

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.gov.uk/number10

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email of 31st May in which you wrote about a possible EU Army.

The Prime Minister has been clear that the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will never be part of a European Army.

In the Treaty on the European Union there is special provision for any decision within the EU that has military or defence implications must be made unanimously; meaning that the UK has a veto.

I hope this response is helpful and would like to thank you for your interest in this important matter.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

June 2016

Dear Zac,

Thank you for your email of 31 May, sent on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], about a possible EU Army.

As we have said in the past, the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will never be part of a European Army, and decisions to use our Armed Forces must be made by us and not anyone else.

It is right that we continue to exercise and work alongside military colleagues in NATO and beyond. In an increasingly interlinked world, we must make sure our Armed Forces are adequately trained so that they can operate both unilaterally, and alongside allied partners to respond to any military threat we may face.

We are, and will continue to be, leading members of NATO; we are permanent members of the UN Security Council; members of the Commonwealth; Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe; the Northern Group in Europe; Five Power Defence Arrangements in the Far East; the Five Eyes arrangements and have strong and valued bilateral relationships in the defence and security field with countries around the world.

Mr Zac Goldsmith MP

Our ref: D/S of S/MF MCSOS2016/06881e

March 2017

Your ref: -

Thank you for your email of 30 June, sent on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], about a possible EU Army.

As we have said in the past, the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will never be part of a European Army, and decisions to use our Armed Forces must be made by us and not anyone else.

It is right that we continue to exercise and work alongside military colleagues in NATO and beyond. In an increasingly interlinked world, we must make sure our Armed Forces are adequately trained so that they can operate both unilaterally, and alongside allied partners to respond to any military threat we may face.

We hope that [REDACTED] finds this response helpful.

THE RT HON MICHAEL FALLON MP

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone:
Facsimile:



26th July 2016

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 31st May in which you asked about the impact the EU referendum result may have on our Armed Forces, and of a possible European Army.

As you will no doubt be aware, the result of the Referendum on the UK's membership is now known, and the British people have decided that we should leave the EU. As the Prime Minister said in his statement on the EU Referendum outcome, the Government must respect the will of the British people.

The UK remains firmly opposed to any centralised EU command or control over military forces. The Government's position remains that we will not support measures which would undermine member states' competence for their own military forces, or lead to competition and duplication with NATO.

The United Kingdom's Armed Forces will never be part of a European Army, and decisions to use our Armed Forces must be made by us and not anyone else.

I hope this response is helpful and would like to thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

NATO and Europe Policy - Common Security Defence Policy

Our ref:
Your ref: -

■ November 2016

Thank you for your letter of 25 October on behalf of your constituent, ■
■ of ■, about an “EU
Army”.

The Government has repeatedly stated that the UK’s Armed Forces will never be part of an EU Army, and decisions to use our Armed Forces will be made by us and not anyone else.

While we remain a Full Member of the EU we would block any proposal to create an EU Army, but the Conclusions of the recent Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) do not call for this in the Security and Defence Implementation Plan following the EU Global Strategy published in the summer.

Looking ahead to when the UK is not in the EU, we have also stressed that the EU should not take decisions that would make it more difficult for our Armed Forces to work alongside those of other European Nations to address issues of shared security, when it is our interests to do so.

In that context it is right that we continue to train and exercise with Allies and Partners in NATO, in the EU, in the UN, and in other bilateral and multi-national formations. In an increasingly interlinked world, we must ensure our Armed Forces are adequately trained so that they can respond to any military threat we may face.

But again, this does not mean ceding sovereignty or control of our Armed Forces, whose men and women continue to demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism and of whom we are rightly proud.

I hope this helps to explain the position.

THE RT HON SIR MICHAEL FALLON MP

Our ref:
Your ref: -

■ December 2016

Thank you for your letter of 25 November on behalf of your constituent, ■ of ■, about an "EU Army".

The Government has repeatedly stated that the UK's Armed Forces will never be part of an EU Army; decisions to use our Armed Forces will be made by us and not anyone else.

While we remain a Full Member of the EU we would block any proposal to create an EU Army, but the Conclusions of the December European Council do not call for this in the Security and Defence Implementation Plan following the EU Global Strategy published in the summer.

Looking ahead to when the UK is not in the EU, we have also stressed that the EU should not take decisions that would make it more difficult for our Armed Forces to work alongside those of other European Nations to address issues of shared security, when it is our interests to do so.

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But again, this does not mean ceding sovereignty or control of our Armed Forces, whose men and women continue to demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism and of whom we are rightly proud.

I hope this helps to explain the position.

THE RT HON SIR MICHAEL FALLON MP



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone:

Facsimile:



15th June 2016

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email of 31st May in which you wrote about a possible EU Army.

The Prime minister has been clear that the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will never be part of a European Army.

In the Treaty on the European Union there is special provision for any decision within the EU that has military or defence implications must be made unanimously; meaning that the UK has a veto.

I hope this response is helpful and would like to thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

NATO and Europe Policy - Common Security Defence Policy



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of Defence

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Whitehall
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United Kingdom

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Facsimile:



14th June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 7th May in which you wrote about a possible EU Army.

The UK remains firmly opposed to any centralised EU command or control over military forces. The Government's position remains that we will not support measures which would undermine member states' competence for their own military forces, or lead to competition and duplication with NATO.

I hope this response is helpful and would like to thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

NATO and Europe Policy - Common Security Defence Policy