Rising geo-strategic competition and power politics challenging rules-based multilateralism

Armed conflict, civil wars and instability in the EU’s broader neighbourhood

Transnational threats with direct impact in the EU and new vulnerabilities due to connectivity, climate change, etc.

The scale and complexity of the inter-linked security threats and challenges are beyond the capacity of a single Member State. This is why Member States decided to work closer together on EU level.

EU policies in security and defence are focused on three priorities, which are set out in the EU’s Level of Ambition:

- Responding to external conflicts and crises
- Supporting our partners to provide security for their own population
- Protecting the Union and its citizens

To deliver on these three priorities, the EU has launched new defence initiatives and tools:

- To strengthen our operational engagement, namely our EU civilian and military missions and operations deployed outside EU borders
- To deliver more capabilities through deepening European cooperation
- To further deepen our partnerships, in particular with the UN and NATO

In addition, the EU is strengthening its resilience and that of its partners against hybrid threats, including disinformation.
EU military training missions are currently deployed in Africa in support of local security actors.

Over the years, the EU has run 34 operations and missions, 22 civilian and 12 military.

**THE EU’S INTEGRATED APPROACH:**

The EU’s military and civilian missions and operations are not a stand-alone tool but part of a broader EU toolbox, which includes inter alia development, diplomacy, humanitarian assistance or trade.

To further strengthen our toolbox, new initiatives were put forward:

- Enhancing the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC)
- Introducing new financing mechanism: proposed European Peace Facility
- Strengthen civilian crisis management through the civilian CSDP Compact

Soldiers, policemen, policy advisers, legal experts and many others are working on the ground with our partners to make our neighbourhood more secure and stable.

Josep Borrell
If the EU wants to have the ability to act as a geopolitical actor and promote our own interests and values, we do not only need to act together, we also need the means to do so effectively.

Closer cooperation amongst EU Member States is crucial for our security and will trigger a more innovative and competitive defence industry, creating quality, highly skilled jobs for EU citizens.

**What capabilities should EU Member States develop together at EU level?**

The Capability Development Plan (CDP) defines the EU Capability Development Priorities jointly agreed by Member States. These priorities are coherent with those of NATO. The CDP also informs the EU’s defence initiatives, namely the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

**How can EU Member States develop together the defence capabilities needed?**

25 EU Member States participate in the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), with the aim to jointly develop defence capabilities and increase their readiness and availability for EU military missions and operations.

Since its creation in 2017, a total of 47 PESCO projects have been launched covering the whole defence spectrum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAINING FACILITIES</th>
<th>LAND FORMATION SYSTEMS</th>
<th>MARITIME</th>
<th>AIR SYSTEMS</th>
<th>CYBER</th>
<th>ENABLING JOINT MULTIPLE SERVICES</th>
<th>SPACE</th>
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</table>

How to monitor ongoing efforts and assess new possible collaborative cooperative projects?

The Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) is a new tool to help Member States identify opportunities for new collaborative projects. It monitors the implementation of CDP priorities by Member States.

What financial incentives can the EU provide to support Member States in developing the technologies and capabilities needed?

The European Defence Fund (EDF) co-finances collaborative research and development actions and cross-border cooperation to develop the capabilities needed. Only collaborative projects involving at least three eligible industries or other entities, such as research institutes from at least three Member States or associated countries can receive funding.

80% of defence investment is still done nationally, which has led to a multiplication of defence systems & fragmentation of the European defence sector.

There are for example more military types of helicopters in Europe than governments buying them.

The costs of lack of cooperation between Member States is estimated in the tens of billions per year.

All PESCO projects reflect European capability needs and 38 also address NATO capability requirements of the same category.

€500 million are allocated to co-financing collaborative defence development projects for 2019-2020 until the EDF will be financially equipped from 2021 onwards.
EU Member States are currently discussing the development of a Strategic Compass. This future document should pave the way to a coherent strategic approach and consistent political guidance.

**III. PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships have always been at the core of our security and defence policy. This includes partners’ participation in our CSDP missions and operations and working together on a variety of security and defence issues. The EU is committed to different frameworks of deeper coordination and cooperation, in particular with the United Nations and NATO.

**EU-UN COOPERATION**

- 13 ongoing CSDP missions and operations in same theatre with UN missions
- UN-EU Strategic partnership in peacekeeping: actions on conflict prevention, transitions, Women, Peace and Security

**EU-NATO COOPERATION**

- Joint Declarations of Warsaw and Brussels (2016 and 2018)
- 74 common actions for the implementation of the Joint Declarations (e.g. capabilities, hybrid threats, military mobility, etc).
- Integral pillar of efforts towards a stronger EU defence

**Towards a Strategic Compass**

EU Member States are currently discussing the development of a Strategic Compass. This future document should pave the way to a coherent strategic approach and consistent political guidance.

The strategic compass will address four different, inter-linked areas:

- Crisis Management
- Capability Tools and Instrument
- Partnerships
- Protection and Resilience

**Road Map**

- **MAY 2020**
  - Tasking by Council
- **NOVEMBER 2020**
  - Threat analysis
- **1ST HALF OF 2021**
  - Policy discussions with Member States
- **2ND HALF OF 2021**
  - Development of coherent framework
- **ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGIC COMPASS**

**Improving Military Mobility**

A European initiative to enhance the rapid movement of military personnel and materiel within and beyond the EU by addressing existing legal, procedural and infrastructural barriers between Member States. This is relevant for routine activities, such as joint training activities and during crises but even more so during a conflict or crises. Investment in upgrading transport infrastructure – bridges, tunnels, railroads – will benefit military and civilian transport, and enhances the cooperation with NATO.