



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 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 conclusions on 14 November 2016, which set a new level of ambition and provide guidance on the actions needed to fulfil these ambitions.

The aim is to mobilise different EU tools and policies, in an integrated approach, including hard, but also soft-power and civilian capacity.

The proposals have a clear timeframe for action.

Three core tasks are identified:

- 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.

To achieve these goals, the EU and its Member States will make full use of the Common Security and Defence



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It is a plan that is ambitious, concrete and pragmatic. [...] It defines a joint level of ambition for the European Union.
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HRVP Federica Mogherini,
14 November 2016

Policy (CSDP) and the EU treaties, as well as continue close cooperation with partners, particularly NATO and the United Nations.

The proposal includes the following **concrete actions** to implement the level of ambition:

Deepening defence cooperation

- The Council has endorsed the modalities to establish the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), starting with a trial run in the autumn. The CARD will promote enhanced defence cooperation among Member States through greater transparency and 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 and industrial aspects

Permanent Structured Cooperation

- The European Treaties foresee the possibility of a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) through which Member States can enter into more binding commitments to one another with a view to the more demanding missions. Member States that are willing and able to join PESCO could jointly develop capabilities, invest in shared projects, or create multinational formations. The Council has reached agreement to work very concretely on the common commitments and criteria, governance modalities and modular projects to be implemented in the framework of Permanent Structured Cooperation. The Council will revert preferably by June 2017.



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

Rapid response

- Reacting fast is, at times, the only way to react effectively. The EU already has top-class civilian experts, and needs to be able to deploy them quickly. It will re-assess which kinds of civilian experts are needed for our civilian missions in light of current challenges. It will also identify options for more flexible, faster and targeted actions in civilian crisis management. The Council has provided a way forward for both the review of priorities and to increase the responsiveness of civilian missions in the coming months and will revert by December 2017.

- 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 are being discussed to remedy some of them, notably by improving their modularity so that they can be used more flexibly, as well as to consider more effective financing. Common costs for Battlegroups will be examined in the forthcoming review of the Athena mechanism.

Planning and conduct of missions

- The European Union is currently deploying fifteen missions and operations, both military (6) and civilian (9). There is a permanent structure within the EEAS to run civilian missions. The Council has agreed, as a short term objective, to establish a new permanent operational planning and conduct capability within the EEAS for non-executive military missions. This Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) will be established within the EU Military Staff of the EEAS in the first semester of 2017.

It will assume command authority over all military non-executive missions (currently 3 training missions in CAR, 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. Work is ongoing to finalise the necessary arrangements for the launch of the MPCC.

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.

It can also strengthen the resilience of our partners. Cooperation with UN, NATO, AU and OSCE will also be enhanced. Based on proposals from the HRVP, 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.

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 the EU for civilian and military crisis management missions and operations, aimed at peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security.

The EU has 15 military operations and civilian missions outside the EU. All EU missions and operations are conducted in accordance with international law, generally on the basis of a UN mandate and/ or the invitation of the national authorities of the country in question.