

**Elżbieta Bieńkowska**  
EU Commissioner for Internal Market,  
Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs  
European Commission, DG GROWTH  
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2016

CC: Federica Mogherini, EU HR/VP ; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, EU Commissioner Frans Timmermans

**RE: Group of Personalities on the Preparatory Action for CSDP-related research**

Dear Mrs Bieńkowska,

In March 2015 you have convened a “high level group of politicians, academics, think tankers and defence company CEOs to advise on how the EU can support research related to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).”<sup>1</sup>

According to publicly available information, this Group of Personalities (GoP) met at least twice<sup>2</sup> and produced a report in February 2016 which you described as “critical in helping to shape the Commission's plans for the Preparatory Action and in providing strategic advice on the longer term aspirations for EU-funded defence-related research.”<sup>3</sup>

The majority of the members of this GoP (9 out of 16) comes from the industry or application-oriented research groups, and 3 are Member States' officials.

However, at the time of writing<sup>4</sup>, this GoP does not appear in the *Register of Commission Experts Groups and Other Similar Entities*. We believe it should as it responds to the criteria described in your Register:

- it was set-up by an EU Commissioner
- it aims at providing the EC with advice and expertise on a specific policy field and on related specific actions planned by the Commission
- it comprises at least 6 public and/or private-sector members
- it met more than once

Therefore we would like to ask you the reasons why this Group of Personalities was not properly registered in the EC Register, and that you take all the necessary measures to ensure that this omission is promptly corrected. We also urge you to make all the information related to this GoP publicly available in the Register, so that the European Commission abides by its transparency rules and commitments.

We look forward to hearing from you and are available if you wish to ask for further information.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kolling, researcher, BUKO-Campaign: stop the arms trade, Germany

Ann Feltham, Parliamentary Co-ordinator, Campaign Against Arms Trade, UK

Jordi Calvo, researcher and coordinator, Centre Delàs for Peace Studies, Spain

<sup>1</sup> [“Commissioner Bieńkowska launches high-level group on defence research” \(30.03.2015\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [“EU-funded defence research: 2nd meeting of high-level group advising Commissioner Bieńkowska” \(17/11/2015\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> *“European Defence Research, the case for an EU-funded defence R&T programme”, Report of the Group of Personalities on the Preparatory Action for CSDP-related research, February 2016, p.10*

<sup>4</sup> *We could not find it in the Register despite extensive research using different search criteria and repeated attempts*

*Anni Lahtinen, Secretary General, Committee of 100 in Finland*

*Peter Weisenbacher, representative, Human Rights Institute, Slovakia*

*Tony Fortin, President, Observatoire des armements, France*

*Francesco Vignarca, Coordinator, Rete Italiana per il Disarmo—Italian Network on Disarmament*

*Hana Svačinková, coordinator of the initiative 'Arms or Human Rights?', NESEHNUTÍ Brno, Czech Republic*

*Laura Lodenius, Director, Peace Union of Finland*

*Andrew Lane, representative to the EU and CoE, Quaker Council for European Affairs*

*Wendela de Vries, Coordinator, Stop Wapenhandel, the Netherlands*

*Bram Vranken, Campaigner/researcher, Vredesactie, Belgium*