



## Joint Press Release

# ON THE MEETING OF THE A400M PROGRAMME AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE

On the 22nd June 2009 The Ministers of Defence of the seven nations participating in the European programme A400M , – Belgium, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom –, met to receive and analyse the results reached by the Group of Experts set by the Nations to examine the status of the programme and its way forward.

As originally conceived, the A400M programme has proven to be a far greater challenge for industry than previously anticipated, suffering significant deviations from the initial forecast. In order to rebuild the confidence that the programme objectives can be delivered within an acceptable level of risk, the nations and industry agreed in April 2009 to a standstill period. During this period a group of experts from the nations have scrutinised the programme, arriving at the conclusion that subject to the fulfilment by industry of certain conditions, the A400M is still a feasible programme.

During the aforesaid standstill period, the Nations and industry have been exploring a commercial, technological and managerial framework, within which the new terms and conditions of any possible negotiation might be contained. A number of issues still need to be resolved, before a negotiation phase can be entered.

Therefore, in order to ensure ourselves that the conditions offered by industry fully satisfy the Nations, it has been decided to allow, in agreement with industry, an extension to the standstill period, with a decision being taken by Partner Nations by the end of July.