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## **Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** **15-17 February 2018, Sofia**

### **Background information**

#### **Session III: CSDP - Implementation of the EU Global Strategy**

The presentation of the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS) in 2016 has triggered an array of processes and activities related to the implementation of its goals and objectives. The Common Security and Defense Policy is the area where progress on the implementation has been particularly noticeable. At the Bratislava Summit of September 2016 and the European Council of December 2016 new impetus was given to the European external security and defense. The EUGS Implementation Plan on Security and defense was endorsed and the cooperation between the EU and NATO began to take new shape.

The Implementation Plan focuses on three strategic priorities: responding to external conflicts and crises, building the capacities of partners and protecting the EU and its citizens. To achieve these goals, concrete action was taken with the joined efforts of the Member States and EU institutions throughout 2017 towards deepening defense cooperation, enhancing efficiency and strengthening the EU's military capabilities, and improving the EU's crisis management capacity.

The implementation of initiatives, stemming from of the EU Global Strategy has implications in many areas. Three main directions are: strengthening EU-NATO cooperation; the further development of EU defense capabilities; cyber-defense and strategic communications.

#### **Strengthening EU-NATO cooperation within the implementation of the Warsaw Declaration**

The Joint Declaration signed in July 2016 was followed in December 2016 by concrete proposals for deepening EU-NATO cooperation in seven areas: countering hybrid threats; operational cooperation including at sea and on migration; cyber security and defense; defense capabilities; defense industry and research; exercises; and supporting Eastern and Southern partners' capacity-building efforts.





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A new package was adopted on 5 December 2017 at the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers and at a meeting of the EU Council. The EU and NATO have agreed 34 new actions as part of the ongoing implementation of the 2016 Joint Declaration. These deepen cooperation and also expand cooperation to new issues, including by addressing military mobility, information sharing in the fight against terrorism, and promoting women's role in peace and security.

Deepening the strategic partnership with NATO and the work on new EU-NATO cooperation measures implementing the Warsaw Declaration should continue taking into account the importance of the transatlantic link and NATO collective defense. There is a need for attaining European capacity in the field of defense complementary to NATO and its collective defense and fair burden sharing.

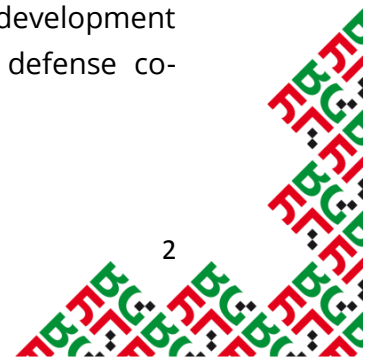
On the other hand, in the context of the security challenges of the Western Balkans and the Black Sea the chance through their integration to achieve fruitful results in the interest of European security and co-operation is also important.

### **Development of the EU military capabilities**

In CSDP the implementation of the initiatives, stemming from of the EU Global Strategy is of utmost importance for the Development of the EU military capabilities. The development of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the field of defense and the successful start of the first projects under it is an issue of high political and public interest. This should go hand in hand with the process of the Co-ordinated Annual Review of Defense, and the European Defense Fund.

The launch of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in December 2017 by 25 Member States brings the Union closer to its goal to maximize effectiveness in defense spending, become a stronger international security partner and contribute to the protection of European citizens. PESCO represents enhanced defense cooperation to build and use joint capabilities through participation in multinational projects. There is a process of refining the right projects to launch the initiative. Member States have made proposals in six different areas of defense capabilities.

As part of the overall process, a trial start was given to the Coordinated Annual Review of defense (CARD) in order to provide a better overview at EU level of defense spending, national investment and research efforts. The CARD aim is to support the development of capabilities needed to meet the EU's level of ambition, to deepen defense co-operation and to ensure optimal use of defense budgets.





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The European Defense Fund (EDF) was established in 2017 and a regulation for European Defense Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) is expected to be finalized within the mandate of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council. The adoption of a Regulation on the establishment of a European Defense Industrial Program (EDIDP) in the context of the capability window of the European Defense Fund should create opportunities so that all EU Member States could be involved in projects under the European Defense Industrial Development Program. Incentives for the participation of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need to be put in place.

The Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) was set up within the EU military staff in June 2017 aiming to improve the EU's crisis management capacity and to ensure more effective and coherent EU reaction. Further push was given to strengthening the EU's rapid response toolbox, including the EU Battlegroups and the EU civilian capabilities. In order to strengthen the EU's rapid response capabilities, EU leaders agreed on 22 June 2017 to bear the deployment of battlegroups as a common cost. The financing of the battlegroups will be managed at EU level through the Athena mechanism on a permanent basis, the latter being currently subject to a review process. In November 2017, the Council reaffirmed the need to strengthen the EU Battlegroup preparations, their modulation and their effective funding, so as to facilitate political decision-making on their deployment. Battle groups are part of the EU's rapid response capabilities. Participation in them is voluntary.

The EU is also working to develop the civilian capabilities and enhance the responsiveness of civilian crisis management, including through the possible creation of a core responsiveness capacity.

### **Cyber-defense and strategic communications**

EU is strengthening the operational capability to respond collectively to large scale cyber incidents. The cooperation is the ultimate approach to develop a resilient and trusted EU Cybersecurity ecosystem and put into practice the Cybersecurity package by the EC. Harmonizing the EU and member states legislation will help to address the cybersecurity challenges.

In the strategic communications the goal is to engage more with the media and that requires investing in StratCom. On the other hand disinformation has to be identified timely and effectively. The strategic communications become more and more important with a view to ensuring further progress in countering hybrid threats together with improved coordination, situational awareness, crisis response, and bolstering resilience.