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