



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 November 2012

16635/12

CSCI 50

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From : The Council Security Committee
To : COREPER/Council

Subject : Recommendation to the Council concerning the use of a cryptographic product to protect electronic links for the exercise European Endeavour 2013

1. The German armed forces will participate in the exercise European Endeavour 2013 and will need to communicate EU classified information up to and including SECRET UE/EU SECRET in this exercise.
2. The Council Decision on the security rules for protecting EU classified information¹ (Article 10(6)) requires that "Where the protection of EU Classified Information (EUCI) is provided by cryptographic products, such products shall be approved as follows:
...
the confidentiality of information classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET and above shall be protected by cryptographic products approved by the Council as Crypto Approval Authority (CAA), upon recommendation by the Security Committee...".

¹ Council Decision 2011/292/EU, OJ L 141 of 27.5.2011, p. 17

3. EU approved cryptographic products are not available yet to be used for the link under consideration. The German product SEM 93 is the only cryptographic radio equipment available that is nationally approved to handle German classified information up to and including GEHEIM and has a NATO approval for NATO classified information up to and including NATO SECRET. In this specific case, the acceptance of a nationally approved cryptographic product for the protection of EUCI is a prerequisite for the exercise European Endeavour 2013.

4. Following a request from Germany for this temporary approval, the Information Assurance sub-area of the Council Security Committee accordingly recommends, subject to confirmation by COREPER, that the Council approve the use of the German cryptographic product SEM 93 to secure the specified link on the understanding that:
 - a. this approval is valid until 31 December 2013;
 - b. this approval does not create a precedent for future decisions relating to the EU's protection of information classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET in electronic form - and, in particular, in relation to the protection of SECRET UE/EU SECRET classified information transmitted electronically within the EU;
 - c. the cryptographic product shall only be used for the purpose specified;
 - d. the transmission will only cover information classified no higher than SECRET UE/EU SECRET.
