

**DECISION  
GB(D)11-2022**

**Adopting the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for the year 2021**

**THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SESAR 3 JOINT UNDERTAKING (SESAR 3 JU),**

**Having regard to:**

- The Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014<sup>1</sup> ("Single Basic Act"), and in particular Article 17.2(p), Article 19(e), Article 20.7(g) and Article 26;
- 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<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Articles 6, 71 and 110;
- The Governing Board decision GB(D)01-2021 adopting the SESAR 3 JU Financial Rules and in particular Article 23,

**Whereas:**

- 1) As per Article 23 of the Financial Rules of the SESAR 3 JU, the authorising officer shall report annually to the governing board on the performance of his or her duties for year N-1 in the form of a consolidated annual activity report.
- 2) The SESAR 3 JU has prepared a first draft version of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2021 ("2021 CAAR") on 12 March 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

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- 3) The main focus of this 2021 CAAR are the activities carried out by the SESAR Joint Undertaking (1 January 2021 - 30 November 2021), referenced as SESAR JU. These are assessed against the SESAR JU's relevant legal framework valid at that time. The 2021 CAAR also reports on the activities related to the launch of the Single European ATM Research 3 Joint Undertaking, referenced as SESAR 3 JU.
- 4) This draft 2021 CAAR was submitted to the Governing Board for analysis three times over the period from 12 March to 20 June 2022.
- 5) The comments and recommendations resulting from the Governing Board's analysis have been integrated in the final edition of the 2021 CAAR.
- 6) The SESAR 3 JU also consulted the States' Representative Group (SRG) between 22 April 2022 and 20 May 2022. The SRG delivered a positive opinion on the 2021 CAAR on 19/05/2022.
- 7) The provisional accounts of the SESAR 3 JU for the financial year 2021 were transmitted to the members of the Governing Board on 13 May 2022 and are annexed to this decision.
- 8) The Governing Board has assessed the 2021 CAAR and, having reviewed the document, notes that:
  - The SESAR JU met all its key policy and operational objectives in 2021 as outlined in the Single Programming Document for 2021 to 2023 (2021-2023 SPD);
  - The SESAR JU's key achievements in 2021 were the following:
    - the completion of Release 10 (by September 2021), in line with the Release Plan published in 2019, the initiation of Release 11 and the start of the planning and preparation of Release 12, to be conducted in 2022-2023;
    - the supervision of ongoing projects under the IR-VLD Wave 2, IR-VLD Wave 3, ER 4 and VLD calls for proposals;
    - the organisation of and/or participation in major European and global events related to air traffic management and aviation, including the SESAR Innovation Days and several International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) events;
    - the communication of programme results and the promotion of scientific excellence through the SESAR Digital Academy, the Young Scientist Award;
    - The preparation of the new ATM partnership by establishing its governance structure and establishing relevant rules for its existence.
    - Preparation of the work programmes of the SESAR 3 JU.
    - Ensuring efficiency full continuity of operations between the two legal entities of SESAR JU and SESAR 3 JU.
  - With these achievements, the SESAR JU completed its work programme for 2021; the performance indicators show targets having been met;
  - In the context of the COVID-19 crisis and its financial impact on the SESAR JU Members, the JU has put in place a series of budgetary measures following a discussion supported at the Administrative Board's meeting of 7 May 2020. These measures aim to provide the Members and the aviation sector with immediate cash-flow support. In 2021, in continuation of the measures implemented in 2020, these measures will take the form of:

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- an increase in pre-financing rates from 20 % to 40 % for projects under the VLD Open call 2 and from 60 % to 80 % for projects under the IR-VLD Wave 2 (pre-financing of second instalments) and Wave 3 restricted calls;
  - a temporary reduction of 20 % in the cash contributions requested from the Members other than the EU and Eurocontrol for the SESAR JU's running costs. The overall due amount will be regularised later on, on the basis of the actual accepted in-kind contribution costs of each of these Members under the SESAR 2020 Programme.
  - The required building blocks of assurance remained in place throughout 2021 and continued to work adequately: management assessment, registration of exceptions and non-compliance events, audits, internal control and management systems, etc.
  - The main risks to the delivery of the SESAR JU's key objectives were identified and the relevant mitigating measures taken, keeping overall risks under control and at an acceptable level of criticality.
- 9) Consequently, the Governing Board concludes that the 2021 CAAR accurately and adequately describes the work performed by the SESAR JU and the SESAR 3 JU in 2021.

### HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### Article 1

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2021, annexed to this decision, provides a true, fair and detailed view of the activities of the SESAR JU and SESAR 3 JU realised during the year 2021 and is hereby adopted.

#### Article 2

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2021 shall be transmitted to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and to the Council by the Executive Director *ad interim* on behalf of the Governing Board, in accordance with the provisions of the SESAR 3 JU Financial Rules.

#### Article 3

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

Done in Brussels, 27 June 2022.

For the Governing Board

**Governing Board**



The Chairperson

Henrik Hololei

Annexes:        SESAR 3 JU Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2021.  
                     Provisional accounts of the SESAR 3 JU - Financial Year 2021