

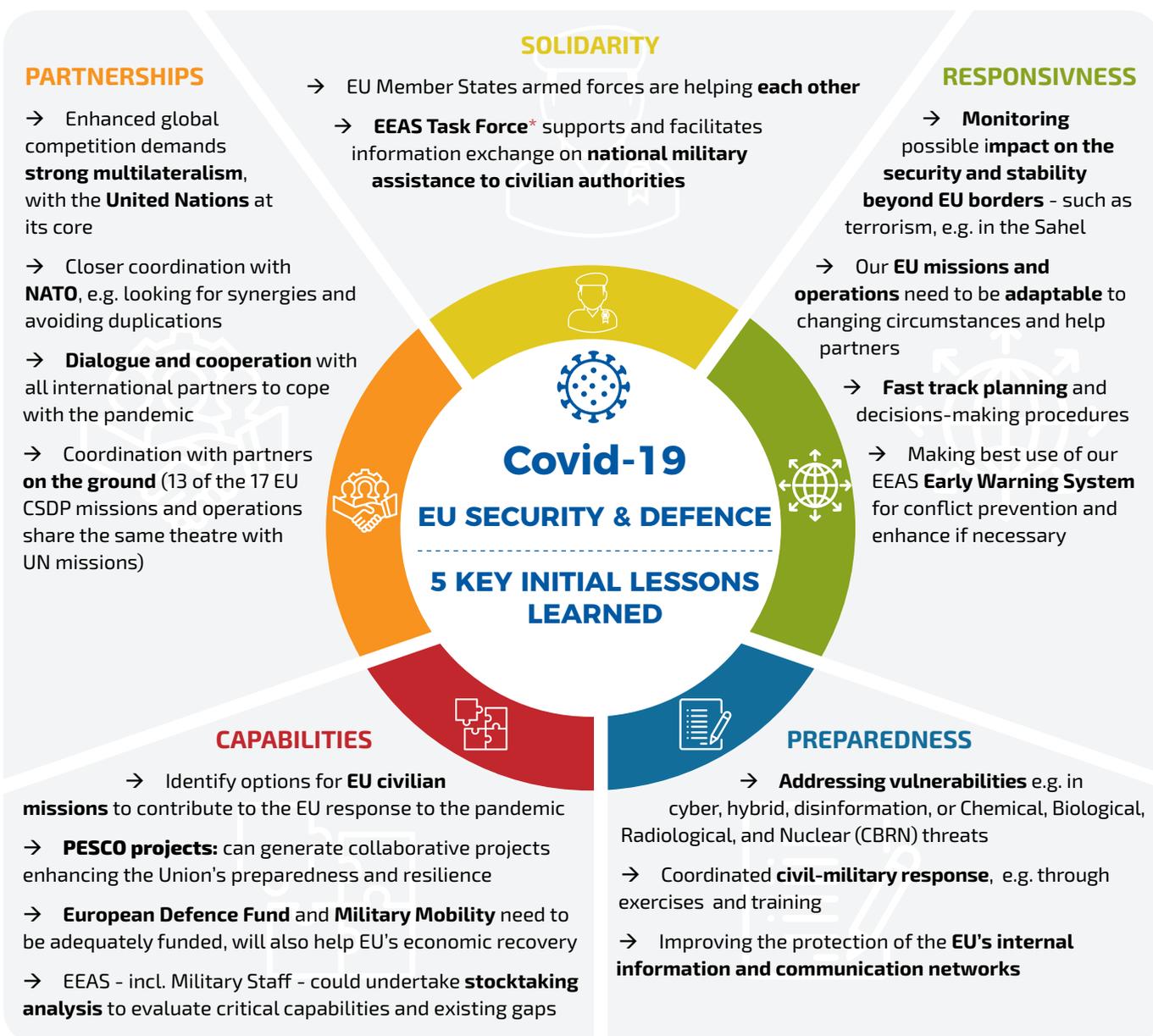


COVID-19

LESSONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The EU is reflecting on key lessons and implications that the COVID-19 pandemic presents for its security and defence. The aim is to be ready to confront possible security consequences of the current pandemic and to become better prepared and resilient for the future.

The armed forces of European Member States play a crucial role in addressing the pandemic, by supporting civilian actors and providing cross-border support. Outside EU borders, the EU continues to support our partners also through EU military and civilian missions and operations. For example, the EU's missions in Sahel and Niger support local authorities by providing equipment and raising awareness, e.g. working with radio stations.





* **The EEAS Task Force (TF)** provides a centralised **information sharing platform** for national military assistance and mutual support between the Member States' armed forces in support of civilian authorities. An online COVID-19 platform connects with all 27 national points of contact in Ministries of Defence. The Task Force **contributes to the identification of lessons** and closely coordinates with the European Commission Directorate for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), including the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). The Task Force also has informal contacts with NATO, including the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).