



EURODEFENSE

ANNEX 2

**Letter to the President of the European Council
on the preparation of the “Defence agenda”
for the December 2013 European Summit**

EURODÉFENSE-UNITED KINGDOM COMMENTS

ED-UK agrees the key message, that Europe must address its defence needs and should support the conclusions it reaches by committing appropriate effort and resources.

ED-UK’s view is that Europe's collective judgment on military needs will depend upon Europe's view of the place that military capability has in preserving peace, achieving security and protecting Europe's legitimate interests. - and on when it is right to deploy that capability. European nations have as yet different views on those issues. There is therefore a risk that transfer of responsibility from the national to the European level would result in reduced collective effectiveness.

ED-UK supports the crucial recommendation in the paper that the level of ambition and the content of the CSDP need to be clarified, in the sense that we need a common European understanding of the role of military capability and when it is appropriate to use it.

Until this overarching issue has been resolved, ED-UK remains sceptical about the further investment of defence budgets in European defence institutions. A higher priority for ED-UK is to make Europe more of a leader in NATO.

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