

Brussels, 14 December 2017

## **Remarks by Estonian Chief of Defence Riho Terras at the event on PESCO**

The launch of Permanent Structured Co-operation (PESCO) has been a united effort. I would like to thank all member states and the EU institutions on behalf of the Estonian Presidency for their strong will and hard work that led to this historic decision.

From the military point of view there are three vital aspects of PESCO.

First, an ambitious and inclusive co-operation platform demonstrates the willingness of 25 Member States to make the European Union militarily stronger. For EU citizens it means more security.

Second, it is about collective projects that have practical value. The first 17 projects focus on state-of-the-art defence solutions that will improve the EU's operational capability.

Third, PESCO would strengthen the European pillar in NATO.

Clearly, it shows the potential that the European Union has in the field of defence. Concrete actions must and will follow today's decision.

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