

# **EURODEFENSE Proposal**

## **on criteria for participation to the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)**

**Extract from the Conclusions of the European Council which took place on  
22-23 June 2017**

**8. “ ..... the European Council agrees on the need to launch an inclusive and ambitious Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). A common list of criteria and binding commitments, fully in line with Articles 42(6) and 46 TEU and Protocol 10 to the Treaty - including with a view to the most demanding missions - will be drawn up by Member States within three months, with a precise timetable and specific assessment mechanisms, in order to enable Member States which are in a position to do so to notify their intentions to participate without delay. This work has to be consistent with Member States’ national defence planning and commitments agreed within NATO and the UN by Member States concerned. Concrete collaborative projects and initiatives should also be identified in support of PESCO's common goals, commitments and criteria”.**

**9. “To strengthen the EU's rapid response toolbox, the European Council agrees that the deployment of Battlegroups should be borne as a common cost by the EU-managed Athena mechanism on a permanent basis. It also urges the Council to speed up its work on greater responsiveness of the civilian crisis management”.**

European Union ministers of defence met informally in Tallinn on September 7, 2017. During that meeting, they expressed a broad consensus on how to move ahead with the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). This Tallinn Conference followed the request made last June by the European Council to launch the Permanent Structured Cooperation process provided for in the Lisbon Treaty. As the criteria were not defined in the Lisbon Treaty, the European Council called on the Member States to quickly make proposals in this area, which could be accepted by a significant number of Member States.

During their meeting of September 15, 2017, in London, the Presidents of the EURODEFENSE network Associations expressed firmly their support on this broad consensus.

The present document, which is based on previous EURODEFENSE studies, could help Member States in their reflection on the definition of the PESCO criteria, which must be binding in order to respect its spirit, but also inclusive to accommodate Member States wishing to join it.

When engaging themselves in PESCO, Member States manifest indeed their political will to provide the EU with capacities leading to its strategic autonomy and allowing it to play the role of a major peace and stability actor in the World, as stated in the EU recent Global Strategy. This political will must appear in particular in the progressive realisation of realistic and ambitious criteria reinforcing EU capacities.

## Participation Criteria

PESCO participation criteria should encompass all aspects on Defence and should deal with operational, as well as financial and industrial aspects:

- Operational criteria: Participating Member States must engage themselves to respect, according to a realistic but demanding calendar, operational commitments in order to fulfil executive missions to the EU benefit. These criteria would concern operational capabilities of military units, their availability, their interoperability with those of other PESCO Member States, their training level, their capacity of projection, deployment and engagement for a long period (to be defined).
- Financial criteria: Participating States will harmonize their defence efforts and will contribute to the development of weapon systems in cooperation in the framework of the European Defence Agency.
- Industrial criteria: Participating States must contribute to the building of a European Defence Industrial and Technological Base able to meet EU needs in military equipment, in the best performances and costs conditions, thus contributing to the EU strategic autonomy objective.

Any EU Member State would be able to join the PESCO in the future, if and when it wishes it. But, in any case, it must respect, in a timeframe to be determined, a reasonable number of the objectives reached by the other participating Member States.

EURODEFENSE offers the following suggestions regarding the PESCO criteria. In a spirit of fair burden sharing and efficiency, Member States must:

- Commit themselves on increasing their defence budgets towards the objective of 2% of their GDP- excluding pensions and CSDP operations costs - before 2025, including an investment effort of at least 30%, with a minimum of one third of it spent on common defence programmes;
- Contribute to the European cooperation structures, as proposed by the common letter signed by the French and German Defence ministers on 11 September 2016, and join existing structures such as the EATC or the EUROCORPS;
- Define in common the engagement conditions of the PESCO participating Member States and respect these common rules as soon as these forces are engaged in an EU operation;
- Participate effectively and significantly in CSDP operations, and in the permanent operational HQ, still to be created, by extension of the MPCC to executive missions;
- Define, with the support of the EUMS and the EDA, a convergence process of operational requirements, and of the corresponding equipment acquisition calendars within PESCO, so

that concerned staffs will be able to agree on a common and unique definition of the defence systems, avoiding national particularities, especially doctrinal ones;

- Contribute to the strategic autonomy of the EU in the industrial area, in other words to the development of the European Defence Industrial and Technological Base, giving priority to a European approach for the acquisition of their equipment, in particular through cooperative armament programmes, especially those coming from the convergence process mentioned above and supported by the European Defence fund.

The interest of the above proposals is to indicate the way ahead with solutions that could be developed and specified in order to allow PESCO progress. These proposals could help the reflections of those States having the intention to join PESCO.

As soon as, within the European Council, some Member States officialise their will to join this cooperation structure, the EUMS and the staffs of the concerned States must translate this concept into concrete measures at the operational level. It could be more complex at the industrial and financial levels, but convergence on these issues will be the sign of the political will of the participating States.

Lastly, it is important to stress that implementing PESCO should not generate significant structural costs. The EUMS and the EDA could likely be the welcoming structure within which the PESCO Member States would develop strong working relations in order to define the nature and limits of their cooperation, and to progress in the integration of their forces, starting with the command and control level, and their industrial tools.