



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 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 and provide guidance on the actions needed to fulfil these ambitions.

The aim is to mobilise different EU tools and policies, in an integrated approach, including hard, but also soft-power and civilian capacity. The proposals have a clear time-frame for action.

Three core tasks are identified:

- 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.

To achieve these goals, the EU and its Member States will make full use of the Common Security



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It is a plan that is ambitious, concrete and pragmatic. [...] It defines a joint level of ambition for the European Union.
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HRVP Federica Mogherini,
14 November 2016

and Defence Policy (CSDP) and the EU treaties, as well as continue close cooperation with partners, particularly NATO and the United Nations.

The proposal includes the following concrete actions to implement the level of ambition:

Deepening defence cooperation

- The Plan envisions a Coordinated Annual Review on Defence, to promote transparency and cooperation through joint programmes among Member States and thus using economies of scale.
- It also invites the EDA, the European Defence Agency, with its participating Member States, to work on incentives and enablers which aim to strengthen European defence cooperation.
- Together with the EU Member States work will continue to identify which capabilities are needed.
- HRVP Mogherini will make a proposal by Spring 2017 on the possible establishment of the Coordinated Annual Review.

Rapid response

- Reacting fast is, at times, the only way to react effectively. We already have top-class civilian experts, and we need to be able to deploy them quickly. We will re-assess which kinds of civilian experts are needed for our civilian missions in light of current challenges. We will also identify options for more flexible, faster and targeted actions in civilian crisis management.



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

- The EU's military rapid reaction force – called Battlegroups – was created ten years ago but has never been deployed for political, technical and financial reasons. The aim is to remove these obstacles, and make our rapid reaction more usable and effective.

- Concrete measures will be presented by spring 2017 for civilian rapid response, and by summer 2017 for the Battlegroups..

Planning and conduct of missions

- The European Union is currently deploying sixteen missions and operations, both military and civilian. We have a permanent structure within the EEAS to run our civilian missions. The military missions and operations are run by ad hoc headquarters offered by Member States.

- At times several EU missions act in the same region. For instance, we currently deploy two civilian and one military training mission in the Sahel.
- Oversight of all missions and operations needs to be enhanced and a short term objective is the establishment of a new permanent operational planning and conduct capability within the EEAS for non-executive military missions. This would help ensure that all military training and advisory missions are planned and carried out in a coordinated and coherent way.
- HRVP Mogherini will present proposals on planning and conduct in early 2017.

A new Permanent Structured Cooperation

- The European Treaties foresee the possibility of a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) among a group of willing Member States. Member States that decide to join PESCO could, in different groupings, jointly develop capabilities, invest in shared projects, or create multinational formations – it will depend on their own choice.
- The HRVP has been invited to provide elements and options for further reflection.

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. It can also strengthen the resilience of our partners. Cooperation with UN, NATO, AU and OSCE will also be enhanced.
- The HRVP is invited to present options of a more strategic approach to cooperation in CSDP with partners

CSDP

The Common Security and Defence Policy, founded in 1999, is an essential tool in the EU's foreign policy. It gives the EU the possibility to intervene outside the EU for civilian and military crisis management missions and operations, aimed at peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security.

The EU has 16 military operations and civilian missions outside the EU. All EU missions and operations are conducted in accordance with international law, generally on the basis of a UN mandate and/ or the invitation of the national authorities of the country in question.

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**military operations and
civilian missions**