



**TREATY SERIES 2008
N° 10**

Arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006 constituted by the Exchange of Letters dated 26 April 2007 (for the Government of Ireland), 14 May 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway), 19 June 2007 (for the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden), 30 June 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia), 18 July 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland) and 1 October 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Ireland's instrument of accession sent on 26 April 2007

Entered into force for Ireland on 15 November 2007

Presented to Dáil Éireann by the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister for Defence

Oifig an Aire Cosanta

Department of Defence

An Roinn Cosanta

Mr. Mikael Odenberg,
Minister of Defence,
Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Sweden

26 April, 2007

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of a multinational Battlegroup to be made available to the European Union, signed on 23 May 2005.

I also have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006.

The Memoranda of Understanding are annexed to this Note.

I further have the honour to propose that if the foregoing is acceptable to the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding, this Note and Your Excellency's reply thereto will constitute in respect of each of the Memoranda of Understanding an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last signature of the reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and will remain in effect in accordance with the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Government of Ireland

WILLIE O'DEA T.D
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

Arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006 constituted by the Exchange of Letters dated 26 April 2007 (for the Government of Ireland), 14 May 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway), 19 June 2007 (for the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden), 30 June 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia), 18 July 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland) and 1 October 2007 (for the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Introduction

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland, the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, hereinafter referred to collectively as the Participants,

Desiring to strengthen the European Union's (EU) capability for crisis management and especially the rapid response capability;

Heeding the European Security Strategy, and the EU's ambition to share in the responsibility for global security and in building a better world;

Recalling that the fundamental framework for international relations is the United Nations (UN) and that the UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

Recalling the Declaration of 22 November 2004 on the establishment of a Battlegroup, Estonia's subsequent joining of the Battlegroup and the Participants' commitment and willingness to contribute to this common endeavour;

Stressing their commitment to contribute to the strengthening and further development of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) by making the Battlegroup, its OHQ and other enablers available to the EU for EU-led crisis management operations;

Considering the importance of rapidly deployable battlegroups in the efforts of the EU to develop a rapid response capability for crisis management;

Acknowledging the Nice Council conclusions of 2000 and the Nice Implementation Document;

Stressing that international law will govern the Battlegroup, taking into account the principles of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights law;

Having regard to relevant UN Security Council resolutions on, inter alia, protection of particularly vulnerable groups in times of conflict, including women and children;

Acknowledging each Participant's sovereign right and obligation to adhere to their national Constitution, legislation, policies and decisions as set out by the competent national authorities;

Acknowledging that the EU Battlegroups Concept is complementary and mutually reinforcing with the NATO Response Force (NRF);

Taking into account the decision of Sweden to assume the role as Framework Nation of the Nordic Battlegroup (NBG);

Recalling the United Kingdom's offer to make their Multinational Headquarters (MNHQ) located at Northwood available as the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) for the NBG;

Also having regard to the Agreement between the EU and the Kingdom of Norway Establishing a Framework for the Participation of the Kingdom of Norway in EU Crisis Management Operation, signed on 3 December 2004;

HAVE REACHED the following understandings:

Section 1 *Definitions*

In addition to standard EU terminology, in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the expression:

1. NGB means the Nordic Battlegroup to be made available to the EU.
2. NBG Countries means Sweden, Finland, Norway and Estonia.
3. EU OHQ means the static, out-of-area headquarters of the Operation Commander (regardless of its establishment status), which is responsible for the building up, launching, sustaining and recovering of an EU force, including an EU Battle Group.
4. OHQ Provider means the United Kingdom, which will make its MNHQ available for the NBG.
5. MNHQ means the building and facilities provided at Northwood by the OHQ Provider.

6. OHQ Cell comprises staff personnel from the NBG Countries and the OHQ Provider who are assembled for staff functions prior to the official designation of the EU OHQ.
7. (F)HQ means the Force Headquarters, deployed or planned to be deployed to the area of operations following relevant EU Council decisions.
8. Battlegroup Personnel means civilian and military personnel of an NBG Country designated to perform tasks under this MOU.
9. Battlegroup Related Activities means activities under this MOU performed by Battlegroup personnel and/or OHQ Provider personnel, prior to, during and after deployments and operations.
10. NBG Framework Nation means the nation which has assumed overall responsibility for providing support to and co-ordinating the Battlegroup Related Activities.
11. Third party means any state or entity not a Participant to this MOU.
12. Stand By Period means the period when the Battlegroup is declared on stand by for the EU in accordance with the Battlegroups Concept and as agreed at the Battlegroup Coordination Conference.

Section 2

Reference documents

1. Declaration by Sweden, Finland and Norway on the Establishment of a Joint EU Battle Group of 22 November 2004.
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland, the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden concerning the Principles for the Establishment and Operation of a Multinational Battle Group to be made Available to the EU, signed in Brussels 23 May 2005.
3. Agreement between the EU and the Kingdom of Norway Establishing a Framework for the Participation of the Kingdom of Norway in the EU Crisis Management Operations, signed in Brussels 3 December 2004.
4. Agreement between the Member States of the EU concerning the status of military and civilian staff seconded to the Military Staff of the EU, of the headquarters and forces which may be made available to the EU in the context of the preparation and execution of the tasks referred to in Article 17(2) of the Treaty on EU, including exercises, and of the military and civilian staff of the Member States put at the disposal of the EU to act in this context (EU SOFA) of 17 November 2003.
5. Berlin Plus Framework Document, finalised on 17 March 2003.

6. Nice European Council Conclusions of 7-10 December 2000, and the Nice Implementation Document.
7. Agreement between Member States of the EU concerning Claims introduced by each Member State against any other Member State for Damage to any Property owned, used or operated by it or Injury or Death Suffered by any Military or Civilian Staff of its Services, in the context of an EU Crisis Management Operation, signed 28 April 2004.
8. Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the EU on Security Procedures for the Exchange of Classified Information, signed in Brussels 22 November 2004.
9. EU Council security regulations, contained in the Council Decision 2001/264/EC of 19 March 2001.
10. Council Decision 2004/197/CFSP establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of common costs of the EU operations having military or defence implications (ATHENA), with amendments.
11. All relevant EU concepts and documents in the field of crisis management operations.
12. The Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces, done in London on 19 June 1951 (NATO SOFA).
13. The Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces, done in Brussels on 19 June 1995 (PfP SOFA).
14. The Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the Other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces, done in Brussels on 19 June 1995.

Section 3

Purpose and Scope of the MOU

1. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework document that defines the overall aim, principles and responsibilities for the co-operation regarding the establishment and operation of an EU OHQ for the command and control of the NBG.
2. The MOU conforms to all EU agreed guidelines relating to Battlegroups.
3. If one or more NBG Country(ies) decide(s) not to take part in a given Battlegroup operation or exercise, this MOU will apply between the remaining Participants.
4. This MOU is not intended to conflict with the national law of any Participant or with international law. In case such a conflict arises, applicable national and/or

international law will apply. The Participants will notify each other promptly in the event of any such conflict.

5. All or some of the Participants may mutually decide to conclude Technical Arrangements (TA) to supplement this MOU. In case of inconsistency between the MOU and any TA to this MOU, the text of the MOU will prevail.

Section 4

Principles for the Establishment Phase

1. The establishment phase will start when this MOU enters into effect and ends 6 months prior to the Stand By Period for the NBG. The establishment phase will include, inter alia, relevant exercises, training and technical preparations.

2. With appropriate prior consent the Participants will have access to the MNHQ and be allowed to install relevant Communication and information System (CIS) equipment during the establishment phase in order to test connectivity and interoperability, and to prepare for the operational phase.

3. The NBG Countries may store and use their own national equipment for secure communications in the MNHQ and the OHQ Cell location, subject to mutually determined arrangements.

4. Applicable technicians and operators will be allowed access to maintain installed equipment

5. The OHQ Provider may gain access to install and maintain relevant CIS equipment in the (F)HQ, and as required at the OHQ Cell location, in accordance with relevant agreed EU documents.

Section 5

Principles for the Pre-activation Phase

1. The pre-activation phase will start 6 months prior to the Stand By Period for the NBG and ends when the formal decision to take action is taken by the Council or when the Stand By Period is terminated. The pre-activation phase will include, inter alia, advance planning, relevant exercises and training.

2. Appointed staff from the Participants will be allowed access to the MNHQ, the OHQ Cell and the (F)HQ, in order to conduct advance planning.

3. The OHQ Provider will support the advance planning of the OHQ Cell, as appropriate.

4. The OHQ Provider will make available adequate facilities to support Operational Commander-led Work Up Staff Training (WUST).

5. The NBG Countries will provide an NBG OHQ activation team to be deployed to the MNHQ as appropriate.

Section 6
Principles for the Activation Phase

1. The Activation Phase will start when the formal decision to take action is taken by the Council and ends when the operation is declared terminated by the EU or the NBG is relieved and will include the conduct of the operation, in accordance with the mutually determined Operational Plan.

Section 7
Principles for the Re-Deployment Phase

1. The Re-Deployment Phase will start when the operation is declared terminated by the EU, the NBG is relieved or as otherwise mutually determined by the Participants, and will end no later than 3 months after the termination of the operation.

2. If there is no Activation Phase, the Re-Deployment Phase will begin at the end of the Stand By Period and ends as mutually determined by the Participants.

3. The Participants will remove all their own installations and equipment installed for the establishment of the EU OHQ, OHQ Cell and (F)HQ and will return the premises to their previous condition.

Section 8
Principles for Manning

1. The Participants will assign personnel to the OHQ Cell and the EU OHQ as mutually determined.

2. In accordance with The Memorandum of Understanding between the NBG Countries concerning the Principles for the Establishment and Operation of a Multinational Battlegroup to be made available to the EU, all NBG Countries will be able to hold positions in the (F)HQ. In addition, the OHQ Provider will be able to assign personnel to the (F)HQ if it so chooses, but the exact contribution will be subject to approval by the NBG Countries.

3. Details on, inter alia, the division of posts in the respective Headquarters, the exact number of personnel and dates for access to the premises, will be detailed in a TA.

Section 9
Command and Control

1. The NBG Operation Commander will exercise OPCOM of the NBG.

2. All personnel and resources contributed by the Participants to the OHQ Cell and EU OHQ will remain under full command of the respective Participant

3. Transfer of appropriate national authority to the Operation Commander for personnel in the EU OHQ will take place no later than the formal decision to take

action by the Council. Each Participant will distribute a copy of their Transfer Of Authority for personnel in the EU OHQ to the Operation Commander.

4. The OHQ Provider will have the authority to issue administrative rules/guidelines for the MNHQ premises.

5. In the period leading up to the appointment of the Operation Commander by the Council, the designated Operation Commander will lead the work in the OHQ Cell.

6. Should any OHQ Provider's forces be deployed to the (F)HQ, appropriate national authority of the forces will be transferred to the Operation Commander.

7. The UK staff contribution to the OHQ along with the details of their command arrangements will be laid down in a TA .

Section 10

Facilities, Administrative Support and Force Protection

1. The OHQ Provider will provide access, facilities and administrative support necessary for the establishment and operation of the EU QHQ.

2. The OHQ Provider will, on request, facilitate the purchase and contracting of supplies and services requested by the NBG Framework Nation in support of the establishment and operation of the EU OHQ. The OHQ Provider will not enter into any contract without the prior consent of the NBG Framework Nation. All the associated costs will be passed to the NBG Framework Nation who is responsible for recovering the money from the NBG country which initiated the request

3. The OHQ Provider will be responsible for the Force Protection of all personnel within the MNHQ site.

4. The detail of financial arrangements covering the support outlined in Section 10, above, will be laid down in a TA.

Section 11

Finance

1. All costs resulting from the establishment and operation of an EU OHQ for the NBG will be borne by the respective Participants involved, unless otherwise mutually determined.

2. The Participants may also decide to finance certain costs in common.

3. Costs borne by the Participants that are common to the EU operation, as defined in the provisions for the EU mechanism Athena, will be presented to Athena for reimbursement.

4. Further financial regulations will be laid down in TAs.

Section 12 *Claims and Liabilities*

1. Claims arising out of, or in connection with, the execution of this MOU or covered by Article VIII of the NATO/PfP SOFA will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions therein.
2. Claims not covered by Article VIII of the NATO/PfP SOFA or elsewhere in this MOU will be processed by the most appropriate Participant, as determined by consultation between the Participants. The costs incurred in satisfying such claims will be borne equally or shared on a mutually approved manner i.e. based on exposure to risk, if appropriate. If, however, such liability results from the reckless acts or reckless omissions, wilful misconduct or gross negligence of a Participant, its personnel or agents (excluding contractors), the costs of any liability will be borne by that Participant alone.
3. In the case of damage caused to or by the common property of the Participants, where the cost of making good such damage is not recoverable from a third party, such cost will be borne equally by the Participants.
4. The Participants will not indemnify contractors against third-party claims. This provision will not, however, preclude Participants from authorising use by contractors of third party Intellectual Property and allocating financial responsibility for such use in accordance with national contracting requirements.

Section 13 *Status of Forces, Jurisdiction and Discipline*

1. The provisions of this Section will apply to Battlegroup related activities performed by a Participant on the territory of another Participant.
2. The Status of the Battlegroup Personnel and personnel from the OHQ Provider, jurisdiction and discipline will be in accordance with the NATO/PfP SOFA with regard to reservations and statements made by State Parties to the NATO/PfP SOFA.

Section 14 *Security Regulations*

1. All classified information exchanged under this MOU and any supporting TAs will be used, transmitted, stored, handled and safeguarded in accordance with the Participants' national security rules and regulations, to the extent that they provide a degree of protection no less stringent than that detailed in the EU Council Security Regulations 2001/264/EC, dated 19 March 2001 and any amendments or additions thereto. National classified information exchanged between the Participants in connection with this MOU will also be handled and protected in accordance with recipient's national security rules and regulations and any existing bilateral Security Agreements/Arrangements.

2. Classified information will be transferred only through official Government-to-Government channels or through channels approved by the Designated Security Authorities of the Participants and/or the EU OHQ. Such information will be marked with the level of classification and the country of origin. However, classified information emanating from the EU OHQ will be classified and marked in accordance with EU Council Security Regulations.

3. The Participants will take all lawful steps available to them to ensure that information provided or generated under this MOU or any supporting TA is protected from further disclosure, unless the other originating Participant consents to such disclosure.

Section 15 *Additional Participation*

1. Third parties may become signatories to this MOU, based on consensus between the Participants.

Section 16 *Entry into effect, withdrawal and termination*

1. This MOU will enter into effect upon the date of the last signature.
2. TAs to this MOU will constitute integral and subordinate parts of this MOU.
3. Any Participant may withdraw from this MOU by giving a six (6) months written notice to the other Participants.
4. If the MOU is terminated, or if any of the Participants withdraw from the MOU, the NBG Framework Nation will initiate negotiations to settle all outstanding mutual financial responsibilities, disputes and security issues in accordance with this MOU.

Section 17 *Modifications, amendments and disputes*

1. The Participants will enter into consultations and, when necessary, review this MOU upon the request of one or more Participant(s).
2. This MOU may be modified and amended at any time by mutual written consent by the Participants.
3. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this MOU will be resolved through negotiations between the Participants and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or other third party for settlement.

Signed in five official copies in the English language.

**DET KONGELIGE
FORSVARSDEPARTEMENT**

*The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence
The Minister*

Mr Willie O’Dea T.D.
Minister for Defence
Department of Defence of Ireland

14 Mai 2007

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of Accession of 26 April 2007, which reads as follows:

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join, to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of a multinational Battlegroup to be made available to the European Union, signed on 23 May 2005.

I also have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006.

The Memoranda of Understanding are annexed to this Note.

I further have the honour to propose that if the foregoing is acceptable to the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding, this Note and Your Excellency’s reply thereto will constitute in respect of each of the Memoranda of Understanding an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last signature of the reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and will remain in effect in accordance with the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail in myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing is acceptable to the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and that your Note of Accession together with the present reply will constitute an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and will remain in effect in accordance with the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail myself this opportunity to renew to you Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway

Yours sincerely,
Anne-Grete Strøm-Erichsen

Ministry of Defence
Sweden
Minister for Defence

H.E. Willie O'Dea
Minister for Defence
Department of Defence,
Infirmary Road, Dublin 7
Ireland

Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of Accession of 26 April 2007, which reads as follows:

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of a multinational Battlegroup to be made available to the European Union, signed on 23 May 2005.

I also have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006.

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I avail in myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

I have the honour to inform you that that the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and that your Note of Accession together with the present reply will constitute an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will, in respect

of each, enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and shall remain in effect in accordance with the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden

Mikael Odenberg
Minister for Defence

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
DUBLIN

The Embassy of the Republic of Estonia presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Protocol Division, and has the honour to request the enclose letter from H. E. Mr. Jaak Aaviksoo, Minister of Defense for the Republic of Estonia be forwarded to H.E. Mr. Willie O'Dea T.D., Minister of Defense of Ireland.

The Embassy of the Republic of Estonia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Protocol Division, its highest consideration.

5th July 2007

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Protocol Division
DUBLIN

MINISTER OF DEFENCE
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

30 June 2007

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of Accession of 26 April 2007 which reads as follows:

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join, to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of a multinational Battlegroup to be made available to the European Union, signed on 23 May 2005.

I also have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006.

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I avail in myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

I have the honour to inform you that that the foregoing is acceptable to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and that your Note of Accession together with the present reply will constitute an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and will remain in effect in accordance with the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia

Jaak Aaviksoo
Minister of Defence
Republic of Estonia

H.E. Mr. Willie O'Dea
Minister for Defence
Republic of Ireland

EMBASSY OF FINLAND

2nd August 2007

HE. Mr Willie O'Dea
Minister for Defence

Letter from Minister for Defence from Finland

Ref. Your Note of Accession 26th April

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a letter from Minister for Defence from Finland.

Kind regards

Lenita Taylor
Secretary to the Ambassador of Finland

Minister of Defence
FINLAND

Helsinki, 18 July 2007

Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of Accession of 26 April 2007, which reads as follows:

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join, to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden concerning the principles for the establishment and operation of a multinational Battlegroup to be made available to the European Union, signed on 23 May 2005.

I also have the honour to convey the request of the Government of Ireland to join to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the OHQ-function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006.

The Memoranda of Understanding are annexed to this Note.

I further have the honour to propose that if the foregoing is acceptable to the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding, this Note and Your Excellency's reply thereto will constitute in respect of each of the Memoranda of Understanding an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last signature of the reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and will remain in effect in accordance with the aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail in myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing is acceptable to the Republic of Finland and that your Note of Accession together with the present reply will constitute an arrangement between the Government of Ireland and the Participants of the aforementioned Memoranda which will, in respect of each, enter into effect on the date of receipt of the last reply of the Participants of the respective Memoranda, and

shall remain in effect in effect in accordance with aforementioned Memoranda of Understanding.

I avail myself this opportunity to renew to you, Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Government or the Republic of Finland

Jyri Häkämies
Minister of Defence

H. E. Willie O'Dea
Minister Defence
Department of Defence,
Infirmary Road, Dublin 7
Ireland

SECRETARY OF STATE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, ZONE D, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

1 October 2007

Dear Willie,

Thank you for your letter of 26 April, requesting that the Government of Ireland join's the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland and the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the principles for the cooperation regarding the operation of the Operation HQ function for the Nordic Battlegroup signed on 30 May 2006. I apologise for the delay in providing this response.

I am delighted formally to agree to your request: the UK Government very much welcomes the addition of the Republic of Ireland within the arrangements on the operation of the Operational Headquarters-function for the Nordic Battlegroup.

As Sweden is the Framework Nation for this Memorandum of Understanding I am copying this letter to His Excellency Mr Sten Tolgfors.

DES BROWNE

His Excellency Mr Willie O'Dea TD
Minister of Defence
Republic of Ireland