

Governing Board

**DECISION
GB(D)06-2023**

Approving the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for the year 2022

**Opinion on Final Annual Accounts of the SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking
Financial Year 2022**

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 642/2014¹ (“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 966/2012², 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 and Article 52(2) and (3) thereof;
- The Governing Board decision GB(D) 19-2022 appointing Ms. Andrea Toth (Clean Aviation JU) as the accounting officer of the SESAR 3 JU as of 1 December 2022.

Whereas:

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17

² OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

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- 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 2022 (“2022 CAAR”) that was submitted to the Governing Board for analysis over the period from 22 March to 14 April 2023.
- 3) The comments and recommendations resulting from the Governing Board's analysis have been integrated in the final edition of the 2022 CAAR.
- 4) The SESAR 3 JU consulted the States’ Representative Group (SRG) between 5 May 2023 and 26 May 2023. The SRG delivered a positive opinion on the 2022 CAAR.
- 5) The SESAR 3 JU consulted the Scientific Committee (SC) between 5 May 2023 and 26 May 2023 and expressed recommendations for future activities: seeking closer collaboration between Exploratory Research and Industrial Research and strengthening the collaborations with international scientific and industry associations.
- 6) The GB has assessed the 2022 CAAR, and notes the following:
 - The SESAR 3 JU met all of its key policy and operational objectives in 2022 as outlined in the 2022-2023 BAWP.
 - For the SESAR 2020 programme, the SESAR 3 JU’s key achievements in 2022 were the following:
 - completion of release 11, in line with the release plan published in 2020,
 - initiation of release 12 based on the plan published at the end of 2021,
 - supervision of active projects under the IR VLD wave 2, IR VLD wave 3, ER4 and VLD calls for proposals, management of related grant agreements and closure of some of these grants.
 - For the Digital European Sky programme, the SESAR 3 JU’s key achievements in 2022 were the following:
 - follow-up of activities as outlined in the European ATM Master Plan (2020 edition), in particular in levels 2 and 3 (the ‘implementation view’),
 - preparation and launch of two calls, one under exploratory research (S3 ER1) and one under industrial research (S3 IR1),
 - provision of technical expertise to CINEA for the preparation, evaluation and supervision of two calls relating to SESAR DSDs (DSD01a and DSD01b).
 - Over 2022, the SESAR 3 JU carried out a range of corporate and back-end services to support the aforementioned operational activities. These services were carried out efficiently and effectively in line with best practices,

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standards and applicable regulatory frameworks. The following are the SESAR 3 JU's key achievements in 2022 in this domain:

- promotion of the SESAR 3 JU partnership and showcasing its results through events, publications and digital media,
 - familiarisation of audiences with the flagship areas of work, enlarged membership and strengthened partnerships,
 - organisation of and/or participation in major European and global events related to ATM and aviation, including the SESAR Innovation Days, the SESAR 3 JU Annual Conference and several ICAO events,
 - communication of programme results and the promotion of scientific excellence through the SESAR Digital Academy and the SESAR Young Scientist Award,
 - provision of guidance to members and projects (beneficiaries) and monitoring of their compliance with obligations and commitments to communicate, disseminate and exploit project outcomes within the framework of the partnership, Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe,
 - effective and efficient financial, administrative, legal and corporate management of the SESAR 3 JU through the implementation of internal control principles and systematic quality assurance activities, and through synergies, where applicable,
 - adoption of a simplified and strengthened MP approach that preserves the strategic value of the Master Plan.
- With these achievements, the SESAR 3 JU completed its work programme for 2022; the performance indicators show targets having been met³;
 - The required building blocks of assurance remained in place throughout 2022 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 3 JU's key objectives were identified and the relevant mitigating measures taken, keeping overall risks under control and at an acceptable level of criticality.
- 7) Consequently, the Governing Board concludes that the 2022 CAAR accurately and adequately describes the work performed by the SESAR 3 JU in 2022.
- 8) On 26 May 2023, the Court of Auditors has provided its observations on the SESAR 3 JU provisional accounts for the year 2022 in accordance to Article 52(2) of the SESAR 3 JU Financial Rules.
- 9) According to the Court of Auditors, these provisional accounts present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of SESAR 3 JU at 31 December 2022, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in net assets for 2022 in accordance with Article 47 of its Financial Rules and with accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer.

³ The assessment of the performance of the indicators is available in the 2022 CAAR annexed here.

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- 10) On 22 March 2023, the SESAR 3 JU provided its provisional accounts for the financial year 2022 to the Governing Board for information.
- 11) Article 52(3) of the SESAR 3 JU Financial Rules states that upon receipt of the Court of Auditor's observations on the provisional accounts, the Executive Director shall send the final accounts drawn up by the accounting officer to the Governing Board. Based on the opinion of the Governing Board on these accounts, the Executive Director shall send the final accounts, together with the opinion of the Governing Board, to the accounting officer of the Commission, the Court of Auditors, the European Parliament and the Council, by 1 July of the following financial year
- 12) The annual accounts of the SESAR 3 JU for the financial year 2022 are annexed to this decision as Annex II.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2022, annexed to this decision, provides a true, fair and detailed view of the activities of the SESAR 3 JU realised during the year 2022 and is hereby approved.

Article 2

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2022 shall be transmitted to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and to the Council by the Executive Director on behalf of the Governing Board, in accordance with the provisions of the SESAR 3 JU Financial Rules.

Article 3

The Governing Board gives a positive opinion on "Final Annual Accounts of the SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking Financial Year 2022" attached hereto as Annex II. The Governing Board acknowledges that these final accounts include a revision of the accruals for the in-kind contributions of 19 Members of the SESAR JU for the financial year 2022 as a result of :

- the submission of their estimates and the actuals respectively in January and April 2023 and
- other relevant data (pertaining mainly to correction of the accruals based on the cost claims received).

Article 4

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

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Done in Brussels, 26 June 2023.



For the Governing Board
The Chairperson

F. Cornelis

Annexes: SESAR 3 JU Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2022
 Annual accounts of the SESAR 3 JU - Financial Year 2022