

Declaration of Intent

between

the Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany

and

the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

on the

further Enhancement of Bilateral Relations in the Field of Security and Defence

The Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany
and
the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

declare that

the Declaration of Intent between the Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the further Enhancement of Bilateral Relations in the Field of Defence, signed 28 May 2013, has been comprehensively fulfilled. We welcome the positive developments since 2013 and take them as a visible sign of the excellent relations between Germany and the Netherlands.

We highlight and confirm these excellent relations, which will provide a solid basis for the continued development of German-Netherlands cooperation in the future, sharing the understanding that a renewal of the 2013 Declaration of Intent addresses new security challenges and gives new impulses for the further development of our strong cooperation.

We

- understand that our security and defence environment has changed since 2014. More attention has to be given again to national and collective defence, while we will have to continue to conduct crisis management operations and missions;
- are committed to NATO, and agree that the Alliance has been and will remain the cornerstone of our security and defence;
- are committed to strengthening the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as a crucial contribution to European security;
- agree that the close partnership between the Netherlands and Germany has been an excellent example of defence cooperation within NATO and the EU. Our partnership will continue to strengthen the European pillar of NATO, contribute to European security and enhance Europe's resilience against all security threats;
- strive for the development of common positions in international organisations; share a firm belief in a rules-based international order and in multilateralism with the United Nations at its heart and are mindful of our rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Consequently, we agree that the defence relationship between Germany and the Netherlands has a very strong bilateral, European, and transatlantic rationale. Further strengthening and deepening our cooperation is in our mutual interest.

Security and Defence Policy

We are convinced of the inseparable character of our security and defence interests. These common interests and our shared values will remain the firm basis of our bilateral relationship and of our advanced cooperation in the future. On this basis we will synchronise our security and defence objectives, hence strengthening NATO, the EU and the European security landscape in general.

On this strong, common foundation, and in order to achieve our common objectives, we will develop courses of action and identify the required assets and capabilities. We will seek to define common positions in international organisations, structures and fora on any important decision, in accordance with our respective national rules and while respecting national sovereignty.

Furthermore, we will continue to work closely together to facilitate a comprehensive process of further strengthening CSDP towards providing a common and comprehensive foundation for all EU defence initiatives, including Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund (EDF) and the Coordinated Annual Review of Defence (CARD), turning the EU into an increasingly credible security provider. We are especially committed to maintaining transparency between the EU and NATO and achieving even closer and more focused EU-NATO cooperation.

Capability Development and Procurement

Therefore, the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP) and the EU defence initiatives and activities including the Capability Development Plan (CDP) will be the basis for a harmonisation of common research and development as well as technology activities in order to synchronise our capability development. In consequence, in order to ensure interoperability, reduce costs, enhance sustainability and efficiency, we strive for common procurement and configuration, both bilaterally and with partners. We strongly support the corresponding NATO and EU initiatives and intend to harmonise and synchronise them.

Together, we will promote the competitiveness and consolidation of Europe's defence industrial and technological base. To this end, we will facilitate close cooperation between our defence industries based on mutual trust whilst acknowledging our respective strengths.

Operational Commitments

In view of our strategic and operational approach to multinational operations, we declare our willingness to extend cooperation, particularly in future operations and missions, within the scope of German and Dutch law.

We will intensify combined education, training and exercises as well as the mutual exchange of plans, knowledge and lessons learned in order to substantially improve mutual understanding between our armed forces. To generate combat-ready forces efficiently and effectively, particular attention will be paid to command and control, common planning, preparations and pre-deployment training and exercises.

We strive to intensify our common engagement in NATO, the EU, the UN, the OSCE and other international organisations and operational commitments. In particular, we will deepen our cooperation within the adapted NRF (aNRF), including the NATO Readiness Initiative (NRI), the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force Land (VJTF (L)) and the Standing NATO Maritime Groups (SNMG), the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP), within NATO operations like Resolute Support as well as within EU-led operations and missions and the EU Battlegroup.

Cooperation on Key Challenges

The rules-based international order is challenged by state and non-state actors. Their activities are often intended to weaken our democratic societies and directed against our vulnerabilities by creating instability or igniting the population's mistrust towards the ability of our governments to protect them.

In order to deter and to respond swiftly, firmly, and effectively to increasingly sophisticated hybrid and cyber threats, we will enhance the exchange of information on and common analysis of these threats and strive for common positions in NATO and the EU.

Bilateral Working Structures

We will intensify our close relations at all levels from the Defence Ministers' to the working level. In particular, cooperation at the executive level as well as meetings in the "High Level Steering Group" (HLSG) format should be used in a more effective way.

The exchange of military and civilian personnel at all levels, including cadets and students, is the prerequisite for a more profound integration. To this end, we will examine further possibilities of exchanging, educating, training and exercising our personnel and strive for a mutual acceptance of each other's qualifications and certifications.

We welcome the ongoing exchange between the defence committees of both our parliaments. The same applies to the exchange between the German Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces ("Wehrbeauftragter des Deutschen Bundestages") and the Inspector General of the Netherlands Armed Forces.

We need to develop administrative, financial and legal arrangements to harmonise procedures in order to use our resources as efficiently as possible. Ultimately, these efforts will contribute to the safety and security of our personnel. The already existing Framework Agreement on Bilateral Defence Cooperation should be the basis for further development.

Conclusion

We are firmly convinced that the further development of our cooperation will contribute to enhancing our common response to shared challenges and will have a positive impact on transatlantic and European security and defence. Bearing in mind that today's security challenges can be tackled more effectively in multilateral formats, we explicitly welcome additional partners supporting and extending our bilaterally agreed direction.

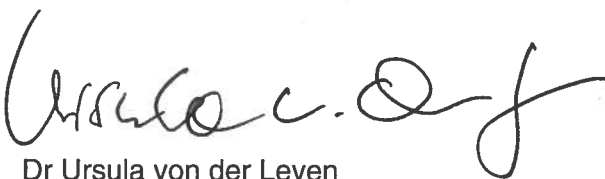
We declare our intent to:

- continue the mutually beneficial, professional and friendly partnership in both our interest and
- consult one another, with the objective of defining common positions, on any important decision relevant to our security interests and acting together whenever possible.

Roadmap

Following this firm commitment to further expanding and deepening our cooperation, we will agree on a roadmap to achieve tangible results. This roadmap is a living, non-exhaustive document which will be regularly updated by the High Level Steering Group.

Signed in duplicate in Berlin on 21 May 2019



Dr Ursula von der Leyen
Federal Minister of Defence
of the Federal Republic of Germany



Ank Bijleveld-Schouten
Minister of Defence
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Annex:

Roadmap for the Further Enhancement of Bilateral Relations in the Field of Defence

The following, non-exhaustive overview identifies further areas of possible intensified cooperation – in particular at Service level:

1. Cooperation on capabilities projects:

All of the following topics are already integrated in our armed forces' cooperation. This paragraph mentions fields of cooperation that cannot be attributed to one single inter-Service cooperation project, as a result of differences in task assignment within the DEU and NLD Armed Forces. Where possible, considerations can be made to make binationally initiated projects of DEU-NLD cooperation a part of the mutual effort under the Framework Nation Concept (FNC). Furthermore, cooperation on capabilities projects should cover, as a baseline, all aspects of **D**octrine, **O**rganisation, **T**raining, **M**aterial, **L**eadership, **P**ersonnel, **F**acilities (DOTMLPFI).

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through the Capability Steering Group (CapSG) as part of the High Level Steering Group one star (HLGS*).
- Improving interoperability of DEU/NLD digitalised land-based operations through Programme TEN (Tactical Edge Networking, based on national programmes D-LBO (DEU) and FOXTROT (NLD)).
- Maintenance of ground-based systems. It is worthwhile investigating possibilities of cooperation in the fields of maintenance and logistic support of these systems. It is essential to maintain and improve cooperation in the fields of maintenance and logistics for binationally used systems.
- Combined procurement of (supporting) equipment, qualification as well as procurement and storage of ammunition and of other strategic stockpiles.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- DEU and NLD strive to deepen maritime cooperation especially in the fields of submarines, frigates, joint logistic and command ships and mine warfare.
- All-Terrain Vehicle New Generation (ATV NG).
- Information exchange and research on new developments, e.g. regarding the High Energy Laser (HEL) – maritime & land.
- Robotic and highly-automated systems: There is an excellent basis for deeper DEU-NLD cooperation concerning a future topic in land mobility which could bridge a possible lack of personnel resources.

- Counter Unmanned Air Systems: NLD established a (joint and interagency) Counter-UAS working group at the DGLC VREDEPEEL to investigate, explore, coordinate and increase C-UAS capability. Any potential cooperation should be part of the (Blue) APOLLO project in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Wheeled recovery vehicles: It strengthens interoperability to have the same recovery vehicle that is also capable of recovering the Boxer. This could provide MN synergies e.g. by providing support units like they are needed in VJTF.
- Anti-tank weapons: Joint procurement and in-service support may be more efficient and increase interoperability.
- Ammunition: NLD and DEU will investigate an expansion of mutual acceptance and shared qualification in order to purchase the same types of ammunition. Furthermore, we will explore possibilities of common ammunition storage.
- Sharing of Testing and Evaluation Facilities and capabilities.
- Identifying common operational requirements for Next Generation Frigates (NGF) and determining cooperation potentials, based on harmonisation of ship building rules.
- Investigating increased cooperation regarding a common Combat Management System core based on the NLD system 'Guardion'.

2. Army cooperation:

The intent of both Army Commanders is to harmonise all future developments of both Armies to equip, train and prepare their units up to the highest level of readiness in order to provide them to NATO, EU and UN missions binationally.

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through Army Steering Group (ASG).
- Current existing fields of cooperation – mainly common education, training and exercise – will be deepened where possible.
- Continuing and continuously further developing the excellent and unique cooperation between the DEU and NLD Armies, with the integration of 11 (NLD) Air Assault Brigade (AAB) into the (DEU) Rapid Response Forces Division (Division Schnelle Kräfte) in 2014 (Musketeer), the multi-layered integration at squadron level within the 414 (DEU) Tank Battalion, at brigade level with the 414 Tank Battalion within the 43 (NLD) Mechanised Brigade, up to division level within the 1 (DEU) Armoured Division (Panzerdivision) in 2016 (Taurus).
- Complete the synchronization of common use of Helicopter Underslung Load Equipment and Underslung Load Clearances which have been already accepted by both Military Aviation Authorities.

- Since 2019, the DEU and NLD Armies have provided a DEU-led armour squadron with a NLD armour platoon to a NLD Mechanised Infantry Battalion, which is part of the DEU-led VJTF(L) brigade 2019 of the NATO Response Force.
- Continuing cooperation within the Framework Nation Grouping concept in the NATO VJTF(L) together with DEU, NOR and NLD.
- Common joint fire support training at lower levels has achieved the defined end-state, providing the opportunity to exploit this success and expand cooperation in the field of Joint Fire Support.
- Continued development of 1 GNC in Münster as a highly capable command and control element for NATO and both framework nations in a conventional as well as a hybrid environment in accordance with the NATO Long Term Commitment Plan (LTCP).
- Mutual exchange of personnel at the Army Command, Division and Brigade levels as well as exchange of liaison personnel within the basic Army organisations.
- Mutual examination of opportunities in the fields of ISTAR, CBRN and C-RAM is of mutual interest for both armed forces.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- Harmonisation of the planning, training, and preparation of combat-ready army formations for NATO, EU and UN operations, missions and deployments will be the main priority of DEU-NLD army cooperation in the coming years.
- Expansion of cooperation on tank capabilities by establishing a NLD Tank Battalion, examination of a common use of infrastructure (LOHHEIDE and surroundings) and shared knowledge development on tank warfare.
- Expansion of cooperation in the field of fire support by establishing a NLD Long Range Artillery battalion and intensifying common Joint Fire Support Training, especially with regards to higher level & certification.
- Programme TEN: common development, procurement, integration, operation, maintenance and in-service support of a digitalised land-based operation system. Assessing and recognising the impacts of the strategic environment posing more complex, diverse, and uncertain threats on cyber and information and land domain developments, considering a more effective use of mutually scarce capacities, recognising the necessity of amplifying interoperability and integration, recognising the common need to incorporate and improve interoperability and integration in the digitalisation of land-based operations.
- Development of common logistic support and harmonisation of logistic procedures.
- Further contribution to the development of digitalisation of Land Based Operations in cooperation with Norway.

- Cooperation on wheeled vehicle capabilities (recovery, airmobile and reconnaissance vehicles).
- Mutually accepted individual training, qualification and certification on all levels.
- Binational development of corps and division troop capabilities.
- Trilateral (DEU-NLD-BEL) procurement of a common automatic parachute system (potential PESCO project).
- Development of a binational Land Operating Concept to ensure interoperability on operations and further harmonisation of commonly used army doctrine based on NATO documents.
- Continued development of a binational leadership conference format.
- Common planning of, training for and exercising for Non-combatant Evacuation Operations.
- Common use of training facilities for battalion, brigade and division level field exercises.
- Binational medium and long-term feasibility studies: common logistic support, logistic role specialisation, CIS interoperability, “robotic” in the field, common doctrine on land warfare, development of common organisational structures (support), cooperation on Electronic Warfare, engineering and C-IED.

3. Air Force cooperation:

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through Air Force Steering Group (AFSG).
- Further integration within the European Air Transport Command (EATC).
- Establishment of the Multinational MRTT Fleet (MMF) in Eindhoven and Cologne.
- DEU and NLD are major stakeholders in the realisation of the Multinational MRTT Fleet, thus ensuring an efficient and multinational approach to addressing a common capability shortfall. Interoperability and standardisation will be fostered by operating a common transport aircraft, ensuring a common training and exercise environment and establishing a common certification process.
- Mutual support in conducting the NLD and DEU Weapons Instructor Courses.
- Exercise cooperation (e.g. Flag Exercises for fast jets).
- Training cooperation on Air Battle Management (ABM).
- Continuing the intensification of bilateral cooperation on Surface Based Air and Missile Defence (SBAMD) between DEU Air Force and NLD Army, as defined in the Terms of Reference of the binational project group and within the respective Framework Nations Concept sub clusters.
- Consistent further development of the contribution to the joint and combined enhancement of the Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) domain by the

binational Cooperation Competence Centre Surface Based Air and Missile Defence (CC SBAMD) at the Allied Air Command in Ramstein.

- Intensification of the existing SBAMD cooperation "Apollo" with all sub-projects, i.e.:
 - Strengthening cooperation in the areas of operations, logistics and training.
 - Embedding individual NLD SBAMD experts into DEU SAM Wing 1 "Schleswig-Holstein" and integrating DEU SBAMD personnel into the NLD Ground Based Air Defence Command (GBADC) in Vredepeel.
 - Common further development of SBAMD tactical firing, simulation and live exercises.
 - Establishing (non-standing) binational common core units (AMD and SHORAD) for VJTF and other missions.
- Enhancing cooperation in the area of Tactical Air Command and Control through NLD participation in the FNC sub cluster TACCTC.
- Cooperation on helicopter capabilities (cross-Service DEU and NLD Armies and Air Forces):
 - DEU participation in the NLD Helicopter Weapons Instructor Course (HWIC).
 - Maintaining and possibly increasing current NLD use of helicopter training capabilities at IHTC Bückeburg.
 - Contribution to the integration of 11 (NLD) AAB (ground component) into (DEU) DSK.
- Cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- NLD will consider integration within the Framework Nations Concept capability cluster Multinational Air Transport Unit (MNAU).
- Establishment and use of a German-Dutch Cross Border Area (CBA) for future air space cooperation.
- Enhancement of Allied interoperability through 4th and 5th generation weapon system integration.
- Development of combined Survive, Evade, Resist & Extract (SERE) training and education, together with Belgium.

4. Navy cooperation:

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through Navy Steering Group (NSG).
- Integration of Sea Battalion capabilities into the Royal Netherlands Navy since 2016.
- NLD support to German Navy in developing an amphibious concept, doctrines and capabilities.

- Common preparation and training of amphibious forces for joint use within NATO Amphibious Task groups.
- Co-use of the Joint Support Ship Karel Doorman (secured military sea lift).
- Exchange of information and mutual support regarding the development of Maritime Ballistic Missile Defence capabilities.
- Education & Training: PWO Course, Air Defence Course, Very Shallow Water Operations (via CoE CSW in Kiel and MBS Eguermin in Oostende).
- Exchange of experience in the field of maintenance of ships, weapon systems and components.
- Exchange of personnel on board operational units.
- Sharing of Lessons Identified/Learned on operations.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- Sharing of knowledge and capabilities in replenishment, seabasing and amphibious operations and development of German Forces' relevant capabilities.
- Intensifying all areas of education and training (e.g. Sniper Course, diver training, participation in NLD amphibious officer/sergeant education, mutual participation in officer cadet education).
- Sharing of training facilities, simulators and capabilities (e.g. Helicopter Controller Training).
- Co-ordination of annual operational programming of assets.
- Development of naval publications, tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP).
- Exchange of knowledge and experience regarding the use of maritime unmanned systems.
- Medical Service: cooperation of Medical Teams during operations (e.g. ATALANTA).

5. Special Operations Forces (SOF) cooperation:

Cooperation already underway:

- Continuation of the newly implemented MOD-level SOF expert talks on a regular basis.
- Continuous mutual exchange of specific information and knowledge.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- Collective development of options for
 - mutual participation in SOF training and exercises,
 - mutual contributions to relevant NATO commitments (i.e. VJTF SOF),
 - mutual contributions to relevant operations/missions and activities.

6. Cooperation in the Defence Intelligence Domain:

Cooperation already underway:

- Intensification of cooperation in all possible fields of intelligence with talks at the directors' level as well as staff-level regarding NATO Intelligence Policy, European Intervention Initiative (EI2) and CHoDs' Initiative Counter Violent Extremist Organisations (C-VEO).
- Intensification of cooperation regarding national contributions to NATO Intelligence (i.e. Indication & Warning, database, ORBAT).

New fields of possible cooperation:

- Identification of possible fields of cooperation on Defence Intelligence regarding Training & Exercise.
- Establishing the legal framework for intelligence sharing and intelligence exchange regarding NATO/EU/UN missions and enhanced Forward Presence (eFP).

7. Cooperation between Medical Services:

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through Medical Steering Group (MSG).
- Continuation and strengthening of cooperation between the two medical services.
- Further development of implementation agreements for existing areas of cooperation based on the 2018 MoU between both medical services.
- Further expansion of joint cooperation in the areas of FNC/MMCC/EMC.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- Development of joint training courses with mutual use of relevant training and education facilities and/or personnel.
- Exploring the possibilities of cooperation between military hospitals, rehabilitation medicine facilities and medical logistic centres including pharmaceutical facilities.
- Investigation of possibilities for binational force generation and/or integration of Role 2/3 medical capacities and capabilities and Medical Command & Control.

8. Cooperation in the Joint Support Service Domain as well as Cross-Command/Service Cooperation:

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through Joint Support Steering Group (JSSG), bilateral cooperation framework currently comprising LOG, CBRN, CIMIC and MP working groups, in order to identify new opportunities for cooperation and coordinate and monitor the execution of existing cooperation initiatives.

- CBRN: Intensification of cooperation with regard to training in CBRN Defence. Investigation of options for mutual CBRN Defence capability development and CBRN Defence units.
- CIMIC: Further exploration of options for enhancing NATO CIMIC capability development through close cooperation of the CCOE framework nations DEU and NLD. Investigation of the possibility of setting up DEU-NLD CIMIC formations at tactical level and to conduct common training.
- Further expansion of joint cooperation in the areas of FNC/PESCO/cross-border coordination (e.g. disaster relief).
- Strengthened cooperation on resilience and countering hybrid threats analysis.
- Continuing cooperation in the areas of military postal service, media, military mobility.
- Intensification of cooperation between NLD Defence Academy (NLDA) and the DEU Bundeswehr Command and Staff College (Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr (FüAkBw)) as well as exchange of lecturers at the DEU and NLD General Staff Courses.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- Logistics: Identification and implementation of further cooperation in the fields of NATO Rear Area Operations, Enabling and Support including RSOM.
- RSOM battalion, DEU has invited NLD to investigate the possibilities for a joint RSOM battalion.
- Military Police (MP):
 - Exploration and enhancement of cooperation in all fields of DEU and NLD MP responsibilities and mutual support across the full spectrum of MP operations.
 - Exploration of cooperation possibilities in the field of military mobility (i.e. role of MP in strategic movement and coordination).
- Cooperation on transport of valuables and cash.
- Cooperation on dog handling training.
- Exploration of a joint procurement of train wagons.

9. Cooperation in the Cyber and Information Domain and Hybrid:

Cooperation already underway:

- Consolidation and expansion of activities through the Cyber and Information Domain Steering Group (CIDSG); bilateral cooperation framework currently comprising INTEL, CIS, CYBER, GEOINFO and PSYOPS working groups, in order to identify new opportunities for cooperation and coordinate and monitor the execution of existing cooperation initiatives.

- Intensification of cooperation between DEU CyberInfoDS HQ (KdoCIR) and NLD units by exploring the possibility of (permanently and temporarily) exchanging personnel.
- Intensification of cooperation with regard to knowledge, education, training and exercises, utilising available formats such as tabletop exercises or standing cyber working groups.
- Further contribution to the SAWFISH programme for joint procurement of and training for Electronic Warfare systems.
- Specifically:
 - INTEL: Intensification of exchange in Education and Training (e.g. Basic Intel Training, IMINT courses, OSINT courses) and enhancement of INTEL cooperation where applicable.
 - JISR: Mutual examination of opportunities in the fields of Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) – to include intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) – is of mutual interest for both armed forces.
 - CIS: Intensification of cooperation on common projects (e.g. Connecting Restricted IT Services (CrIS), Federated Mission Network (FMN)).
 - CYBER: Development of common Cyber Situational Awareness/Recognised Cyber Picture. Intensification of cooperation between NLD and DEU Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT).
 - GEOINFO: Further exploration of options for enhancing common DEU and NLD GeoMETOC (Geospatial, Meteorological and Oceanographic) capabilities including centralised GeoMETOC Services/-Support. Intensification of cooperation on international projects (e.g. Topographic Information Supporting Nation for NRF 2019, Multinational Geospatial Support Group, support for Multinational METOC Support Group expected).
 - Widening and intensifying the existing cooperation on Human Geography & Country Books, Mapping, Geospatial and METOC-Support, Geospatial Aeronautical Information, Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA), Space Weather, etc.
 - PSYOPS: Maintaining the high level of cooperation through permanent deployment of NLD exchange officer at DEU Bundeswehr Operational Communication Centre (Bw OCC) in Mayen.
- Fostering deep cooperation with regards to academic education by permanently offering participation in the cyber security master's degree programme (MCYB) at the Munich Bundeswehr University to NLD.

New fields of possible cooperation:

- We intend to expand the possibilities for widely accessible restricted and confidential communication services between the two nations in the administrative domain.
- Development and operation of common PESCO projects, e.g. in the Cyber domain.
- Starting staff-to-staff talks on countering hybrid threats. Deepening cooperation on resilience and hybrid-threats.