



ATHENA

EU-MILITARY OPERATIONS

Financing

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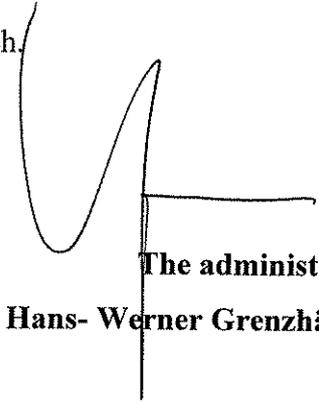
13-0135

Note to the Special Committee

- 1) I have sent you a draft Act for management of NBC in EUTM Mali in a separate document (doc. 13-0132), in conformity with Article 28 of the ATHENA Council Decision.
- 2) I have looked in depth at the issue of NBC management, notably at central level, in particular following the launch of EUTM Mali. The force generation for this operation, currently underway, indicates that at least 22 Member States and five Third States will participate in the operation. This implies an increase of at least 65% in the number of NBC revenue transactions taking place within the ATHENA mechanism; an expected increase of about 70% of the overall NBC budget to EUR 15.000.000 is expected.
- 3) It is not possible to cover this increase in the NBC workload within the resources currently available in the ATHENA unit. The tasks linked to the NBC management at central level include such issues as invoicing of the Member States and follow-up, improvement of NBC management procedures to reduce risk, e.g. in ATRIUM,

training of operation personnel and supervision of NBC procedures in the operations. In addition, the audit activities, which have increased since 2010, also focus on NBC management and also place demands on the NBC personnel in ATHENA.

- 4) The Special Committee on 21 January 2013 agreed on the approach to recruit an SNE (doc. 12-0042) for supervision and advisory tasks, *inter alia* to cover the increase in workload occasioned by EUTM Mali. The SNE will in particular help supervise the financial management of ATHENA funds in the operations and contribute to overall sound financial management. The NBC management tasks are not covered in his/her scope of work.
- 5) Therefore, I refer again to doc. 12-0408 which illustrated the options that are open to ATHENA in case of an increase in workload. The ATHENA unit requires an additional resource of one person at assistant (AST) level, to help manage the expected level of funds and transactions to be managed for NBCs. It is unlikely that this resource can be provided through a secondment. I am therefore requesting the Special Committee to agree to the financing of a contractual agent to assist on ATHENA NBC management. The intention is to recruit this agent for a period corresponding to the duration of EUTM Mali (15 months), with the possibility of a renewal should the need exist. The assistant can be hired through the GSC services and procedures, with a reimbursement from the ATHENA budget. The expected cost will be a maximum of 60.000 EUR per year.
- 6) My proposal of a draft NBC Act for EUTM Mali is linked to this proposal for an additional resource.
- 7) The Special Committee is invited to agree to this approach.



The administrator
Hans- Werner Grenzhäuser