility to establish the Council Joint Action on the establishment of the European Defence Community, having regard to the Treaty of Lisbon, and in particular Article 28 thereof, Whereas:

1.1.	The European Defence Community (the Community), which should be subject to the Council's authority and open to participation by all Member States, will aim at creating an institution to unify the current and future European defensive strategies, as well as the establishment of European Army, reinforcing security communication and cooperation among the member states, enhancing defense decision efficiency, thereby strengthening the Europe's future defence and security capabilities.
1.2.	The establishment of the Community should contribute to the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), European Defence Fund.
1.3	The current framework of European Defence Agency(EDA) and External Action Service (EEAS) related to defence and security shall be remained and report to the Community
1.5	The European Defence Agency(EDA) and External Action Service (EEAS) related to defence and security shall remain its secretariat and administration status to coordinate the defensive projects.
1.6	The High Representative (HR/VP), in accordance with Article 9 E of the Treaty of Lisbon, should have a leading role in the Community's structure and provide the essential link between the Community and the Council.
1.7	A Steering Board composed of one representative of each participating Member State, who shall meet the level of Ministers of Defense or substantial position of the member state, shall be entitled to be participant in the Community. The High Representative shall always be the chair of the Board.
1.8	The Community shall work in the following principal fields:
	1.8.1. Promoting and coordinating an unified European defensive strategy as

	Agreed by the Council.
	1.8.2. Proposing and coordinating collective action in the operational domain.
	1.8.3. Coordinating the deployment of European Army.
	1.8.4. Promoting and coordinating harmonisation of military requirements.
	1.8.5. Coordinating the funding according to European Defence Fund.
	1.8.6. Promoting and coordinating operations include but not limited to collective action, peacekeeping, humanitarian mission, crisis Management, counter-terrorism, border control, research and development of defensive strategy.

The establishment of the Community shall fulfill the duty of the future of security strategies. The current framework of defensive measures shall be unified under the Community. Therefore, with the power given by the Council, security decision and defensive fund shall be implemented efficiently. The Community shall continue to contribute in the peacekeeping, crisis management, humanitarian missions, collective defence and counter terrorism with the new framework. The military expansion of the third countries and terrorism will challenge our defensive capability.

In response, the measures proposed above shall enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council's collective action. It is expected that the establishment of the Community shall offer a structural foundation to effectively mobilize the proposing European Army and enhance the cooperation of the projects ongoing. Funding and resources regarding the security and defensive purposes shall be allocated accurately according to the need of the member states. Every member state shall enjoy a quick and rapid collective security.

2. To discuss the creation of European Army (EU army) that would be reported and be deployed by the Council, having regard to the Treaty of Lisbon, and in particular Article 28 thereof, whereas:

2.1	Slovak Republic reaffirms its support upon the creation of European Army.
2.2	Slovak Republic suggests a further discussion on the topic of outlining the defensive purpose upon the EU army and its relations with current non-EU allies.
2.3	Border control and illegal migrant control is suggested to be included but not limited to be the operational purpose of the EU army.
2.4	Slovak Republic suggests a further discussion on the topic of funding responsible distribution, equipment harmonization and method of acquiring military personnel from the member states.

	2.4.1 The expenditure of the EU army shall be included in the European Defence Fund, which include but not limited to expenditure of military personnel, expenditure and purchase of equipment, base operational fund, mission expenditure, maintenance expenditure.
	2.4.2 Slovak Republic suggests the fund responsible shall be on proportional base.
	2.4.3 The size of the EU army shall not be exceeded for 100,000 military personal.
	2.4.4 The army should contain but not limited to army, navy, air force and coastal defense crop.
	2.4.5 Equipment harmonization of the member states shall be accelerated in order to provide an effective collective security.
2.5	A Chief of Staff shall be in place to coordinate the operation of the EU army, who he/she shall be subjected to the council.
2.6	The Community shall be responsible for and monitor the daily operation of the EU army according to Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) required.
	2.6.1 Coordinated Annual Review on Defence(CARD) shall be reviewed to include the requirements for the EU army.

The establishment and deployment of the European Army shall comprehensively enhance the defensive capability and provide an extensive security to the member states. Slovak Republic believes that the future security of EU army shall benefit not only on the state level but also the citizens of European Union. The establishment of European Army shall benefit the member states in the council to encounter the future challenges, including border control and illegal migrants mission. Slovak Republic believes that the deployment shall prove the Council as a united body to defend Europe in a collective measure from any challenges. Slovak Republic welcomes the establishment and will continue to contribute in the defensive measures agreed by the council collectively under the framework of Treaty of Lisbon Article 28 and Treaty on European Union Articles 42 to 46, in Chapter 2, Section 2 of Title V.