

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE IRELAND

ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT ON
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY
CO-OPERATION

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The Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter “the UK”) and the Department of Defence of Ireland (hereinafter “Ireland”) and together referred to as “the Participants”;

- a) Acknowledging the depth of ongoing interaction and interdependence between our two countries in ensuring the relative security of our respective territories and our citizens and in this regard, progressing the defence related issues as outlined in the Work Programme 2013/2015 agreed between Irish Secretaries General and UK Permanent Secretaries at their meeting of 18 -19 September 2013;
- b) Acknowledging the longstanding cooperative arrangements already in place for military staff meetings in support of the mutual exchange of information and experience, including on training, between the armed forces of the participants to support capability development, mutual understanding and operational capability for crisis management.
- c) Reaffirming the broad, strong and long-standing bilateral relationship between the Participants, their common security challenges and experience working alongside each other, including their Armed Forces engagement on UN mandated peacekeeping and crisis management operations;
- d) Recognising the long-standing shared interests, values and responsibilities of the participants and their common and shared commitment to multilateralism in international relations and to the pacific settlement of international disputes;
- e) Resolved to build on and strengthen the existing strong links between the armed forces of Ireland and the UK;
- f) Mutually recognising and supporting the primacy of the United Nations Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security;

- g) Fully recognising and respecting the different defence and security arrangements of the participants;
- h) Respecting the fact that nothing in this or any other agreement shall prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policies of the participants
- i) Committed to addressing strategic security challenges and promoting international peace and security in the context of their UN and EU CSDP commitments;
- j) Recognising the benefits of further co-operation between the Participants in order to enhance the operational capabilities of both countries in providing for individual and multilateral security and defence;
- k) Committed to ensuring ongoing interoperability between the Participants in crisis management in particular through implementation of and adherence to NATO standards;
- l) Mindful that EU member States need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their comprehensive defence and security efforts by seeking to develop new approaches to bilateral and multinational defence and security co-operation, including through the co-ordination, on a voluntary basis, of defence and security policy and plans so as to deliver effective capabilities for crisis management;
- m) Mindful of the importance of prudent resource management and acknowledging the financial and resource constraints faced by both nations it is important to acknowledge the need for closer bilateral and multilateral co-operation in capability development in order to achieve more cost-efficient, more available and more useable capabilities for Ireland and the UK;

Have reached the following understandings:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a framework for developing and furthering bilateral co-operation and relations between the Participants in the area of security and defence capacity, building on existing cooperation and seeking to identify new areas of cooperation with mutual benefits.

2. Any co-operation under this MOU will be carried out in accordance with the respective national legislation of the Participants and international law and subject to common agreement.
3. This MOU does not prejudice or prejudge either country's choice of partners on operations or decisions regarding any future investment in defence materiel.
4. This MOU will not impact on Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality or commit Ireland, in terms of military or financial resources, in a manner which could be inconsistent with that policy, the Irish Constitution or with the Lisbon Treaty protocols.
5. Nothing in this MOU affects or prejudices the position or policy of either country in particular, those relating to Common and/or Mutual Defence.
6. This MOU is a voluntary, non-binding arrangement between the Participants. It is not legally binding on the Participants nor is it an international agreement. The MOU is not intended to constitute a treaty in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and it is not eligible for registration as a treaty under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

SECTION 2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MEMORANDUM

For the purposes of the implementation of this MOU the Participants may conclude supplementary written arrangements in the form of MOUs, Technical Arrangements or any other form of bilateral written arrangement with the consent of both Participants.

SECTION 3 AIMS OF CO-OPERATION

Ireland and the UK have decided in principle, and subject to full and proper consultation and mutual consent, to enhance current bilateral defence and security co-operation with the following aims:

- a) To further develop the existing excellent defence and security relations, understanding and trust already established between the Participants;
- b) To further develop the existing co-operation in the field of multinational operations in support of international stability, peace and security;

- c) To identify, discuss and strive for a common understanding of national defence and security issues at both the political and the military level;
- d) To develop and enhance, as appropriate, the exchange of information between the participants;
- e) To improve our situational awareness in the defence and security domain, particularly in relation to new and emerging threats such as maritime, trafficking, cyber security;
- f) To put in place standing arrangements for desk level bilaterals between officials in the UK Ministry of Defence and the Department of Defence;
- g) To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Participants' defence and security policy through informing and consulting bilaterally and by addressing it together in international forums and organisations when feasible and mutually beneficial;
- h) To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Participants' armed forces;
- i) To further enhance interoperability and deployability and improve the capability to act jointly in all areas ranging from international peacekeeping and crisis management operations;
- j) To strive to optimise the use of their defence resources and improve cost-efficiency;
- k) To achieve technological benefits and efficiencies, sharing knowledge where possible;
- l) To promote security and defence research collaboration in relation to capability developments.

SECTION 4 FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION

As resources allow, the Participants will endeavour to enhance their co-operation in the following areas:

- i. **Sharing of experiences in reform of defence services.**
- ii. **Defence and security policy development** – to engage in regular staff exchanges and meetings, between the respective Defence Ministries and Armed Forces, including staff placements, in order to provide greater insight and understanding for the respective participants on how policy issues are addressed at a national level;
- iii. **Exercises, training and Military education** – to expand on our current bilateral arrangements regarding the provision of training and military education to our respective Armed Forces, through the identification of mutually supporting training and exchange programmes. This could include training in the areas of; Counter Improvised Explosive Devices, UN

- peacekeeping, Cadet Courses, Command and Staff courses and other professional technical training courses etc.
- iv. **UN mandated International peacekeeping and Crisis Management Operations** – to support the UK Armed Forces engagement in UN peacekeeping operations, through the provision of peacekeeping training and addressing the potential of joint Ireland/UK contributions to UN mandated and UN led peacekeeping operations;
 - v. **Multinational Forces' activity** – to explore the opportunity to jointly participate in EU battlegroups and the exchange of lessons learned from our respective countries experiences on this initiative;
 - vi. **Capacity building, conflict prevention, training and mentoring of third country security forces** - to examine how both participants can effectively contribute to Security Sector Reform initiatives and capacity building in crisis locations;
 - vii. **Capability developments** - to continue to explore opportunities to cooperate in the area of capability development including examining cooperative opportunities under the European Defence Agency Pooling and Sharing initiative;
 - viii. **Joint procurement initiatives and/or Government to Government sales in relation to military equipment and consumables** – to explore the potential and the benefits to be derived for participating in such initiatives.
 - ix. **Co-operation in the area of Operational Logistics** – the provision of support by the UK and Ireland in deploying to UN Mandated missions, similar to what was provided by the UK Armed Forces to Irish Defence Forces personnel deploying to the ISAF;
 - x. **Cyber Defence and Security** – to keep the participants updated on developments in this area and any associated threats emerging;
 - xi. **Strategic surveillance and situational awareness Maritime, Air and Land Domains** – A framework agreement to address increased cooperation on maritime surveillance and security cooperation among the five EU Atlantic States (Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, and UK) as part of the EU Atlantic Strategy is currently being drafted based on input from the relevant States;
 - xii. **Classified Information** – Putting in place a formal agreement and structures for the sharing of classified information.
 - xiii. **Such other areas or activities as may be decided upon or noted by the Participants.**

SECTION 5 PLANNING

1. On the basis of this MOU, the Participants will carry out annual Defence Talks to discuss the status and priorities for, and progress in, their bilateral co-operation, and to identify new areas for co-operation.
2. The Participants will prepare a three-year Action Plan that contains the programme of bilateral cooperation activities for the forthcoming year and sets the intent for the succeeding two years. The Action Plan will be reviewed at the subsequent year's Defence Talks. The Action Plan will be a living document and can be amended by the mutual consent of the Participants. No formal signature of the plan will be required.

SECTION 6 PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND VISITS

Classified information generated or exchanged as a result of co-operation under this MOU will be treated in accordance with each countries national security caveat. Release to third parties will only be undertaken with the approval of both signatures.

SECTION 7 FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Each Participant will cover its own costs resulting from this MOU unless otherwise agreed by the Participants in written form.

SECTION 8 FINAL PROVISIONS

1. All disputes that may arise as a result of the interpretation or application of this MOU will be settled through consultations and negotiations between the Participants and will not be referred to any national, international tribunal or third party for settlement.
2. The Participants may amend this MOU at any time by mutual written consent.
3. This MOU will enter into effect on the date of last signature.

4. This MOU will remain in force for an indefinite period of time, unless either Participant notifies the other in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate the MOU. In this case the MOU will expire after six (6) months following the day on which the termination notice was served on the other participant.

5. The participants will each retain signed English copies of the MOU.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENCE OF IRELAND**

Signature: Michael Fallon

Signature: Simon Coveney

Date: 19th January 2015

Date: 19/1/15

Position: Secretary of State for Defence

Position: Minister of Defence

Name: MICHAEL FALLON

Name: SIMON COVENEY