

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
AND
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF BILATERAL DEFENCE CO-OPERATION

The Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway (hereafter "Norway") and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter "the UK"), hereinafter referred to as "the Participants";

Recalling the Bilateral and Global Partnership signed by the Prime Ministers of Norway and of the UK on 19 January 2011, which affirmed the broad, strong and long-standing bilateral relationship between Norway and the UK and committed both countries to further developing their defence and security co-operation;

Recognising the shared interests, values and responsibilities of Norway and the UK, some of which arise from the geographical proximity of both nations in Northern Europe, and the potential advantages for co-operation that this confers;

Mindful of their rights and obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty;

Believing that greater bilateral defence and security co-operation will reinforce those rights and obligations;

Determined to address strategic challenges and promote international peace and security in the context of their UN obligations;

Understanding the need to strengthen European military capabilities in the context of NATO's Lisbon Critical Capabilities Commitment;

Convinced that European allies and partners need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their defence and security efforts by developing new approaches to bilateral and multinational defence and security co-operation, including through the co-ordination, on a voluntary basis, of defence and security policy and plans;

Recognising the need to develop closer co-operation in capability development in order to achieve more cost-efficient, more available and more useable capabilities for Norway and the UK and for the Alliance.

Desiring to reach a higher level of military co-operation in order to enhance the operational capabilities of both nations and ensure a higher degree of interoperability;

Resolved to build on and strengthen the existing strong links between the armed forces of Norway and the UK;

Noting the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway in Respect of Defence Material Co-operation, which came into effect on 11 January 2010;

Acknowledging the financial and resource constraints faced by both nations;

Taking into account the provisions of the Agreement between the Participants to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces (hereafter "the NATO SOFA"), dated 19 June 1951;

Have reached the following understandings:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a framework for developing and furthering bilateral co-operation and relations between the Participants in defence and security matters.
2. The co-operation under this MOU will be carried out in accordance with the respective national legislation of the Participants and international law.

SECTION 2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MEMORANDUM

For the purposes of the implementation of this MOU the Participants may conclude supplementary arrangements.

SECTION 3 AIMS OF CO-OPERATION

The Ministry of Defence of Norway and the Ministry of Defence of the UK have decided in principle, and subject to full and proper consultation, to enhance bilateral defence and security co-operation with the following aims:

- a. To maintain peace and security;
- b. To promote and enhance the spirit of partnership and co-operation between the Participants;
- c. To identify, discuss and strive for a common understanding of strategic defence and security issues, and to address them together;
- d. To improve the existing excellent defence and security relations, understanding and confidence already established between the Participants;
- e. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Participants' defence and security policy and armed forces;
- f. To enhance interoperability and improve the capability to act jointly;
- g. To develop co-operation in the field of multinational operations, defence-related security sector reform and capacity building in support of international stability, peace and security;
- h. To strive to optimise the use of their defence resources and improve cost-efficiency;
- i. To achieve technological benefits and efficiencies, sharing knowledge where possible;
- j. To promote defence industry collaboration between both countries;
- k. To remain each other's partners of choice on operations and in exercises and training.

SECTION 4 FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION

1. As resources allow, the Participants will endeavour to enhance their co-operation in the following areas:

- a. Defence and security policy development;
- b. Exercises, training and education;
- c. Operations;
- d. Equipment and capability development;
- e. Cyber security;
- f. Strategic surveillance and situational awareness in the High North;
- g. Defence intelligence;
- h. Logistics;
- i. Defence reform;
- j. Exchanges and attachments of personnel;
- k. Defence science and technology;
- l. Search and rescue;
- m. Air surveillance, including maritime patrol;
- n. Co-operation between the Norwegian Joint Headquarters and the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters;
- o. Such other areas or activities as may be agreed upon or noted by the Participants.

2. Equipment and support co-operation will be carried out in accordance with the MOU in Respect of Defence Materiel Co-operation signed on 11 January 2010.

SECTION 5 PLANNING

1. On the basis of this MOU, the Participants will attend annual MOD Staff Talks to discuss the priorities and programme for, and progress in, their bilateral co-operation, and to identify new areas for co-operation.

2. The Navy, Army and Air Staffs of the Participants will also hold bilateral Staff Talks to discuss the priorities and programme for, and progress in, their bilateral co-operation, and to identify new areas for co-operation. Progress will be reviewed at the annual MOD Staff Talks.

SECTION 6 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. Any classified information or material exchanged or generated in connection with this Memorandum will be used, transmitted, stored, handled and safeguarded in accordance with the terms of the General Security Arrangement between the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning the Protection of Classified Information Exchanged for the Purpose of Defence Production, Research and Procurement Between the Two Countries, which came into effect on 12 September 1996, or any other applicable or successor arrangement or agreement.

2. Each Participant will take all lawful steps available to it to ensure that classified information or material provided or generated pursuant to this MOU is protected from further disclosure unless the other Participant consents to such disclosure. Such classified information or material will not be released to any government, organisation or other entity of a third party without the prior written consent of the originating Participant.

3. International visits between the Participants, during which access is required to classified information, will be co-ordinated in accordance with the relevant sections of the General Security Arrangement or any other applicable or successor arrangement or agreement.

SECTION 7 FINAL PROVISIONS

1. All disputes that may arise as a result of the interpretation or application of this MOU will be settled through consultations and negotiations between the Participants and will not be referred to any tribunal or third party for settlement.

2. The Participants may amend this MOU at any time by mutual written consent.

3. This MOU will enter into effect on the date of signature.

4. This MOU will remain in effect unless terminated by mutual consent or by either Participant giving six months' written notice to the other.

Signed in London on 6 March 2012 in two original copies.

For the Ministry of Defence of the
Kingdom of Norway

Signature:



Name: Mr Espen Barth Eide

Title: Minister of Defence

For the Ministry of Defence of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Island

Signature:



Name: Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP

Title: Secretary of State for Defence