



Defence Package: Fact Sheet

General

Europe faces a multitude of challenges today, both internally and externally. Europe's security environment requires a strong European Union, able to promote peace and guarantee the security of its Member States and citizens.

To live up to the expectations of our citizens and also our partners, an ambitious package to reinforce European security and defence policy was defined, based on three key interlinked elements:

(1) The implementation of EU Global Strategy in the field of security and defence, with a new level of ambition and concrete set of actions to fulfil it, as agreed by the Council on 14 November;

(2) The European Defence Action Plan (EDAP), put forward by the European Commission on 30 November, with new financial tools for capability development and defence cooperation in support of European defence industry and technological innovation;

(3) The common set of proposals for the EU-NATO cooperation, based on the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016, and endorsed by both EU and NATO Councils on 6 December.

Implementation of the Global Strategy in the area of security and defence

The EU Global Strategy provides a strategic vision to underpin EU foreign policy. On 14 November,

High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini presented the EU Global Strategy Implementation Plan on Security and Defence to the Foreign and Defence Ministers, who through Council conclusions agreed on the next steps for its implementation in the area of security and defence. The Council agreed on a new Level of Ambition which defines the political goals that the EU wants to achieve as a security and defence actor.

There are three strategic priorities:

1. Respond to external conflicts and crises, by conducting civilian and military operations or missions more effectively and rapidly.



Photo: Federica Mogherini, in the Black Blade Exercise in the framework of the Distinguished Visitors Day organised by the European Defence Agency

2. Build the capacities of our partners, including by providing training and advice to enable them to take better care of their own security.

3. Protect the Union and its citizens, by contributing with external security and defence tools to tackle challenges and threats that can affect our internal security, such as terrorism, proliferation, smuggling and trafficking, hybrid threats and their root causes.

To achieve these goals, the Council also agreed on the need to:

1. Identify the kind of civilian staff and military troops, equipment and logistics that are potentially needed to carry out the full range of possible CSDP missions and operations, in line with the agreed Level of Ambition.

2. Deepen defence cooperation among the Member States to ensure that Europe retains state-of-the-art military forces and makes more efficient use of its resources by pooling and sharing assets.

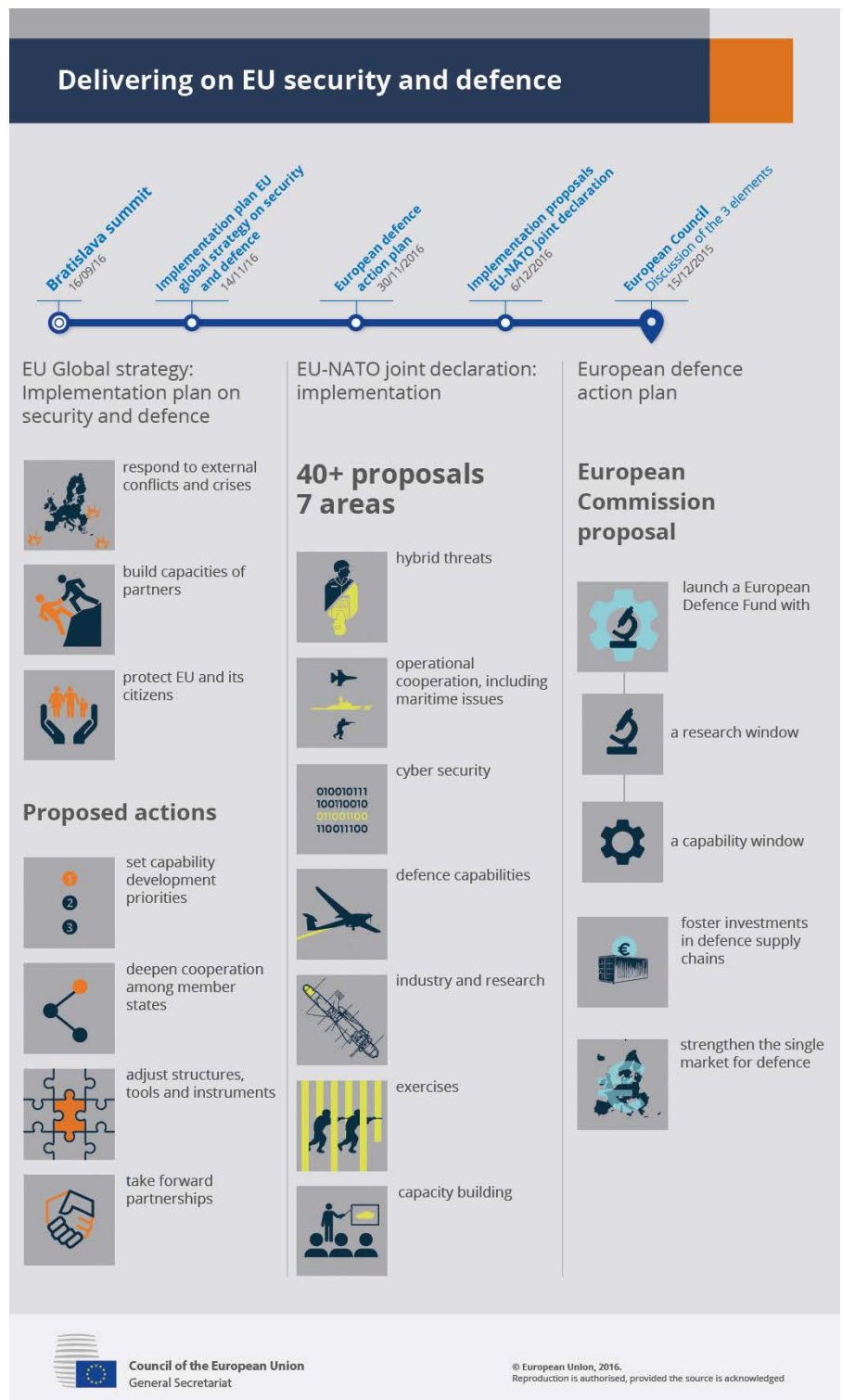
3. Adjust the European External Action Service (EEAS) services in order to deploy and direct our civilian and military missions and operations faster, smarter and in a more effective and integrated manner.

4. Ensure that the necessary financial resources are available to maintain and strengthen Member States' armed forces, to better share the common costs of operations, and to have financial EU support for civilian and military capacity building under the EU's integrated approach in the field.

5. Explore the potential of the Permanent Structured Cooperation, which is an unused provision of the EU Treaty, which could help to strengthen CSDP as a framework for concrete projects and measures by Member States willing to make such commitments.

6. Cooperate with our partners, by developing a strategic approach to our cooperation with partner countries, and by continuing our cooperation with the United Nations, NATO as well as other regional organisations such as the OSCE and African Union.

Work has been launched already by the EEAS, European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Commission involving Member States closely in the process.



European Defence Action Plan

Sustaining Europe's security requires investing in the common development of technologies and equipment of strategic importance; this implies more cooperation between Member States and greater pooling of national resources. Such endeavour will benefit from EU instruments and policies through the European Defence Action Plan (EDAP).

The Plan proposes actions to support Member States' efforts in delivering capabilities through greater cooperation, and foster a strong, competitive and innovative European defence industrial base. The defence capability priorities identified in the EU Global Strategy Implementation Plan on Security and Defence will provide guidance for the EDAP.

1. Set up a European Defence Fund to support investment in collaborative defence projects with two complementary "windows": (i) a "research window" to fund collaborative projects through a dedicated EU programme under the post 2020 multiannual financial framework (prepared by a Preparatory Action for which the Commission has proposed an allocation of 25 M€ as part of the 2017 EU budget); (ii) a "capability window" to support Member States in developing and purchasing defence assets together to reduce their costs. It would be financed through the pooling of national contributions, supported where possible by the EU budget.

The modalities and governance will be developed further in close cooperation with the HR - also in her capacity as Head of EDA - and Member States.

2. Foster investments in SMEs and other suppliers to the defence industry through supporting efforts to improve their access to funding from the European Investment Bank and the European Structural and Investment Fund.
3. Strengthen the Single Market for defence. Developing an open and competitive European defence market will help companies operate across borders and Member States get best value for money in their defence procurement.

The EDAP represents a substantial contribution to strengthening European Defence. The Commission will discuss the proposals it contains with Member State and other stakeholders.



EU – NATO cooperation

The Joint Declaration signed by Presidents of the European Council Donald Tusk, of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Warsaw on 8 July 2016 identified seven areas of deeper EU-NATO cooperation:

- 1) countering hybrid threats;
- 2) operational cooperation including at sea and on migration;
- 3) cyber security and defence;
- 4) defence capabilities;
- 5) defence industry and research;
- 6) exercises;
- 7) supporting Eastern and Southern partners' capacity-building efforts.

The package to take the cooperation further includes 42 concrete action-oriented deliverables covering all seven identified areas. The proposals provide for strengthening political dialogue between the two organisations and include regular reviews to maintain momentum and ensure implementation.

The Council also outlined the political context for the further enhancement of EU-NATO cooperation. This will take place in full respect of the principles of inclusiveness, reciprocity, transparency and full respect for the decision-making autonomy of both organizations as well as for the specific character of the security and defence policy of all members.

Implementation is a key political priority for the EU: work will be launched to this effect immediately in close cooperation of and with full involvement of EU Member States.