



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
THE MINISTER**

Athens, October 18, 2024

H.E.

Mr. Hanno Pevkur
Minister of Defence
of the Republic of Estonia

Dear Minister,

In recent years, Europe's security landscape has undergone significant shifts, marked by increased strategic competition and the profound challenge of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. This conflict represents a watershed moment for the EU, underscoring the pressing need for robust, full-spectrum defence capabilities to ensure stability and security. In this evolving geopolitical juncture, the European Defence Agency (EDA) plays a pivotal role in enabling Member States to address capability shortfalls, bridge investment gaps, develop next-generation military equipment, and fortify the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

Greece has long demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the goals and objectives of EDA. As a strong advocate for a deeper defence cooperation and innovation in the EU framework, we fully recognize the critical role of the Agency. It is within this spirit of shared responsibility and dedication that our country is proud to put forward Mr. Panagiotis Milopoulos, Senior Audit Supervisor for the Hellenic Court of Audit, as a candidate for the position of EDA's Chief Executive (EDA CE).

Mr. Milopoulos possesses a distinctive amalgamation of competencies, professional background, and strategic foresight that aligns seamlessly with the Agency's mission and objectives. His primary strengths lie in his technocratic approach, exemplary leadership capabilities, and comprehensive grasp of defence governance principles.

His extensive tenure in pivotal strategic roles, both in the field and within the realms of foreign policy and defence, has equipped him with the acumen to comprehend and navigate multifaceted political and strategic challenges. Furthermore, Mr. Milopoulos has amassed considerable expertise in public administration frameworks and auditing institutions.

In his capacity as a senior auditor for the national audit institution and as a member of the College of Auditors for both the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the European Peace Facility (EPF), Mr. Milopoulos has demonstrated a profound understanding of the critical role that transparency and accountability play at both national and international echelons. In parallel, he honed his ability to oversee complex audits and implement recommendations that improve financial and operational efficiency, qualities directly related to the responsibilities of EDA's CE position.

Mr. Milopoulos' nomination represents an efficacious synthesis of profound technical knowledge and the aptitude for fostering effective communication—elements that are paramount for the successful stewardship of the European Defence Agency. His unique qualifications position him as an exemplary candidate for this very important European role.

Given all the above, I am strongly confident that Mr. Milopoulos' leadership experience, combined with his holistic strategic vision and pragmatic decision-making skills, will ensure EDA's operational efficiency and good governance, giving its multifaceted mandate a new impetus, while fostering collaboration to the benefit of all Member States. For this reason, I would greatly appreciate your precious support for Mr. Milopoulos' candidacy for the EDA's Chief Executive position.

Please accept, Dear Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Sincerely,

Nikos Dendias

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the printed name 'Nikos Dendias'. The signature is fluid and expressive, with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the bottom that extends to the left.