

DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

AND

**THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

AND

**THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE OF THE HELLENIC
REPUBLIC**

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

AND

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE GRAND-DUCHY OF
LUXEMBOURG**

AND

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS**

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF ROMANIA

AND

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

REGARDING

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT FLEET

The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium,

The Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic,

The Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany,

The Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic,

The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Spain,

The Minister of Defence of the French Republic,

The Minister of Defence of the Italian Republic,

The Minister of Defence of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg,

The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

The Minister of Defence of the Portuguese Republic,

The Minister of Defence of Romania,

The Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic,

Meeting within the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency (EDA),

Declare their intention of establishing a European Air Transport Fleet:

Recognising that EU Member States will be more involved in the near future in military and civilian operations, and that there is a clear lack of European military airlift capabilities to perform these missions, we intend to develop concrete solutions to better use existing and future military airlift assets usable for meeting national, EU, NATO and other frameworks operational requirements. This is the aim of the European Air Transport Fleet project (EATF) of the EDA.

With this declaration of intent we want to demonstrate our determination and commitment to address critical European airlift shortfalls. The pooling of some of our assets and the use of

contributions in kind will help us to decrease our dependency on civilian lift and maximise our investment in military airlift assets.

The EATF provides an innovative framework for European cooperation through mutualisation of services and aircraft such as A400M or C130. This initiative is open to any interested EU Member State. It will be developed in coherence with existing or future European and national airlift structures, such as the European Air Transport Command in the Command & Control area.

EU Member States' participation to EATF could take the following form:

- to make available military transport aircraft;
- to purchase flying hours;
- to provide or exchange flying hours;
- to provide and benefit from shared and/or pooled support functions.

The establishment of a future multinational A400M unit by some of EATF members will contribute to reinforce the EATF project. Furthermore, the EATF project will take into account any future contribution of A400M Member States for basing, maintenance and training to partners who do not wish to equip themselves with such a structure, or who have an interest to join the multinational A400M unit or who have a potential intention to acquire new A400M.

We welcome the work done by the European Defence Agency who will address the practical management, financial and legal aspects to be reflected in a Letter of Intent to be presented to participating Member States by mid 2009.

We aim to reach an EATF Initial Operational Capability by the next decade.

The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Pieter de Crem*
Signature *Pieter de Crem*

The Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Vlasta Parkanová*
Signature *Vlasta Parkanová*

The Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Dr. Franz Josef Jung*
Signature *F. Jung*

The Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Evangelos Meimarakis*
Signature *Evangelos Meimarakis*

The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Spain, P.P.

Signed in *Brussels* on 10 November 2008

Name *Constantino Mendez*
Signature *Constantino Mendez*

The Minister of Defence of the French Republic,


Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Heri nui*
Signature *Heri nui*

The Minister of Defence of the Italian Republic, P.P.

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

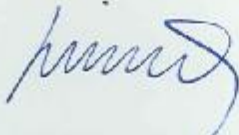
Name *Guido Crosetto*

Signature 

The Minister of Defence of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Jean-Louis Schiltz*

Signature 

The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Eimert van Middelkoop*

Signature 

The Minister of Defence of the Portuguese Republic,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

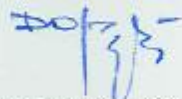
Name *NUNO LEFRANCO TEIXEIRA*

Signature *Nuno Severiano Teixeira*

The Minister of Defence of Romania, P.P.

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Cornelie DOBRITOLU*

Signature 

The Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic,

Signed in Brussels on 10 November 2008

Name *Jaroslav BAŠKA*

Signature 