

Letter of Intent

between

the Ministry of Defence
of the Czech Republic

and

the Federal Ministry of Defence
of the Federal Republic of Germany

concerning the affiliation

of the 4th (CZE) Rapid Deployment Brigade to 10th (DEU) Armoured Division

under the Framework Nations Concept (FNC)

The Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany, hereinafter referred to as "participants", have maintained stable and mutually trusting relationships in the field of security and defence for a long time.

Both participants recognize the need to stand-up and maintain a pool of usable follow-on forces, hereinafter referred to as "larger formations", capable of reinforcing higher readiness forces in order to fulfil the NATO Level of Ambition. In order to do so, both participants will seek to eliminate shortfalls individually as well as in mutual assistance.

The participants emphasize the importance of the pronouncements on the FNC made at the meeting of the Ministers of Defence on 14 June 2016 and the statement by the Heads of State and Government made on the conclusion of the NATO summit in Warsaw on 8 and 9 July 2016, both conceptually based in the initiative to strengthen the European pillar in NATO.

They intend to contribute to the further development of European security and defence capacities through closer and better-structured cooperation between German and Czech land forces at brigade level and above, and have therefore jointly decided to further expand their future cooperation as follows:

I. Purpose

Through this Letter of Intent which is focused on peacetime training and exercises within the framework of the affiliation of the 4th (CZE) Rapid Deployment Brigade to the 10th (DEU) Armoured Division, participants are seeking to lay down their common set of objectives regarding the evolution of both their land forces' interoperability and their ambitions to harmonize capability development.

Both participants underscore their confidence in the FNC as a suitable instrument for the further development of the European share of follow-on-forces at NATO's disposal, and share the view that the intensified cooperation they are seeking to build up Larger Formations should also be open to other FNC partners, ready to adopt the objectives of the affiliation set out in this Letter of Intent.

II. Scope and implementation

Firmly convinced that the envisaged cooperation will contribute to an improved common response to future challenges and threats, the participants express their willingness to continue the mutually beneficial partnership under the FNC. In doing so, the focus area "Building up Larger Formations" should be deepened in such a way that by means of linking of capabilities already present in the troops to be affiliated, a visible progress regarding interoperability between the land forces can be achieved. In the long term, it is intended that an affiliation within the framework of the FNC should also enable participants to identify capability gaps which in future could be closed with the perspective of a Europeanized capability development.

The affiliation of the 4th (CZE) Rapid Deployment Brigade to the 10th (DEU) Armoured Division is to be organized at the tactical level of the division and of the brigade, aiming to quickly set a dynamic with which training and exercise programs already laid out for 2017 can be used as entry points for practical cooperation.

Based on these initial experiences, participants are striving to develop in the course of this year a series of mutual projects between the aforementioned units in order to use a mid-term, practice-oriented work program to gradually improve the interoperability of the affiliated units, to ensure the coherence of the two land forces as a whole, and to increase the availability of larger formations for NATO follow-on forces in the medium term.

Progress on implementation is encouraged to be reported to existing higher-level bilateral fora (e.g. the regular staff talks at the level of Land Forces Command or the German-Czech Strategic Dialogue (i.e. within the "Security and Defence" working group)).

The participants concur that the affiliation of the 4th (CZE) Rapid Deployment Brigade to the 10th (DEU) Armoured Division within the framework of the FNC will focus on the following areas, which are not exhaustive and not listed in an order of priority:

- Common activities of staff elements of affiliated units;
- Analysis, processing and exchange of past and present doctrine;
- Common training and exercises;
- Education of Subject Matter Experts;
- Development of concepts, including the development of future common projects and their inclusion in national defence planning processes, and a prospective common vision;
- Cooperation with regard to procurement and logistical support in the use of material, systems and equipment in the areas of force protection (including CBRN protection), signals, command and control, and medical support;
- Harmonization of military requirements;
- Testing of systems and equipment.

The participants aspire the affiliation of the 4th (CZE) Rapid Deployment Brigade to the 10th (DEU) Armoured Division to be evaluated at Land Forces Command level in 2019.

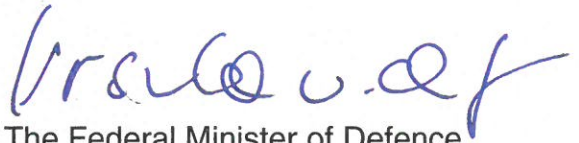
This Letter of Intent does not establish any rights nor obligations under the international law or the national law of the participants between the participants.

This Letter of Intent is signed in two copies in English.

Brussels, 15th February 2017



The Minister of Defence
of the Czech Republic



The Federal Minister of Defence
of the Federal Republic of Germany