



**Council of the European Union**

**Athena**

EU - Military operations

Financing

*The administrator*

Brussels, 14 February 2017

17-0078

### **Special Committee - 14 February 2017 Outcome of proceedings**

1. EUTM Somalia

The Committee agreed on the transfer of Euro 1.975.676,39 from the provisional appropriations Chapter 84 to Article 0260 "Infrastructure works" as set out in Document 17-0074.

2. EUTM MALI

The Committee was consulted on an administrative arrangement with the Ministry of Defense of the French Republic as per Document 17-0065.

3. EUNAVFOR MED

The Committee was requested common funding as set out in Paragraphs 17 and 18 in Document 17-0068. The operation will submit a comprehensive estimate of costs involved and the Committee will deliberate further during the March SC meeting.

The Committee had a discussion on the funding situation for the training activities of the Libyan Coast Guard as per Document 17-0077. The operation will highlight funding shortfalls as they arise and the Committee considers that additional funding should be provided through voluntary contributions.

4. Athena

The Committee was consulted on an administrative arrangement with the Ministry of Defense of the French Republic as set out in Document 17-0066.

The Committee agreed on the approach of the Athena administrator as set out in Document 17-0054.

The Committee was informed about the intention to prolong the mandate of the Athena internal auditor and to nominate three new deputy internal auditors.

5. College of Auditors

The Committee took note of the follow up to the College of Auditors' recommendations as per Document 17-0067.

6. EUMS

The Committee was briefed on the possibility of EU access to Air to Air Refuelling and Exchanges of other Services (ATARES) technical arrangement as set out in Document 17-0072.



Council of the European Union

Athena  
EU - Military operations  
Financing  
*The administrator*

Brussels, 23 January 2017

17-0054

## NOTE TO THE ATHENA SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**Subject:** Athena staff

- 1) The ATHENA Council Decision explicitly foresees that ATHENA can resort to staff seconded by Member States (Articles 5.2 and 10.5). Use has been made of this provision to date, but still most of the resources are being made available to ATHENA by the GSC.
- 2) In addition, the approach in doc. 12-0408 was noted by the Special Committee in 2012, which illustrates the options that are open to ATHENA in case of an increase in workload.
- 3) Currently three national experts as desk officers and one contractual agent as financial assistant are financed from the ATHENA budget .
- 4) During this year the current assignments of two national experts and of the contractual agent will come to an end.
- 5) With the approval of the Special Committee on 10 February 2016 (outcome of proceedings doc. 16-0099) the assignment of Mr Constantinos TZITROS as contractual agent has been prolonged for one year from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, with the possibility of a renewal, should the need still exist.
- 6) With the approval of the Special Committee on 10 May 2016 (outcome of proceedings doc. 16-0236) the secondment of Mr Ludovic BECQUART as national expert has been prolonged for a period of one year from 1 September 2016 until 31 August 2017, with the possibility of a renewal, should the need continue to exist. Due to national assignments Mr BECQUART will not be available for a prolongation after the end of his current secondment.
- 7) With the approval of the Special Committee as well on 10 May 2016 (outcome of proceedings doc. 16-0236) the secondment of Ms Anthi DESINIOTI as national expert has been prolonged for a period of one year from 1 October 2016 until 30 September 2017, with the possibility of a renewal, should the need continue to exist.

- 8) Since then the workload for ATHENA has remained on a high level with six EU military operations to be serviced and it is not going to be reduced when the current assignments of Mr TZITROS, Mr BECQUART and Ms DESINIOTI will come to an end.
- 9) As already outlined in the past, the GSC is not in a position to provide additional resources to ATHENA.
- 10) My intention is therefore, to renew the assignment of Mr Constantinos TZITROS as contractual agent and the secondment of Ms Anthi DESINIOTI as a national expert, as well as to recruit a new seconded national expert to replace Mr Ludovic BECQUART. The extensions and the new recruitment should again be for one year with the possibility of a renewal, should the need continue to exist.
- 11) The extension of Mr Constantinos TZITROS would be for the period from 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2018.
- 12) The new seconded national expert would be recruited for the period from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2018.
- 13) For Ms Anthi DESINIOTI the extension would be for the period from 1 October 2017 until 30 September 2018.
- 14) The Council rules for national experts on secondment will continue to apply, as set out in Council Decision (EU) 2015/1027. This means that the costs of secondment or contracting will need to be financed. For the seconded national experts these are essentially per diem costs and amount to *approximately €4.500 per month per seconded person*. For the contractual agent the costs will amount to *approximately €3.500 per month*. In line with doc. 12-0408, these costs will need to be reimbursed to the GSC by ATHENA.
- 15) The ATHENA budget 2017, as adopted on 7 December 2016, already takes into account these costs in Title 1 Chapter 84 as provisional appropriations.
- 16) The Special Committee is invited to agree to this approach.



Hans- Werner Grenzhäuser  
The administrator



## ATHENA

### EU-MILITARY OPERATIONS

Financing

The Administrator  
RUE DE LA LOI, 175  
1070-KL-58

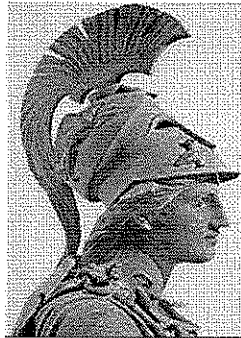
B – 1048 BRUSSELS

Tel.: (32 2) 281 9891

Fax: (32 2) 281 5359

[athena.mechanism@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:athena.mechanism@consilium.europa.eu)

[www.athena.europa.eu](http://www.athena.europa.eu)



Brussels, 26 July 2012

12-0408

### Note to the Special Committee Personnel - ATHENA mechanism

1. The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) provides personnel and other support (e.g. offices, CIS, administration) to ATHENA in conformity with Article 5 of Council Decision 2011/871/CFSP, in particular:

*"... 2. Athena shall use existing administrative structures of the Union to the greatest possible extent. Athena shall resort to staff made available as necessary by the Union institutions or seconded by Member States.*


*3. The Secretary-General of the Council may provide the administrator and the accounting officer with the staff needed for them to carry out their functions, which may be on the basis of a proposal by a participating Member State. ..."*

2. To date, the human resource needs of ATHENA have been covered entirely by staff made available by the GSC, including through temporary agents financed by the GSC budget and hired specifically to carry out ATHENA-related tasks.

3. In view of foreseen overall personnel reductions in the GSC and following a rationalisation of posts, the GSC will from now on be able to provide a 'baseline' team to manage ATHENA tasks on the basis of the current workload, including monitoring and support of the existing operations.
4. Based on lessons learned, it would however make operational sense to put a system in place which ensures that human resources can be made available (or reduced) in alignment with operational needs and in a flexible manner.
5. Should the workload increase beyond the 'baseline', e.g. through the launch of a new or new operations or through additional tasks, more staff will be necessary. This staff, which would need to have the appropriate qualifications, could be generated either through:
  - a. the provision of seconded national experts (SNEs) by Member States, as explicitly foreseen in Article 5.2 and 10.5 of the ATHENA Council Decision;
  - b. contractual agents.
6. Normally, in case a need arises, Member States would first be requested to put forward suitably qualified candidates which may be selected as SNEs. It is however possible that recourse will have to be made to option 5.b.
7. In order to be in a position to make use of option 5.b., ATHENA intends to create a small pool of qualified experts who can be hired as per need and for a duration corresponding to operational needs (e.g. in the case of a specific operation, from the launch to the winding-up phase).
8. The administrative work related to the establishment of a qualified pool of experts (i.e. recruitment and selection procedures) and all contracting matters would be handled by the relevant services of the GSC. Contractual staff would be hired by the GSC on behalf of Athena, a system which will provide ATHENA with a high level of flexibility as regards the duration of contracts.

9. The financing of additional staff, should they be needed, would need to be covered for both options under point 5 through the ATHENA budget and for the duration necessary; in essence, the GSC would be reimbursed for the costs of the additional personnel.
10. Should additional human resource needs become clear (e.g. at the launch of a new operation), the Special Committee will be presented with a proposal for financing, in line with Annex III A, 1.1.(b) and 1.2.(e) of the ATHENA Council Decision.
11. The Special Committee is invited to take note of this approach.

**The administrator**



**Hans GILBERS**