

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY
THE CHAIRMAN

Innsbruck, 7 March 2006

Dear Minister,

SGS6/02751

I have the honour to propose the following Administrative Arrangement to govern the relationship between the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway ("MoD Norway"), in accordance with Article 25 of the Joint Action establishing the EDA (2004/551/CFSP).

Principle of the relationship

1. The MoD Norway and the EDA share a desire to exchange views and information on matters of common interest falling within the scope of the Agency's mission, and to ensure that the MoD Norway is kept fully informed of opportunities for future co-operation. The EDA intends to provide the MoD Norway with the fullest possible transparency regarding the Agency's specific projects and programmes with a view to Norway's participation therein as appropriate. The relationship will be conducted with full respect to the decision-making autonomy of both the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway, and the single institutional framework of the EU. Both parties agree that establishment of a relationship on these principles will facilitate the incorporation of relevant elements of the WEAG/WEAO within, or assimilation of relevant WEAG/WEAO principles and practices by the EDA, in accordance with Article 25 of Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP.

H.E. Ms Anne-Grete STRØM-ERICHSEN
The Royal Norwegian
Ministry of Defence
Myntg. 1
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N-0032 OSLO

Provisions for consultation

2. A representative of the MOD of Norway will participate in the Consultative Committee foreseen in Article 25 of the Joint Action establishing the EDA which will provide a forum for exchanging views and information on matters of common interest falling within the scope of the EDA's mission.
3. In its general composition, the Consultative Committee will be chaired by the Chief Executive or his/her representative and should normally meet twice yearly, and on other occasions when a mutual interest is recognised.
4. The Consultative Committee may also meet in specific compositions dealing with specialised issues such as research and technology or armaments.
5. Information will be provided on a basis of reciprocal transparency. Documents exchanged in the framework of the Consultative Committee will be regarded as officially representing the views of the originating Party. The Consultative Committee may use an ex-committee written procedure to exchange information in the framework of this Committee without convening a meeting. The EDA will record these exchanges, solely for archiving purposes.
6. A Point of Contact shall be established on the Agency's staff for the non-EU WEAG members, and a liaison officer will be designated by the MoD Norway in an appropriate Norwegian Office, in addition to the Consultative Committee. The primary objective of this arrangement is to speed up the flow of information, in relation to Consultative Committee activities, between the Parties concerning participation in projects and programmes. The Point of Contact and Liaison Officer will also ensure that the appropriate "matters of common interest" are identified for discussion at the Consultative Committee meetings and that those meetings are effectively structured. In order not to impede the information flow, neither the Agency nor the MoD Norway will be bound by the content of these exchanges. The corresponding documents will have an indicative nature. The EDA will record these exchanges.

7. The parties agree that the Consultative Committee and Liaison Officer/Point of Contact arrangements must, in practice, operate with sufficient frequency and transparency:
 - to give the MoD Norway maximum advance warning, visibility and details on which to base her decisions on participation in specific projects and programmes;
 - to provide the EDA with well-based and authoritative information about the potential contribution of Norway to specific projects and programmes, enabling it to provide such information to its Steering Board in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Joint Action.
8. Involvement of the MoD Norway in EDA ad hoc projects and programmes will be subject to the arrangements specified in Chapter IV of the Joint Action, bearing in mind the principles of the relationships between the parties referred to in paragraph 2 of this arrangement.
9. In accordance with Article 8.7 of the Joint Action establishing the EDA, the Steering Board may decide to invite representatives of the MoD Norway as appropriate, to attend meetings on matters of common interest.

Security matters

10. The rules and modalities governing all provision or exchange of information under this Administrative Arrangement shall be consistent with the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the EU on the Security Procedures for the Exchange of Classified Information.

Review

11. These arrangements may be reviewed at any time in the light of lessons learned and experience gained. Amendments will be agreed in conformity with each party's internal procedures. These arrangements may also be terminated by either party with an appropriate notice period.

If the above modalities are acceptable to you, I propose that this letter and your written confirmation of your acceptance of its content constitute the Administrative Arrangement governing the relationship between the European Defence Agency and the MoD Norway.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javier Solana', written in a cursive style.

Javier SOLANA



DET KONGELIGE
FORSVARSDEPARTEMENT

*The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence
The Minister*

Head of the European Defence Agency
HR Javier Solana
Rue des Drapiers 17-23
1050 Brussels

Your ref

Our ref
2005/00445-5/FD IV 4/LWE

Date

07 APR 2006

**ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE
KINGDOM OF NORWAY AND THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY**

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 7 March 2006 proposing an Administrative Arrangement between the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the European Defence Agency and to confirm my acceptance of its content.

I also agree with your proposal that your letter and my present reply constitute the Administrative Arrangement governing the relationship between the EDA and the Norwegian Ministry of Defence.

Yours sincerely,


Anne-Grete Strøm-Erichsen