

LETTER OF INTENT
BETWEEN
THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
AND
THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
CONCERNING
COOPERATION ON THE F-35 PROGRAM

The signed Ministers,

Acknowledging that the Government of the Czech Republic is currently considering the acquisition and operation of the Lockheed Martin F-35 multirole combat aircraft by the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic through the United States Government;

Acknowledging the role of Italy in the F-35 Program and the existence of the Euro-Mediterranean Final Assembly and Check-out facility and the Euro-Mediterranean Trivalent Hub in Cameri;

Wishing to strengthen defence relations between their States through cooperation in the F-35 Program in case the Czech Government makes the decision to acquire F-35s expected in the second half of 2023 or later;

Taking into account their shared interest to strengthen their individual as well as common defence and security through increasing their defence capabilities; and

Confirming that the Euro-Mediterranean Final Assembly and Check-out facility and the Euro-Mediterranean Trivalent Hub in Cameri can in the years 2032–2034 accommodate the assembly and delivery of 12 out of 24 F-35s to be acquired by the Czech Republic (4 aircraft each year) under the same conditions guaranteed by the Final Assembly and Check-out facility located in the United States (i.e. price, block, quality, equipment etc.);

Hereby express their will to investigate options of possible cooperation on the F-35 Program, focusing mainly on:

- active contribution of the Czech Republic to the reinforcement of the F-35 Program both in the European region and also globally;
- creating solid and common foundations for Czech Republic's collaboration with Italy;
- benefiting from Italy's experience and possible support regarding the transition of Czech Armed Forces to the F-35 system;
- exploring other means of future collaboration, e.g. in the areas of interoperability, training and sustainment of the F-35s.

This Letter of Intent does not constitute any legally binding commitment either to fund or to participate in future cooperation. Each participant is to be responsible for funding its own costs incurred while securing the accomplishment of its own objectives related to the implementation of this Letter of Intent.

Signed in *Toledo*..... on *30/09*..... 2023 in two original copies in the English language.

H.E. Jana ČERNOCHOVÁ

Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic

H.E. Guido CROSETTO

Minister of Defence of the Italian Republic