

DECISION No GB/2024/10

**of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre
Governing Board**

on security rules for protecting sensitive non-classified and EU classified information

THE GOVERNING BOARD,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/887 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 20 May 2021, establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres ('Regulation (EU) 2021/887'), and in particular Article 36 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) No 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information¹,

Having regard to the Decision No GB/2024/7 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Security in the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre,

Whereas:

- 1) The ECCC's measures on the security and protection of European Union classified information (EUCI) must be defined and implemented,
- 2) the objective of security within ECCC is to enable the ECCC to operate in a safe and secure environment by establishing a coherent integrated approach as regards its security, providing appropriate levels of protection for persons, assets and information commensurate with identified risks, and ensuring timely delivery of security.
- 3) Within ECCC, physical security aimed at protecting classified information is the application of physical and technical protective measures intended to prevent unauthorised access to EU classified information.
- 4) Whereas the Commission Security Authority has been consulted and agreed to this Decision,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

¹ COMMISSION DECISION (EU, Euratom) 2015/ 444 - of 13 March 2015 - on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (europa.eu)

CHAPTER 1 - BASIC PRINCIPLES AND MINIMUM STANDARDS

Article 1 *Definitions*

For the purpose of this Decision, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) ‘Accreditation’ means the formal authorisation from the Security Accreditation Authority (SAA) for a communication and information system to process, or a Secured Area to store a pre-defined level of EUCI;
- (2) ‘Accreditation Process’ means the necessary steps and tasks required prior to the accreditation by the Security Accreditation Authority;
- (3) ‘ECCC department’ means any ECCC service/ unit/ sector;
- (4) ‘cryptographic (Crypto) material’ means cryptographic algorithms, cryptographic hardware and software modules, and products including implementation details and associated documentation and keying material;
- (5) ‘declassification’ means the removal of any security classification;
- (6) ‘defence in depth’ means the application of a range of security measures organised as multiple layers of defence;
- (7) ‘document’ means any recorded information regardless of its physical form or characteristics;
- (8) ‘downgrading’ means a reduction in the level of security classification;
- (9) ‘handling’ of EUCI means all possible actions to which EUCI may be subject throughout its life-cycle. It comprises its creation, registration, processing, carriage, downgrading, declassification and destruction. In relation to Communication and Information Systems (CIS) it also comprises its collection, display, transmission and storage;
- (10) ‘holder’ means a duly authorised individual with an established need-to-know who is in possession of an item of EUCI and is accordingly responsible for protecting it;
- (11) ‘implementing rules’ means any set of rules or security guidelines adopted in accordance with Article 62 of the Decision No GB/2024/10 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on security rules for protecting sensitive non-classified and EU classified information;
- (12) ‘material’ means any medium, data carrier or item of equipment, either manufactured or in the process of manufacture;
- (13) ‘originator’ means the Union institution, agency or body, Member State, third state or international organisation under whose authority classified information has been created and/or introduced into ECCC’s structures;
- (14) ‘premises’ means any immovable or assimilated property and possessions of ECCC;

- (15) ‘security risk management process’ means the entire process of identifying, controlling and minimising uncertain events that may affect the security of an organisation or of any of the systems it uses. It covers the entirety of risk related activities, including assessment, treatment, acceptance and communication;
- (16) ‘Staff Regulations’ means the Staff Regulations of officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Union, as laid down by Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 of the Council ⁽²⁾;
- (17) ‘Sensitive non-classified’ information means information defined in accordance with Article 13(5)(b) of Decision No GB/2024/7 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Security in the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre;
- (18) ‘threat’ means a potential cause of an unwanted incident which may result in harm to an organisation or any of the systems it uses; such threats may be accidental or deliberate (malicious) and are characterised by threatening elements, potential targets and attack methods;
- (19) ‘vulnerability’ means a weakness of any nature that can be exploited by one or more threats. A vulnerability may be an omission or it may relate to a weakness in controls in terms of their strength, completeness or consistency and may be of a technical, procedural, physical, organisational or operational nature.

Article 2

Subject matter and scope

1. This Decision lays down the basic principles and minimum standards of security for protecting sensitive non-classified and EU classified information.
2. This Decision shall apply to all ECCC departments and in all premises of ECCC.
3. Notwithstanding any specific indications concerning particular groups of staff, this Decision shall apply to the Members of the Governing Board, to ECCC staff under the scope of the Staff Regulations and of the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Communities, to national experts seconded to ECCC (SNEs), to service providers and their staff, to trainees and to any individual with access to ECCC buildings or other assets, or to information handled by ECCC.

² Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 of the Council of 29 February 1968 laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and instituting special measures temporarily applicable to officials of the Commission (Conditions of Employment of Other Servants) (OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1).

Article 3
Organisation of security

1. The ECCC Security Authority shall assume the following functions:
 - a) Information Assurance Authority (IAA) in charge of developing information assurance security policies and security guidelines and monitoring their effectiveness and pertinence.
 - b) Information Assurance Operational Authority (IAOA) responsible for developing security documentation, in particular the Security Operating Procedures and the crypto plan within the communication and information systems' (CIS) accreditation process;
 - c) Security Accreditation Authority (SAA) in charge of accrediting Secured Areas and CIS handling and storing EUCI;
 - d) TEMPEST Authority (TA) responsible for approving the measures taken to protect against compromise of EUCI through unintentional electronic emanations;
 - e) Crypto Approval Authority (CAA) responsible for approving the use of encrypting technologies based on a request from the system owner;
 - f) Crypto Distribution Authority (CDA) responsible for distributing cryptographic materials used for protecting EUCI (encryption equipment, cryptographic keys, certificates, and related authenticators) to the users concerned.
2. The responsibilities of one or more of the functions referred to in paragraph 1 may be delegated to another Union institution or body whenever decentralised delivery of security offers significant efficiency, resource or time savings.

Article 4
Protection of sensitive non-classified information

1. Sensitive non-classified information must be protected by appropriate security measures regarding its handling and storage. To this end, the ECCC will establish further implementing rules for protecting such information.
2. The ECCC shall identify sensitive non-classified information by a visible security marking and shall define corresponding handling instructions.
3. Sensitive non-classified information shall only be made available to those individuals who have a 'need-to-know'.
4. When handled or stored on Communication and Information Systems, such information shall be protected in compliance with the ECCC' rules on the security of communication and information systems and corresponding standards.

Article 5

Definition of EUCI, security classifications and markings

1. 'European Union classified information' (EUCI) means any information or material designated by an EU security classification, the unauthorised disclosure of which could cause varying degrees of prejudice to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States.
2. EUCI can be classified at one of the following levels:
 - (a) TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET: information and material the unauthorised disclosure of which could cause exceptionally grave prejudice to the essential interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States;
 - (b) SECRET UE/EU SECRET: information and material the unauthorised disclosure of which could seriously harm the essential interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States;
 - (c) CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL: information and material the unauthorised disclosure of which could harm the essential interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States;
 - (d) RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED: information and material the unauthorised disclosure of which could be disadvantageous to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States.
3. EUCI shall bear the security classification marking in accordance with paragraph 2. It may bear additional markings, which are not classification markings, but are intended to designate the field of activity to which it relates, identify the originator, limit distribution, restrict use or indicate releasability.
4. Information shall be classified as at least RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED if its unauthorised disclosure could, inter alia:
 - (a) adversely affect diplomatic relations;
 - (b) cause substantial distress to individuals;
 - (c) make it more difficult to maintain the operational effectiveness or security of Member States' or other contributors' deployed personnel;
 - (d) breach undertakings to maintain the confidence of information provided by third parties;
 - (e) prejudice the investigation of or facilitate crime;
 - (f) disadvantage the Union or Member States in commercial or policy negotiations with others;
 - (g) impede the effective development or operation of Union policies;

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- (h) undermine the proper management of the Union and its missions in general; or
 - (i) lead to the discovery of information classified at a higher level.
5. Information shall be classified as at least CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL if its unauthorised disclosure could, inter alia:
- (a) materially damage diplomatic relations, i.e. cause formal protest or other sanctions;
 - (b) prejudice individual security or liberty;
 - (c) cause damage to the operational effectiveness or security of Member States' or other contributors' deployed personnel, or to the effectiveness of valuable security or intelligence operations;
 - (d) substantially undermine the financial viability of major organisations;
 - (e) impede the investigation of or facilitate serious crime;
 - (f) work substantially against the Union's or Member States' financial, monetary, economic and commercial interests;
 - (g) seriously impede the development or operation of major Union policies;
 - (h) shut down or otherwise substantially disrupt significant Union activities;
 - (i) lead to the discovery of information classified at a higher level.
6. Information shall be classified as at least SECRET UE/EU SECRET if its unauthorised disclosure could, inter alia:
- (a) raise international tensions;
 - (b) seriously damage relations with third countries or international organisations;
 - (c) threaten life directly or seriously prejudice public order or individual security or liberty;
 - (d) cause serious damage to the operational effectiveness or security of Member States' or other contributors' deployed personnel, or to the continuing effectiveness of highly valuable security or intelligence operations;
 - (e) cause substantial material damage to the Union's or Member States' financial, monetary, economic or commercial interests;
 - (f) lead to the discovery of information classified at a higher level.
7. Classifying a document as EUCI shall involve an assessment and a decision by the originator as to whether the disclosure of the document to unauthorised persons would cause prejudice to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States. If drafters are in any doubt as to whether the document they are drafting warrants being classified, they should consult their management or the ECCC Security Officer.

8. Originators may decide to attribute a standard classification level to categories of information that they create on a regular basis. However, they shall ensure that individual pieces of information are given the appropriate classification level.
9. ECCC shall not handle EUCI at the level TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET.

Article 6

Classification management

1. Each staff member of ECCC or ECCC department shall ensure that EUCI it creates, is appropriately classified, clearly identified as EUCI and retains its classification level for only as long as necessary.
2. Without prejudice to Article 32 below, EUCI shall not be downgraded or declassified nor shall the security classification marking referred to in Article 5(2) be modified or removed without the prior written consent of the originator.
3. Where appropriate, implementing rules on handling EUCI, shall be adopted in accordance with Article 62 below.

Article 7

Protection of classified information

1. EUCI shall be protected in accordance with this Decision and its implementing rules.
2. The holder of any item of EUCI shall be responsible for protecting it.
3. Where Member States introduce classified information bearing a national security classification marking into the structures or networks of ECCC, ECCC shall protect that information in accordance with the requirements applicable to EUCI at the equivalent level, set out in the table of equivalence of security classifications contained in Annex I of Commission Decision 2015/444, as up-to-date.
4. An aggregate of EUCI may warrant a level of protection corresponding to a higher classification than that of its individual components.

Article 8

Security risk management

1. Security measures for protecting EUCI throughout its life-cycle shall be commensurate in particular with its security classification, the form and the volume of the information or material, the location and construction of facilities housing EUCI and the locally assessed threat of malicious and/or criminal activities, including espionage, sabotage and terrorism.

2. Contingency plans shall take account of the need to protect EUCI during emergency situations in order to prevent unauthorised access, disclosure or loss of integrity or availability.
3. Preventive and recovery measures to minimise the impact of major failures or incidents on the handling and storage of EUCI shall be included in all services' business continuity plans.

Article 9

Implementation of this Decision

1. Where necessary, implementing rules to supplement or support this Decision shall be adopted in accordance with Article 62 below.
2. ECCC departments shall take all necessary measures falling under their responsibility in order to ensure that, when handling or storing EUCI or any other classified information, this Decision and the relevant implementing rules are applied.
3. The security measures taken in implementation of this Decision shall be compliant with the principles for security in ECCC laid down in Article 3 of Decision No GB/2024/7³.
4. The ECCC's Executive Director shall exercise the role of the ECCC Security Authority.⁴ The Security Authority shall have the responsibilities assigned to it by this Decision and its implementing rules.
5. The ECCC's Executive Director shall appoint the ECCC Security Officer. Within ECCC, the Security Officer shall have the following overall responsibilities for protecting EUCI in accordance with this Decision and wherever possible in close cooperation with the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security, shall:
 - (a) managing requests for security authorisations for staff;
 - (b) contributing to security training and awareness briefings;
 - (c) supervising ECCC's Registry Control Officer(s) (RCO);
 - (d) reporting on breaches of security and compromise of EUCI;
 - (e) holding spare keys and a written record of each combination setting;
 - (f) assuming other tasks related to the protection of EUCI or defined by implementing rules.

³ Decision No GB/2024/7 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Security in the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre,

⁴ The responsibilities of the ECCC Security Authority are described in Article 6 of the Decision No GB/2024/7.

Article 10

Breaches of security and compromise of EUCI

1. A breach of security occurs as the result of an act or omission by an individual which is contrary to the security rules laid down in this Decision and its implementing rules.
2. Compromise of EUCI occurs when, as a result of a breach of security, it has wholly or in part been disclosed to unauthorised persons.
3. Any breach or suspected breach of security shall be reported immediately to the ECCC Security Authority.
4. Where it is known or where there are reasonable grounds to assume that EUCI has been compromised or lost, a security inquiry shall be conducted in accordance with Article 16 of the Decision No GB/2024/7.5
5. All appropriate measures shall be taken to:
 - (a) inform the originator;
 - (b) ensure that the case is investigated by personnel not immediately concerned with the breach in order to establish the facts;
 - (c) assess the potential damage caused to the interests of the Union or of the Member States;
 - (d) take appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence; and
 - (e) notify the appropriate authorities of the action taken.
6. Any individual who is responsible for a breach of the security rules laid down in this Decision may be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with the Staff Regulations. Any individual who is responsible for compromising or losing EUCI shall be liable to disciplinary and/or legal action in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations.

CHAPTER 2 - PERSONNEL SECURITY

Article 11

Definitions

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) ‘authorisation for access to EUCI’ means a decision by the ECCC Security Authority taken on the basis of an assurance given by a competent authority of a Member State that an ECCC official, other servant or seconded national expert may, provided his ‘need-to-know’ has been determined and he has been appropriately briefed on his responsibilities, be granted access to

⁵ Decision No GB/2024/7 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Security in the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre

EUCI up to a specified level (CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above) until a specified date; the individual thus described is said to be ‘security authorised’.

- (2) ‘personnel security authorisation procedure’ is the application of measures to ensure that access to EUCI is granted only to individuals who have:
 - (a) a need-to-know;
 - (b) been security authorised to the relevant level, where appropriate; and
 - (c) been briefed on their responsibilities.
- (3) ‘Personnel Security Clearance’ (PSC) means a statement by a competent authority of a Member State which is made following completion of a security investigation conducted by the competent authorities of a Member State and which certifies that an individual may, provided his ‘need-to-know’ has been determined and he has been appropriately briefed on his responsibilities, be granted access to EUCI up to a specified level (CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above) until a specified date;
- (4) ‘Personnel Security Clearance Certificate’ (PSCC) means a certificate issued by a competent authority establishing that an individual holds a valid security clearance and which shows the level of EUCI to which that individual may be granted access (CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above), the period of validity of the relevant security clearance or authorisation and the date of expiry of the certificate itself.
- (5) ‘security investigation’ means the investigative procedures conducted by the competent authority of a Member State in accordance with its national laws and regulations in order to obtain an assurance that nothing adverse is known which would prevent an individual from being granted a security clearance up to a specified level (CONFIDENTIEL UE/ EU CONFIDENTIAL or above).

Article 12

Basic Principles

1. An individual shall only be granted access to EUCI after:
 - (1) his need-to-know in order to be able to perform a professional function or task for the ECCC has been determined;
 - (2) he has been briefed on the security rules for protecting EUCI and the relevant security standards and guidelines, and has acknowledged his responsibilities with regard to protecting such information;
 - (3) for information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and above, he has been security authorised to the relevant level.
2. All individuals whose duties may require them to have access to EUCI classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above shall be security authorised to the relevant level before being granted access to such EUCI. The individual concerned shall consent in writing to being submitted to the personnel security clearance procedure. Failure

to do so shall mean that the individual cannot be assigned to a post, function or task which involves access to information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above.

3. The Personnel Security Clearance procedure shall be conducted to determine whether an individual, taking into account his loyalty, trustworthiness and reliability, may be authorised to access EUCL.
4. The loyalty, trustworthiness and reliability of an individual for the purposes of being security cleared for access to information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above shall be determined by means of a security investigation conducted by the competent authorities of a Member State in accordance with its national laws and regulations.
5. Considering the Service Level Agreement (SLA) signed with the Commission's DG for Human Resources and Security, the ECCC shall liaise with the Commission's Security Directorate for all matters related to the security clearance of their staff.⁶
6. ECCC trainees shall not be given duties that require them to have access to EUCL.
7. Access shall be withheld or permitted for other categories of staff in accordance with the tables set out in Annexes 1 and 2.

Article 13

Security authorisation procedure

1. The Executive Director, after consulting the heads of Departments shall identify the positions within ECCC for which the holders need to access information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above to perform their duties and so need to be security authorised.
2. As soon as it is known that an individual will be appointed to a position requiring access to information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above, the Security Officer shall launch the procedure for the security clearance of their staff in cooperation with the Commission's Security Directorate. The individual shall consent in writing to being submitted to the security clearance procedure and shall complete and return the respective NSA's form without delay.
3. Where information relevant to a security investigation is known to the ECCC Security Authority concerning an individual who has applied for a security clearance, the ECCC Security Authority, acting in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, shall notify the competent NSA thereof.⁷

⁶ Service-Level Agreement between the services of the European Commission and the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, Appendix DS, Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021.

⁷ As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021

4. Following completion of the security investigation, and as soon as possible after having been notified by the relevant NSA⁸, of its overall assessment of the findings of the security investigation, the ECCC Security Authority:
 - (a) may grant an authorisation for access to EUCI to the individual concerned and authorise access to EUCI up to the relevant level for a set period of time but for a maximum of 5 years, where the security investigation results in an assurance that nothing adverse is known which would call into question the loyalty, trustworthiness and reliability of the individual;
 - (b) shall, where the security investigation does not result in such an assurance, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, notify the individual concerned, who may ask to be heard by the ECCC Security Authority, who in turn may ask, the competent NSA⁹ for any further clarification it can provide according to its national laws and regulations. If the outcome of the security investigation is confirmed, the authorisation for access to EUCI shall not be issued.
5. The security investigation and the results obtained shall be subject to the relevant laws and regulations in force in the Member State concerned, including those concerning appeals. Decisions made by ECCC shall be subject to appeals in accordance with the Staff Regulations.
6. ECCC shall accept the authorisation for access to EUCI granted by any Union institution, body or agency provided it remains valid. Authorisations shall cover any assignment by the individual concerned within ECCC. ECCC will notify the relevant NSA of the change of employer.
7. If an individual's period of service does not commence within 12 months of the notification of the outcome of the security investigation, or if there is a break of 12 months in an individual's service, during which time he has not been employed by the ECCC or by a Union Institution, body or agency, or in a position with a national administration of a Member State, the ECCC Security Officer shall refer the matter to the relevant NSA¹⁰ for confirmation that the security clearance remains valid and appropriate.
8. Where information becomes known to the ECCC Security Authority concerning a security risk posed by an individual who holds a valid security authorisation, the ECCC Security Officer, acting in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, shall notify the competent NSA thereof¹¹.
9. Where an NSA notifies the Commission Security Authority¹² of the withdrawal of an assurance given in accordance with paragraph 4(a) for an individual who holds a valid

⁸ As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021

⁹ As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021

¹⁰ As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021

¹¹ As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021.

¹² As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021.

authorisation for access to EUCI, the ECCC Security Authority)¹³ may ask for any clarification the NSA can provide according to its national laws and regulations. If the adverse information is confirmed by the relevant NSA, the individual shall be excluded from access to EUCI and from positions where such access is possible or where he might endanger security.

10. Any decision to withdraw or suspend an authorisation for access to EUCI from any individual falling under the scope of this Decision, and, where appropriate, the reasons for doing so, shall be notified to the individual concerned, who may ask to be heard by the ECCC Security Authority. Information provided by an NSA shall be subject to the relevant laws and regulations in force in the Member State concerned. Decisions made in this context by the ECCC Security Authority shall be subject to appeals in accordance with the Staff Regulations.
11. ECCC shall make sure that national experts seconded to it for a position requiring security authorisation to access EUCI shall present, prior to taking up their assignment, a valid PSC or Personnel Security Clearance Certificate ('PSCC'), according to national law and regulations, to the ECCC Security Authority, who, on the basis thereof, will grant a security authorisation for access to EUCI up to the level equivalent to the one referred to in the national security clearance, with a maximum validity for the duration of their assignment.

Security Clearance and security authorisation records

12. Records of security clearances and authorisations granted for access to EUCI shall be maintained by the ECCC Security Officer. These records shall contain as a minimum the level of EUCI to which the individual may be granted access, the date of issue of the security clearance and its period of validity.

Renewal of security authorisations

13. After the initial granting of security authorisations and provided that the individual has had uninterrupted service with ECCC, the European Commission or another Union Institution, body or agency and has a continuing need for access to EUCI, the security authorisation for access to EUCI shall be reviewed for renewal, as a general rule, no later than every five years from the date of notification of the outcome of the last security investigation on which it was based.
14. The ECCC Security Authority may extend the validity of the existing security authorisation for a period of up to 12 months if no adverse information has been received from the relevant NSA or other competent national authority within a period of two months from the date of transmission of the request for renewal and the corresponding security clearance form. If, at the end of this 12-month period, the relevant NSA or other competent national authority has not notified the Commission Security Authority of its opinion, the individual shall be assigned to duties which do not require a security authorisation.

¹³ As per Service-Level Agreement Ref.Ares(2021)7640693 – 10.12.2021.

Article 14

Temporary security authorisations

1. In exceptional circumstances, where duly justified in the interests of the service and pending completion of a full security clearance investigation, the ECCC Security Authority may, grant a temporary authorisation for individuals to access EUCI for a specific function, without prejudice to the provisions regarding renewal of security clearances. Such temporary authorisations for access to EUCI shall be valid for a single period not exceeding six months.
2. After having been briefed in accordance with Article 15, all individuals who have been granted a temporary authorisation shall acknowledge in writing that they have understood their obligations in respect of protecting EUCI and the consequences if EUCI is compromised. A record of such a written acknowledgement shall be kept by the ECCC Security Officer.

Article 15

Briefings for access to EUCI

1. All individuals who are required to work with RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED information or undergo the security authorisation procedure to handle information classified at the CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL level or above shall initially be made aware of and periodically briefed on the threats to security and rules for handling EUCI. They shall report immediately to the ECCC Security Officer any approach or activity that they consider suspicious or unusual.
2. After having participated in the mandatory security briefing organised by the ECCC Security Officer, all individuals who require access to EUCI shall acknowledge in writing that they have understood their obligations in respect of protecting EUCI and the consequences if EUCI is compromised. A record of such a written acknowledgement shall be kept by the ECCC Security Officer.
3. All individuals who cease to be employed in duties requiring access to EUCI shall be made aware of, and where appropriate acknowledge in writing, their obligations in respect of the continued protection of EUCI.

Article 16

Attendance at classified meetings

1. Participation in classified meetings at RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED level shall be done in accordance with the criteria for access to EUCI laid down in Article 12.

2. ECCC staff responsible for organising meetings at which information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above is discussed shall inform the ECCC Security Officer well in advance of the dates, times, venue and participants of such meetings.
3. Individuals assigned to participate in meetings organised by ECCC at which information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above is discussed, may only do so upon confirmation of their security clearance or security authorisation status. Access to such classified meetings shall be denied to individuals for whom the ECCC Security Officer has not received confirmation of the required security clearance or to participants of ECCC who are not in possession of a security authorisation.
4. Before organising a classified meeting, the meeting organiser shall request external participants to provide a PSCC or other proof of security clearance to the ECCC Security Officer. The ECCC Security Officer shall inform the meeting organiser of PSCC or other proof of PSC received. Where applicable, a consolidated list of names may be used, giving the relevant proof of security clearance.
5. Where the ECCC Security Officer is informed by the competent authorities that a PSC has been withdrawn from an individual whose duties require attendance at meetings organised by ECCC, the ECCC Security Officer shall notify the ECCC department responsible for organising the meeting.

Article 17
Potential Access to EUCI

Couriers, guards and escorts shall be security authorised to the appropriate level or otherwise appropriately investigated in accordance with national laws and regulations, be briefed on security procedures for protecting EUCI and be instructed on their duties for protecting such information entrusted to them.

CHAPTER 3 - PHYSICAL SECURITY AIMED AT PROTECTING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Article 18

Basic principles

1. Physical security measures shall be designed to deny surreptitious or forced entry by an intruder, to deter, impede and detect unauthorised actions and to allow for segregation of personnel in their access to EUCI on a need-to-know basis. Such measures shall be determined based on a risk management process, in accordance with this Decision and its implementing rules.
2. In particular, physical security measures shall be designed to prevent unauthorised access to EUCI by:
 - (a) ensuring that EUCI is handled and stored in an appropriate manner;
 - (b) allowing for segregation of personnel in terms of access to EUCI on the basis of their need-to-know and, where appropriate, their security authorisation;
 - (c) deterring, impeding and detecting unauthorised actions; and
 - (d) denying or delaying surreptitious or forced entry by intruders.
3. Physical security measures shall be put in place for all premises, buildings, offices, rooms and other areas in which EUCI is handled or stored, including areas housing communication and information systems as referred to in Chapter 5.
4. Areas in which EUCI classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above is stored shall be established as Secured Areas in accordance with this Chapter and accredited by the ECCC Accreditation Authority.
5. Only equipment or devices approved by the Commission Security Authority and/or the Council Security Authority shall be used for protecting EUCI.

Article 19

Physical security requirements and measures

1. Physical security measures shall be selected on the basis of a threat assessment made by the ECCC Security Authority, where appropriate in consultation with the Commission Security Authority, other Commission departments, other Union institutions, agencies or bodies and/or competent authorities of the Member States. ECCC shall apply a risk management process for protecting EUCI on its premises to ensure that a commensurate level of physical protection is afforded against the assessed risk. The risk management process shall take account of all relevant factors, in particular:
 - (a) the classification level of EUCI;

- (b) the form and volume of EUCI, bearing in mind that large quantities or a compilation of EUCI may require more stringent protective measures to be applied;
 - (c) the surrounding environment and structure of the buildings or areas housing EUCI; and
 - (d) the assessed threat from intelligence services which target the Union, its institutions, bodies or agencies, or the Member States and from sabotage, terrorist, subversive or other criminal activities.
2. The ECCC Security Authority, applying the concept of defence in depth, shall determine the appropriate combination of physical security measures to be implemented. To that effect, the ECCC Security Authority shall develop minimum standards, norms and criteria, set out in implementing rules.
3. The ECCC Security Authority is authorised to conduct entry and exit searches to act as a deterrent to the unauthorised introduction of material or the unauthorised removal of EUCI from premises or buildings.
4. When EUCI is at risk of being overlooked, even accidentally, the ECCC departments concerned shall take the appropriate measures, as defined by the ECCC Security Authority, to counter this risk.
5. For new facilities, physical security requirements and their functional specifications shall be defined in consultation with the Commission Security Authority or another independent authority as part of the planning and design of the facilities. For existing facilities, physical security requirements shall be implemented in accordance with the minimum standards, norms and criteria set out in implementing rules.

Article 20

Equipment for the physical protection of EUCI

1. Two types of physically protected areas shall be established for the physical protection of EUCI:
 - (a) Administrative Areas; and
 - (b) Secured Areas (including technically Secured Areas).
2. The ECCC Accreditation Authority, in consultation with the Commission Accreditation Authority, shall establish that an area meets the requirements to be designated as an Administrative Area, a Secured Area or a technically Secured Area.
3. For Administrative Areas:
 - (a) a visibly defined perimeter shall be established which allows individuals and, where possible, vehicles to be checked;
 - (b) unescorted access shall be granted only to individuals who are duly authorised by the ECCC Security Authority or any other competent authority; and
 - (c) all other individuals shall be escorted at all times or be subject to equivalent controls.

4. For Secured Areas:
 - (a) a visibly defined and protected perimeter shall be established through which all entry and exit is controlled by means of a pass or personal recognition system;
 - (b) unescorted access shall be granted only to individuals who are security-cleared and specifically authorised to enter the area on the basis of their need-to-know;
 - (c) all other individuals shall be escorted at all times or be subject to equivalent controls.
5. Where entry into a Secured Area constitutes, for all practical purposes, direct access to the classified information contained in it, the following additional requirements shall apply:
 - (a) the level of highest security classification of the information normally held in the area shall be clearly indicated;
 - (b) all visitors shall require specific authorisation to enter the area, shall be escorted at all times and shall be appropriately security cleared unless steps are taken to ensure that no access to EUCI is possible.
6. Secured Areas protected against eavesdropping shall be designated technically Secured Areas. The following additional requirements shall apply:
 - (a) such areas shall be equipped with an Intrusion Detection System ('IDS'), be locked when not occupied and be guarded when occupied. Any keys shall be managed in accordance with Article 20;
 - (b) all persons and material entering such areas shall be controlled;
 - (c) such areas shall be regularly physically and/or technically inspected by the ECCC Security Officer. Such inspections shall also be conducted following any unauthorised entry or suspicion of such entry; and
 - (d) such areas shall be free of unauthorised communication lines, unauthorised telephones or other unauthorised communication devices and electrical or electronic equipment.
7. Notwithstanding point (d) of paragraph 6, before being used in areas where meetings are held or work is being performed involving information classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET and where the threat to EUCI is assessed as high, any communications devices and electrical or electronic equipment shall first be examined by the ECCC Security Officer to ensure that no intelligible information can be inadvertently or illicitly transmitted by such equipment beyond the perimeter of the Secured Area.
8. Secured Areas which are not occupied by duty personnel on a 24-hour basis shall, where appropriate, be inspected at the end of normal working hours and at random intervals outside normal working hours, unless an IDS is in place.
9. Secured Areas and technically Secured Areas may be set up temporarily within an Administrative Area for a classified meeting or any other similar purpose.

10. The ECCC Security Officer shall draw up Security Operating Procedures (SecOPs) for each Secured Area stipulating, in accordance with the provisions of this Decision and its implementing rules:
 - (a) the level of EUCI which may be handled and stored in the area;
 - (b) the surveillance and protective measures to be maintained;
 - (c) the individuals authorised to have unescorted access to the area by virtue of their need-to-know and security authorisation;
 - (d) where appropriate, the procedures for escorts or for protecting EUCI when authorising any other individuals to access the area;
 - (e) any other relevant measures and procedures.
11. Strong rooms shall be constructed within Secured Areas. The walls, floors, ceilings, windows and lockable doors shall be approved by the ECCC Security Authority and afford protection equivalent to a security container approved for the storage of EUCI of the same classification level.

Article 21

Physical protective measures for handling and storing EUCI

1. EUCI which is classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED may be handled:
 - (a) in a Secured Area,
 - (b) in an Administrative Area provided the EUCI is protected from access by unauthorised individuals, or
 - (c) outside a Secured Area or an Administrative Area provided the holder carries the EUCI in accordance with Article 37 and has undertaken to comply with compensatory measures, set out in implementing measures, to ensure that EUCI is protected from access by unauthorised persons.
2. EUCI which is classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED shall be stored in suitable locked office furniture in an Administrative Area or a Secured Area. It may temporarily be stored outside an Administrative Area or a Secured Area provided the holder has undertaken to comply with compensatory measures laid down in implementing rules.
3. EUCI which is classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET may be handled:
 - (a) in a Secured Area;
 - (b) in an Administrative Area provided the EUCI is protected from access by unauthorised individuals; or
 - (c) outside a Secured Area or an Administrative Area provided the holder:
 - (i) has undertaken to comply with compensatory measures, set out in implementing rules, to ensure the EUCI is protected from access by unauthorised persons;

- (ii) keeps the EUCI at all times under his personal control; and
 - (iii) in the case of documents in paper form, has notified the relevant registry of the fact.
4. EUCI which is classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET UE/EU SECRET shall be stored in a Secured Area in a security container or a strong room.

Article 22

Management of keys and combinations used for protecting EUCI

1. Procedures for managing keys and combination settings for offices, rooms, strong rooms and security containers shall be laid down according to Article 62 below. Such procedures shall be intended to guard against unauthorised access.
2. Combination settings shall be committed to memory by the smallest possible number of individuals needing to know them. Combination settings for security containers and strong rooms storing EUCI shall be changed:
 - (a) on receipt of a new container;
 - (b) whenever there is a change in personnel knowing the combination;
 - (c) whenever a compromise has occurred or is suspected;
 - (d) when a lock has undergone maintenance or repair; and
 - (e) at least every 12 months.

CHAPTER 4 - MANAGEMENT OF EU CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Article 23

Basic principles

1. All EUCI documents should be managed in compliance with ECCC's policy on document management and consequently should be registered, filed, preserved and finally eliminated, sampled or transferred to the Historical Archives in accordance with the common ECCC-level specific retention list for ECCC files.
2. Information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above shall be registered for security purposes at the moment of its creation, prior to distribution and on receipt.
3. Within ECCC, an EUCI registry system shall be set up in accordance with the provisions of Article 33.
4. ECCC departments and premises where EUCI is handled or stored shall be subject to regular inspection by the ECCC Security Officer.

5. EUCI shall be conveyed between services and premises outside physically protected areas as follows:
 - (a) as a general rule, EUCI shall be transmitted by electronic means protected by cryptographic products approved in accordance with Chapter 5;
 - (b) when the means referred to in point (a) are not used, EUCI shall be carried either:
 - (i) on electronic media (e.g. USB sticks, CDs, hard drives) protected by cryptographic products approved in accordance with Chapter 5; or
 - (ii) in all other cases, as prescribed in implementing rules.

Article 24

Classification and markings

1. Information shall be classified where it requires protection with regard to its confidentiality, in accordance with Article 5(1).
2. The originator of EUCI shall be responsible for determining the security classification level, in accordance with the relevant implementing rules, standards and guidelines regarding classification, and for the initial dissemination of the information.
3. The classification level of EUCI shall be determined in accordance with Article 5 and with relevant guidelines.
4. The security classification shall be clearly and correctly indicated, regardless of whether the EUCI is on paper, oral, electronic or in any other form. The classification level shall be clearly communicated to recipients, either by a classification marking, if the information is delivered in written form, whether this is on paper, on removable storage media or in a Communication and Information System (CIS), or by an announcement, if the information is delivered in oral form, such as in a conversation or a presentation.
5. Individual parts of a given document (i.e. pages, paragraphs, sections, annexes, appendices, attachments and enclosures) may require different classification levels and be marked accordingly, including when stored in electronic form.
6. The overall classification level of a document or file shall be at least as high as that of its most highly classified component. When information from various sources is collated, the final product shall be reviewed to determine its overall security classification level, since it may warrant a higher classification than its component parts.
7. To the extent possible, documents containing parts with different classification levels shall be structured so that parts with a different classification level may be easily identified and detached if necessary.

8. The classification of a document containing enclosures shall be as high as the highest classification of its enclosures. The originator shall indicate clearly at which level it is classified when detached from its enclosures by means of an appropriate marking, e.g.:

CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL

Without attachment(s) RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

Article 25

Full classification marking

1. On documents, the full classification marking shall be written in block capitals, in full in French and English (French first), in accordance with paragraph 2. The classification marking shall not be translated into other languages.
2. The classification marking shall be affixed as follows:
 - (a) centred at the top and bottom of every page of the document;
 - (b) the complete classification marking on one line, with no spaces either side of the forward slash;
 - (c) in capitals, black, font Times New Roman 16, bold and surrounded by a border on each side.
3. When creating a classified document:
 - a) each page shall be marked clearly with the classification level;
 - b) each page shall be numbered;
 - c) the document shall bear a reference number and a subject, which itself shall not be classified information unless it is marked as such;
 - d) all the annexes and enclosures shall be listed, whenever possible on the first page; and
 - e) the document shall have the date of its creation on it.
4. When possible, the SECRET UE/EU SECRET marking shall appear in red.

Article 26

Abbreviated classification markings

5. Standardised abbreviated classification markings may be used to indicate the classification level of individual paragraphs of a text. Abbreviations shall not replace the full classification markings.
6. The following standard abbreviations may be used within EU classified documents to indicate the classification level of sections or blocks of text of less than a single page:

SECRET UE/EU SECRET	S-UE/EU-S
CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL	C-UE/EU-C
RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED	R-UE/EU-R

Article 27

Additional markings

In addition to one of the security classification markings set out in Article 5(2), EUCI may bear additional markings, such as:

- (a) an identifier to designate the originator;
- (b) any caveats, code-words or acronyms specifying the field of activity to which the document relates, a particular distribution on a need-to-know basis or restrictions on use;
- (c) where appropriate, releasability markings;
- (d) where applicable, the date or specific event after which it may be downgraded or declassified.

Article 28

Creation of EUCI

1. When creating an EU classified document:
 - (a) each page shall be marked clearly with the classification level;
 - (b) each page shall be numbered;
 - (c) the document shall bear a registration number and a subject, which is not itself classified information, unless it is marked as such;
 - (d) the document shall be dated;
 - (e) documents classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET shall bear a copy number on every page, if they are to be distributed in several copies.
2. Where it is not possible to apply the measures outlined in paragraph 1, staff shall consult with the ECCC Security Officer.

Article 29

Working with drafts

1. Information shall be classified as soon as it is produced. Personal notes, preliminary drafts or messages containing information that warrants classification shall be marked as such from the outset and shall be produced and handled in accordance with this Decision.

2. If the final document no longer warrants a classification level, it shall be declassified.

Article 30
Record of source material

1. In order to enable the exercise of originator control in accordance with Article 31, originators of classified documents shall, to the extent possible, keep a record of any classified sources used for producing the documents, including details of sources originally from EU Member States, international organisations or third countries.
2. Where appropriate, aggregated classified information shall be marked in such a way as to preserve the identification of the originators of the classified source materials used.

Article 31
Originator control

1. The originator shall have ‘originator control’ over classified information which it has created. The originator's prior written consent shall be sought before the information can be:
 - a) declassified;
 - b) used for purposes other than those established by the originator;
 - c) released to a third country or international organisation;
 - d) disclosed to a party outside the ECCC but within the EU; or
 - e) disclosed to a contractor or prospective contractor located in a third country.
2. Holders of classified information have been given access to the classified information in order to be able to perform their duties. They are responsible for the correct handling, storage and protection of it in accordance with this Decision. Unlike originators of classified information, holders shall not be authorised to decide on the downgrade, declassification or onward release of classified information.
3. If the originator of a classified document cannot be identified, the ECCC department holding that document shall exercise originator control.

Article 32
Downgrading and declassification of EUCI

1. At the time of its creation, the originator shall indicate, where possible, whether EUCI can be downgraded or declassified on a given date or following a specific event.

2. Each ECCC department shall regularly review EUCI for which it is the originator to ascertain whether the classification level still applies. A system to review the classification level of all EUCI which has originated in ECCC no less frequently than every five years shall be established. Such a review shall not be necessary where the originator has indicated from the outset that the information will automatically be downgraded or declassified and the information has been marked accordingly.
3. Information classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED having originated in ECCC will be considered to be automatically declassified after thirty years.

Article 33

EUCI registry in ECCC

1. An EUCI registry shall be established to ensure that the EUCI at the levels of CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET UE/EU SECRET is handled in accordance with this Decision.
2. The EUCI registry shall be established as a Secured Area as defined in Chapter 3 and accredited by the ECCC's Security Accreditation Authority (SAA).

Article 34

Registry control officer

1. The EUCI registry shall be managed by the Registry Control Officer ('RCO').
2. The RCO shall be appropriately security-cleared.
3. The RCO shall be subject to the supervision of the ECCC Security Officer, as far as the application of the provisions regarding the handling of EUCI documents and compliance with the relevant security rules, standards and guidelines is concerned.
4. Within his/her responsibility for managing the EUCI registry, the RCO shall assume the following overall tasks in accordance with this Decision and the relevant implementing rules, standards and guidelines:
 - a) manage operations relating to the registration, preservation, reproduction, translation, transmission, dispatch and destruction or transfer to the historical archives service of EUCI,
 - b) verify periodically the need to maintain the classification of information,
 - c) assume any other tasks related to the protection of EUCI defined in implementing rules.

Article 35

Registration of EUCI for security purposes

1. For the purposes of this Decision, registration for security purposes (hereinafter referred to as ‘registration’) means the application of procedures which record the life-cycle of EUCI, including its dissemination.
2. All information or material classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and above shall be registered in the designated EUCI registry when it is created, received in or dispatched from an ECCC organisational entity.
3. When EUCI is handled or stored using a Communication and Information System (CIS), registration procedures may be performed by processes within the CIS itself.
4. More detailed provisions concerning the registration of EUCI for security purposes shall be laid down in implementing rules.

Article 36

Copying and translating EU classified documents

1. Where the originator of classified documents has not imposed caveats on their copying or translation, such documents may be copied or translated on instruction from the holder.
2. The security measures applicable to the original document shall apply to copies and translations thereof.

Article 37

Carriage of EUCI

1. EUCI shall be carried in such a way as to protect it from unauthorised disclosure during its carriage.
2. Carriage of EUCI shall be subject to the protective measures, which shall:
 - a) be commensurate with the level of classification of the EUCI carried, and
 - b) be adapted to the specific conditions of its carriage, in particular depending on whether EUCI is carried:
 - i. within a ECCC building or a self-contained group of ECCC buildings,
 - ii. within the Union,
 - iii. from within the Union to the territory of a third State, and
 - iv. be adapted to the nature and form of the EUCI.

3. These protective measures shall be laid down, in detail in implementing rules, or, in case of projects and programmes referred to in Article 48, as an integral part of the relevant Programme or Project Security Instructions (PSI).
4. The implementing rules or PSI shall include provisions commensurate with the level of EUCI, regarding:
 - a) the type of carriage, such as hand carriage, carriage by diplomatic or military courier, carriage by postal services or commercial courier services,
 - b) packaging of EUCI,
 - c) technical countermeasures for EUCI carried on electronic media,
 - d) any other procedural, physical or electronic measure,
 - e) registration procedures,
 - f) use of security authorised personnel.
5. When EUCI is carried on electronic media, and notwithstanding Article 23, paragraph 5, the protective measures set out in the relevant implementing rules may be supplemented by appropriate technical countermeasures approved by the ECCC Security Officer so as to minimise the risk of loss or compromise.

Article 38

Destruction of EUCI

1. EU classified documents which are no longer required may be destroyed, taking account of regulations on archives and of the ECCC's rules and regulations on document management and archiving, and in particular with the ECCC Specific Retention List.
2. EUCI of the level of CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and above shall be destroyed by the RCO of the EUCI registry on instruction from the holder or from a competent authority. The RCO shall update the logbooks and other registration information accordingly.
3. For documents classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET such destruction shall be performed by the RCO in the presence of a witness who shall be cleared to at least the SECRET UE/EU SECRET level;
4. The RCO and the witness, where the presence of the latter is required, shall sign a destruction certificate, which shall be filed in the EUCI registry. The RCO of the EUCI registry shall keep destruction certificates of documents classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET for a period of at least five years.
5. Classified documents shall be destroyed by methods which shall be defined in implementing rules and which shall meet relevant EU or equivalent standards.

6. Computer storage media used for EUCI shall be destroyed in accordance with procedures laid down in implementing rules.

Article 39

Destruction of EUCI in emergencies

1. ECCC departments holding EUCI shall prepare plans based on local conditions for the safeguarding of EU classified material in a crisis including if necessary emergency destruction and evacuation plans. They shall promulgate instructions deemed necessary to prevent EUCI from falling into unauthorised hands.
2. The arrangements for the safeguarding and/or destruction of CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL material in a crisis shall under no circumstances adversely affect the safeguarding or destruction of SECRET UE/EU SECRET material, including the enciphering equipment, whose treatment shall take priority over all other tasks.
3. In the event of an emergency, if there is an imminent risk of unauthorised disclosure, EUCI shall be destroyed by the holder in such a way that it cannot be reconstructed in whole or in part. The originator and originating EUCI registry shall be informed of the emergency destruction of registered EUCI.

CHAPTER 5 - PROTECTION OF EU CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CIS)

Article 40

Basic principles of Information Assurance

1. Information Assurance (IA) in the field of communication and information systems is the confidence that such systems will protect the information they handle and will function as they need to, when they need to, under the control of legitimate users.
2. Effective Information Assurance shall ensure appropriate levels of:
 - Authenticity: the guarantee that information is genuine and from bona fide sources;
 - Availability: the property of being accessible and usable upon request by an authorised entity;
 - Confidentiality: the property that information is not disclosed to unauthorised individuals, entities or processes;
 - Integrity: the property of safeguarding the accuracy and completeness of assets and information;

Non-repudiation: the ability to prove an action or event has taken place, so that this event or action cannot subsequently be denied.

3. IA shall be based on a risk management process.

Article 41
Definitions

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (a) ‘Communication and Information System’ (CIS) means any system enabling the handling of information in electronic form. A communication and information system shall comprise the entire assets required for it to operate, including the infrastructure, organisation, personnel and information resources;
- (b) ‘Residual risk’ means the risk which remains after security measures have been implemented, given that not all threats are countered and not all vulnerabilities can be eliminated;
- (c) ‘Risk’ means the potential that a given threat will exploit internal and external vulnerabilities of an organisation or of any of the systems it uses and thereby cause harm to the organisation and to its tangible or intangible assets. It is measured as a combination of the likelihood of threats occurring and their impact;
- (d) ‘Risk acceptance’ is the decision to agree to the further existence of a residual risk after risk treatment;
- (e) ‘Risk assessment’ consists of identifying threats and vulnerabilities and conducting the related risk analysis, i.e. the analysis of probability and impact;
- (f) ‘Risk communication’ consists of developing awareness of risks among CIS user communities, informing approval authorities of such risks and reporting them to operating authorities;
- (g) ‘Risk treatment’ consists of mitigating, removing, reducing (through an appropriate combination of technical, physical, organisational or procedural measures), transferring or monitoring the risk.

Article 42
CIS handling EUCI

2. CIS shall handle EUCI in accordance with the concept of IA.
3. For CIS handling EUCI, compliance with the Commission's information systems security policy, as referred to in Commission Decision 2017/46⁽¹⁴⁾, implies that:
 - (a) the security needs must be identified through a business impact assessment;
 - (b) the information system and the data therein must undergo a formal asset classification;

¹⁴ COMMISSION DECISION (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

- (c) all mandatory security measures as determined by the policy on security of information systems must be implemented;
 - (d) a risk management process must be applied, consisting of the following steps: threat and vulnerability identification, risk assessment, risk treatment, risk acceptance and risk communication;
 - (e) a security plan, including the Security Policy and the Security Operating Procedures, is defined, implemented, checked and reviewed.
4. All staff involved in the design, development, testing, operation, management or usage of CIS handling EUCI shall notify to the SAA all potential security weaknesses, incidents, breaches of security or compromise which may have an impact on the protection of the CIS and/or the EUCI therein.
5. Where the protection of EUCI is provided by cryptographic products, preference shall be given to products which have been approved by the Council or by the Secretary-General of the Council in its function as crypto approval authority of the Council, upon recommendation of the Commission's Security Expert Group.
6. During transmission, processing and storage of EUCI by electronic means, approved cryptographic products shall be used. Notwithstanding this requirement, specific procedures may be applied under emergency circumstances or in specific technical configurations after approval by the CAA.
7. Security measures shall be implemented to protect CIS handling information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above against compromise of such information through unintentional electromagnetic emanations ('TEMPEST security measures'). Such security measures shall be commensurate with the risk of exploitation and the level of classification of the information.

Article 43

Accreditation of CIS handling EUCI

1. All CIS handling EUCI shall undergo an accreditation process, based upon the principles of IA, whose level of detail must be commensurate with the level of protection required.
2. The accreditation process shall include the formal validation by the SAA of the ECCC of the Security Plan for the CIS concerned in order to obtain assurance that:
 - (a) the risk management process, as referenced in Article 42(2), has been properly carried out;
 - (b) the System Owner has knowingly accepted the residual risk; and
 - (c) a sufficient level of protection of the CIS, and of the EUCI handled in it, has been achieved in accordance with this decision.

3. The SAA for ECCC shall issue an accreditation statement which determines the maximum classification level of the EUCI that may be handled in the CIS as well as the corresponding terms and conditions for operation.
4. A joint Security Accreditation Board (SAB) shall be responsible for accrediting ECCC's CIS involving several parties. It shall be composed of an SAA representative of each party involved and be chaired by an SAA representative of ECCC.
5. The accreditation process shall consist of a series of tasks to be assumed by the parties involved. The responsibility for the preparation of the accreditation files and documentation shall rest entirely upon the CIS System Owner.
6. The accreditation shall be the responsibility of the SAA, who, at any moment in the life cycle of the CIS, shall have the right to:
 - (a) require that an accreditation process be applied;
 - (b) audit or inspect the CIS;
 - (c) where conditions for operation are no any longer satisfied, require the definition and effective implementation of a security improvement plan within a well-defined timescale, potentially withdrawing permission to operate the CIS until conditions for operation are again satisfied.

Article 44

Emergency circumstances

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Chapter, the specific procedures described below may be applied in an emergency, such as during impending or actual crisis, conflict, war situations or in exceptional operational circumstances.
2. EUCI may be transmitted using cryptographic products which have been approved for a lower classification level or without encryption with the consent of the competent authority if any delay would cause harm clearly outweighing the harm entailed by any disclosure of the classified material and if:
 - (a) the sender and recipient do not have the required encryption facility; and
 - (b) the classified material cannot be conveyed in time by other means.
3. Classified information transmitted under the circumstances set out in paragraph 1 shall not bear any markings or indications distinguishing it from information which is unclassified or which can be protected by an available cryptographic product. Recipients shall be notified of the classification level, without delay, by other means.
4. A subsequent report shall be made to the Commission Security Authority and to the ECCC Security Authority.

CHAPTER 6 – INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Article 45

Basic principles

1. Industrial security is the application of measures to ensure the protection of EUCI
 - (a) within the framework of classified contracts, by:
 - (i) candidates or tenderers throughout the tendering and contracting procedure;
 - (ii) contractors or subcontractors throughout the life-cycle of classified contracts;
 - (b) within the framework of classified grant agreements, by
 - (i) applicants during grant award procedures;
 - (ii) beneficiaries or subcontractors throughout the life-cycle of classified grant agreements.
2. Such contracts or grant agreements shall not involve information classified TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET.
3. Unless stated otherwise, provisions in this Chapter referring to classified contracts or contractors shall be applicable also to classified subcontracts or subcontractors.

Article 46

Definitions

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) ‘Classified contract’ means a framework contract or contract, as referred to in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁽¹⁵⁾, entered into by ECCC or one of its departments, with a contractor for the supply of movable or immovable assets, the execution of works or the provision of services, the performance of which requires or involves the creation, handling or storing of EUCI;
- (b) ‘Classified subcontract’ means a contract entered into by a contractor of ECCC or one of its departments, with another contractor (i.e. the subcontractor) for the supply of movable or immovable assets, the execution of works or the provision of services, the performance of which requires or involves the creation, handling or storing of EUCI;

¹⁵ 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 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

- (c) ‘Classified grant agreement’ means an agreement whereby ECCC awards a grant, as referred to in Part I, Title VIII, of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046¹⁶, the performance of which requires or involves the creation, handling or storing of EUCI;
- (d) ‘Designated Security Authority’ (DSA) means an authority responsible to the National Security Authority (NSA) of a Member State which is responsible for communicating to industrial or other entities national policy on all matters of industrial security and for providing direction and assistance in its implementation. The function of DSA may be carried out by the NSA or by any other competent authority.

Article 47

Procedure for classified contracts or grant agreements

1. ECCC, as contracting or granting authority, shall ensure that the minimum standards on industrial security set out in this Chapter, are referred to or incorporated in the contract or grant agreement, and complied with when awarding classified contracts or grant agreements.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the competent services within ECCC may seek the advice of the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security of the European Commission, and in particular its Security Directorate, and shall ensure that model contracts and subcontracts and model grant agreements include provisions reflecting the basic principles and minimum standards for protecting EUCI to be complied with by contractors and their subcontractors within classified contracts, and by beneficiaries and their subcontractors within the classified grant agreements.
3. ECCC shall closely cooperate with the NSAs, DSAs or any other competent authorities of the Member States concerned and with the relevant Commission services.
4. When an ECCC contracting or granting authority intends to launch a procedure aimed at concluding a classified contract or grant agreement, it shall seek the advice of the ECCC Security Officer on issues regarding the classified nature and elements of the procedure, during all its stages.
5. Templates for and models of classified contracts and subcontracts, classified grant agreements, contract notices, guidance on the circumstances where Facility Security Clearances (FSCs) are required, Programme or Project Security Instructions (PSI), Security Aspects Letters (SALs), visits, transmission and carriage of EUCI under classified contracts or classified grant agreements shall be based on Commission decisions laying down

¹⁶ 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 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

implementing rules on industrial security with regard to classified contracts and classified grants.

6. ECCC may conclude classified contracts or grant agreements which entrust tasks involving or entailing access to or the handling or storage of EUCI by economic operators registered in a Member State or in a third state, or by an international organisation, with which the European Union has concluded a security of information agreement.

Article 48

Security elements in a classified contract or grant agreement

1. Classified contracts or grant agreements shall include a Security Aspects Letter that contains a Security Classification Guide, and may additionally include a Programme or Project Security Instruction.

Security Aspects Letter

- (a) ‘Security Aspects Letter’ (SAL) means a set of special contractual conditions, issued by the contracting or granting authority, which forms an integral part of any classified contract or classified grant agreement involving access to or the creation of EUCI, that identifies the security requirements and those elements of the contract or grant agreement requiring security protection.
- (b) The contract or grant agreement-specific security requirements shall be described in a SAL. The SAL shall contain the Security Classification Guide (‘SCG’) and shall be an integral part of a classified contract or sub-contract, or grant agreement.
- (c) The SAL shall contain the provisions requiring the contractor or beneficiary to comply with the minimum standards laid down in this Decision. The contracting or granting authority shall ensure the SAL indicates that non-compliance with these minimum standards may constitute sufficient grounds for the contract or the grant agreement to be terminated.

Programme or Project Security Instructions

- (a) ‘Programme or Project Security Instruction’ (PSI) means a list of security procedures which are applied to a specific programme or project in order to standardise security procedures. It may be revised throughout the programme or project.
- (b) Based on models of PSIs as developed by the Directorate-General Human Resources and Security of the European Commission, ECCC departments responsible for programmes or projects involving handling or storage of EUCI may develop, where appropriate, specific PSIs.
- (c) A specific PSI shall be developed in particular for programmes and projects characterised by their considerable scope, scale or complexity, or by the multitude and/or the diversity of contractors, beneficiaries and other partners and stakeholders involved, for instance as

regards their legal status. The specific PSI shall be developed by the ECCC department(s) managing the programme or project, in close cooperation with the ECCC Security Officer.

(d) The ECCC Security Officer shall submit the specific PSIs for advice to the Commission.

2. The SAL shall include a SCG as a mandatory security element:

- (a) ‘Security Classification Guide’ (SCG) means a document which describes the elements of a programme, project, contract or grant agreement which are classified, specifying the applicable security classification levels. The SCG may be expanded throughout the life of the programme, project, contract or grant agreement and the elements of information may be re-classified or downgraded.
- (b) Prior to launching a call for tender or letting a classified contract, or launching a call for proposals or signing a grant agreement, ECCC, as contracting or granting authority, shall determine the security classification of any information to be provided to candidates, tenderers or contractors, or to applicants or beneficiaries, as well as the security classification of any information to be created by the contractor or beneficiary. For that purpose, it shall prepare an SCG to be used for the performance of the contract or grant agreement, in accordance with this Decision and its implementing rules, after consulting the ECCC Security Officer.
- (c) In order to determine the security classification of the various elements of a classified contract or grant agreement, the following principles shall apply:
 - (i) in preparing an SCG, ECCC, as the contracting or granting authority, shall take into account all relevant security aspects, including the security classification assigned to information provided and approved to be used for the contract or grant agreement by the originator of the information;
 - (ii) the overall level of classification of the contract or grant agreement may not be lower than the highest classification of any of its elements; and
 - (iii) where relevant, the ECCC contracting or granting authority shall liaise, through its Security Officer, with the Member States' NSAs, DSAs or any other competent security authority concerned in the event of any changes regarding the classification of information created by or provided to contractors or beneficiaries in the performance of a contract or grant agreement and when making any subsequent changes to the SCG.

Article 49

Access to EUCI for contractors' and beneficiaries' staff

ECCC shall ensure that the classified contract or classified grant agreement includes provisions indicating that staff of a contractor, subcontractor or beneficiary who, for the performance of the classified contract, subcontract or grant agreement, require access to EUCI, shall be granted such access only if:

- (a) they have been security authorised to the relevant level and their need-to-know has been determined;

- (b) they have been briefed on the applicable security rules for protecting EUCI, and have acknowledged their responsibilities with regard to protecting such information;
- (c) they have been security cleared at the relevant level for information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET by the respective NSA, DSA or any other competent authority.

Article 50

Facility security clearance

1. ‘Facility Security Clearance’ (FSC) means an administrative determination by an NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority that, from the security viewpoint, a facility can afford an adequate level of protection to EUCI to a specified security classification level.
2. An FSC granted by the NSA or DSA or any other competent security authority of a Member State to indicate, in accordance with national laws and regulations, that an economic operator can protect EUCI at the appropriate classification level (CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET) within its facilities, shall be presented to the ECCC Security Authority, which will forward it to the ECCC department acting as the contracting or granting authority, before a candidate, tenderer or contractor, or grant applicant or beneficiary may be provided with or granted access to EUCI.
3. Where relevant, the contracting or granting authority shall notify, through the ECCC Security Authority, the appropriate NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority that an FSC is required for performing the contract of grant agreement. An FSC or PSC shall be required where EUCI classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET has to be provided in the course of the procurement or grant award procedure.
4. The contracting or granting department shall not sign a classified contract or a grant agreement to a preferred bidder or participant before having received confirmation from the NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority of the Member State in which the contractor or beneficiary concerned is registered that, where required, an appropriate FSC has been issued, or, where a classified contract or grant agreement is awarded to a consortium, until the NSA or DSA of at least one tenderer or applicant, within the consortium, or more if necessary, has confirmed that tenderer’s or applicant’s FSC.
5. When the ECCC Security Authority has been notified by the NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority which has issued an FSC about changes affecting the FSC, it shall inform the ECCC department, acting as contracting or granting authority. In the case of a sub-contract, the NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority shall be informed accordingly.
6. Withdrawal of an FSC by the relevant NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority shall constitute sufficient grounds for ECCC contracting or granting authority to terminate a classified contract or grant agreement or exclude a candidate, tenderer or applicant from the

competition. A provision to that effect shall be included in the model contracts and grant agreements to be developed.

Article 51

Provisions for classified contracts and grant agreements

1. Where EUCI is provided to a candidate, tenderer or applicant during the procurement or grant award procedure, the call for tender or call for proposal shall contain a provision obliging the candidate, tenderer or applicant failing to submit a tender or proposal or who is not selected, to return all classified documents within a specified period of time.
2. ECCC Security Authority shall notify the competent NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority about the signature of classified contracts, grant agreements or subcontracts by providing relevant data, such as the name of the contractor(s) or beneficiaries, the duration of the contract and the maximum level of classification, and about any extensions or early terminations of such contracts, grant agreements or subcontracts.
3. As a general rule, the contractor or grant beneficiary shall be required to return to the contracting or granting authority, upon termination of the classified contract or the grant agreement, or of the participation of a grant beneficiary, any EUCI held by it.
4. Specific provisions for the disposal of EUCI during the performance of the classified contract or the classified grant agreement or upon its termination shall be laid down in the SAL.
5. Where the contractor or grant beneficiary is authorised to retain EUCI after termination of a classified contract or grant agreement, the minimum standards contained in this Decision shall continue to be complied with and the confidentiality of EUCI shall be protected by the contractor or the grant beneficiary.

Article 52

Specific provisions for classified contracts or grant agreements

1. The conditions relevant for the protection of EUCI under which the contractor or beneficiary may subcontract shall be defined in the call for tender or call for proposals, and in the classified contract or grant agreement.
2. A contractor or beneficiary shall obtain permission from the contracting or granting authority, before sub-contracting any parts of a classified contract or grant agreement. No subcontract involving access to EUCI may be awarded to subcontractors registered in a third country with which the European Union has not concluded a security of information agreement.
3. The contractor or beneficiary shall be responsible for ensuring that all sub-contracting activities are undertaken in accordance with the minimum standards laid down in this Decision and shall not provide EUCI to a subcontractor without the prior written consent of the contracting or granting authority.

4. With regard to EUCI created or handled by the contractor or beneficiary, ECCC or the Commission department delegating the management of EU programmes to ECCC, if the delegation arrangements so provide, shall be considered to be the originator, and the rights incumbent on the originator shall be exercised by the contracting or granting authority.

Article 53

Visits in connection with classified contracts

1. Where a ECCC staff member or contractors' or grant beneficiaries' personnel require access to information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET in each other's premises for the performance of a classified contract or grant agreement, visits shall be arranged in liaison with the NSAs, DSAs or any other competent security authority concerned. The ECCC Security Authority shall be informed of such visits. However, in the context of specific programmes or projects, the NSAs, DSAs or any other competent security authority may also agree on a procedure whereby such visits can be arranged directly.
2. All visitors shall hold an appropriate security clearance and have a 'need-to-know' for access to the EUCI related to the classified contract or grant agreement.
3. Visitors shall be given access only to EUCI related to the purpose of the visit.
4. Visitors will be also required to apply more detailed provisions on visits that are set out in Commission decisions laying down implementing rules on industrial security with regard to classified contracts and classified grants.
5. Compliance with the provisions regarding visits in connection with classified contracts or grant agreements, set out in this Decision and in the implementing rules referred to in paragraph 4, shall be mandatory.

Article 54

Transmission and carriage of EUCI in connection with classified contracts or classified grant agreements

1. With regard to the transmission of EUCI by electronic means, the relevant provisions of Chapter 5 of this Decision shall apply.
2. With regard to the carriage of EUCI, the relevant provisions of Chapter 4 of this Decision and its implementing rules shall apply, in accordance with national laws and regulations.
3. For the transport of classified material as freight, the following principles shall be applied when determining security arrangements:
 - a) security shall be assured at all stages during transportation from the point of origin to the final destination;
 - b) the degree of protection afforded to a consignment shall be determined by the highest classification level of material contained within it;

- c) prior to any cross-border movement of material classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET, a transportation plan shall be drawn up by the consignor and approved by the NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority concerned;
- d) journeys shall be point to point to the extent possible, and shall be completed as quickly as circumstances permit;
- e) whenever possible, routes should be only through Member States. Routes through States other than Member States should only be undertaken when authorised by the NSA, DSA or any other competent security authority of the States of both the consignor and the consignee.

Article 55

Transfer of EUCI to contractors or grant beneficiaries located in third states

EUCI shall be transferred to contractors or grant beneficiaries located in third States in accordance with security measures agreed between the ECCC Security Authority and the NSA, DSA or other competent security authority of the concerned third country where the contractor or grant beneficiary is registered.

Article 56

Handling of information classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED in the context of classified contracts or classified grant agreements

1. Protection of information classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED handled or stored under classified contracts or grant agreements shall be based on the principles of proportionality and cost-effectiveness.
2. No FSC or PSC shall be required in the context of classified contracts or classified grant agreements involving the handling of information classified at the level of RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED.
3. Where a contract or grant agreement involves handling of information classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED in a CIS operated by a contractor or grant beneficiary, the ECCC contracting authority shall ensure, where necessary after consulting the ECCC Security Authority, that the contract or grant agreement specifies the necessary technical and administrative requirements regarding accreditation or approval of the CIS commensurate with the assessed risk, taking account of all relevant factors. The scope of accreditation or approval of such CIS shall be agreed between the ECCC Security Authority and the relevant NSA or DSA.

CHAPTER 7 – EXCHANGE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITH UNION INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES, BODIES AND OFFICES, WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Article 57

Basic principles

1. Where ECCC determines that there is a need to exchange classified information with international organisations¹⁷, ECCC shall establish an administrative arrangement with the international organisation concerned. Such administrative arrangements may be concluded only with the authorisation of the Governing Board after having consulted the Commission Security Authority. They shall not be binding on the Union or on the Member States.
2. Administrative arrangements involving access to EUCI may only be concluded with the relevant departments of international organisations with which the European Commission already has an Administrative Arrangement¹⁸ or a Security of Information Agreement within the meaning of Chapter 7 of Commission Decision 2015/444.
3. Where ECCC or one of its departments determines there is an exceptional need in the context of a Union political or legal framework to release EUCI to an international organisation, the ECCC Security Officer shall consult the Commission Security Authority.
4. EUCI may only be shared with a Union institution, agency, body or office which has equivalent basic principles and minimum standards for protecting EUCI in place and if there is an appropriate legal or administrative framework.
5. The decision to release EUCI originating in ECCC shall be taken by the ECCC department, as originator of this EUCI within ECCC, on a case-by-case basis, according to the nature and content of such information, the recipient's need-to-know and the measure of advantage to the Union.
6. If the originator of the classified information for which release is desired, or of the source material it may contain, is not ECCC, the ECCC department which holds this classified information shall first seek the originator's written consent to release. If the originator cannot be established, the ECCC department which holds this classified information shall assume the former's responsibility after consulting the Commission Security Authority.
7. Within ECCC, the EUCI registry managed by the RCO shall be the main point of entry and exit for classified information exchanges with other Union institutions, agencies, bodies and offices, Member States and International Organisations. RESTREINT UE/EU

¹⁷ Article 10 (1) of REGULATION (EU) 2021/887 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres

¹⁸ In accordance with Article 56 of Commission Decision 2015/444, as a general rule Administrative Arrangements with third States and international organisations allow the exchange of classified information no higher than RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED.

RESTRICTED information may be exchanged directly between ECCC staff members and their counterparts.

Article 58

Sharing of EUCI with Union institutions, agencies, bodies and offices

1. Before entering into an administrative arrangement for the sharing of EUCI with another Union Institution, agency, body or office, ECCC shall seek assurance that the Union Institution, agency, body or office concerned:
 - (a) has a regulatory framework for the protection of EUCI in place, which lays down basic principles and minimum standards equivalent to those laid down in this Decision and its implementing rules;
 - (b) applies security standards and guidelines regarding personnel security, physical security, management of EUCI and security of Communication and Information Systems (CIS), which guarantee an equivalent level of protection of EUCI as that afforded in the Commission.
 - (c) marks classified information which it creates as EUCI.
2. The ECCC Security Officer shall, in close cooperation with the Commission Security Authority, be the contact point within ECCC for the conclusion of administrative arrangements for the exchange of EUCI with Union institutions, agencies, bodies or offices.
3. Administrative arrangements shall as a general rule take the form of an Exchange of Letters, signed by the Executive Director on behalf of ECCC.
4. Before entering into an administrative arrangement on the exchange of EUCI, the ECCC Security Officer shall ensure that an assessment visit has been conducted aimed at assessing the regulatory framework for protecting EUCI and ascertaining the effectiveness of measures implemented for protecting EUCI. The administrative arrangement shall enter into force, and EUCI shall be exchanged, only if the outcome of this assessment visit is satisfactory and the recommendations made further to the visit have been complied with. Regular follow-up assessment visits shall be conducted to verify that the administrative arrangement is complied with and the security measures in place continue to meet the basic principles and minimum standards agreed.
5. The Executive Director shall be informed of the process of concluding administrative arrangements pursuant to paragraph 2.

Article 59

Sharing of EUCI with Member States

1. EUCI may be shared with Member States provided that they protect that information in accordance with the requirements applicable to classified information bearing a national security classification at the equivalent level as set out in the table of equivalence of security

classifications contained in Annex I of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444, as up-to-date.

2. Where Member States introduce classified information bearing a national security classification marking into the structures or networks of the European Union, ECCC shall protect that information in accordance with the requirements applicable to EUCI at the equivalent level as set out in the table of equivalence of security classifications contained in Annex I of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444, as up-to-date.

Article 60

Exchange of classified information with international organisations

1. Any administrative arrangements established by ECCC within the meaning of Article 57(1) shall ensure that EUCI is given protection appropriate to its classification level and according to minimum standards which are laid down in this Decision.
2. The Commission Security Authority shall be consulted prior to the conclusion of administrative arrangements established within the meaning of Article 57.

Article 61

Exceptional ad hoc release of EUCI

1. Where no administrative arrangement is in place and where the ECCC determines that there is an exceptional need in the context of an Union political or legal framework to release EUCI to another Union institution, agency, body or office or to an international organisation, the ECCC Security Authority shall, to the extent possible, verify with the security authorities of the Union institution, agency, body or office or international organisation concerned that its security regulations, structures and procedures are such that the EUCI released to it will be protected to standards no less stringent than those laid down in this Decision.
2. The decision to release EUCI to the Union institution, agency, body or office or international organisation concerned, shall, after consultation of the Commission Security Authority, be taken by the Executive Director on the basis of a proposal by the ECCC Security Officer.
3. Following the Executive Director's decision to release EUCI and subject to prior written consent of originator, including the originators of source material it may contain, the ECCC registry shall forward the information concerned, which shall bear a releasability marking indicating the Union institution, agency, body or office or international organisation to which it has been released. Prior to or upon actual release, the third party in question shall undertake in writing to protect the EUCI it receives in accordance with the basic principles and minimum standards set out in this Decision.

CHAPTER 8 – FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 62

Implementing rules and security guidelines

1. As necessary, the adoption of the implementing rules for this decision will be the subject of Executive Director decision(s) submitted to the ECCC Governing Board in full compliance with the internal rules of procedure.
2. The Executive Director may instruct the ECCC Security Officer to develop security guidelines and best practices within the scope of this Decision and its implementing rules.
3. The Executive Director may delegate the tasks mentioned in the first and second paragraph of this Article to the Head of Administration by a separate delegation decision, in full compliance with the internal rules of procedure.

Done at Munich, on 10.10.2024

For the European Cybersecurity Industrial,
Technology and Research Competence
Centre

(e-signed)

Pascal Steichen
Chairperson of the Governing Board

ANNEX 1

Categories of staff who may have access to RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED information if needed in order to perform their professional tasks

Categories of ECCC personnel	Access to R-UE/EU-R information	Conditions
Temporary agents	Yes	Briefing + acknowledge + need-to-know
Contractual agents	Yes	Briefing + acknowledge + need-to-know
Seconded national experts (SNEs)	Yes	Briefing (by the ECCC) + acknowledge + need-to-know
Trainees	No	No exceptions possible
Any other category of personnel (interim, intra-muros externals etc.)	No	Consult the ECCC security authority for any exceptions

ANNEX 2

Categories of staff who may have access to CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET UE/EU SECRET information if needed in order to perform their professional tasks

Categories of ECCC personnel	Access to C-UE/EU-C and S-UE/EU-S information	Conditions
Temporary agents	Yes	Vetting + briefing + acknowledge + authorisation + need-to-know
Contractual agents	Yes	Vetting + briefing + acknowledge + authorisation + need-to-know
Seconded national experts (SNEs)	Yes	Only when cleared by EU Member States prior to taking up their assignment + briefed by the ECCC + acknowledge + authorised by the ECCC + need-to-know
Trainees	No	No exceptions possible
Any other category of personnel (interim, intra-muros externals etc.)	No	Consult the ECCC security authority for any exceptions