

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

**Florence Parly, minister of the armed forces of France, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, minister of Defense of Germany and Margarita Robles, minister of Defense of Spain are pleased to announce the finalization of the discussions regarding the content of the next phase of the NGWS/FCAS programme, aiming at developing a new generation fighter demonstrator flying by 2027.**

In an increasingly and challenging context where air superiority is severely challenged by fast growing threats, NGWS/FCAS programme (Next Generation Weapon System within a Future Combat Air System) directly contributes to national and European sovereignty and security.

The discussions conducted by DGA<sup>1</sup>, BMVg<sup>2</sup> and DGAM<sup>3</sup> during the last months allowed to achieve a balanced agreement between the different partners for the next step of the demonstration phase of the programme. The related governmental arrangements are now ready to enter the national staffing processes for formal validation.

The NGWS will be composed of a NGF (New Generation Fighter), RCs (Remote Carriers, unmanned aerial platforms) and a Combat Cloud designed to achieve information dominance. Fully integrated in the different national Future Combat Air Systems, the NGWS will be able to achieve operational superiority in highly contested environments.

By integrating state of the art technologies to provide the armed forces with the expected level of performance (propulsion, manoeuvrability, radar sensors, optronics, electronic warfare, connectivity, artificial intelligence, interoperability etc.), NGWS/FCAS will position the participating industries at the cutting edge of innovation in the defence sector.

The industrial organisation of the programme has been set up appropriately to ensure the consistency and the efficiency of the project, leveraging the best skills of each nation industries within a balanced, broad and deep partnership. The implemented cooperation scheme offers an unequalled opportunity to strengthen the technological assets of the three participating countries, while ensuring the best competitiveness of the future system.

This ambitious programme will decisively raise the status of Europe as a reliable and credible security provider as the three participating States will be able to sovereignly act in the strategic common domains.

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<sup>1</sup> DGA : Direction générale de l'armement

<sup>2</sup> BMVg : Bundesministerium der Verteidigung

<sup>3</sup> DGAM : Dirección General de Armamento y Material