Foreign policy and defence challenges

The European Union will face increasingly serious foreign policy and defence challenges in 2019. The current Administration in the United States seems to be abandoning its traditional role of ‘benign protector’ of the rules-based international order. Russia, according to many analysts, continues to try to undermine the democratic process in many Western countries, and China’s foreign policy is becoming more and more assertive, notably in the economic field. Furthermore, migration, Brexit and cybersecurity, as well as a lack of EU unity on certain issues, also feature amongst key challenges.

This note offers links to recent selected commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on EU foreign and defence policies. Links to more reports on President Donald Trump’s policies, Russia, EU-China relations and NATO are available in previous items in this series, published last year.

- President Donald Trump

  What Trump means for Europe
  Carnegie Europe, January 2019

  How Europe will try to dodge the US–China standoff in 2019
  Chatham House, December 2018

  Europe and Iran: The economic and commercial dimensions of a strained relationship
  Istituto Affari Internazionali, December 2019

  Divided at the centre: Germany, Poland, and the troubles of the Trump era
  Centre for European Policy Studies, December 2018

  The Iran nuclear deal and the EU: A strategic awakening?
  Clingendael, November 2018

  The United States, Russia, and Europe in 2018: Chipping away at four Gordian knots
  Russian International Affairs Council, November 2018

  Us and U.S.? Not all in Europe want to be a “counterweight” to Donald Trump’s United States
  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, September 2018

  Trump’s misguided attack on European unity
  Council on Foreign Relations, July 2018
• Russia

*Western countries must rethink how to deter Russian aggression against Ukraine*
Chatham House, December 2018

*Is Russia about to invade Ukraine?*
Atlantic Council, December 2018

*Beyond borderlands: Ensuring the sovereignty of all nations of Eastern Europe*
Atlantic Council, November 2018

*Putin’s fourth term: The twilight begins?*
European Union Institute for Strategic Studies, November 2018

*Hacks, leaks and disruptions: Russian cyber strategies*
European Union Institute for Strategic Studies, October 2018

*Russia and the Baltics: A testing ground for NATO–EU defence cooperation*
Istituto Affari Internazionali, September 2018

*Russia’s return to the Middle East: Building sandcastles?*
European Union Institute for Strategic Studies, July 2018

*Tailored assurance: Balancing deterrence and disarmament in responding to NATO-Russia tensions*
Institut français des relations internationals, July 2018

• China

*Development through acquisition: The domestic background of China’s Europe policy*
Istituto Affari Internazionali, January 2019

*EU-India cooperation and China’s Belt and Road Initiative*
Clingendael, January 2019

*Are China’s trade practices really unfair?*
Centre for European Policy Studies, December 2018

*The EU and China: Modest signs of convergence?*
Egmont, December 2018

*Political values in Europe-China relations*
Clingendael, December 2018

*Les multiples atouts de la stratégie sécuritaire de la Chine en Afrique*
Groupe de recherche et d’information sur la paix et sécurité, December 2018

• Other reports on defence

*1919-2019: How to make peace last? European strategy and the future of the world order*
Egmont, January 2019

*Eyes tight shut: European attitudes towards nuclear deterrence*
European Council on Foreign Relations, December 2018
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**Permanent deterrence: Enhancements to the US military presence in North Central Europe**
Atlantic Council, December 2018

**Le Brexit et la défense européenne: Un choix de fond pour l’Union**
Groupe de recherche et d’information sur la paix et sécurité, December 2018

**Under the gun: Rearmament for arms control in Europe**
European Council on Foreign Relations, November 2018

**Strategic autonomy: Towards ‘European sovereignty’ in defence?**
European Union Institute for Strategic Studies, November 2018

**NATO nuclear sharing and the future of nuclear deterrence in Europe**
The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, November 2018

**A ‘European’ army? Eminently defensible but not probable for a long time to come**
Atlantic Council, November 2018

**The erosion of strategic stability and the future of arms control in Europe**
Institut français des relations internationales, November 2018

**Reinforcing EU-NATO cooperation: Walking the talk?**
Beyond the Horizon, November 2018

**EU-NATO relations: A long-term perspective**
Egmont, November 2018

**The civilian CSDP compact: A success story for the EU’s crisis management Cinderella?**
European Union Institute for Strategic Studies, October 2018

**Confronting an "axis of cyber"? China, Iran, North Korea, Russia in cyberspace**
Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, October 2018

**Global evaluation of the European Union engagement on counter-terrorism**
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague; Royal United Services Institute, October 2018

**The challenges of NATO nuclear policy: Alliance management under the Trump Administration**
Finnish Institute of International Affairs, October 2018

**France’s European intervention initiative: Towards a culture of burden sharing**
Wilfried Martens Centre, October 2018

**NATO after the Brussels summit: Bruised or emboldened?**
German Marshall Fund, September 2018

**Germany and European defence cooperation: A post-Atlantic turn?**
Finnish Institute of International Affairs, September 2018

**Debating security plus: Conflict, competition and cooperation in an interconnected world**
Friends of Europe, September 2018
The nightmare of the dark: The security fears that keep Europeans awake at night
European Council on Foreign Relations, July 2018

Complementarity without competition: How NATO can benefit from stronger European defense cooperation
Atlantic Council, July 2018

EU-NATO cooperation: Distinguishing narrative from substance
Jacques Delors Institute, July 2018

- Other reports on foreign policy

The EU’s re-engagement with the Western Balkans: A new chapter long overdue
Centre for European Policy Studies, January 2019

Refugee movements in the Middle East: Old crises, new ideas
Istituto Affari Internazionali, January 2019

How populism spills over into foreign policy
Carnegie Europe, January 2019

Strengthening European commercial diplomacy: Prospects and challenges
Istituto Affari Internazionali, December 2018

Back in control, Syria’s regime tries to build its legitimacy
Chatham House, December 2018

Merkel’s foreign policy footprint
Carnegie Europe, December 2018

Some EU governments leaving the UN Global Compact on Migration: A contradiction in terms?
Centre for European Policy Studies, November 2018

Ein Europäischer Sicherheitsrat: Mehrwert für die Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der EU?
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, November 2018

Die nachrichtendienstlichen Schnittstellen der EU-Sicherheitspolitik
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, November 2018

New realities in foreign affairs: Diplomacy in the 21st century
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, November 2018

UN migration agreement leads to splits in the European Union
Atlantic Council, November 2018

Crimes sans châtiment ou la dérangeante complaisance des démocraties européennes envers Riyad
Groupe de recherche et d’information sur la paix et sécurité, October 2018

Regional geopolitical rivalries in the Middle East: Implications for Europe
Istituto Affari Internazionali, October 2018
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EU foreign policy in a networked world: Webs against power politics
Finnish Institute of International Affairs, October 2018

EU Grenzpolitiken: Der humanitäre und geopolitische Preis von Externalisierungsstrategien im Grenzschutz
Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik, October 2018

Halting ambition: EU migration and security policy in the Sahel
European Council on Foreign Relations, September 2018

How a European Security Council could strengthen EU foreign policy: Brussels’ new telephone number?
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, August 2018

The EU’s four strategic challenges
Jacques Delors Institute, July 2018

EU–Japan relations in the age of competitive economic governance
Clingendael, July 2018

De-radicalization in the Mediterranean
Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, July 2018

Geopolitical outlook for Europe: Confrontation vs cooperation
European Political Strategy Centre, June 2018

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