

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE EUROPEAN UNION'S
COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**

**Council Decision amending Decision 2014/129/CFSP of 10 March 2014
promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks
in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of
Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Submitted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 29 June 2017.

SUBJECT MATTER

1. The attached document authorises a six-month no-cost project extension of an EU CFSP programme promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
2. The Consortium was established by the EU in 2010. Council Decision 2014/129/CFSP is providing up to 3.6 million Euros over three years to support the activities of the Consortium. It was due to expire on 2 July 2017 but has been extended until 31 December 2017 by the attached document. This extension allows the Consortium to continue its activities, including producing research papers and organising conferences, whilst the EU develops a proposal for a new phase of support.

SCRUTINY HISTORY

3. An Explanatory Memorandum on the Council Decision on promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was submitted for Parliamentary Scrutiny on 23 January 2014. The House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee cleared the document as “politically important” on 29 January 2014 (ESC 35739, 33rd Report, Session 2013/14). The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union cleared the document on 28 January 2014 at the Chairman’s sift.
4. An Explanatory memorandum on this subject was last submitted for Parliamentary Scrutiny on 3 March 2017. The House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee cleared the document as “not legally or politically important” on 22 March 2017 (ESC 38568, 36th Report, Session 2016/17). The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union cleared the document on 14 March 2017 at the Chairman’s sift.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

5. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is the Minister with overall responsibility for UK policy on the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy.

INTEREST OF THE DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

6. The UK's Foreign Affairs policy is a reserved matter under the UK's devolution settlements and no devolved administration interests arise. The devolved administrations have therefore not been consulted in the preparation of this EM.

LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

7. We are agreeing to a proposal which supports a network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
8. Legal Basis: Articles 26(2) and 31(1) of the treaty of the European Union.
9. Voting Procedures: Unanimity.
10. Impact on UK Law: None.
11. Application to Gibraltar: None.
12. Fundamental rights analysis: No fundamental rights issues apply.

APPLICATION TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

13. None.

SUBSIDIARITY

14. The EU and its Member States make an important contribution to EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

15. On 23 June, the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation.
16. UK support for the European Network is in line with the UK National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (2015), the National Counter Proliferation Strategy (2016), and the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2003).

CONSULTATION

17. Not applicable.

REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

18. Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. No additional UK or EU funding is required.

TIMETABLE

20. The Council Decision is expected to be adopted before 2 July 2017.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

21. None.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AMJ', followed by a horizontal line.

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP
Minister for Europe and the Americas
Foreign and Commonwealth Office