

# Framework for an Enhanced Visegrad Group Defence Planning Cooperation

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The V4 Defence Ministers established the Planning Group in March 2014 in order to enhance the V4 countries' cooperation in the field of defence planning and capability development. The past eight years were characterized by rapid, negative changes in security environment, increasing the need to reinforce national resilience and strengthen capabilities and preparedness of the armed forces. The political and military adaptation of NATO including the longer-term changes in its military structures and Strategic Compass of the European Union are both important factors which will guide and significantly influence our activities. In the capability development domain, V4 cooperation has great potential and we need to continue exploring new areas to combine our efforts.

## **The Principles of the V4 Defence Planning Cooperation**

V4 defence cooperation has had so far two main flagship projects. On one hand we were able to implement a common V4 NATO capability target, the Joint Logistic Support Group Headquarters and its enabling elements. The other project, the V4 EU Battlegroup is a clear demonstration of V4's joint commitment to European and global security and V4 EUBGs need to remain part of our cooperation. In the future V4 countries should look for further possibilities to deepen the defence cooperation.

We must always keep in focus the long-term vision, and the purpose of the V4 Defence Cooperation: training and exercises and capability development in the context of the NATO Strategic Concept and EU Strategic Compass. It is therefore crucial for our defence planning cooperation to be mutually reinforcing with the meetings of the V4 armament directors and the training directors.

The Planning Group is the main platform to discuss the overall direction of the common efforts in capability development. In order to enhance the cooperation in this field the Hungarian V4 presidency in 2021 established a forum for capability directors as well. The intention was to get the J5 chiefs directly involved in V4 capability development consultations. The meetings are planned to be held twice a year back-to-back with the Planning Group in order to ensure a steady dialogue among defence planners on both political and military side.

Harmonization with the V4 armament cooperation would also contribute to the establishment of cooperation among the national defence industries and the reinvigoration of the defence and other national industries, as well.

During the planning phase of a national capability development project, the Visegrad Group countries should examine whether the projects are feasible and mutually advantageous to be carried out in the V4 framework. The success of the V4 flagship projects demonstrate that we have started shifting our mindset and changing our working processes related to multinational cooperation, nevertheless, we still have a long way to go.

We hold it for great importance to allow the Visegrad Group countries to engage in projects not only in quadrilateral formation, but also in bilateral and trilateral groupings. Additionally, the inclusion of third parties are welcome with the consent of the participating states. The ultimate goal is to initiate fruitful, sustainable multinational capability development projects in the areas C4ISTAR, UAV, AD, engineers, medical, military mobility, CYBER, SPACE, EDT's etc.

Furthermore, the foundations of the cooperation should be built on the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP) as it is one of the main drivers in our national defence planning systems, but we should also take into consideration other EU and Allied frameworks. Moreover, if there is a promising V4 project we need to examine the possibility to use EDA assistance and/or EDF support.

Planning Group meetings provide also great opportunity to discuss the V4 countries' positions related to NATO and EU defence planning and capability development issues. It is an adequate forum to develop common ground and shared perspectives regarding ongoing NATO and EU workstrands.

### **Supporting Elements**

The V4 PG is tasked to identify the most promising areas of cooperation in medium- and long-term planning and ensure the reporting of the results to the State Secretaries/Defence Policy Directors (DPDs) and the channelling of the decisions into the respective national planning processes and NATO's defence planning. The V4 PG will be responsible for preparing the decisions for the State Secretaries/DPDs from a planning perspective, whereas the political decision will be prepared by the V4 State Secretaries/DPDs. The State Secretaries/DPDs should keep the issues of the defence planning cooperation on the agenda of their meetings.

The V4 PG comprise national planning experts led by the Defence Planning Director or the senior planning expert of the respective countries. The V4 PG must maintain contact through a point of contact network and should meet as deemed necessary, preferably utilizing the margins of related NATO and EU events.

The defence planning cooperation can also be facilitated by the knowledge acquired from the participation in each other's bilateral meetings with NATO and/or EU. The Planning Group can create working groups or other supporting structures that are best suited to provide solutions or options for the given tasks.

### **Conclusion**

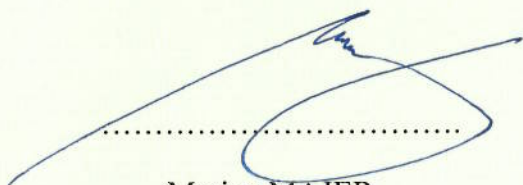
The V4 Defence Planning cooperation is envisaged as a long-term process. The two flagship projects are serving as a model for our future cooperation and offer a great opportunity to demonstrate to both the political leadership and to the Allies that we have commonalities in our goals and we are willing to cooperate and actively seek common projects. We have to prepare V4 for effective cooperation in the framework of the NDPP.

This framework document should remain a living document that can be broadened, or enhanced parallel to the development of the Visegrad Group defence cooperation.

We believe that there is a significant potential to developing, procuring and maintaining capabilities together in the Visegrad Group. Through building on NATO and EU capability development processes we can deliver our commitment for effective deterrence and collective defence. We also believe that this partnership will not only enhance our weight and visibility, but also contribute more to the capabilities of Europe and NATO.

Finalized in June 2022 by the V4 Planning Group.

Adopted on 9 November 2022 at the V4 Senior Body.



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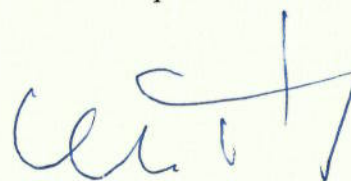
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## Annex

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE V4 PLANNING GROUP

#### PURPOSE

The V4 Planning Group (V4 PG) is an integrated defence planning body, in charge of the expert-level work in the field of V4 defence planning cooperation. The V4 PG explores the potential areas of cooperation with regard to capability development and provides recommendations to the V4 Senior Body of State Secretaries/Defence Policy Directors/Armament Directors on these areas.

#### COMPOSITION

The V4 PG is an expert forum led by the strategic defence planning chiefs, also including experts from force planning and armament planning. The defence planning chief of the nation holding the presidency of the V4 acts as the chairperson of the V4 PG.

The V4 PG can be supported by non-permanent structures (working groups etc) established on a case-by-case basis, comprised of the defence planning experts and the subject matter experts of the project areas. The chairperson of such structures is a delegate from the facilitating nation of the assigned project.

#### AIM

As a starting point, the V4 Planning Group has to examine respective NATO capability target packages and national defence and procurement plans to identify the areas of possible cooperation in medium and long term. Moreover, other existing frameworks can also offer opportunities to combine efforts in capability development. EU and NATO activities provide potential platforms to cooperate and make the best use of V4. Exploring the use of the European Defence Fund can enhance the outcomes of the cooperation. Additionally, the experiences of the V4 EU Battlegroup preparation process could also be utilized.

V4 PG will consult with and receive substantial input from the Capability Directors to compile a capability matrix, in which all countries should record the most promising elements of their NATO capability targets and the national procurement and defence plans, together with the planned timing of implementation. The matrix can then prepare the members to conduct substantial discussions at the Capability Directors' meetings. According to the Capability Directors' recommendations and findings, the most promising project ideas will be discussed in the V4 PG.

This process should run parallel with the regular political consultations and meetings of the Ministers of Defence, the V4 Senior Body and the Defence Policy Directors (DPDs) that would provide the necessary political oversight and impetus to the process, including the initial approval of the State Secretaries/DPDs on the proposed projects.

Recommended projects will then receive further consideration by the V4 PG that will then prepare a report for decision by the State Secretaries/DPDs. The report will also include

information whether a project shall be open to third countries or it should be realized within other frameworks.

#### IV. TASKS

Examination of the national defence and procurement plans and NATO capability targets, also considering international trends and regional capability shortfalls;

Examination of EU and Allied projects along with other frameworks where the V4 countries are participating and could combine their efforts;

Consulting the Capability Directors in order to compile a capability development matrix and a list of potential capability development areas;

Consulting the Armament Directors in order to identify possible areas for common procurement;

Providing recommendations to the V4 Senior Body on starting a new project;

Providing recommendations to the V4 Senior Body whether a project should be open to third parties;

Establishing working groups if necessary in order to develop the approved projects, prepare documentation and provide recommendations to the PG;

Submitting the conceptual foundation of capability development or procurement projects to the V4 Senior Body;

Tracking the progress of the individual projects and the overall defence planning cooperation and reporting results to the Senior Body;

Overseeing the inclusion of projects in the respective national planning and NATO's defence planning process following the Ministerial decision;

Discussing NATO and EU defence planning and capability development issues;

Developing and coordinating V4 positions related to ongoing EU and NATO workstrands.

#### V. WORKING METHOD

The V4 PG meets at least twice during every presidency year back-to-back with the Capability Directors' Meeting if possible, and utilizes the margins of related EU, NATO, or other international events if possible.

English is the working language of the V4 defence planning cooperation.

#### VI. COSTS

The expenses related to the V4 defence planning cooperation are shared by the participating nations following the principle of "costs lie where they fall".