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DRAFT REPORT

on EU-NATO cooperation in the context of transatlantic relations
(2020/2257(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on EU-NATO cooperation in the context of transatlantic relations (2020/2257(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to the North Atlantic Treaty,
- having regard to Title V of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), in particular Articles 21 and 42 thereof,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 June 2018 on EU-NATO relations¹,
- having regard to its resolution of 11 December 2018 on military mobility²,
- having regard to its resolution of 14 February 2019 on the future of the INF Treaty and the impact on the European Union³,
- having regard to its legislative resolution of 26 November 2019 on the proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax and Directive 2008/118/EC concerning the general arrangements for excise duty as regards defence effort within the Union framework⁴,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2020 on the implementation of the common security and defence policy – annual report⁵,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2020 on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy – annual report⁶,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 14 November 2016 on the EU Global Strategy for the Union's foreign and security policy, entitled 'Shared vision common action: a stronger Europe',
- having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2017/971 of 8 June 2017 determining the planning and conduct arrangements for EU non-executive military CSDP missions and amending Decisions 2010/96/CFSP on a European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces, 2013/34/CFSP on a European Union military mission to contribute to the training of the Malian armed forces (EUTM Mali) and (CFSP) 2016/601 on a European Union CSDP military training mission in the Central

¹ [OJ C 28, 27.1.2020, p. 49.](#)

² [OJ C 388, 13.11.2020, p. 22.](#)

³ [OJ C 449, 23.12.2020, p. 149.](#)

⁴ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0060.

⁵ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0009.

⁶ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0008.

African Republic (EUTM RCA)⁷, establishing the EU Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC),

- having regard to the defence package presented by the Commission on 7 June 2017 in the ‘Reflection Paper on the Future of European Defence’ (COM(2017)0315),
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 13 and 14 December 2018 on security and defence,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 17 June 2020 on security and defence,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 16 November 2020 entitled ‘A recovery advancing the transition towards a more dynamic, resilient and competitive EU industry’,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 20 November 2020 on the PESCO Strategic Review 2020,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 2 December 2020 entitled ‘A new EU-US agenda for global change’ (JOIN(2020)0022),
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 10 and 11 December 2020 on EU-US relations,
- having regard to the Council decision of 22 March 2021 establishing the European Peace Facility (EPF),
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 16 December 2020 entitled ‘The EU’s Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade’ (JOIN(2020)0018),
- having regard to the statement of the members of the European Council of 26 February 2021 on security and defence,
- having regard to the agreement between the negotiators of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 December 2020 on the European Defence Fund (EDF),
- having regard to the political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2020 on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) for the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) period (2021-2027),
- having regard to the Security of Information Agreement of 14 March 2003 between the EU and NATO,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration on EU-NATO Cooperation, signed in Warsaw on 8 July 2016 by the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission,

⁷ OJ L 146, 9.6.2017, p. 133.

and the Secretary-General of NATO,

- having regard to the common set of 74 proposals for the implementation of the Warsaw Joint Declaration endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils on 6 December 2016 and 5 December 2017,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration on EU-NATO cooperation, signed in Brussels by the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, and the Secretary-General of NATO on 10 July 2018, and to the Brussels Summit Declaration issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels on 11 and 12 July 2018,
- having regard to the five progress reports by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the Secretary-General of NATO on the implementation of the common set of proposals submitted jointly in June and December 2017, and in June 2018, 2019 and 2020,
- having regard to the Wales Summit Declaration, issued on 5 September 2014 by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Wales,
- having regard to the report of the Reflection Group Appointed by the NATO Secretary-General of 25 November 2020 entitled ‘NATO 2030: United for a New Era’, co-chaired by Thomas de Mazière and A. Weiss Mitchell,
- having regard to the NATO 2030 Young Leaders Group report of 4 February 2021 entitled ‘NATO 2030: Embrace the change, guard the values’,
- having regard to the visit by the NATO Secretary-General to the College of Commissioners of 15 December 2020,
- having regard to the participation of the VP/HR in the meeting of NATO Defence Ministers of 17 and 18 February 2021, and in the meeting of the NATO Foreign Affairs Ministers of 23 and 24 March 2021,
- having regard to the State of the Union speech of 14 September 2016 by Commission President Juncker,
- having regard to the statements of 19 February 2021 by the political leaders of NATO and the EU at the Special Munich Security Conference ‘Beyond Westlessness’,
- having regard to the exchange of views during the 3 March 2021 session of the Interparliamentary Conference for the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and the common security and defence policy (CSDP),
- having regard to the exchange of views with the NATO Secretary-General during the joint meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Subcommittee on Security and Defence, and the Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held on 15 March 2021,
- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2021),
- A. whereas both the EU and NATO have begun reflection processes in order to properly adjust to the unprecedented global security changes; whereas in June 2020, EU leaders agreed to launch a process aimed at defining a ‘Strategic Compass’; whereas NATO leaders are expected to launch a process to update NATO’s Strategic Concept at their next Summit;
- B. whereas the EU and its Member States have, in particular since the publication of the 2016 EU Global Strategy, intensified their cooperation in the field of security and defence;
- C. whereas in the framework of the CSDP, 5 000 EU military and civilian staff are currently deployed in six military and 11 civilian missions and operations on three continents;
- D. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on international relations and has further exacerbated existing global tensions and security challenges;

70 years of the transatlantic bond through NATO

1. Welcomes the intensified EU-NATO cooperation that has been in place since the signature of the 2016 Joint Declaration, and underscores that the security of EU Member States and their citizens would strongly benefit from a true strategic EU-NATO partnership;
2. Reaffirms its previous commitment to the EU’s ambitions in the field of security and defence, and reiterates the EU’s ambition to be a global actor for peace and security; underlines the fact that NATO remains indispensable for the security and collective defence of its members and the transatlantic community as a whole;
3. Underscores that the EU-NATO partnership and transatlantic cooperation as a whole are built on common support for the core values of democracy, freedom, respect for human rights, the rule of law and the promotion of peace and international cooperation;
4. Underlines that NATO is a valued partner also to EU Member States which are not members of the alliance; recalls that NATO cooperation with non-NATO EU Member States is an integral part of EU-NATO cooperation, and encourages the fullest possible involvement of the non-NATO EU Member States in the alliance’s initiatives;
5. Highlights that the transatlantic community is faced with a broad array of unprecedented common challenges, ranging from the fight against terrorism to hybrid threats, climate change, disinformation, cyber attacks, emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs), and a shifting global power balance, as well as the resulting challenge to the international rules-based order;

Enhancing both transatlantic and EU-NATO cooperation

6. Commends the key suggestions made by the 2030 NATO independent group of experts, in particular their call for stronger EU-NATO cooperation; endorses the proposals of

December 2020 by the Commission President and the VP/HR for an EU-US Security and Defence Dialogue; welcomes the intention of the Biden administration to engage with EU and NATO partners; underlines both the key relevance of the US forces stationed in Europe for Europe's security and its full commitment to their continued presence;

7. Considers that the ongoing and future work being carried out in parallel on both the EU's Strategic Compass and the expected update of NATO's Strategic Concept represents a unique opportunity to identify additional synergies in order to further EU-NATO cooperation; underlines that both processes must come to cohesive conclusions; expresses its vision that the EU Strategic Compass could lay the foundations for an EU contribution to the update of NATO's Strategic Concept; believes that these processes should separately highlight the added value of each organisation, help define a better division of tasks and, by means of a constant dialogue and close coordination, map out whether the EU or NATO should take the lead in a given field;
8. Believes that the upcoming NATO Summit is an important opportunity to advance EU-NATO cooperation; underlines that the EU is a partner of NATO and that EU-NATO cooperation is mutually reinforcing and based on the agreed guiding principles of transparency, reciprocity, inclusiveness, the decision-making autonomy of both organisations and the principle of the single set of forces; reiterates that a European military capability to act is essential to contribute to the fulfilment of NATO's core tasks, as well as to enhance deterrence;
9. Highlights the EU's competences in the key field of resilience, among other things in the area of protecting critical infrastructure, such as in the transport, energy and IT sectors;
10. Welcomes the requests by the United States, Canada, and Norway to participate in the PESCO project on military mobility; underlines that this marks an important step towards increased coherence between the common EU and NATO capability development efforts, and illustrates the revitalisation of the transatlantic partnership;
11. Recalls the importance of close transatlantic cooperation in the areas of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation; furthermore, sees potential for further transatlantic cooperation on a range of international issues, such as maritime security, pandemic response and in the areas of outer space and the fight against terrorism;
12. Recognises the important cooperation between the EU and NATO in the Western Balkans, notably through the EUFOR Althea mission;

Threats and challenges faced by the EU and NATO

13. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the continuous revisionist policies pursued by Russia under President Putin; underscores the need for both NATO and the EU to remain vigilant and to adequately respond to acts of aggression and provocation by Russia, such as, in particular, its illegitimate and illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014; regrets President Putin's evident rejection of dialogue, and considers Russia's continued aggressive actions as a threat to Euro-Atlantic security and stability;

14. Recognises that the growing influence and military rise of China need to be met with a coordinated transatlantic strategy; expresses its concern regarding the policies pursued by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) when it comes to, among other things, the suppression of democracy in Hong Kong, the treatment of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, threats towards Taiwan or aggressive policies and actions in the South China Sea; further points to the relevance of the fact that China, as a non-democratic regime, has entered into systemic competition with the transatlantic partnership by undermining the rules-based international order, and in turn is attempting to reshape it according to the CCP's own values and interests;
15. Expresses serious concern that adversaries and competitors of the transatlantic partnership are not only using military but also political and economic tools to undermine our societies and democracies; points to the significant security and economic challenges posed by hybrid threats, cyber attacks and disinformation campaigns, which in some cases constitute an attack against the very nature of our democracies;
16. Emphasises that both the EU and NATO should further strengthen their capabilities to prevent, deter and respond to hybrid and cyber attacks; suggests the creation of a joint cyber threat information hub, as well as a joint task force for cyber security;
17. Recognises the unprecedented challenge to global prosperity, security and stability posed by climate change as a 'threat multiplier'; calls for enhanced EU-NATO dialogue on climate change and its multifaceted consequences for international security;

Time to deliver on EU defence ambitions

18. Is convinced that the Member States must increase their efforts to improve the EU's ability to act with a more capable, deployable, interoperable and sustainable set of military capabilities and forces, which would give the EU the capacity to contribute more equitably to transatlantic security, enable it to achieve strategic autonomy, and further pave the way to progressively frame a European Defence Union (EDU) in line with Article 42 of the TEU; stresses that strategic autonomy strengthens transatlantic security, and by no means aims to decouple from or weaken NATO; underlines at the same time that strategic autonomy not only entails defence capability development but also the institutional capacity enabling the EU to act, where possible with partners, and independently if necessary; believes that these increased European military efforts will allow the EU to take greater responsibility for European security, and to better promote common EU-NATO interests and values, in particular in the European neighbourhood;
19. Underscores the need to advance defence capability development in order to adequately respond to commonly identified threats; believes that EU Member States, especially the 21 joint EU-NATO members, need to act coherently and should consider identifying a clear 'European level of ambition' in quantitative and qualitative terms regarding capability development in NATO; encourages stronger efforts by members of both organisations to achieve greater synergies and coordination between the EU's Capability Development Plan (CDP), the EU's Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and NATO's Defence Planning Process (NDPP);
20. Believes that as a long-term objective, the European allies in NATO, supported where

possible by non-NATO European partners, as appropriate, should aim to account for half of the forces and capabilities derived under the NDPP in order to ensure adequate long-term burden-sharing inside the alliance; underlines that the transatlantic partnership can only be successful if all Member States fulfil their commitments and engage in mutual support; underlines NATO's 2 % goal, set at the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales;

21. Underscores the importance of a strong, competitive and innovative European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), which not only secures and creates European jobs but is also essential for enabling the alliance to meet its capability requirements and hence ensure Europe's safety; calls for further efforts to ensure a fully functional common defence market; highlights the importance of the EDF and calls for a strategic long-term orientation of its project funding;
22. Calls for the conclusion of an administrative arrangement between the European Defence Agency and the US, as well as other non-EU NATO allies, to deepen transatlantic defence cooperation;
23. Welcomes the extension of the New START Treaty; recalls the need to increase cooperation and investment in the key area of air and missile defence;
24. Calls for the EU and its institutions, building on the foundation laid by the 'integrated approach', to develop both a common security and defence culture, as well as a strategic approach, throughout its policy-making, which should apply in particular to decisions in the fields of trade, development cooperation, infrastructure, mobility and digital technologies;

Towards an ambitious partnership

25. Calls for regular special summits with the participation of all NATO and EU Heads of State and Government, and expresses its long-term vision for an EU-NATO Partnership Council; underlines the principle of inclusiveness;
26. Reiterates its previous calls for the EU and NATO to organise regular joint exercises, ensuring the involvement of all Member States and allies;
27. Welcomes the progress made on the 74 common proposals for action; believes, however, that more political support is needed to ensure full implementation; further calls for the identification of flagship projects, such as military mobility, in order to increase ownership and make the cooperation more tangible and results-orientated;
28. Acknowledges that in view of the institutional limitations, EU-NATO cooperation to a large extent takes place on an informal and technical staff-to-staff level, limiting at times the active involvement of all Member States; believes that this situation is unsustainable and therefore strongly urges all stakeholders to work together in good faith to seek a solution which would render cooperation more formal and predictable on all levels, with a view to building a genuine organisation-to-organisation relationship;
29. Calls on all members to work towards the conclusion of a security agreement between Cyprus and NATO;

30. Underlines that the transatlantic partnership not only needs strong militaries but also strong and resilient societies; emphasises the mutually reinforcing link between strong democratic foundations and a strong transatlantic partnership, which only together can ensure the longevity of our democracies; supports the idea put forward by the Biden administration for a global summit of democracies; calls for increased efforts to encourage the participation of young people in our democratic processes;
31. Recalls the importance of effective and clear communication, both in the EU and externally, and calls for closer cooperation between the respective staff of NATO and the EU on strategic communication, especially with regard to countering disinformation;
32. Underlines the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and reiterates its previous calls for an enhanced role for the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA); recommends that the status of the European Parliament's delegation in the NATO PA be upgraded to full status, reflecting the importance of EU-NATO cooperation;
33. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Secretary-General of NATO, the European Defence Agency, the governments and national parliaments of the EU and NATO Member States and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.