Framework Arrangement for Security of Supply between subscribing Member States (sMS) in Circumstances of Operational Urgency – decided on 20 September 2006

1. Subscribing Member States (sMS) to the voluntary Intergovernmental Regime to encourage competition in the European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM) being operated on the basis of the principles and practices of the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement, have agreed that they will do everything possible, consistent with national law and international obligations – and having particularly regard to Title V of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) – to assist and expedite each other's contracted defence requirements, particularly in circumstances of pressing operational urgency.

2. The sMS will work to increase the level of mutual confidence amongst themselves, in particular by improving the predictability of their policies. All sMS will support efforts to simplify amongst them intra-community transfers and transits of defence goods and technologies.

In furtherance of these mutual commitments sMS have agreed as follows:

3. If in times of emergency, crisis or armed conflict one or more sMS request(s) defence goods or services from one or several other sMS, this or these Member States will engage in immediate consultation with the requesting sMS based on the principles of cooperation and solidarity, with the aim of ensuring that the need is met as expeditiously as possible.

4. In addition to taking all possible steps to expedite its administrative processes, each Member State will also, if so requested by another sMS:

- engage with suppliers on its territory to help ensure that an appropriate priority is given to the needs of the requesting sMS in matters of ordering, re-allocating supplies of defence goods or services or modifying existing defence goods. The requesting sMS will meet any additional cost falling to the assisting sMS or to the company supplying the goods or services;
- acknowledge and consider urgently and sympathetically any request for provision of defence goods, mainly on a re-imbursement basis, from its own stocks.