



**Council of the European Union**

**Athena**

EU - Military operations

Financing

*The administrator*

Brussels, 14 February 2018

WK 1102/2018 INIT

**Special Committee - 14 February 2018**  
**Outcome of proceedings**

1. EXERCISES

The Committee was consulted on an administrative arrangement with the Kingdom of Spain as set out in Document WK 1107/2018 REV2.

2. EUTM Mali

The Committee was briefed on the state of play of the third party contributions.

3. EUNAVFOR MED

The Committee was informed on the Operation's intention to extend the UAV trial period. The Committee approved the carryover of non-committed appropriations as set out in Document WK 1085/2018 INIT.

The Operation highlighted the importance of the SHADE MED conferences and requested possible voluntary financial contributions to cover this purpose.

4. Athena

The Committee agreed on the approach of the Athena administrator as set out in Document WK 1106/2018 INIT.

The Greek delegate outlined that the prolongation of Ms Desinioti is subject to the national approval procedure.

5. A.O.B.



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 14 February 2018**

**WK 1102/2018 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**ATHENA**

**WORKING PAPER**

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**NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Athena Special Committee
Subject:	Outcome of Proceedings of Athena SC meeting of 14 February 2018

Delegations will find annexed the Outcome of Proceedings of the Athena Special Committee meeting of 14 February 2018.



## ATHENA

### EU-MILITARY OPERATIONS

Financing

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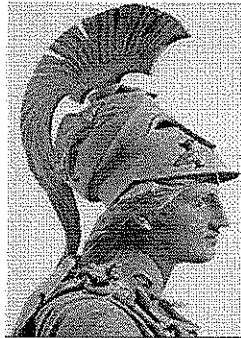
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Brussels, 26 July 2012

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.

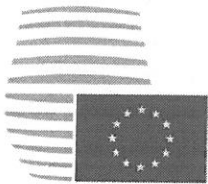
3. In view of foreseen overall personnel reductions in the GSC and following a rationalisation of posts, the GSC will from now on be able to provide a 'baseline' team to manage ATHENA tasks on the basis of the current workload, including monitoring and support of the existing operations.
4. Based on 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**



Council of the European Union

Athena

EU - Military operations

Financing

*The administrator*

Brussels, 6 February 2018

WK 1106/2018 INIT

## **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) At the end of August the current assignment of Mr Raphael JEAN-LIS as national expert will come to an end.
- 5) At the end of September the current assignment of Ms Anthi DESINIOTTI as national expert will come to an end.
- 6) At the end of December the current assignment of Mr Roberto DE MEDIO as national expert will come to an end.
- 7) With the approval of the Special Committee on 14 February 2017 (outcome of proceedings doc. 17-0078) the financing of the post for which Mr Raphael JEAN-LIS has been recruited for one year as of 1 September 2017 has been approved, and the financing of the secondment of Ms Anthi DESINIOTTI as national expert has been prolonged for a period of one year from 1 October 2017 until 30 September 2018, both with the possibility of a renewal, should the need continue to exist.

- 8) With the approval of the Special Committee on 22 September 2017 (outcome of proceedings WK 9937/2017) the financing of the secondment of Mr Roberto DE MEDIO as national expert has been prolonged for a period of one year from 1 January until 31 December 2018, with the possibility of a renewal, should the need continue to exist.
- 9) 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 the national experts will come to an end.
- 10) As already outlined in the past, the GSC is not in a position to provide additional resources to ATHENA.
- 11) My intention is therefore, to renew the secondments of Mr Raphael JEAN-LIS, Ms Anthi DESINIOTI and Mr Roberto DE MEDIO as a national experts.
- 12) For Mr Raphael JEAN-LIS the extension would be for the period from 1 September 2018 until 31 August 2019.
- 13) For Ms Anthi DESINIOTI the extension (which would be the last one as the maximum of 4 years would be reached) would be for the period from 1 October 2018 until 30 September 2019.
- 14) For Mr Roberto DE MEDIO the extension would be for the period from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2020. In his case the national authorities have indicated that his secondment could already be prolonged for another two years.
- 15) 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 (*approximately €4.500 per month per seconded person*) will need to be reimbursed to the GSC by ATHENA.
- 16) The ATHENA budget 2018, as adopted on 7 December 2017, already takes into account these costs for Mr JEAN-LIS and Ms DESINIOTI in Title 1 Chapter 84 as provisional appropriations. The costs for the subsequent years would need to be included into the 2019 respectively 2020 (only for Mr DE MEDIO) budgets.
- 17) The Special Committee is invited to agree to this approach.



Hans- Werner Grenzhäuser  
The administrator