



Defence Package: Fact Sheet

General

Europe faces a multitude of challenges today, both internally and externally. Europe's security environment requires a strong European Union, able to promote peace and guarantee the security of its Member States and citizens.

To live up to the expectations of our citizens and also our partners, an ambitious package to reinforce European security and defence policy was endorsed by the European Council in December, based on three key interlinked elements:

(1) The implementation of EU Global Strategy in the field of security and defence, with a new level of ambition and concrete set of actions to fulfil it, as agreed by the Council on 14 November;

(2) The European Defence Action Plan (EDAP), put forward by the European Commission on 30 November, with new financial tools for capability development and defence cooperation in support of European defence industry and technological innovation;

(3) The common set of proposals for the EU-NATO cooperation, based on the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016, and endorsed by both EU and NATO Councils on 6 December.

Implementation of the Global Strategy in the area of security and defence

The EU Global Strategy provides a strategic vision to underpin EU Foreign policy.

On 14 November 2016, High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini presented the EU Global Strategy Implementation Plan on Security and Defence to the Foreign and Defence Ministers, who through Council conclusions agreed on the next steps for its implementation in the area of security and defence. The Council agreed on a new Level of Ambition which defines the political goals that the EU wants to achieve as a security and defence actor.

There are three strategic priorities:

1. Respond to external conflicts and crises, by conducting civilian and military operations or missions more effectively and rapidly.



Photo: Federica Mogherini, in the Black Blade Exercise in the framework of the Distinguished Visitors Day organised by the European Defence Agency

2. Build the capacities of our partners, including by providing training and advice to enable them to take better care of their own security.

3. Protect the Union and its citizens, by contributing with external security and defence tools to tackle challenges and threats that can affect our internal security, such as terrorism, proliferation, smuggling and trafficking, hybrid threats and their root causes.

To achieve these goals, the Council also agreed on the need to:

1. Identify the kind of civilian staff and military troops, equipment and logistics that are potentially needed to carry out the full range of possible CSDP missions and operations, in line with the agreed Level of Ambition.

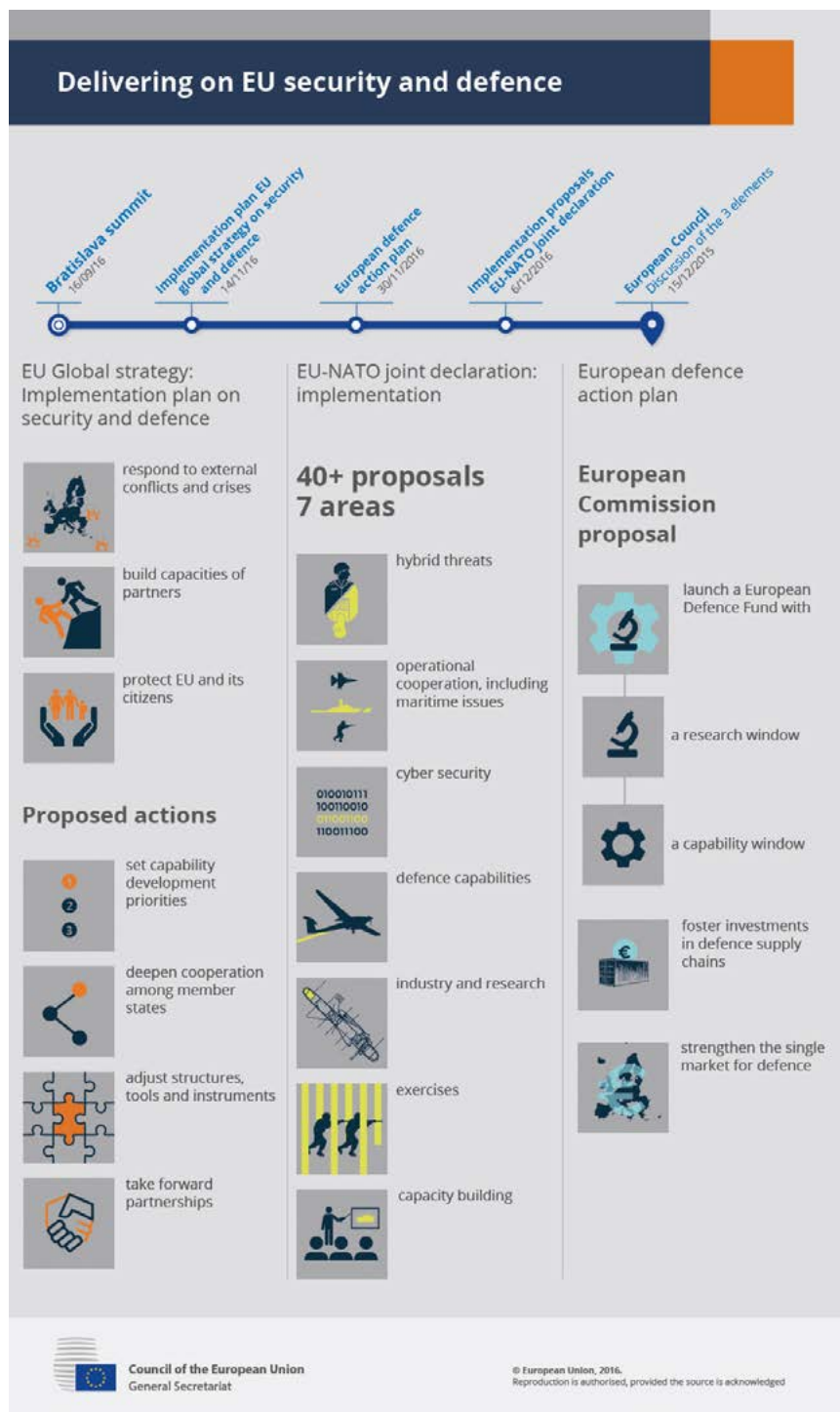
2. Deepen defence cooperation among the Member States to ensure that Europe retains state-of-the-art military forces and makes more efficient use of its resources by pooling and sharing assets. To this end, proposals have been made on a Coordinated Annual Review on Defence, as a mechanism for Member States to deliver on the prioritised capabilities by cooperating and sharing relevant national information.

3. Adjust the CSDP structures and procedures in order to deploy and direct our civilian and military missions and operations faster, smarter and in a more effective and integrated manner. To this end, agreement has been found to establish, as a short term objective, a Military Planning and Conduct Capability within the EU Military Staff of the EEAS which will assume the

command over the EU's non-executive military missions, such as the three EU training missions in CAR, Mali and Somalia.

4. Explore the potential of the Permanent Structured Cooperation as foreseen in the EU Treaty, to strengthen Member States cooperation in developing defence capabilities and making them available for operations. Based on proposals by the EEAS, work is being taken forward with Member States to identify common commitments as well as concrete projects which the PESCO members would be willing to pursue.

5. Developing a strategic approach to our cooperation with partner countries, and by continuing our cooperation with the United Nations, NATO as well as other regional organisations such as the OSCE and African Union.



European Defence Action Plan

Sustaining Europe's security requires investing in the common development of technologies and equipment of strategic importance; this implies more cooperation between Member States and greater pooling of national resources. Such endeavour will benefit from EU instruments and policies through the European Defence Action Plan (EDAP). The EDAP aims to sustain Europe's security by encouraging Member States to invest more. The defence capability priorities identified in the EU Global Strategy Implementation Plan on Security and Defence will provide guidance for the EDAP.

- 1. A European Defence Fund.** The objective of the Commission with the announced Defence Fund is to foster cooperation in defence projects and support the whole sequence of defence capability development, from research to prototype and acquisition. It would be composed of two complementary "windows":
 - (i) a "research window" to fund collaborative research in innovative defence technologies such as electronics, metamaterials, encrypted software or robotics but also any technologies needed to developed specific defence capabilities considered as priority. €25 million for defence research was already approved as part of the 2017 EU budget. This allocation is a first step to test the waters for supporting defence research at EU level. The Commission expects that this budget allocation could grow to a total of €90 million until 2020.
 - (ii) a "capability window" to support Member States in developing defence capabilities through cooperation. It would be financed through the pooling of national contributions, and, where possible, supported by the EU budget.

The capabilities would be agreed by the Member States, who would in the end acquire and own the technology and equipment. The modalities and governance will be developed further in close cooperation with the HR – also in her capacity as Head of EDA – and Member States.

- 2. Foster investments in SMEs** and other suppliers to the defence industry through supporting efforts to improve their access to funding from the European Investment Bank and the European Structural and Investment Fund.
- 3. Strengthen the Single Market for defence.** Developing an open and competitive European defence market will help companies operate across borders and Member States get best value for money in their defence procurement.

The EDAP represents a substantial contribution to strengthening European Defence. As announced in the White Paper on the Future of Europe, the Commission will present a reflection paper on the future of European defence in June.



EU – NATO cooperation

The Joint Declaration signed by Presidents of the European Council Donald Tusk, of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Warsaw on 8 July 2016 identified seven areas of deeper EU-NATO cooperation:

- 1)** countering hybrid threats;
- 2)** operational cooperation including at sea and on migration;
- 3)** cyber security and defence;
- 4)** defence capabilities;
- 5)** defence industry and research;
- 6)** exercises;
- 7)** supporting Eastern and Southern partners' capacity-building efforts.

A package to take the cooperation further was agreed in parallel at NATO and at the EU on 6 December 2016. It includes 42 concrete actions oriented deliverables covering all seven identified areas. The proposals provide for strengthening political dialogue between the two organisations and include regular reviews to maintain momentum and ensure implementation.

Enhancement of EU-NATO cooperation will take place in full respect of the principles of inclusiveness, reciprocity, transparency and full respect for the decision-making autonomy of both organizations, as well as for the specific character of the security and defence policy of all members. Implementation is a key political priority for the EU: work will be launched to this effect immediately in close cooperation of and with full involvement of EU Member States.