

## Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) 7–9 September 2017, Tallinn

### Background information

#### Ways to strengthen European defence

Only jointly may EU become an efficient and strong partner to ensure security and stability in the region. While NATO has been presented as the bedrock of collective defence, the EU could add value if it leads to a militarily more robust and credible Europe. The EU Security and Defence package comprises three pillars: 1) the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy; 2) the European Defence Action Plan; and 3) the Joint Declaration signed by EU leaders and the Secretary General of NATO and common set of 42 proposals for strengthening cooperation between the EU and NATO.

#### Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy

In recent years, there have been several new initiatives which are aimed at strengthening European defence capabilities. The [Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy](#) (EUGS) was adopted in June 2016 and has been followed by new initiatives since. The Global Strategy outlines a strategic vision and sets principles for EU foreign and security policy with a focus on protecting the Union and its citizens, responding to external conflicts and crises, and capacity building of partners. The Strategy identifies five priority areas: the security of the Union; state and societal resilience to the East and South of the EU; the development of an integrated approach to conflicts; cooperative regional orders; and global governance for the 21st century. It was followed by the [Implementation Plan on Security and Defence](#) which was welcomed by the Council in November 2016. The implementation plan proposed 13 actions in five fields: setting capability development priorities; deepening cooperation; adjusting structures, tools and (financial) instruments; permanent structured cooperation; and taking forward CSDP Partnerships.

#### European Defence Fund

In November 2016, the European Commission proposed creating a European Defence Fund under the [European Defence Action Plan](#). The action plan includes the proposal for the European Defence Fund and other actions "to support Member States' more efficient spending in joint defence capabilities, strengthen European citizens' security and foster a competitive and innovative industrial base". The communication calling for the European Defence Fund was welcomed by the recent [22-23 June 2017 European Council](#) and called on Member States to identify suitable capability projects for the European Defence Fund and for the European Defence Industrial Development Programme.

#### Military cooperation

At the [22-23 June 2017 European Council](#), the Heads of Member States agreed on the "need to launch an inclusive and ambitious Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)". Member States were given three months to draw up a common list of criteria and binding commitments. The issue will be discussed in the upcoming meetings of the European Council.

## Defence spending

The target of two per cent of GDP to be spent on defence has been a matter of discussion and agreed on by NATO allies in 2014. Allies are expected to move towards the two per cent guideline by 2024. Given that the security environment in the EU and in the world has changed, every country must take more responsibility to protect Europe's security as [concluded by European Council in December 2016](#). The need to commit sufficient additional resources was also stressed.

## NATO-EU cooperation

EU leaders and the Secretary General of NATO signed the [Joint Declaration](#) in July 2016. In December 2016, the declaration was followed by [42 concrete proposals](#) to deepen EU-NATO cooperation in seven areas: countering hybrid threats; operational cooperation including maritime issues; cyber security and defence; defence capabilities; defence industry and research; exercises; and defence and security capacity building. The first [Progress Report](#) was published in June 2017 and the next report will be submitted in December 2017.

## Points for discussion

1. What would it take for Europe to guarantee its own security?
2. What percentage does security cost?
3. How long will Europe withstand economic sanctions imposed on the basis of common values and for greater security?