



# Implementation Plan on Security and Defence

Building on the [EU Global Strategy for foreign and security Policy](#) put forward in June 2016, High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini presented in November 2016 an Implementation Plan focusing on Security and Defence, to raise the level of ambition of the European Union's security and defence policy.

Based on this, Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers adopted conclusions on 14 November 2016, which set a new level of ambition for the EU's security and defence policy and provided guidance on the actions needed to fulfil these ambitions.

Those actions are built around the three core priorities derived from the Global Strategy:

- 1) **responding** to external conflicts and crises when they arise,
- 2) **building** the capacities of partners,
- 3) **protecting** the European Union and its citizens through external action.

This requires enhanced cooperation of EU Member States' in developing defence capabilities, improvement of EU crisis management structures



*It is a plan that is ambitious, concrete and pragmatic. [...] It defines a joint level of ambition for the European Union.*



**HRVP Federica Mogherini,**  
14 November 2016

and procedures, and increased cooperation with international partners, in particular NATO. In pursuing these goals, the EU will maintain an integrated approach in tackling security and defence issues: Addressing security challenges requires mobilising diplomatic, development, humanitarian, trade and other instruments, in addition to purely security and defence means. The EU will also ensure coordination between its internal and external instruments as borders between internal and external security are increasingly blurred.

Some of the main actions under implementation are :

## **Deepening defence cooperation**

- The Council has endorsed the modalities to establish the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), starting with a trial run in the autumn of 2017 with a first report due in 2018.

The CARD will promote enhanced defence cooperation among Member States through greater transparency and on defence plans. This will help Member States to deliver on key military capabilities, benefitting from economies of scale.

- The European Defence Agency, with its participating Member States, will continue to work on incentives and enablers aiming at strengthening European defence cooperation.

- Together with the EU Member States work will continue to identify which capabilities are needed, notably through the forthcoming review of the Capability Development Plan (CDP) by spring 2018, taking also into account research and technology and industrial aspects.



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

### Permanent Structured Cooperation

- The EU Treaties foresee the possibility of a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) through which Member States that are willing and able can enter into more binding commitments with one another and jointly develop defence capabilities, invest in shared projects, or create multinational formations.

- In June 2017, the European Council invited Member States to develop a list of common commitments, as a basis for those capable of doing so to notify the Council and the High Representative of their intention participation in PESCO. The European Council in October calls for PESCO and an initial set of PESCO projects to be established by December 2017.

- This Treaty-based framework and process will be a driver for closer cooperation in development of defence capabilities, based for the first time on binding commitments undertaken by each Member State which decides to participate. This will help to enhance the efficiency and output of European defence and to implement the EU level of ambition.

### Rapid response

- Reacting fast is, at times, the only way to react effectively. The EU already has top-class civilian experts, and needs to be able to deploy them quickly. It will re-assess which kinds of civilian experts are needed for our civilian missions in light of current challenges. It will also identify options for more flexible, faster and targeted actions in civilian crisis management. The Council has provided a way forward for both the review of priorities and to increase the responsiveness of civilian missions in the coming months and will revert by December 2017.

- The EU's military rapid reaction capability – the Battlegroups – was created ten years ago but has never been deployed yet. The political, technical and financial underlying reasons for this have been examined and proposals have been identified so that Member States can remedy some of them, notably by improving the modularity of their Battlegroups so that they can be used more flexibly. Proposals to consider more effective financing are currently discussed in the ongoing review of the Athena mechanism, including on integrating the common funding of the deployment costs of EU Battlegroup operations. [See here for more information on the EU Battlegroups.](#)

### Planning and conduct of missions

- The European Union is currently deploying sixteen missions and operations, both military (6) and civilian (10). There is a permanent structure within the EEAS to run civilian missions, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). The Council agreed, to also set up a new permanent operational planning and conduct capability within the EEAS for non-executive military missions. This Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) has been established within the EU Military Staff of the EEAS in June 2017. It has assumed command authority over all military non-executive missions (currently 3 training missions in Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia), so that they are planned and carried out in a coordinated and coherent way. To reinforce the synergies with the planning and conduct of civilian missions, the Council also decided to form a Joint Support Coordination Cell of civilian and military experts to share expertise and support practical civilian/military cooperation.

### Taking forward CSDP Partnerships

- As part of CSDP Partnerships, a third country can actively participate in an EU CSDP mission or operation. This sort of partnerships and cooperation with countries that share the EU's values can contribute to the effectiveness and impact of CSDP operations and missions. Cooperation with UN, NATO, AU and OSCE will also be enhanced. (See [here](#) for more information on EU-NATO cooperation). Based on proposals from the HRVP, the Council has agreed to develop a more strategic approach to cooperation in CSDP with partners, including helping them to become more resilient and build their capacities.