

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2021/2074**of 25 November 2021****amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 in support of the Hague Code of Conduct and ballistic missile non-proliferation in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty of the European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 18 December 2017, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 ⁽¹⁾, entrusting the technical implementation of certain projects to the *Fondation pour la recherche stratégique* (FRS).
- (2) In accordance with Article 3(3) of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370, a grant agreement with the FRS was signed on 21 December 2017. The grant agreement was due to expire on 21 December 2020.
- (3) On 26 May 2020, the FRS requested an extension of the implementation period for Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 until 20 December 2021. The requested extension was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular the postponement of a number of the activities referred to in Article 1 of that Decision and the reluctance of national administrations in target countries to discuss the organisation of such activities given the climate of uncertainty due to that pandemic.
- (4) On 20 July 2020, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2020/1066 ⁽²⁾, which amended Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370, extending its date of expiration until 20 December 2021.
- (5) On 27 September 2021, the FRS requested an additional extension of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 in view of the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the related travel restrictions on its planned activities, requesting an additional extension of 13 months until 21 January 2023.
- (6) The continuation of the activities referred to in Article 1 of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 does not have any implication as regards financial resources until 21 January 2023.
- (7) Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 5 of Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘2. This Decision shall expire on 21 January 2023.’

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 of 18 December 2017 in support of the Hague Code of Conduct and ballistic missile non-proliferation in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 337, 19.12.2017, p. 28).

⁽²⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1066 of 20 July 2020 amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/2370 in support of the Hague Code of Conduct and ballistic missile non-proliferation in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 234 I, 21.7.2020, p. 1).

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 25 November 2021.

For the Council
The President
Z. POČIVALŠEK
