

DEFENCE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

25 November 2009

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. At the Defence Ministerial Committee meeting on 25 November 2009, the Committee received an update on progress to develop a Departmental Strategy for Acquisition Reform and discussed some of the emerging findings in the development of some of the chapters in the Green Paper that would be prepared, ahead of the Defence Review that would follow the next General Election.
2. At the start of the meeting the Secretary of State briefed the Committee on the outcome of recent Cabinet level discussions that had been held on the affordability of the Department's programme.
3. On Acquisition Reform, the Committee welcomed the update it received from Min(SDAR). The Committee noted its content and in doing so:
 - a. agreed on the Strategy's strategic goal of Equipment and Equipment Support Programmes which remained aligned with Defence Strategy, which were affordable against the planning horizon, and whose constituent projects and programmes were realistically deliverable to performance, cost and time forecasts;
 - b. recognised the importance of building on the work of previous effective acquisition reform programmes to create a new strategy that, amongst other things: improved top level decision making about the EP/ESP; improved equipment delivery and in-service support; and had support from HMT and Number 10; and
 - c. acknowledged the serious challenges that lay ahead in achieving the Strategy's strategic goal.
4. On the Green Paper, the Committee welcomed the update it received from DG Strategy, noted its content and, subject to some adjustments, agreed to the main recommendations he had made. In doing so the Committee:
 - a. agreed that it was important for the content in the Green Paper to pose the key questions about Defence in a changing world that the forthcoming Defence Review would address; and
 - b. agreed with the general scope of the chapters of the Green Paper under discussion, and stressed the importance of ensuring that the Paper struck the right tone in explaining the complexity of the Department's business in a way that would enhance understanding and stimulate informed debate both internally and externally.

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