

# 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.

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