The INF Treaty and European defence

The United States has announced its withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, sparking fears of a fresh nuclear arms race between Russia, the United States and China. The collapse of the 1987 agreement, which bans land-based missiles with a range of between 500 kilometres and 5 500 kilometres, has further exacerbated existing concerns about European security caused by the uncertain commitment of US President Donald Trump to the NATO military alliance.

President Trump’s approach to security, coupled with Russia’s assertive behaviour, have prompted the European Union to put forward initiatives to increase its military capabilities. President Trump started a six-month process of withdrawing from the Treaty in February 2019, blaming the decision on Russian violations. Hopes are not high that an agreement can be negotiated during this period. Furthermore, during the 2019 Munich Security Conference, German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on China to join the INF Treaty, but China has argued that this would place unfair limits on its military, and refused.

This note offers links to commentaries and studies on the collapse of the INF Treaty, and on European defence. Earlier papers on defence can be found in a previous edition of ‘What Think Tanks are Thinking’, published in July 2018.

The INF Treaty

*The end of an era? The INF Treaty, New START, and the future of strategic stability*
Brookings Institution, February 2019

*Europe and the end of the INF Treaty*
Carnegie Europe, February 2019

*Q&A on the US withdrawal from the INF Treaty*
American Enterprise Institute, February 2019

*The end of the INF Treaty is looming: A new nuclear arms race can still be prevented*
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, January 2019

*The INF quandary: Preventing a nuclear arms race in Europe. Perspectives from the US, Russia and Germany*
Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs, January 2019

*The ailing INF Treaty: What to know*
Council on Foreign Relations, January 2019

*The demise of the INF treaty: Can the EU save arms control?*
Clingendael, January 2019
Der INF-Vertrag vor dem Aus – Bedrohung oder Chance für die internationale Rüstungskontrolle?
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, December 2018

What comes after a U.S. withdrawal from the INF Treaty? The case for a NATO strategy
Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2019

Will Europe try to save the INF Treaty?
Brookings Institution, December 2018

Dead man walking: Time to put the INF treaty to rest?
International Centre for Defence and Security, November 2018

Terminating the INF Treaty makes no sense
Cato Institute, October 2018

The crumbling architecture of arms control
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, October 2018

Other reports on European defence

Europe in 2019: A critical and transitional year
Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2019

The way towards the European Defence Union
European Political Strategy Centre, February 2019

Strategische Autonomie Europas
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, February 2019

Misplaced nostalgia for the old West
Carnegie Europe, February 2019

NATO at seventy: An alliance in crisis
Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs, February 2019

The European blame game
Carnegie Europe, February 2019

Blaming Trump for their problems is the one thing Europeans can agree on
Brookings Institutions, February 2019

Poland’s short-sighted military dependence on the United States
Carnegie Europe, February 2019

America the mercenary: Trump’s plan to bill NATO
European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2019

On the up: Western defence spending in 2018
International Institute for Strategic Studies, February 2019

Pourquoi nous faut-il une armée européenne?
A ‘European’ Army? Eminently defensible but not probable for a long time to come
Atlantic Council, November 2018

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

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

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

**The United States, Russia, and Europe in 2018**
Center for Strategic and International Studies, November 2018

**The European dimension of nuclear deterrence: French and British policies and future scenarios**
Finnish Institute of International Relations, November 2018

**‘Fort Trump?’ Is there added value to a permanent U.S. military base in Poland?**
Center for Strategic and International Studies, November 2018

**Strengthening the EU’s cyber defence capabilities**
Centre for European Policy Studies, November 2018

**In Sea of Azov, Russia again tests its strength**
Chatham House, November 2018

**European armaments standardisation**
European Union Institute for Security Studies, November 2018

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

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

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

**Trump gets NATO backwards**
Center for New American Security, November 2018

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

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

**Addressing the nexus: Regional conventional arms control in a global context**
OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions, October 2018

**NATO after the Brussels summit: Bruised or emboldened?**
German Marshall Fund, September 2018
Hard lessons from Brussels: The key challenges facing NATO
Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, September 2018

Debating security plus: Conflict, competition and cooperation in an interconnected world
Friends of Europe, September 2018

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

PESCO implementation: The next challenge
Clingendael, September 2018

Russia’s Vostok exercises were both serious planning and a show
Chatham House, September 2018

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

PESCO and security cooperation between the EU and Turkey
Istanbul Policy Centre, Istituto Affari Internazionali, September 2018

European strategic autonomy: Going it alone?
Clingendael, August 2018

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

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

DISCLAIMER AND COPYRIGHT

This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament.

Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy.

eprs@ep.europa.eu (contact)
www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu (intranet)
www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank (internet)
http://epthinktank.eu (blog)