

28 July 2014

Our ref. 2468-2013/14

Dear colleagues,

In reply to the request regarding the EU Battle Group and parliamentary decision making procedures the Presidents of the Swedish Defence Committee and of the Committee on Foreign Affairs have asked me to provide you with some information, which hopefully will cover the needs expressed in the letter we received from the Defence Committees of the Italian Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies.

Please, find attached the decision of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Swedish Parliament from December 2012, stating that the Swedish Government may contribute as a framework nation to an EU Battle Group in 2015. The government bill which anticipated the parliamentary decision proposed that Sweden in this way should contribute to the European Union in its efforts to undertake its share of responsibility for global security. The additional cost for preparing the Swedish Armed Forces for the task (150 million SEK) is accounted for in the bill together with the eventual cost of deployment of a force of 1 600 soldiers (1,1 to 1,5 billion SEK).

However, the Government also states that it will present a new proposal to Parliament in the event of deployment of the EUBG and it also describes the main responsibilities that follow with the role as framework nation.

Unfortunately, the parliamentary decision attached has not been translated from Swedish, but apart from authorizing the Government to set up the Nordic Battle Group as described above, it stresses that the battle groups to which Sweden has contributed also should be made available to the UN if such a demand would occur.

Yours faithfully,

*Ms. Maria Björkman*

Maria Björkman, Secretary to the Committee on Defence