

**April 2019**

*Security and defence topics have been high on the EU's agenda in recent years given the consensus among EU Member States regarding the deteriorating security environment of the European Union (EU). Since the launch of the EU Global Strategy in 2016, a series of defence initiatives have followed, not least the launch of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund, the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence and many others. 2017 was a rich year for security and defence as it witnessed the launch of most of these initiatives. In 2016, the EU and NATO have also cemented their partnership by establishing concrete areas for cooperation, which the two organisations are expanding every year. Both have pledged to reduce duplication and act in complementarity, as they have 22 members in common, and share the same strategic and security environment. Perhaps the most visible aspects of CSDP are the 16 missions and operations deployed under its umbrella – 6 military operations and 10 civilian missions – in the EU's neighbourhood. The European Parliament has been strongly invested in these topics, proving itself an ardent supporter of a Europe of defence. These topics will remain high on the agenda, with debates looming for the next legislature and with the coming years seeing the EU's commitments tested in implementation.*

**Overview of EU action****[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Security and defence](#)**

*Briefing by Elena Lazarou with Alina Dobрева, March 2019*

The idea that the EU should deliver in the area of security and defence has become more and more popular with EU citizens. The crises in the EU's eastern and southern neighbourhoods, such as the occupation of Crimea and conflicts in the Middle East, have created an environment of insecurity in which the EU is called upon to do more.

**[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Foreign policy](#)**

*Briefing by Eric Pichon with Alina Dobрева, March 2019*

In order to address new challenges the EU has put forward concrete solutions to shape synergies between actors, and use expertise more effectively. The EU Global Strategy maps the tools and resources designed to help society as a whole, in the EU and partner countries, to withstand natural and manmade shocks more effectively.

**[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: The fight against terrorism](#)**

*Briefing by Beatrix Immenkamp, Gianluca Sgueo and Sofija Voronova with Alina Dobрева, March 2019*

Faced with a growing international terrorist threat, the EU is playing an ever more ambitious role in counter-terrorism. Although primary responsibility for combating crime and ensuring security lies with the Member States, the EU provides coordination, harmonisation and financial support to address this borderless threat.

**CSDP achievements****[Military mobility](#)**

*'At a glance' note by Tania Latici, March 2019*

In the event of an unpredictable crisis at any border of the EU, military personnel and equipment must be able to move rapidly across the territory. Currently, the movement of military assets across the continent is hampered by the lack of appropriate infrastructure and cumbersome customs procedures. Military mobility aims to ensure the seamless movement of military equipment across the EU by reducing physical, legal and regulatory obstacles.

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## [The Civilian CSDP Compact: A stronger EU footprint in a connected, complex, contested world](#)

*Briefing by Tania Latici, November 2018*

The European Union is currently undertaking a strategic review of the civilian dimension of CSDP to take the form of a civilian CSDP Compact, in order to adapt the CSDP to the challenges of the current geopolitical environment. Europe's 'strategic environment has changed radically' and is surrounded by 'an arc of instability', according to High Representative Federica Mogherini.

## [European Defence Fund – Multiannual financial framework 2021-2027](#)

*'EU Legislation in progress' Briefing by Cemal Karakas, November 2018*

In June 2018, the Commission presented a legislative proposal on a European Defence Fund, including a budget allocation of €13 billion (in current prices) for the 2021-2027 period. The main aims of the fund are to foster the competitiveness and innovativeness of European defence, and to contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy.

## [Peace and Security in 2018: Overview of EU action and outlook for the future](#)

*Study by Elena Lazarou et al., May 2018*

The study provides an overview of the issues and current state of play. It looks first at the concept of peace and the changing nature of the geopolitical environment. It then focuses on the centrality of the promotion of peace and security in the EU's external action and proceeds to analyse the practical pursuit of these principles in three main areas of EU policy: development, democracy support, and security and defence. It concludes with an outlook to the future.

## [Permanent structured cooperation \(PESCO\): Beyond establishment](#)

*Briefing by Elena Lazarou, March 2018*

In its 2016 Global Strategy, the European Union set a new level of ambition in security and defence. Closer defence cooperation among EU Member States is now at the top of the agenda. The aim is to make European defence spending more efficient, and work towards a strategically autonomous European defence union. The launch of PESCO in December 2017 is seen as a crucial step in that direction.

### **Outlook for the future**

## [The end of the INF Treaty? A pillar of European security architecture at risk](#)

*Briefing by Beatrix Immenkamp, February 2019*

The US administration announced on 1 February 2019 that it was suspending its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, with effect from the following day, and that it was giving Russia six months' notice of complete withdrawal. Russia reacted by announcing that it was also suspending its obligations under the Treaty. Any redeployment of intermediate-range missiles will put Europe once more in the line of fire of strategic nuclear weapons.

## ['Shaping a common European defence policy by 2030', in: Thinking about the future of Europe](#)

*Paper by Suzana Anghel, February 2019*

In an increasingly volatile international environment, the EU will need to step up its security and defence cooperation in the next decade, if it is to fulfil its own level of ambition and achieve strategic autonomy, in close cooperation and complementarity with NATO. EU Member States will have to determine if they wish to step up cooperation and move towards a European Defence Union, and possibly, in the long run, a European army.

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## Further reading

### [State of the Union: Spring 2019](#)

'What Think Tanks are thinking' by Marcin Grajewski, March 2019

### [Why artificial intelligence matters](#)

Briefing by Philip Boucher, March 2019

### [The INF Treaty and European defence](#)

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### [United Nations reform](#)

Briefing by Joanna Apap with Amaia Garcés de los Fayos Alonso, February 2019

### [Foreign policy and defence challenges](#)

'What Think Tanks are thinking' by Marcin Grajewski, January 2019

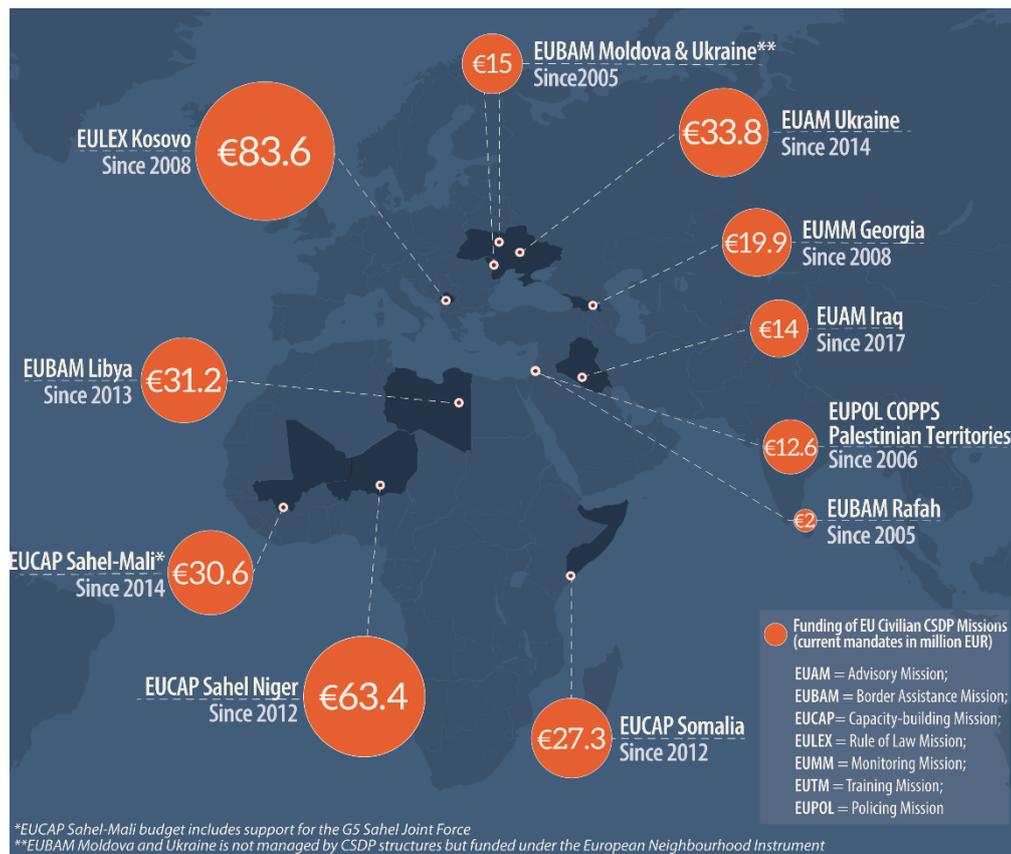
### [European defence industrial development programme \(EDIDP\)](#)

Briefing by Christian Scheinert, September 2018

### [European Deterrence Initiative: the transatlantic security guarantee](#)

Briefing by Tania Latici, July 2018

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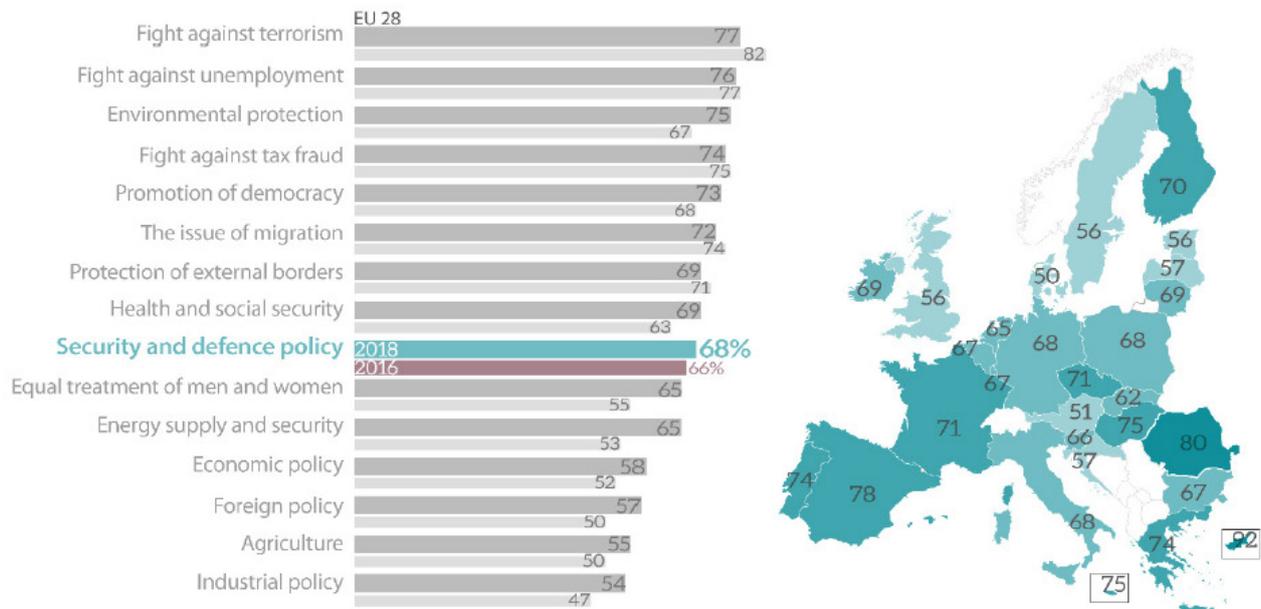
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Figure 1 – Percentage of respondents who would like the EU to intervene more than at present



Source: EPRS based on Eurobarometer [85.1 - 2016](#); [89.2 - 2018](#).

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