



European Union Global Strategy

A Global Strategy for the European Union

In the midst of rapid global challenges, we need a **strong European Union** like never before. To the East, the European security order has been violated, while terrorism and violence plague North Africa and the Middle East, as well as Europe itself. At the same time the role of the United Nations and the important achievements on development cooperation and on fighting climate change are put into question. In these difficult times the EU Global Strategy has helped the Union stay the course and continue to be a reliable global power and strong security provider. Far from being outdated, the strategy has stood the test of time.

The EU Global Strategy sets out the EU's core interests and [principles](#) for engaging in the wider world and gives the Union a **collective sense of direction**. Its ambition is to make Europe stronger: an even more united and influential actor on the world stage that keeps citizens safe, preserves our interests, and upholds our values.

From Vision to Action - Strategic Priorities

The EU Global Strategy seeks to turn vision into common action. This is why a year following its presentation the High Representative is presenting an Implementation Report on what has been achieved to turn the priorities of the EU Global Strategy into **concrete results on the ground**. In October 2016 EU Foreign ministers decided on the most important strategic priorities for implementing the EU Global Strategy ([Council Conclusions in October 2016](#)). These are [Security and Defence](#), [Building Resilience](#) and taking an [Integrated Approach to conflicts and crises](#), addressing the [Internal/External Nexus](#), [updating existing strategies and preparing new ones](#), and enhancing [Public Diplomacy](#).

Security and Defence

To implement the EU Global Strategy, **decisive steps are being taken on Security and Defence**. In November 2016, EU Foreign and Defence ministers decided on a new level of ambition and key steps to upgrade cooperation to ensure the [Security of our Union](#) in line with the Global Strategy ([Council conclusions](#)). These Conclusions were based on HRVP Federica Mogherini's [Implementation Plan on Security and Defence](#). This aims to improve the protection of the EU and its citizens, help governments jointly build military capacity, and develop better response to crises. The EU has moved rapidly to implement the strategy. A new command

centre for military training and advisory missions has been established that will ensure fast and coordinated response to crises around the globe. At the same time a coordinated review of annual defence budgets is underway that will allow Member States to plan and invest on crucial military capabilities together.

Further actions to step up EU Security include the [European Defence Action Plan](#), which proposes financial help for Member States for more efficient joint procurement and capability development, and steps to put into effect the [EU-NATO Joint Declaration](#).

Building Resilience and taking an Integrated Approach

Building resilience at home and abroad means **creating a more responsive union**. The EU will strengthen the resilience of states and societies by supporting good governance, accountable institutions, and working closely with civil society. Our support will target in particular the EU's surrounding regions in the East and the South, spanning from Central Asia to Central Africa. The High Representative and the European Commission launched a [Joint Communication on Resilience](#) that aims to further enhance common action on building resilience on the ground. Examples of our work are the EU's engagement in the Sahel Region, where we are helping people in immediate need through humanitarian intervention, while also investing in creating jobs, access to education, health and climate mitigation. We are also supporting private investment in fragile areas with the [European External Investment Plan](#).

The EU also supports an integrated approach to conflicts and crises, which means addressing all dimensions and stages of a conflict, from early action and prevention, wherever possible to staying on the ground long enough for peace to take root. A particular emphasis is placed on early warning and translating this into early action before a crisis erupts. The EU is also doing more to plan in advance for post-crises reconstruction such as in Syria, Iraq and Nigeria.

Strengthening the Internal/External Nexus

Strengthening the internal/external nexus requires **promoting a more joined up union**. Issues such as Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Violent Extremism, Migration, Sustainable development, and Cyber security can only be addressed by joined-up EU policies and institutions. Since Terrorism and Violent Extremism affect us all, the EU is working very closely with partner countries to bring an end to this senseless violence. Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the Agenda 2030 is an integral part of the EU Global Strategy.

In the area of migration the EU's Framework on Migration is based on the idea that migration can only be managed in partnership with the countries of origin and transit in a sustainable, respectful and human manner. The EU Trust Fund for Africa is a powerful tool to deliver targeted action in a speedy manner in areas related to migration.

Updating existing strategies or preparing new ones – changing the way we work in a joined up Union

In a more complex world, we need to combine traditional diplomacy and security and defence policy with being engaged in effective climate diplomacy, energy diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy. Following the launch of the EU Global Strategy we are reviewing all our policy fields to make sure our policies are aligned and reflect the realities of a rapidly changing world and the demands for greater security coming from our citizens.

The EUGS has also triggered a **transformation of the way in which the EU does foreign policy** in a joined up way: our full potential can only be realised if we work across policy sectors, institutions and Member States. We see this in our work on security and defence as much as on climate, energy and oceans' governance; on economic diplomacy as much as on culture in international relations, youth initiatives and human rights.

Enhancing Public Diplomacy

In a more connected world, it is important to **project a clear vision of what the EU stands for and seeks to achieve in the world**. We are working closely with state and non-state partners, as well as boosting EU study exchanges, our alumni networks and youth initiatives. For example the Young MED voices plus initiative brings together young people from Europe and the Mediterranean to work on concrete policy proposals that address their most pressing concerns. In Ukraine the "Stronger Together" campaign highlighted the concrete benefits of partnership with the EU.

The EU is also working with partners to counter misinformation campaigns, in particular in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

Promoting EU programmes such as [Erasmus+](#), our flagship study programme and [Horizon 2020](#), a multi-billion EU Research and Innovation programme, is also an important part of EU public diplomacy.

The sustainable development goals will be a cross-cutting dimension of all this work. Human rights, peace and security, and gender equality and women's empowerment are an integral part of all our policies. To ensure that a wide range of views are included, the EU Global Strategy and its implementation will continue to build on input from numerous outreach [events](#) and [analysis](#) of the research community.

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