

Security and defence: EU to move forward on common security and defence



The Council today approved conclusions affirming its determination to move forward on implementing the EU's security and defence agenda, enabling the EU to take more responsibility for its own security.

In line with its Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, the Council calls for the EU to pursue a **more strategic course of action** and to increase its **capacity to act autonomously**. The EU should promote its interests and values and be able to tackle global security threats and challenges.

Against this background, an ambitious and actionable **Strategic Compass** will enhance and guide the implementation of the level of ambition on security and defence. The Council therefore calls on the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to **present a first draft of the Strategic Compass** for discussion at the Council **meeting in November 2021**.

The Council calls for further work to enhance the EU's capacity to undertake CSDP missions and operations across the whole spectrum of different crisis management tasks. The Council also encourages further reflection on a **timely and efficient decision-making process**, possibly using Article 44 of the TEU. More work should be done on ways to incentivise member states to improve force generation and provide sufficient means and personnel for CSDP missions and operations.

The conclusions underline the importance of **strengthening EU defence initiatives**, like Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), and other initiatives such as the Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries, while ensuring **coherence** in the use of the various tools.

The need to further strengthen the EU's resilience and ability to counter **hybrid threats** is also strongly emphasised.

A strong EU in terms of security and defence will bring tangible benefits to transatlantic and global cooperation. The Council reaffirms the centrality of international **partnerships with** multilateral organisations such as **the UN** and **NATO**, in line with the statement of the members of the European Council of 26 February 2021.

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