

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

State of play beyond the EU borders

Europe faces multiple challenges and common threats both from inside and outside of the European Union. Solidarity and cooperation have been instrumental tools in responding to the threats demonstrated through the united actions taken in dealing with current crises that range from migration flows to relations with Russia. The EU employs a variety of policies to extend the sphere of European values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and to increase stability in Europe and beyond. European Neighbourhood Policy and EU enlargement policy, also outlined in the [Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy](#) under the priorities of external action, are two such policies.

Enlargement policy

The Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy states that "Within the scope of the current enlargement policy, the challenges of migration, energy security, terrorism and organised crime are shared between the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey. They can only be addressed together." EU enlargement policy is guided by the renewed consensus agreed on at the [European Council meeting in December 2006](#). Most recently, the General Affairs Council discussed the enlargement process on 13 December 2016, but no consensus was reached for adopting conclusions. The latest [Council conclusions](#) on enlargement policy were adopted in December 2015. The [Rome Declaration](#) in March 2017 stated that the EU doors remain open for those who respect the values of EU. The conclusions reaffirmed the commitment to the enlargement process and emphasised its importance in guaranteeing peace, democracy, prosperity, security and stability in Europe. Currently, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania are candidate countries and membership negotiations have started with Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo are potential candidate countries.

European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy aims to strengthen stability and state and societal resilience of the EU's 16 Eastern and Southern Neighbours. It was revised in November 2015 with a focus on: good governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights; economic development for stabilisation; and security, migration and mobility. Following the revision, the EU has set partnership priorities with Jordan and Lebanon and launched negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the EU, Morocco and Tunisia. [A Joint Report on the Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy Review](#) was published in May 2017. The latest [Eastern Partnership Summit](#), held in Riga in May 2015, confirmed the high importance of the Eastern Partnership with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as a dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The next Eastern Partnership Summit will take place on 24 November 2017 in Brussels. In June 2017, the visa liberalisation agreement between the EU and Ukraine entered into force and the latest EU-Ukraine Summit took place on 12-13 July 2017 in Kyiv. In March 2017, visa liberalisation for Georgia entered into force.

Relations with Russia

The European Union also demonstrated its unity by imposing several sanctions regimes in 2014 as a response to the illegal annexation of Crimea, to the undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence and to the deliberate destabilisation of Ukraine by Russia. The duration of sanctions is subject to Russia's actions. The sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy are directly linked to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements; hence, since the imposition of all these sanctions and most recently on 28 June 2017, [the Council](#) unanimously prolonged economic sanctions until 31 January 2018. The stability of Europe is also affected by the frozen conflicts in Georgia, Transnistria and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Migration and terrorism

As the largest donor, the EU works towards bringing an end to the conflict in Syria. The presence of terrorist groups in Syria is a threat to the whole region and the international community. In view of the recent terrorist attack in the EU and beyond, counter-terrorism is one of the highest security priorities for the EU. [The latest Council conclusions](#) on EU external action on counter-terrorism were adopted on 19 June 2017. The crisis in Syria has increased the migration pressure on Europe, clearly demonstrating that events outside the borders of the European Union affect the stability of the EU. Migration is also a key element of the EU's Global Strategy. The European Union introduced the Migration Partnership Framework in June 2016 which includes both short and long-term actions for managing external migration. The EU also provides targeted assistance to Libya in the field of migration, as well as support through its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations.

Points for discussion

1. How to achieve balance between internal and external security?
2. What is next for Eastern Partnership?
3. Will EU borders remain unchanged for the next generation?