



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 29 January 2015

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: The General Secretariat of the Council
To: COREPER/Council

Subject: Mutual acceptance of approval procedures for cryptographic products
between NATO and the EU

1. Both NATO and EU rules on protecting classified information define the cases when such information must be protected by cryptographic products and how such products are approved. NATO and the EU have been working towards accepting their respective approval procedures for cryptographic products so that each can accept its own classified information released to the other party up to and including SECRET UE/EU SECRET or NATO SECRET being protected in the other party's systems by cryptographic products approved by that party. This will avoid having to use two different cryptographic products when released classified information is handled in electronic form in systems operated by the other party.
2. The Council approved on 20 December 2012 a recommendation of the Council Security Committee concerning the acceptance of NATO's approval procedures for cryptographic products (document 17801/12) as the first step towards mutual acceptance of the respective approval procedures. It was conditional on NATO taking a similar decision to accept the EU's approval procedures.

3. The NATO Secretariat informed the GSC with a letter dated 20 January 2015 (cf. Annex) that the NATO Military Committee approved the acceptance of EU's approval procedures for cryptographic products on 5 December 2014.
 4. Subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is invited to:
 - (a) note that the conditions for the mutual acceptance of the respective approval procedures between NATO and the EU have now been fulfilled in accordance with the approval given by the Council on 20 December 2012 (see document 17801/12); and
 - (b) note accordingly that EU approved cryptographic products may be used to protect NATO classified information released to the EU up to and including NATO SECRET within CIS of the EU, EU agencies and EU Member States.
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DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PRIVATE OFFICE
LE DIRECTEUR DU CABINET DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

DC(2015)0003

20 January 2015

Dear Mr. Galloway,

With reference to your letter DG/030/12 dated 20 December 2012 concerning the mutual acceptance of approval procedures for cryptographic products, it is my pleasure to inform you of the successful conclusion of this long process.

On 5 December 2014, the NATO Military Committee notified its approval for EU approved cryptographic products to be used to protect NATO classified information released to the EU up to and including NATO SECRET within the CIS of the EU, EU agencies and EU member states. Bearing in mind that the decision of the Council of the European Union from 2012, stating that NATO approved cryptographic products may be used within NATO CIS, within the CIS of NATO Agencies and within the CIS of NATO Nations to protect EU classified information up to and including SECRET UE / UE SECRET released to NATO, was conditional on NATO taking a similar decision, I consider the mutual acceptance of NATO-approved and EU-approved cryptographic products and mechanisms, as detailed above, agreed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your positive and collaborative engagement in the staffing process and to record my appreciation for achieving this important outcome.

Yours sincerely,


Vegard Ellefsen

Mr. David Galloway
Deputy Director-General
Directorate-General A
Security, Safety and Communication and Information Systems
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
B-1048 Brussels

Cc: Director, NATO Headquarters C3 Staff



North Atlantic Treaty Organization - Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord
Boulevard Léopold III - B-1110 Bruxelles - Belgique
Tel.: +32 2 707 49 14 - +32 2 707 41 11 - Fax: +32 2 707 46 66