

Is PARP legally a military alliance?

Does PARP have the essential characteristics of a military alliance which make it a military alliance all but in name or a 'de facto' military alliance?

Does participation in PARP involve an obligation to support any other State in the event of an armed conflict?

Does participation in PARP involve an obligation to allow another State to use facilities on the territory of the participating State for military purposes under defined circumstances?

Does participation in PARP involve a duty to participate in collective self-defence?

Do the agreements governing participation in PARP constitute a treaty under International Law?



POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY DIVISION
DIVISION DES AFFAIRES POLITIQUES ET POLITIQUE DE SECURITE

PASP(2023)0103/OLA(2023)0012
Brussels, 24 February 2023

Dear Ambassador Tanti,

Thank you for the questions which you transmitted on 16 February 2023 on behalf of your authorities, and for Malta's potential interest in joining the Planning and Review Process (PARP).

In response, we would like to underline and assure you that, in all their cooperative activities and agreements with NATO, partners remain sovereign, and everything they undertake is subject to national decisions.

In particular, under the PARP, it is for each individual partner to propose and agree Partnership Goals, and to decide whether a particular Partnership Goal should form part of its agreed package, taking into account its specific national context, history and policy.

Participation in the PARP does not entail any obligation to contribute to any NATO-led operations or the NATO Response Force. Partner contributions to such undertakings are initiated through separate processes, and, of course, also remain subject to sovereign decision-making by the partner concerned.

PARP participation is not based on an international treaty. Rather, the PARP is open on a voluntary basis to all partners with a partnership programme with NATO. Partnership for Peace (PfP) partners may opt to take part in PARP at any time by completing a PARP Survey (PO(2011)0125, para 26).

Please take this letter as confirmation that the PARP does not impose any legal obligations in defence or operational terms on participating States.

Our letter has also been coordinated with Guus Vroemen, Acting Head of the Planning and Assessment Section, Defence and Security Cooperation Directorate, Operations Division.

Sincerely Yours,

Dirk Pulkowski
Deputy Legal Adviser
Office of Legal Affairs

Laurie Walker
Western European Partners Officer
Political Affairs and Security Policy Division

H.E. Mr Clint TANTI
Head, Mission of Malta to NATO
Rue Archimède, 25
1000 Brussels

North Atlantic Treaty Organization - Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord
Boulevard Léopold III - B-1110 Bruxelles - Belgique
Tel. +32 (0)2 707 41 11