# Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1515 of 19 October 2020 establishing a European Security and Defence College, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382

## COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2020/1515

## of 19 October 2020

## establishing a European Security and Defence College, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 42(4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

(1) On 18 July 2005, the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/575/CFSP[(1)] establishing the European Security and Defence College ('ESDC'). That Joint Action was replaced on 23 June 2008 by Council Joint Action 2008/550/CFSP[(2)], which, in turn, was replaced by Council Decision 2013/189/CFSP[(3)]. Finally, Decision 2013/189/CFSP was replaced by Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382[(4)].

(2) On 10 and 11 November 2008, the Council adopted the European Young Officers Exchange Scheme, inspired by the Erasmus programme and agreed that an implementing working party will meet within the framework of the Executive Academic Board of the ESDC.

(3) On 26 June 2020, the ESDC Steering Committee ('Steering Committee') agreed on recommendations on the future perspectives of the ESDC.

(4) Whilst the staff of the ESDC should consist mainly of seconded national experts, it may be necessary to fill certain critical posts by contracted staff members.

(5) Pursuant to Council Decision 2010/427/EU[(5)], which establishes the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EEAS should provide the ESDC with the support previously provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.

(6) Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382 should therefore be repealed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1515. (See end of Document for details)*

## *CHAPTER I*

## ***Establishment, mission, objectives and tasks***

### *Article 1*

### **Establishment**

A European Security and Defence College (ESDC) is hereby established.

### *Article 2*

### **Mission**

The ESDC shall provide training and education in the field of the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) at European level in order to develop and promote a common understanding of CFSP and CSDP among civilian and military personnel and to identify and disseminate best practices in relation to various CFSP and CSDP, issues through its training and education activities ('ESDC training and education activities').

### *Article 3*

### **Objectives**

The ESDC shall have the following objectives:

(a) to further enhance the common European security and defence culture within the Union and to promote the principles laid down in Article 21(1) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) outside the Union;

(b) to promote a better understanding of CSDP as an essential part of CFSP;

(c) to provide Union instances with knowledgeable personnel able to work efficiently on all CSDP matters within the wider context of CFSP;

(d) to provide Member States' administrations and staff with knowledgeable personnel familiar with Union policies, institutions and procedures in the field of CSDP;

(e) to provide CSDP Missions' and Operations' personnel with a common understanding of CSDP Missions' and Operations' functioning principles and a sense of common European identity;

(f) to provide training and education responding to training and educational needs of CSDP Missions and Operations;

(g) to support Union partnerships in the field of CSDP, in particular partnerships with those countries participating in CSDP missions;

(h) to support civilian crisis management including in the field of conflict prevention, and establishing or preserving the conditions necessary for sustainable development;

(i) to promote the European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers;

(j) to promote PhD-level research in domains related to CSDP;

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(k) to provide Member States' and Union administrations with knowledgeable personnel familiar with Union policies, institutions, procedures and best practices in the field of cyber security and defence;

(l) to help promote professional relations and contacts among training and education participants.

Where appropriate, attention shall be paid to ensuring consistency with other activities of the Union.

*Article 4*

**Tasks of the ESDC**

1 The main tasks of the ESDC shall be, in accordance with its mission and objectives, to organise and conduct ESDC training and education activities in the field of the CSDP in the wider context of CFSP.

2 The ESDC training and education activities shall include:

a basic and advanced level courses promoting generic understanding of CFSP and CSDP;

b courses developing leadership;

c courses directly supporting CSDP Missions and Operations, including pre#deployment and in-mission/in-operation training and education;

d courses supporting EU partnerships and countries participating in CSDP Missions and Operations;

e modules supporting civilian and military training and education in the field of CSDP;

f CSDP courses, seminars, programmes and conferences for specialised audiences or with specific focus;

g common modules run under the European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers, inspired by the Erasmus programme; although formally not ESDC training and education activities, the ESDC will also support and promote European semesters and joint master's degrees making use of the common modules referred to in this point;

h cyber awareness and advanced level courses, including in support of CSDP missions and operations;

i courses and seminars aimed at supporting PhD-level research through exchange of best practices and experience.

Other training and education activities shall be undertaken, as decided by the Steering Committee referred to in Article 9.

3 In addition to the activities referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the ESDC shall, in particular:

a support the relations to be established between the institutes referred to in Article 5(1) engaged in the network referred to in that paragraph ('the network');

b run and further develop an e-Learning system to support CSDP training and education activities or, in exceptional circumstances, be used as stand-alone training and education activities;

c develop and produce training and educational material in the field of CSDP also drawing on already existing relevant material;

d support an Alumni Association between former training participants;

e support exchange programmes in the field of CSDP between the Member States' training and educational institutes;

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f act as compartment administrator of the Schoolmaster module of the Goalkeeper project and provide contributions to the annual Union Training Programme in CSDP through this module;

g act as administrator of the Union-instance of the CD-TXP platform for the exchange of cyber related training opportunities;

h provide support to the management of training and education in the field of conflict prevention, civilian crisis management, establishing or preserving the conditions necessary for sustainable development and Security Sector Reform initiatives, as well as promotion of cyber security and hybrid threats' awareness;

i organise and run an annual network conference bringing together civilian and military training and education experts in CFSP and CSDP from Member States' training and educational institutes and ministries, and relevant external training and education actors as appropriate;

j maintain relationships with relevant actors in the field of Freedom Security and Justice, in the field of Development and Cooperation, and with relevant International Organisations;

k support the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management and the EU Civilian Training Group by administering and managing the travel and accommodation costs relating to the activities of the Civilian Coordinators for Training;

l participate in the meetings of the Union civilian and military training groups, derive civilian/military training requirements from their output and take the results of the requirements analysis into account during the annual prioritisation exercise of ESDC activities and for the development of ESDC curricula; and

m further elaborate, maintain and promote the sectoral qualification framework for military officers.

## *CHAPTER II*

## ***Organisation***

### *Article 5*

### **Network**

1 The ESDC shall be organised as a network bringing together civilian and military institutes, colleges, academies, universities, institutions, centres of excellence and other actors dealing with security and defence policy issues within the Union as identified by Member States, as well as the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

The ESDC shall establish close links with the Union institutions and relevant Union agencies, in particular with, but not limited to:

— the Union Agency for law enforcement training (CEPOL),

— the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX),

— the European Defence Agency (EDA),

— the European Satellite Centre (EU SatCen), and

— the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol).

2 Where appropriate, international, intergovernmental, governmental or non-governmental organisations may obtain the status of 'associate network partner' (ANP), the detailed arrangements for which will be agreed by the Steering Committee.

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3 The ESDC shall work under the overall responsibility of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy ('HR').

*Article 6*

**Role of European Union Institute for Security Studies**

1 As part of the ESDC network, the EUISS shall cooperate with the ESDC by making its expertise and knowledge-gathering capabilities available for ESDC training activities, including through EUISS publications, within the limits of its own capabilities.

2 In particular, the EUISS shall provide lectures given by EUISS analysts and contribute to the further development of the ESDC e-Learning content.

3 The EUISS shall support the ESDC Alumni Association.

*Article 7*

**Legal capacity**

1 The ESDC shall have the necessary legal capacity in order to:

a fulfil its tasks and meet its objectives;

b enter into contracts and administrative arrangements necessary for its functioning including to implement staff secondments and recruit contract staff; acquire equipment, in particular teaching equipment;

c hold bank accounts; and

d be a party to legal proceedings.

2 Any liability that may arise from contracts concluded by the ESDC, shall be covered by the funds available to it pursuant to Articles 16 and 17.

*Article 8*

**Structure**

The following structure shall be set up under the ESDC:

(a) the Steering Committee with responsibility for the overall coordination and direction of the ESDC training and education activities;

(b) the Executive Academic Board ('the Board') with responsibility for ensuring the quality and coherence of the ESDC training and education activities;

(c) the Head of the ESDC ('the Head'), sole legal representative of the ESDC, with responsibility for the financial and administrative management of the ESDC, as well as advising the Steering Committee and the Board on the organisation and management of ESDC activities;

(d) the ESDC Secretariat ('the Secretariat') which is to assist the Head in fulfilling the Head's tasks and in particular in assisting the Board to ensure the overall quality and coherence of the ESDC training and education activities.