

DECISION

ADB(D)11-2021

Adopting the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for year 2020

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE SESAR JOINT UNDERTAKING (SESAR JU),

Having regard to:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 219/2007 of 27 February 2007, on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation of the European Air Traffic Management system (SESAR)¹ as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1361/2008 of 16 December 2008² and by Council Regulation (EU) No 721/2014 of 16 June 2014³ ('SESAR JU Regulation'), and in particular Article 5.1(j) and Article 16.2 of the Annex to the SESAR JU Regulation, "Statutes of the Joint Undertaking" ('SESAR JU Statutes'),
- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012⁴, and in particular Articles 6, 70 and 110,
- Communication from the Commission C(2020)2297 of 20 April 2020 defining the guidelines for the programming document for decentralised agencies and the template for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for decentralised agencies,
- The Administrative Board decision ADB(D)21-2019 adopting the SESAR JU Financial Rules and in particular Article 47,
- The Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Board of the SESAR JU, and in particular Article 9,

¹ OJ L 64, 2.3.2007, p. 1

² OJ L 352, 31.12.2008, p. 12

³ OJ L 192, 1.7.2014, p. 1

⁴ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

Whereas:

- 1) The draft Consolidated Annual Activity Report for year 2020 ("2020 CAAR") was submitted to the Administrative Board for analysis between the 31 March 2021 and the 25 April 2021.
- 2) The comments and recommendations resulting from the Administrative Board's analysis have been integrated in the final edition of the 2020 CAAR, edition 00.06.
- 3) A Written Procedure for the adoption of the 2020 CAAR was launched on 7 June 2021 and concluded on 21 June 2021 with positive results.
- 4) The Administrative Board has assessed the SESAR Joint Undertaking's 2020 CAAR and, having reviewed the document, notes that:
 - The SESAR JU met all its key policy and operational objectives in 2020 as outlined in the Single Programming Document for 2020 to 2022 (2020-2022 SPD);
 - The SESAR JU's key achievements in 2020 were the following:
 - the completion of Release 9 (by September 2020) of solutions to be validated, in line with the Release Plan published in 2018, the initiation of Release 10 and the start of the planning and preparation of Release 11, to be conducted in 2021;
 - the closure of the last projects under IR-VLD (industrial research and validation very large-scale demonstration) Wave 1 and of the U-space VLD calls for proposals;
 - the launch and management of ongoing projects under the IR-VLD Wave 2 restricted call for proposals;
 - the preparation and signature of grant agreements and subsequent management of ongoing projects under the ER4 open call for proposals;
 - the launch of the last two calls for proposals, the evaluation of the proposals received, award and grant agreement signature for the second VLD open call for proposals and the IR-VLD Wave 3 restricted call for proposals;
 - the organisation of and/or participation in major European and global events related to air traffic management and aviation, including the SESAR Innovation Days and several International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) events;
 - the communication of programme results and the promotion of scientific excellence through the SESAR Digital Academy, the Young Scientist Award, U-space consolidated report and the exploratory research results brochure (second edition) ;
 - the repayment of excess SESAR 1 financial contributions to SESAR JU members;
 - further preparation for the future of SESAR according to two non-exclusive scenarios: the repeal and replace scenario and the termination of the SESAR JU;
 - the delivery of corporate tools and initiatives to secure the efficiency of the SESAR JU operations' full continuity despite the context of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis.
 - With these achievements, the SESAR JU completed its work programme for 2020 fully; the performance indicators show that all targets were met.

- While achieving its annual objectives, the SESAR JU defined and implemented budgetary measures that mitigated the adverse effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the aviation sector:
 - by increasing pre-financing rates applicable to grant agreements signed in 2020, to support the cash flow of beneficiaries of SESAR 2020 calls for proposals;
 - by implementing an exceptional reduction in the financial contribution instalment due by all SESAR JU members other than the EU by 1 July 2020, with the aim of supporting the cash flow of members other than the EU;
 - by increasing the budget available for new projects under the ER4 call for proposals by up to EUR 15.4 million, thus allowing an increase in the number of awarded projects and optimising the use of available funds;
 - by reducing its staff, infrastructure and operating expenditure.
 - The required building blocks of assurance remained in place throughout 2020 and continued to work adequately: management assessment, registration of exceptions and non-compliance events, audits, internal control and management systems, etc.
 - The main risks to the delivery of the SESAR JU's key objectives were identified and the relevant mitigating measures taken, keeping overall risks under control and at an acceptable level of criticality.
- 5) Consequently, the Administrative Board concludes that the 2020 CAAR accurately and adequately describes the work performed by the SESAR JU in 2020.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The SESAR JU Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2020, annexed to this decision, provides a true, fair and detailed view of the activities realised during the year 2020 and is hereby adopted.

Article 2

The SESAR JU Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2020 shall be transmitted to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and to the Council by the Executive Director on behalf of the Administrative Board, in accordance with the provisions of the SESAR JU Financial Rules.

Article 3

This decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done in Brussels, 21 June 2021.

For the Administrative Board

The Chairperson

Henrik Hololei



Annex: SESAR JU Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2020 (edition 01.00).