

**JOINT DECLARATION OF
THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
AND
THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENCE, CIVIL PROTECTION AND SPORT OF THE
SWISS CONFEDERATION
UPON SIGNATURE OF THE
LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)
CONCERNING
THE STRENGTHENING OF
THE EUROPEAN PILLAR IN NATO'S INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENCE
(IAMD)
THROUGH THE
EUROPEAN SKY SHIELD INITIATIVE (ESSI)
OF 13 OCTOBER 2022**

The Federal Minister of Defence of the Republic of Austria and the Federal Minister of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport of the Swiss Confederation (jointly referred to as “Signatories”)

- Acknowledging that the Euro-Atlantic security environment has dramatically changed,
- Recognizing the need to contribute to stability and security in Europe and to foster cooperation in this regard,
- Emphasising the specific character of the security and defence policy of the Republic of Austria and the Swiss Confederation,

Hereby jointly declare their intent to sign the Letter of Intent (LoI) concerning the Strengthening of the European Pillar in NATO’s Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) through the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) of 13 October 2022 and to join the ESSI subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Signatories intend, in accordance with their national defence requirements and planning, to participate in the joint procurement of air and missile defence systems in the different layers as outlined in the LoI.

(2) The Signatories further intend to participate in joint training and exercises for the purpose of the ESSI.

(3) The Signatories will abstain from any measures operational or otherwise that could be construed as an establishment of or participation in a military alliance or as an acceptance of a permanent military presence on their territory.

(4) The Signatories may, in the event of an international armed conflict involving a contributing member to the LoI, withdraw from cooperation activities under it, in compliance with their obligations as permanently neutral countries.

(5) The LoI and this Joint Declaration will not create any legal or financial rights or obligations under national or international law.

For the Federal Minister of Defence of the Republic of Austria:

Signature:

Place:

Date:

For the Federal Minister of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport of the Swiss Confederation:

Signature:

Place:

Date:

Signature Page of the

Joint Declaration of the Federal Minister of Defence of the Republic of Austria and the Federal Minister of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport of the Swiss Confederation upon Signature of the Letter of Intent (LOI) concerning the Strengthening of the European Pillar in NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) through the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) of 13 October 2022