



# STRENGTHENING EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE

## THE EU IN A CHANGING AND CHALLENGING WORLD



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 overall number of conflicts is close to the highs of the early 1990s and has risen in recent years



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 NATO and the UN

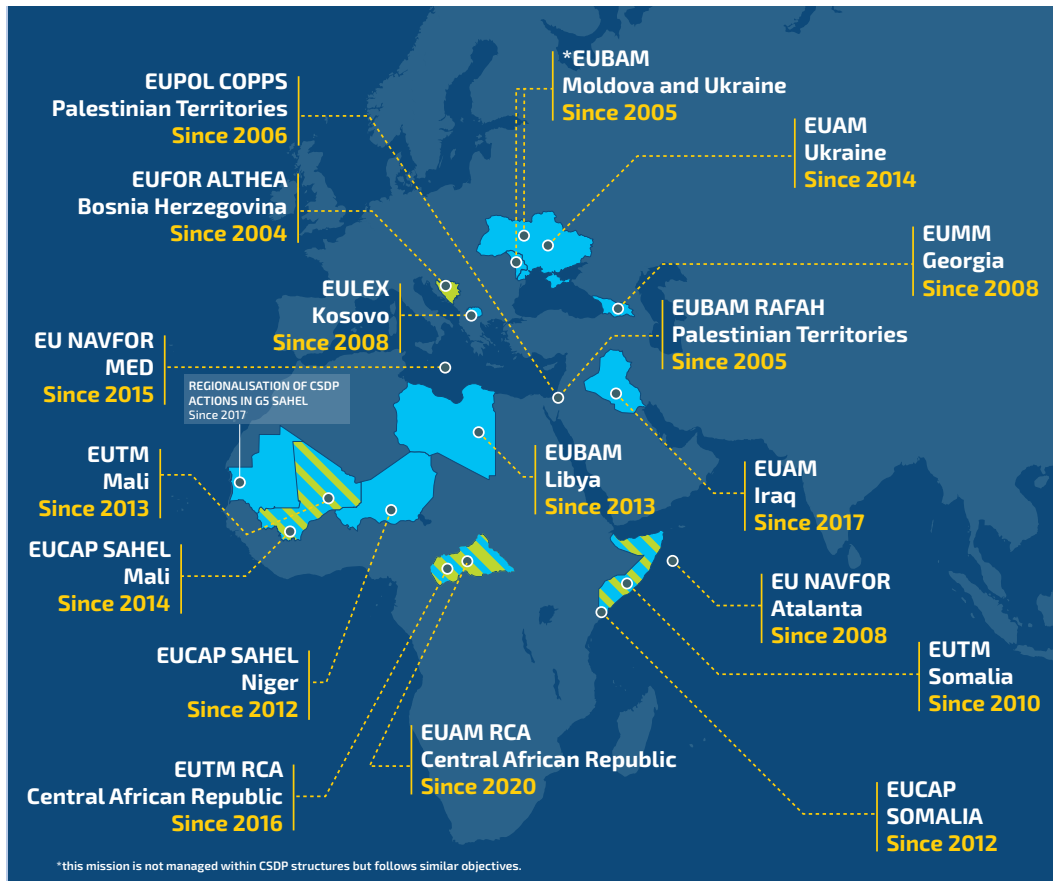
In addition, the EU is strengthening its resilience and that of its partners against **hybrid threats, including disinformation.**

# I. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

The EU currently conducts **17 missions and operations** under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), **11 civilian and 6 military**. Over 4,500 women and men are serving abroad: in Africa, the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, the Middle East as well as at sea.

**By providing security to countries abroad, we are also contributing to the security at home.** For example: conflicts and crises are a breeding ground for terrorism and organised crime, which has already had a direct impact on our security.

EU missions and operations are carrying out different tasks, reflecting the situation on the ground, e.g. enabling the implementation of peace agreements, providing training and advice to military, police and other authorities, such as border guards, or contributing to maritime security.



**3**  
EU military training missions are currently deployed in Africa in support of local security actors

**36**  
Over the years, the EU has run 36 operations and missions, 23 civilian and 13 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](#)

## II. INCREASING COOPERATION ON DEFENCE

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. Third States can exceptionally be invited to participate in PESCO projects under certain conditions.

**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.

**There are currently 46 ongoing PESCO projects covering the whole defence spectrum, with 26 of them expected to become fully operational by 2025:**



TRAINING FACILITIES



LAND FORMATION SYSTEMS



MARITIME



AIR SYSTEMS



CYBER



ENABLING JOINT MULTIPLE SERVICES



SPACE

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

The Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) is a new mechanism to help Member States identify opportunities for new collaborative projects. It monitors the implementation of CDP priorities by Member States. The first full CARD report was delivered in November 2020.

### 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.

**€500 million**

are allocated to co-financing collaborative defence development projects for 2019-2020 until the EDF will be financially equipped from 2021 onwards

Standardised procedures will allow armed forces and assets to move faster across internal borders

### 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**.

## 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 United Nations and the 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

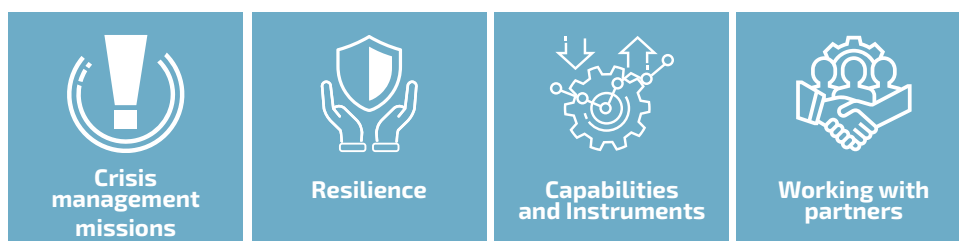
### EU-NATO COOPERATION

- >> Joint Declarations of Warsaw and Brussels (2016 and 2018)
- >> 74 common actions in 10 areas (e.g. capabilities, hybrid, military mobility, etc.)
- >> Integral pillar of efforts towards a stronger EU defence

## TOWARDS A STRATEGIC COMPASS

The Strategic Compass will help strengthen a common European security and defence culture and help define the right objectives and concrete goals for our policies.

The Strategic Compass will address four different, inter-linked areas:



To update our common understanding of threats and challenges leading to a common strategic culture

To identify more specific goals and objectives giving new impetus to security and defence to fulfil the Level of Ambition

## ROAD MAP

