



# Implementation Plan on Security and Defence

Building on the [EU Global Strategy for foreign and security Policy](#) put forward in June 2016, High Representative/ Vice-President Federica Mogherini presented in November 2016 an Implementation Plan focusing on Security and Defence, to raise the level of ambition of the European Union's security and defence policy.

Based on this, Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers adopted Council conclusions on 14 November 2016, which set a new level of ambition for the EU's security and defence policy and provided guidance on the actions needed to fulfil these ambitions.

**Those actions are built around the three strategic priorities** derived from the Global Strategy:

- 1) **RESPONDING** to external conflicts and crises when they arise,
- 2) **BUILDING** the capacities of partners,
- 3) **PROTECTING** the European Union and its citizens through external action.

This requires enhanced cooperation of EU Member States' in developing defence capabilities, improvement of EU crisis management structures and procedures, and increased cooperation with international partners, in particular NATO.

In pursuing these goals, the EU will maintain an integrated approach in tackling security and defence issues: Addressing security challenges requires mobilising diplomatic, development, humanitarian, trade and other instruments, in addition to purely security and defence means. The EU will also ensure coordination between its internal and external instruments as borders between internal and external security are increasingly blurred.



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*Today, we can research together the technologies of tomorrow in the field of defence and develop together our defence capabilities. We can buy together, to ensure that we have all the capabilities we need and also spend efficiently. We can act together on operations to manage and prevent crises, to strengthen our partners, to make our citizens more secure. This is the European Union of security and defence that we have started to set up.*

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*High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini,  
December 2017*

Some of the main actions under implementation are :



### DEEPENING DEFENCE COOPERATION

- The Council has endorsed the modalities to establish the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and a trial run started in autumn 2017 with a first report due in November 2018. The CARD will promote enhanced defence cooperation among Member States through greater transparency on defence plans. This will help Member States to deliver on key military capabilities, benefitting from economies of scale.
- The European Defence Agency, with its participating Member States, will continue to work on incentives and enablers aiming at strengthening European defence cooperation.
- Together with the EU Member States work will continue to identify which capabilities are needed, notably through the forthcoming review of the Capability Development Plan (CDP) by spring 2018, taking also into account research and technology and industrial aspects.

### PERMANENT STRUCTURED COOPERATION

- The Eu Treaties foresee the possibility of a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) through which Member States that are willing and able can enter into more binding commitments with one another and jointly develop defence capabilities, invest in shared projects, or create multinational formations.
- In December 2017, the Council formally established PESCO following a joint notification signed by 25 Member States in which they have undertaken a set of 20 more binding commitments between one another. At this occasion, the Member States participating in PESCO also identified a first set of 17 collaborative projects which they will undertake in different groupings.
- This Treaty-based framework and process will be a driver for closer cooperation in development of defence capabilities, based for the first time on binding commitments undertaken by each Member State which decides to participate. The implementation of PESCO focuses on Member States fulfilling their commitments and putting in place the annual process foreseen to assess this, as well as taking forward the PESCO projects. This will help to enhance the efficiency and output of European defence and to implement the EU level of ambition.
- **Civilian Capabilities** The EU already has top-class civilian experts, and needs to be able to deploy them quickly. It is re-assessing which kinds of civilian experts are needed for our civilian missions in light of current challenges. It has also identified options for more flexible, faster and targeted actions in civilian crisis management. On the request of the Council, work is ongoing on strengthening the civilian CSDP, including through the preparation of a Civilian Capability Development Plan.



### RAPID RESPONSE

- Reacting fast is, at times, the only way to react effectively. The [EU's military rapid reaction capability](#) – the Battlegroups – was created ten years ago but has never been deployed yet. The political, technical and financial underlying reasons for this have been examined and proposals have been identified so that Member States can remedy some of them, notably by improving the modularity of their Battlegroups so that they can be used more flexibly. Proposals to consider more effective financing are currently discussed in the ongoing review of the Athena mechanism, including on integrating the common funding of the deployment costs of EU Battlegroup operations





## PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF MISSIONS

The European Union is currently deploying sixteen missions and operations, both military (6) and civilian (10). There is a permanent structure within the EEAS to run civilian missions, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). The Council agreed to also set up a new permanent operational planning and conduct capability within the EEAS for non-executive military missions.

This [Military Planning and Conduct Capability](#) (MPCC) has been established within the EU Military Staff of the EEAS in June 2017. It has assumed command authority over all military non-executive missions (currently 3 training missions in Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia), so that they are planned and carried out in a coordinated and coherent way. To reinforce the synergies with the planning and conduct of civilian missions, the Council also decided to form a Joint Support Coordination Cell of civilian and military experts to share expertise and support practical civilian/military cooperation.



## TAKING FORWARD CSDP PARTNERSHIPS

As part of CSDP Partnerships, a third country can actively participate in an EU CSDP mission or operation. This sort of partnerships and cooperation with countries that share the EU's values can contribute to the effectiveness and impact of CSDP operations and missions. [Cooperation with NATO](#) has been taken to an unprecedented level. Work with the United Nations, the African Union and the OSCE will also be enhanced. Based on proposals from the High Representative, the Council has agreed to develop a more strategic approach to cooperation in CSDP with partners, including helping them to become more resilient and build their capacities.

## THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY - CSDP

The Common Security and Defence Policy, founded in 1999, is an essential tool in the EU's foreign policy. It gives the EU the possibility to intervene outside its territory through civilian and military crisis management missions and operations, aimed at peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security. It also offers a framework for cooperation among Member States for the development of defence capabilities, notably through the [European Defence Agency](#).

