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European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy

Charter

Final

References:

1. Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1515 of 19 October 2020 establishing a European Security and Defence College, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382
2. ESDC/2017/054, Minutes EAB 22-23 February 2017
3. ESDC/2017/091, Minutes SC 24 March 2017
4. ESDC/2017/062, SC Speaking points Head of ESDC, 24 March 2017

Preamble:

The Members of the European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy:

Being committed to supporting reflections on the European Union and its Common Security and Defence Policy by reinforcing a European security and defence culture for all concerned parties.

Acknowledging that this culture can be sustained only with a reliance upon high-level and critical scientific thinking.

Being aware that persons involved in CSDP have expressed strong interest in transforming European experience and expertise into scientific research at the highest level and that doctorate programme serves this purpose.

Noting that the existing offer of doctorate programmes within the European Union does not provide opportunities for all interested parties to engage in doctorate training specifically focusing on CSDP and highlighting the multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach that characterise it.

Acknowledging that the relevant expertise for accompanying high-level research on CSDP (in the wider context of CFSP) is met in the European Higher Education Area's academic institutes and in non-academic civilian, military and special status bodies.

Being confident that institutions accredited to award doctorates will benefit from an enhanced connection with specialised and practical expertise found in non-accredited bodies and institutions and that those bodies and institutions will benefit from the accredited excellence of

academic institutions to reinforce their actions and make them more visible through scientific channels.

Committing to developing the mobility of knowledge, skills and competence among institutes and bodies that develop and implement expertise on European security and defence, making the best use of the most innovative, inclusive and internationalised education and training methods, and encouraging the recognition of research and learning outcomes across the European Union.

Building on the experience and network of the European Security and Defence College to support the creation of a pool of high-level scientific researchers reflecting on CSDP.

Hereby decide to create the European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy on the basis of the following provisions for the coordination of the project to which they are committing.

Article 1

Objectives and general organisation

1. The European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) aims at facilitating the Philosophiae Doctoral (PhD) studies and research on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP, to pool and to share the relevant expertise of the European Higher Education Area's academic institutes and of non-academic civilian and military bodies.
2. It makes this expertise available to scientific research, in the framework of PhD curricula conducted by its network institutions, in the form of supplementary programme of doctoral training on CSDP-related knowledge, skills and competences. The provisions of the present Charter and its subsequent Procedures only complement those governing the PhD curriculum for the part dealing with the hereby certified training on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP.
3. It exists as a virtual network of voluntary military, civilian and special status institutions and European Union agencies and bodies acting in the field, who may or may not be accredited to offer doctoral courses and diplomas.

Article 2

Network institutions

1. The network of the European Doctoral School on CSDP consists of:
 - a. Academic institutions of the European Union accredited to offer doctoral diploma (hereafter 'accredited institutions');
 - b. Research, education and training institutions of European Union Member States not accredited to offer doctoral diploma but which have relevant CSDP expertise and are members of the European Security and Defence College network (hereafter 'non-accredited institutions');
 - c. European Union agencies and bodies that are active in CSDP in the wider context of CFSP (hereafter 'non-accredited institutions');

d. The European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

Only accredited institutions can be designated as 'leading institutions' for supervising candidates' PhD research and award doctoral degrees.

2. Associate membership can be granted to entities that actively contribute to achieving the objectives of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
3. The network institutions voluntarily commit to the principles and coordination mechanisms contained in the provisions of the Charter after expressing approval of the Charter, following their respective internal procedures, and declaration to the ESDC Secretariat.
4. Any institution described in Paragraph 1 may apply to become a member of the Doctoral School network by transmitting its application together with information on its expertise on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP to the ESDC Secretariat. The Working Group of the European Doctoral School on CSDP examines the applications presented by the ESDC Secretariat and approves membership by consensus.
5. Any network institution can withdraw its participation in the Doctoral School network simply by declaring its intent to withdraw. Arrangements shall then be taken with any other network institutions which are engaged in doctoral courses involving that institution for the continuation of the activities. If the withdrawing institution is involved in the supervision or mentoring of a CSDP Doctoral School's programme, the withdrawal does not prevent the successful completion of the programme which started in the conditions set forth in the present Charter.

Article 3

Structures

1. The Working Group of the European Doctoral School (hereinafter the 'Working Group') is a task-orientated configuration of the Executive Academic Board (EAB) of the ESDC. It will report back to the EAB at least once a year on the occasion of the General Annual Report on ESDC Activities (GAREA).
2. The Working Group is composed of representatives of all the network institutions. It makes recommendations to the **EAB** by consensus. One representative per institution has the right to vote when consensus cannot be met. In such cases and excepting amendments presented hereafter, a simple majority is needed to adopt a decision. The voting right can be delegated to an other representative present at the meeting. Associate members do not have voting rights.
3. The Working Group meets at least twice per academic year. At least one of these meetings shall be organized in Brussels. Other meetings may be virtual meetings.
4. The Working Group designates a Chair by consensus or by simple majority if consensus is not met, for a renewable term of two years. The Chair of the Working Group will be invited to attend EAB meetings and is requested to be present for the presentation of the GAREA.

5. The strategic orientations of the Working Group are proposed by the Doctoral School Chair and the ESDC; represented by the Working Group Coordinator, and adopted by the Working Group.
6. The tasks of the Working Group include:
 - a. Together with the EAB, identifying scientific themes that can be proposed to candidates to the PhD students interested in CSDP and for the definition of Doctoral School's activities.
 - b. Establishing the procedures of the Doctoral School.
 - c. Keeping the platform of CSDP expertise of the Doctoral School up-to-date.
 - d. Determining the number of candidates to be accepted into the CSDP Doctoral School programme and publishing the calls for applications.
 - e. Examining and deciding on PhD candidates' applications for the CSDP Doctoral School's training programme.
 - f. Being informed of CSDP PhD Fellows' annual progress reports and having right to ask questions to the members of the PhD committee.
 - g. Holding discussions on and promoting best practices of innovative, inclusive and international doctoral education and training, such as recognition and quality assurance.
 - h. Identifying lessons learnt for the European Doctoral School on CSDP after a PhD curriculum is completed.
 - i. Approving new network institutions and associate members.
 - j. Designing, elaborating and implementing initiatives for contributing to the curriculum of the Doctoral School's PhD candidates on CSDP.
 - k. Elaborating and keeping up-to-date a document taking stock of the funding possibilities for the activities in the domain of the CSDP Doctoral School and supporting its network institutions in their application to funding programmes for CSDP Doctoral School-related activities.
 - l. Amending the present Charter by a qualified majority of two thirds of votes.
7. The ESDC Doctoral School Coordinator performs the duties of the Secretariat of the European Doctoral School on CSDP on behalf of the ESDC. These include:
 - a. Receiving and transmitting the applications and CSDP PhD Fellows' annual progress reports from the leading institutions to the Working Group.
 - b. Administering the CSDP Doctoral School's platform.
 - c. Organising the meetings of the Working Group.
 - d. Supporting the work of the Chair.
8. The daily management of the Working Group's tasks is ensured by the Chair, supported by the Working Group Coordinator.
9. The Working Group may create subsidiary structures as deemed necessary for the implementation of its missions.

Article 4

Candidates, supervisors and mentors

1. Every year, the Working Group determines the number of candidates to be accepted into the CSDP Doctoral School programme and publishes it in the calls for applications.
2. Candidates for the CSDP Doctoral School programme are eligible if they:
 - a. Are enrolled PhD students of a CSDP Doctoral School's accredited member institution or have received confirmation of the acceptance by one or more of the CSDP Doctoral School's accredited member institutions, according to their regulations, to act as leading institution(s) for the doctorate and have paid any fees required under the rules and procedures of those institution(s) or under the inter-institutional agreement in force between them;
 - b. Have completed a scientific higher education degree worth at least 300 ECTS or gained professional experience in a relevant topic, which is recognised as equivalent to this level of degree within the European Higher Education Area;
 - c. Can produce evidence that they master English to level CEFRL C1;
 - d. Fulfilling the conditions for 'EU Confidential' security clearance is an asset.
3. The PhD committee is the committee which is composed and meets according to the rules and regulations of the leading institution(s) and is responsible for the follow-up of the doctoral researches and curriculum. It is commonly composed of one or more PhD supervisor(s), possibly together with PhD mentors. The thesis' jury is the jury that is composed according to the rules and regulations of the leading institution(s) for evaluating the doctoral thesis during its defence.
4. For the completion of the CSDP Doctoral School-related obligations, the PhD committee and thesis' jury of a candidate shall be composed of:
 - a. Either a minimum of one supervisor registered on the CSDP Doctoral School's platform in the PhD committee as well as two members in the jury selected from experts registered on the CSDP Doctoral School's platform;
 - b. Or a minimum of one supervisor registered on the CSDP Doctoral School's platform and one PhD mentor selected from the experts of accredited and non-accredited institutions registered on the CSDP Doctoral School's platform, with relevant experience in CSDP research or implementation, as well as one member in the jury selected from experts registered on the CSDP Doctoral School's platform.

In the composition of the PhD committee and the jury, a particular attention is paid to the balanced representation of institutions from different European Union Member States, accredited and non-accredited institution, and the possible representation of European Union agencies and bodies.

Article 5

Platform of CSDP expertise

1. An internet-based platform shall be established, administered by the ESDC Secretariat and made available to PhD applicants intending to research on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP, network institutions, the Working Group and associated members, with a view:
 - a. To identifying relevant expertise available from the network institutions in specific areas of CSDP;

- b. To allowing experts who are available to supervise or manage CSDP Doctoral School's candidates to exchange contact details;
 - c. To presenting the scientific work of the relevant experts;
 - d. To keeping a record of the PhD on CSDP, progress reports and theses.
2. The platform is kept up to date by the members of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat.
3. The platform shall contain password-protected areas in order to protect personal information as defined by the Working Group.

Article 6

Internal procedures

1. The Working Group may decide to create tasks-oriented lines of development to which it assigns a specifically defined mandate under the responsibility of a member of the Working Group, with the support of the Secretariat and the supervision of the Chair.
2. The selection, admission into the European Doctoral School on CSDP and subsequent rights and obligations are established in a document implementing the principles contained in the present Charter and titled "Procedures".
3. In the selection process, the Working Group gives priority to research proposals involving joint PhD degrees, in conformity with the practices of the European Higher Education Area, between several lead institutions from the network of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
4. The negative decisions of the Working Group must be motivated.

Article 7

Rights and obligations of the CSDP PhD Fellows

1. The fellows admitted in the European Doctoral School on CSDP ("CSDP PhD Fellows") have access to the training and internship possibilities offered by the Doctoral School in compliance with the rules and regulations of their lead institution(s) and as a supplement to the obligations they contain.
2. In order to obtain the certificate of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and before the defence of their PhD thesis, the CSDP PhD Fellows shall be recognised by their PhD committees or supervisors as having successfully completed a training worth at least 15 ECTS in total in minimum two of following pillars:
 - a. Learning and training: the CSDP PhD Fellow shall complete residential and/or internet-distance learning courses or training. It shall include courses or training from the Doctoral School's network institutions represented in the PhD committee and courses or training from the ESDC programme.

- b. Dissemination: the CSDP PhD Fellow shall disseminate products of her or his researches over the course of the PhD curriculum either through:
- at least one contribution in a relevant publication indexed in a scientific database over the course of the PhD,
 - and/or the presentation of his or her work at one scientific conference at least, of which the proceedings are published in a publication indexed in a scientific database,
 - and/or demonstrate that he or she is giving regular teaching or training in connection with the research topic.
- c. Mobility: the CSDP PhD Fellow shall perform scientific or academic tasks, to be defined with the appropriate institutions including in the form of a visiting fellowship, in one or more of the non-leading institutions represented on the PhD committee or in any European Union institution, body or agency. The mobility shall amount a minimum of 10 working days, including 5 in a different European Union Member State than that of the leading institution (five in the case of a European joint diploma with two or more leading institutions). The European mobility requirement can also be fulfilled by participating in and completing ESDC courses, the CSDP Summer School or any other learning or training initiative the Doctoral School would decide to create. In its effort to enhance European mobility among CSDP PhD candidates, the European Doctoral School on CSDP is based on the contributions of its network institutions for implementing the activities proposed and shall make use, to the greatest possible extent, of the mobility programmes and subsequent financial support proposed by the European Commission.
3. The ESDC shall encourage CSDP PhD Fellows', and possibly supervisors and mentors', researches by allowing an adequate number of seats on its courses, such as the CSDP High-Level Course and the CSDP Orientation Course.
4. The CSDP fellow must submit and present a progress report on the doctorate training completed and the research carried out in preparation for the final thesis to the PhD committee, based on the template published by the Working Group. The presentation should take place either during a generic or dedicated Doctoral School Activity . The Working Group takes note of the progresses and may hold a debate on substantial or formal aspect of the curriculum.

Article 8

Status of the Doctoral Fellows

1. The CSDP PhD Fellows can have the status of “active”, “dormant” or “suspended” fellows.
2. The active fellows are those who have attended at least two Doctoral School’s activities in the course of an academic year and to have presented their progress report as prescribed by the Charter. The progress report Working Group meeting described in Article 7 counts as an activity.
3. At the end of each academic year, the Working Group will take note on the progress and decide which fellows have not attended the activities / submitted their report, on a case by case scenario, decide on the “dormant” status, informing their leading institution in

this aspect. The CSDP PhD Fellows that are “dormant” during three consecutive years will lose their status of Fellow of the CSDP Doctoral School.

4. The suspended CSDP PhD Fellows are those for which the leading institution informs the Working Group on the occurrence of a cause to determine the suspension (and based on an existing decision from the parent institution). Such causes can include medical contexts or personal decisions of the CSDP PhD Fellow. The maximum suspension period is 3 years and is cumulative .

Article 9

Defence of the doctoral thesis

1. When the CSDP PhD Fellow has completed his obligations in the framework of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and that the leading institution has authorised the CSDP PhD Fellow to defend his or her thesis, the institutional representative (s) notify ESDC of the decision and the details of the organisation of the defence. The official notification must occur at least one month before the scheduled defence. The Chair or the Coordinator inform the members of the Working Group, while its members take note of the defence.
2. The defence of the thesis shall take place either at one of the leading institutions, at one of the non-leading institutions or in Brussels. Special arrangements shall then be made for hosting the audience as needed and permit the presence of the PhD supervisors and ESDC representative. The defence is public and takes place in one of the official languages of ESDC (currently English or French), virtually or physically, in accordance with the internal regulations of the leading institutions.
3. Notwithstanding provisions contained in Article 4.4, the European Doctoral School on CSDP encourages balanced participation of accredited and non-accredited institutions of the European CSDP Doctoral School’s network in the composition of the juries for the PhD thesis’ defences.
4. After the defence, the candidate may submit his or her thesis in English or French to the European Strategy PhD competition organised by Egmont, the European Union Institute for Security Studies and the ESDC.
5. The thesis in English or French may be submitted for publication by the European Publication Office, in accordance with the instructions received from ESDC. A foreword from either a the defense jury or the Working Group or both will be attached to the final format.

Article 10

Certificate

1. The European Doctoral School on CSDP encourages the use of inter-institutional configurations, such as the joint diploma, for CSDP PhD curricula. The use of inter-

institutional agreements based on European Commission's programmes for the integration of higher education is recommended.

2. The Philosophae Doctor (PhD) graduate who successfully completed the European Doctoral School on CSDP's obligations will receive, together with her or his PhD diploma:
 - a. The diploma(s) supplement(s) issued by the leading institution(s) according to the rules applicable in the European Higher Education Area and including details of the graduate's achievements and mobility events in the framework of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
 - b. The European CSDP Doctoral School's certificate, awarding the graduate a qualification in European Common Security and Defence, issued by the network institutions represented on the PhD committee and the ESDC, on behalf of all the Doctoral School's network institutions. The certificate will be issued after the official communication from the leading institution (and attached copy of the diploma).
3. The diplomas, certificate and the diploma supplement(s) shall be recognised by all network institutions as conferring the status of PhD on the graduate. The network institutions individually, the Working Group, the ESDC the European CSDP agencies and bodies, in collaboration with the relevant national authorities, shall promote the qualification and diploma's value and their recognition in all European Union Member States as reflecting the highest scientific standards in the field of CSDP.

Article 11

Doctoral School Alumni

The Doctoral School on CSDP supports the integration of the PhD graduates - they can be invited as observers or contributors in the Doctoral School activities. The Alumni of the CSDP Doctoral School can become part of the ESDC Alumni Association.

Article 12

Costs

1. The European Doctoral School on CSDP and its implementation do not bear any additional cost to those associated with the network institutions' regular PhD programmes. It is based on the principles of 'costs lie where they fall' and reciprocity.
2. The network institutions and the Working Group are encouraged to identify and make use of existing possibilities of external funding to support work in the area of the PhD studies in order to cover costs borne by institutions or CSDP PhD candidates in relation to the completion of the curriculum and the defence of the thesis.

Article 13

Transitional provisions

1. Until the date of the first anniversary of the adoption of the present Charter according to the rules and procedures of the ESDC, the obligations contained in Article 4.4 can be upheld. The CSDP Doctoral School's candidates which already have their PhD committee established at the date of the adoption of the Charter need to have at least one supervisor or mentor, in the meaning of the Charter, regularly designated by a network institution.
2. Two years maximum after its amendment according to the rules and procedures of the ESDC, the Working Group shall review the present Charter and propose the amendments that are deemed necessary.
