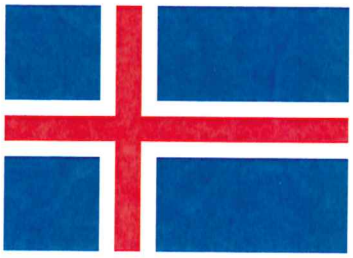

SECURITY AND DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP

BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. The security and prosperity of the European Union (EU) and Iceland are interconnected and interdependent. The EU and Iceland face a volatile and increasingly deteriorating security environment, as demonstrated by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN charter. These threats and challenges are not limited to traditional defence-related issues, but are increasingly multidimensional, ranging from rapidly evolving cyber and hybrid threats and malign use of emerging technologies, threats in the maritime and outer space domain, related to critical infrastructure, as well as to economic security and societal resilience. The EU and Iceland will work closely together to address these issues.

2. The EU and Iceland uphold international law and stand united to defend and strengthen the rules-based international order, in accordance with principles of the United Nations Charter. Fundamental democratic values based on respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and human rights continue to underpin the cooperation between the EU and Iceland.

3. The relations between the EU and Iceland are governed by a comprehensive legal framework, notably the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), which inter alia constitutes the basis for Iceland's participation in EU programmes.

4. The cooperation between the EU and Iceland in foreign and security policy is based on shared values and interests, exemplified by Iceland's alignment with EU positions under the

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including with EU restrictive measures.

5. Iceland is among the EU's most closely associated partners, and its contributions in the area of peace, security and defence is highly valued. Iceland concluded a Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) in 2005 and has contributed to EU civilian missions in the past. It also has a Security of Information Agreement with the EU in force since 2007. Since 2023, the EU and Iceland have a dedicated Security and Defence Dialogue. Iceland is also invited to Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) orientation courses, other trainings organised in the framework of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), as well as to CSDP crisis management exercises.

6. Iceland also contributes to European internal security through its associated membership of the Schengen area, as well as to external border management, notably through Frontex participation.

7. In the current security environment, the mutually reinforcing EU-NATO strategic partnership is essential for Euro-Atlantic security. For Iceland and the 23 EU Member States that are also NATO Allies, the Atlantic Alliance remains the foundation of their collective defence. The EU-NATO strategic partnership is implemented in line with the agreed guiding principles of mutual openness and transparency, inclusiveness and reciprocity, in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations. The EU's security and defence initiatives, which are complementary to, and interoperable with NATO, contribute to a stronger, and more capable European defence that enhances European, transatlantic, and global security. Iceland supports EU-NATO cooperation to this end.

8. The EU and Iceland wish to intensify their cooperation to better meet shared security challenges. In this context, the EU and Iceland will develop and strengthen dialogue and cooperation on security and defence topics, making use of existing frameworks.

General framework

9. The EU and Iceland have decided to establish and implement a tailor-made, mutually beneficial Security and Defence Partnership that will frame their overall cooperation across the security and defence spectrum.

10. This Security and Defence Partnership will be underpinned by a series of dialogue and consultation mechanisms to facilitate exchange of information, provide steering and oversight:

a) The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy may, when appropriate, invite Iceland to EU high-level meetings, including the Council.

b) A dedicated Security and Defence Dialogue between Iceland and the EU will take place annually at the level of Senior Officials. The EU and Iceland will make full use of this Security and Defence Dialogue to ensure monitoring of the implementation of the Security and Defence Partnership and provide guidance as appropriate.

c) The EU and Iceland will advance and develop the thematic exchanges in specific areas of shared interest, in order to further inform their Security and Defence Dialogue and to ensure follow-up on its guidance.

11. The EU and Iceland will promote multilateral dialogue and cooperation with like-minded countries in relevant areas of security and defence where considered mutually beneficial. The EU and Iceland will also regularly invite their representatives to high-level security and defence policy events of mutual interest, such as the Schuman Security and Defence Forum.

12. The EU and Iceland will effectively ensure the safety of the exchange of classified information in accordance with the Security of Information Agreement between the EU and Iceland, which provides the framework for ensuring the appropriate handling, protection and safeguarding of such information.

Areas of Cooperation

13. Within the general framework established by the Security and Defence Partnership, the EU and Iceland will intensify exchanges on regional security issues and aim to enhance cooperation in the following areas:

<u>Support to Ukraine</u>

14. The EU and Iceland will strengthen and enhance their collaboration for long-term support of Ukraine, in line with the Joint security commitments between the European Union and

Ukraine, of June 2024 and Iceland – Ukraine Agreement on security cooperation and long-term economic, humanitarian and defence-related support of May 2024. The EU and Iceland will work together to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the principles of the international law, the UN Charter and the relevant UN General Assembly Resolutions.

15. In support of common objectives, the EU and Iceland will continue to provide financial assistance to Ukraine and cooperate on supporting its civil sector and reconstruction.

16. The EU and Iceland will continue to cooperate on sanctions to maximise pressure on those responsible for the aggression of Ukraine, including by strengthening consultations and information sharing on the development and implementation of sanctions.

17. The EU and Iceland will explore areas for cooperation within the EU CSDP missions in support of Ukraine.

18. The EU and Iceland cooperation in support of Ukraine will fully respect the security and defence policy of certain EU Member States and will take into account the security and defence interests of all EU Member States and Iceland.

<u>International peace and crisis management, including crisis response</u>

19. The EU and Iceland will expand their cooperation in the field of crisis management. Iceland will explore ways to strengthen its contributions to EU CSDP missions and operations, making full use of its Framework Participation Agreement with the EU.

20. Iceland aims to strengthen its participation in the EU's crisis management exercises (EU Integrated Resolve), including those conducted in the framework of Parallel and Coordinated Exercises (PACE) with NATO.

21. The EU and Iceland will deepen their exchanges on consular matters affecting the safety and security of their citizens in third countries, in particular on consular crisis preparedness and response.

22. The EU and Iceland will promote and strengthen cooperation in emergency planning and international crisis management between their respective headquarters and across their networks of diplomatic missions abroad, including through enhanced collaboration

between their crisis response centres.

Arctic matters and maritime security

23. Recognising the strategic importance of the Arctic and North Atlantic regions, the EU and Iceland will intensify their exchanges on security aspects of regional matters in accordance with international law, shared values, and mutual interests, and in line with existing frameworks, including EU Arctic policy and Iceland's Arctic strategy.

24. In this context, the EU and Iceland will strengthen their exchanges on developments in the Arctic and the North Atlantic through their regular consultations. These will address, in particular, situational awareness; consultation on Arctic issues, contributing to a stable, rules-based order in the region; as well as reinforced cooperation on resilience and civilian preparedness and the protection of supporting infrastructure, including critical maritime infrastructure. These exchanges will also include monitoring of regional developments, cyber and hybrid threats, as well as climate and security.

25. The EU and Iceland will develop exchanges on maritime security with the aim of promoting and defending a rules-based maritime security environment, including secure sea lines of communication and the protection of freedoms of navigation and overflight, in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

26. The EU and Iceland will explore opportunities to strengthen practical cooperation, including through information-sharing and closer coordination, in the following areas:

    a) Preparedness and response to regional maritime security threats and challenges;

    b) Protection of critical maritime infrastructure, including underwater infrastructure;

    c) Coordination and support for developing maritime capabilities relevant for the region.

EU and Iceland defence initiatives, including exchange of information on defence industrial related matters

27. The EU and Iceland will continue and expand consultations on their respective defence initiatives, tools and instruments related to security and defence.

28. Since Iceland is part of the extended European internal market, including European strategic value chains, the EU and Iceland will explore the possibilities for Iceland's further involvement in the EU's defence initiatives such as the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), as well as its participation in the activities under the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) Regulation, in accordance with the respective legal frameworks.

Cyber issues

29. The EU and Iceland will deepen the existing cooperation on cyber issues in the context of international security, including by advancing regular exchanges on the cyber threat landscape their respective policy frameworks and by exploring practical cooperation. The EU and Iceland will also increase the coordination of cyber capacity building efforts for partner countries.

30. Particularly, the EU and Iceland will exchange on their respective frameworks, tools and best practices to prevent, deter and respond to malicious cyber activities, and will coordinate diplomatic responses to address such activities.

31. The EU and Iceland will also continue to coordinate and cooperate at the multilateral, regional, and bilateral levels (including on the promotion of the UN framework of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace and the work under the UN Global Mechanism), and on the development and implementation of cyber confidence building measures.

Emerging and Disruptive Technologies

32. The EU and Iceland will exchange on security and resilience in the context of emerging disruptive technologies, including in support of international governance efforts on the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), use of generative AI and autonomous systems in security and defence.

Countering hybrid threats, strengthening preparedness and resilience

33. The EU and Iceland will deepen their cooperation on countering hybrid threats, including by sharing best practices on developing strategies and policies, coordinating responses to hybrid threats, and increasing cross-participation in relevant exercises and scenario-based

discussions, as appropriate.

34. The EU and Iceland will deepen their cooperation on research and analysis of hybrid threats, including by supporting close cooperation between their academic institutions, research entities, and think tanks, and by supporting the work of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats.

35. The EU and Iceland will strengthen consultations on their respective approaches and the development of policies towards strengthening preparedness and countering hybrid threats, including to mitigate disruptions to their critical infrastructures, such as digital networks, energy production, and underwater infrastructure.

36. The EU and Iceland will also enhance their cooperation to strengthen societal resilience, which is essential in addressing emerging challenges and threats to the well-being of their societies, their national cohesion, and shared democratic values.

Addressing Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)

37. The EU and Iceland will strengthen their cooperation on better understanding and addressing FIMI, especially through actively sharing information on threat assessments in the FIMI domain and, considering joint action against FIMI perpetrators, either bilaterally or via relevant multilateral mechanisms, as appropriate.

Climate change and security nexus

38. The EU and Iceland will strengthen their cooperation on the climate change and security nexus by addressing the security implications of climate-related impact on infrastructure, equipment, training and readiness, operations, policy, and planning. The EU and Iceland will also discuss ways to enhance the resilience of vulnerable regions and share knowledge and best practices on integrating climate considerations into their defence, security, and civil protection strategies, without compromising operational capabilities and effectiveness.

Space security

39. The EU and Iceland will have exchanges on space security, with the aim to ensure a safe, secure, stable and sustainable space.

40. The EU, in close coordination with its Member States, and Iceland will coordinate their positions to promote norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour in outer space in the relevant multilateral fora, and will engage with third countries to advance this goal.

41. The EU and Iceland will continue to foster practical cooperation and partnership through Iceland's participation in EU space-related programmes, in accordance with the EEA Agreement and relevant EU rules and procedures. In this context, Iceland will continue its participation in the EGNOS and Copernicus components of the Union Space Programme, and both sides will work towards Iceland's participation in its GOVSATCOM component, as well as in the Union Secure Connectivity Programme.

Counterterrorism (CT), preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE)

42. The EU and Iceland will cooperate on CT-related matters and the prevention of violent extremism. This cooperation could include addressing the online dimension of radicalisation and the dissemination of terrorist content online, also across youth platforms, discussing the misuse of new and emerging technologies for terrorism and countering terrorist financing, and exchanging views on the community policing approach to countering violent extremism.

43. The EU and Iceland will coordinate their CT-P/CVE policies and activities in multilateral and regional fora.

Arms Control, Non-Proliferation, Disarmament, conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons (SALW)

44. The EU and Iceland will consult and cooperate on matters of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and the international transfer of conventional weapons.
45. The EU and Iceland will deepen their coordination in the framework of conventional weapons treaties; including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), as well as the Ottawa Convention, without prejudging any national positions in this latter regard.
46. The EU and Iceland will also deepen their coordination in the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the Comprehensive

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and other key multilateral instruments and export control regimes.

Capacity building for partners in security and defence

47. Building on their well-established cooperation, the EU and Iceland will explore further opportunities for coordination, cooperation and synergies in support of capacity building for partners in the field of security and defence. The European Peace Facility (EPF) enables the possibility for third states to provide voluntary contributions.

Training and education in security and defence

48. The EU and Iceland will continue cooperation in the field of training and education related to CSDP and crisis management, including developing cooperation with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). Iceland is welcome to send participants to ESDC activities.

49. Furthermore, the EU and Iceland will explore opportunities to enhance cooperation within the framework of the ESDC Associated Network Partners (ANP), which allows Icelandic institutions to co-organise training and education activities in collaboration with a full member of the ESDC Network.

Cooperation in multilateral fora on peace and crisis management

50. The EU and Iceland will enhance their coordination on shared priorities in peace, including conflict prevention and crisis management in multilateral fora, notably in the OSCE and the UN contexts.

51. Iceland and the EU will also increase regular exchanges on issues of mutual interest in the context of the EU-NATO cooperation framework in order to build upon a common set of concrete actions in strengthening partners' capacities.

External aspects of economic security

52. The EU and Iceland will explore ways to exchange views on external aspects of their respective economic security policies related to security and defence, and advance technical discussions through existing structures on key economic security issues, with the aim to address shared risks, while upholding and strengthening the international rules-based system to ensure that it remains fit for purpose to tackle emerging global challenges.

53. Cooperation in the area of economic security should aim at strengthening the resilience of supply chains, while protecting sensitive research and technology.

Women, Peace and Security

54. The EU and Iceland are committed to the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, which is rooted in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its nine follow-up resolutions, as well as national and EU's own Action Plans. The EU and Iceland will exchange best practices and lessons learned on implementing the WPS agenda worldwide and ensure that a gender perspective is integrated in their cooperation on security and defence.

55. The EU and Iceland will continue close collaboration to ensure gender equality remains a political and security priority, with an aim to reinforce joint whole-of-society responses to current and emerging security and geopolitical shifts and advocate in this regard in international fora.

Way Forward

56. The areas identified in the Security and Defence Partnership will be reviewed regularly in the framework of the Security and Defence Dialogue between the EU and Iceland, taking stock of progress made and providing impetus, with a view to further strengthening and developing the cooperation.

57. The content of the Security and Defence Partnership will be reviewed as appropriate.

Signed in Brussels on 18 March 2026

FOR ICELAND

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FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

Kaja Kallas
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