



## Statement concerning military exercise "AIR DEFENDER 2023"

From 12 June to 23 June 2023 a major military exercise – "AIR DEFENDER 2023" (AD23) – will take place in Germany. The exercise with over 250 aircraft is conducted by the German Armed Forces together with 25 NATO partners and will take place in German and adjacent European airspace. According to official statements, despite all mitigating measures taken, impacts caused by "AD23" on civil air traffic are unavoidable.

EUACA is aware of the exceptional nature of this situation and, within the existing legal framework, will endeavour to proceed as flexibly as possible. As far as disruptions of air operations occur as a consequence of the exercise Airport Coordinators organised within EUACA will act according to the following guidelines:

- Cancellations of flights prevented from being operated as a direct consequence of "AD23", made on the day of operation, will be treated as justified-non-use-of slots (JNUS) based on Art. 10.4 (a) second dash Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 ("*closure of airspace*"). The same goes for cancellations of rotation-related flights, scheduled immediately prior or after the day of operation of flights prevented from being operated as a direct consequence of "AD23".
- Re-timings of flights made as a consequence of "AD23" will be treated with flexibility by Coordinators with regard to the calculation of historic rights.
- Delays which occur as a consequence of "AD23" will not be taken into account for Slot Performance Monitoring including in the context of Art. 14.4 Slot Regulation (Enforcement).

EUACA hopes that this procedure will contribute to mitigating the impact of this unprecedented military exercise on the aviation industry.

9 June 2023

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