



# EU-NATO COOPERATION



**“** Working together: a stronger and more capable European defence also strengthens NATO. EU-NATO cooperation is crucial for European, transatlantic and global security. Making this cooperation even deeper will remain at the heart of the EU's defence efforts.”

JOSEP BORRELL

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/  
Vice-President of the European Commission

EU-NATO cooperation constitutes an integral pillar of the EU's work on security and defence. The mutually beneficial strategic partnership is key for the Euro-Atlantic security. A stronger EU and a stronger NATO are mutually reinforcing.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its long-lasting effects on European security have brought the EU and NATO closer than ever.

By working together, the EU and NATO can make the best use of resources and of respective toolboxes to address challenges and enhance the security of their citizens in a mutually reinforcing and complementary manner.

## A NEW ERA OF INTERACTION

A first Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016 identified seven concrete areas for enhanced cooperation between the EU and NATO:



In December 2016 and 2017, the EU and NATO Councils endorsed a common set of 74 concrete actions for implementation and agreed to further strengthen their political dialogue; cooperation was further expanded on military mobility, counter-terrorism, CBRN and Women, Peace and Security. A second Joint Declaration was signed in July 2018 calling for swift and demonstrable progress in implementation. The third Joint Declaration in January 2023, injected new political momentum for further strengthening, deepening and expanding the cooperation across all areas of mutual interest.

Joint progress reports are submitted annually by the EU High Representative and the Secretary General of NATO to the respective Councils highlighting the key achievements and concrete deliverable of our strategic partnership. Cooperation between the EU and NATO continues to take place on the basis of the key guiding principles (transparency, inclusiveness, reciprocity and decision-making autonomy of both organisations).



## RAPID PROGRESS IN ALL AREAS OF COOPERATION



### Hybrid threats

The structured dialogue on resilience ensures regular EU-NATO interaction in this key work strand, while a joint task force on resilience of critical infrastructure mapped out security challenges and presented recommendations.



### Operational cooperation including maritime issues

EU and NATO staffs are working to enhance coordination and complementarity of efforts in the maritime domain and enhance operational cooperation in Western Balkans, Iraq as well as the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea.



### Cyber security

EU and NATO staffs closely interact on concepts and doctrines, training and education courses, threat indicators, ad-hoc exchanges of threat alerts and assessments.



### Defence Capabilities

Efforts continue to ensure coherence of output between EU and NATO capability development planning instruments and processes. Military mobility remains a "flagship" of EU-NATO cooperation.



### Defence industry and research

Staff exchanges continue on wider industry matters and concrete topics related to industry engagement, in particular towards Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), to ensure mutual awareness and sharing of best practices.



### Parallel and coordinated exercises

Cooperation in the domain of PACE exercises continues, including through cross-participation in respective activities.



### Capacity-building

The EU and NATO continue to assist partners in building their capacities and strengthening their resilience – in particular in the Western Balkans and in our Eastern and Southern neighbourhood, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Georgia, Jordan, the Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Mauritania and Ukraine.



### Strengthening political dialogue between EU and NATO

Political dialogue remains an indispensable instrument for strengthening mutual understanding, building confidence and ensuring reciprocal transparency. The established practice of mutual invitations to Ministerial meetings and mutual cross-briefings continues.

## STRATEGIC COMPASS

The Strategic Compass gives further political impetus to the EU-NATO strategic partnership, by making concrete proposals to further:



#### ENHANCE

ongoing cooperation on political dialogue, information sharing, crisis management operations and exercises, defence capability development and military mobility;



#### DEEPEN

common work on enhancing maritime security and countering hybrid threats including foreign information manipulation and securing cyberspace as well as the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda;



#### EXPAND

cooperation to new areas, such as emerging and disruptive technologies, climate change and defence, resilience as well as space.

