The EU's global role

As foreseen in the European Union's updated global strategy, the Union aims to play a stronger role in international affairs and conflict resolution, to reinforce a rules-based global order in an increasingly complex world and to better coordinate internal and external actions to bolster security and defence.

The document, entitled "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe", was presented in June by Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission. It seeks to make the Union more "credible, responsive and joined-up." Faced with growing instability in its neighbourhood and internal crises, the strategy envisages boosting EU efforts on defence, cyber-security, counter-terrorism, energy security and strategic communications.

This note offers links to recent commentaries and studies from major international think on the EU's global strategy and related issues. More papers on the same topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are thinking', published in May.

European Strategy in times of geopolitical interdependence  Fundacion Real Instituto Elcano, September 2016

The EU’s joined-up approach to security  Clingendael, September 2016

Les intérêts stratégiques de l'Union européenne  Fondation Robert Schuman, September 2016

EU Global Strategy: From design to implementation  Clingendael, August 2016

The Global Strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy  Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, August 2016

Rethinking international institutions: Diplomacy and impact on emerging world order  Clingendael, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, August 2016

EU global strategy under threat from division at home  European Council on Foreign Relations, August 2016

A global strategy for a soul-searching European Union  European Policy Centre, July 2016

The EU Global Strategy: From effective multilateralism to global governance that works?  Egmont, July 2016

After the EUGS: Specifying the military tasks  European Union Institute for Security Studies, July 2016

After the EUGS: Mainstreaming a new CSDP  European Union Institute for Security Studies, July 2016

After the EUGS: Connecting the dots  European Union Institute for Security Studies, July 2016

The EU Global Strategy and defense: Ambitious but credible?  Carnegie Europe, July 2016

Implications of the EU Global Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa  Istituto Affari Internazionali, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, July 2016

The EU Global Strategy in the shadow of Brexit  Carnegie Europe, July 2016

Going global, targeting the home front  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige, July 2016
The EU Global Strategy, a triumph of hope over experience  Carnegie Europe, July 2016

The EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy: A Short guide for the perplexed  Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, July 2016


The EU Global Strategy: Going beyond effective multilateralism?  European Policy Centre, Egmont, June 2016

A new strategy: Implications for CSDP  Clingendael, June 2016

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The new great game: An opportunity for the EU's Common and Foreign Security Policy  European Institute for Asian Studies, June 2016


A new EU strategic approach to global development, resilience and sustainability  Istituto Affari Internazionali, European Centre for Development Policy Management, May 2016

Global complexity: Intersection of chessboard and web trends  Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, May 2016

Embedding NATO into the European Union Global Strategy: the missing link?  EUROPEUM, May 2016


A global strategy for a global player? Shaping the EU’s role in the world  College of Europe, April 2016

Related publications:

Strengthening the EU's External Action: The need for an EU food diplomacy?  Istituto Affari Internazionali, July 2016

The long road for rising democracies and democracy support  Carnegie Europe, July 2016

Effective minilateralism for the EU: What, when and how  European Union Institute for Security Studies, June 2016

2016 Security Jam: Beyond conventional security challenges  Friends of Europe, June 2016

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European security: A defining moment?  Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, June 2016


The return of geopolitics to Southeast Europe  Institute for Development and International Relations, Hanns Seidel Stiftung, May 2016

Russia: A test for Transatlantic unity  Transatlantic Academy, German Marshall Fund of the United States, May 2016