The European Union's 'Strategic Compass' process

The Strategic Compass aims to cement the foundations for a shared vision for EU security and defence among European Union Member States. This Member State-led process was initiated in 2020, during which a threat analysis was completed. Strategic dialogues among Member States are ongoing in 2021 to shape the content of the Compass on key issues grouped in four interconnected 'baskets'. Its goals are to operationalise the EU’s strategic autonomy, a debated term, to refine the EU’s level of ambition, and to better link the EU’s strategic, operational and capability needs.

The Strategic Compass:
- **Crisis Management**: Scenarios for military and civilian missions, Geographical priorities, Petersburg tasks, Headline Goals Revision, Force generation, Institutional capacity, European Peace Facility, Civilian CSDP Compact
- **Partnerships**: EU-UN, EU-NATO, EU-US, Africa (African Union, G5 Sahel), Eastern Partnership, Indo-Pacific (QUAD, ASEAN, bilateral)
- **Resilience**: Mutual assistance (Art. 42(7) TEU) and solidarity (Art. 222 TFEU) clauses, Protecting critical infrastructure, Supply chain security, Military mobility, Global commons, Non-traditional threats
- **Capability Development**: Technological sovereignty, PESCO, European Defence Fund, Coordinated Annual Review on Defence, European Defence Agency, Space, cyber and maritime capabilities

Timeline:
- **2020**: June 2020 – Tasking by the Council of the EU
- **November 2020**: First ever EU threat analysis
- **2021**: First half of 2021 – Strategic dialogue and workshop with Member States
- **Second half of 2021**: Development of the Strategic Compass
- **2022**: First half of 2022 – Adoption of the Strategic Compass