



# Timeline: European cooperation in the area of security and defence



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*We are seeing a historic moment in European defence.  
We have moved more in the last twelve months than  
in the last ten years.*  
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**Federica Mogherini**  
High Representative/Vice-President

Ever since High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini presented the EU Global Strategy on Security and Defence on 28 June 2016, European cooperation in the areas of security and defence has developed at a fast pace, focusing on three complementary strategic priorities:

- 1) responding to external conflicts and crises,
- 2) strengthening the capacities of our partners and
- 3) protecting the European Union and our citizens. The successful steps taken towards more European integration are based on the following documents (the ‘defence package’):



[IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE](#)



[EUROPEAN DEFENCE  
ACTION PLAN](#)



[EU – NATO COOPERATION  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
WARSAW DECLARATION](#)

06.  
2018

[2<sup>ND</sup> PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU GLOBAL STRATEGY.](#)

06.  
2018

The Council adopts conclusions on security and defence and a decision setting out governance rules for projects undertaken under the [Permanent Structured Cooperation \(PESCO\)](#).

06.  
2018

HR proposes to set up a [European Peace Facility](#), a new fund outside of the Union’s multi-annual budget, worth €10.5 billion, to finance operational actions under the Common Foreign and Security Policy that have military or defence implications.

06.  
2018

Commission proposes the [European Defence Fund](#), with significant allocations of €13 billion – as well as financing for military mobility as part of the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF).



- 05. 2018** | The Council adopts conclusions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> progress report on the implementation of the common set of proposals endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils on 6 December 2016 and 5 December 2017.
- 05. 2018** | The Council adopts conclusions on strengthening civilian CSDP, endorsing the Concept Paper presented by the HR to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of civilian CSDP.
- 05. 2018** | The Council and the European Parliament reach a [provisional agreement](#) on a regulation establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP).
- 03. 2018** | The Council formally adopts a first set [17 different projects and their participants](#) as well as a [Recommendation which sets out a roadmap](#) for the further implementation of PESCO.
- 12. 2017** | The Council adopts a decision establishing PESCO and its list of participants. A total of 25 Member States decide to participate in PESCO.
- 12. 2017** | The European Council welcomes the launch of PESCO, reviews progress on EU-NATO cooperation and the European Defence Fund. It invites the HR to continue her work on military mobility and on the strengthening of civilian CSDP.
- 12. 2017** | Member States reach an agreement on a European Defence Fund at a Council meeting.
- 12. 2017** | The Council adopts the decision formally launching PESCO. The participating Member States also agree on a declaration, expressing their intention to prepare the first 17 collaborative PESCO projects.
- 12. 2017** | Ireland and Portugal notify their decision to join PESCO, which increases the number of participating Member States to 25.
- 12. 2017** | [2<sup>nd</sup> progress report](#) on the implementation of the EU-NATO Joint Declaration ([Warsaw Declaration](#)) and additional 34 actions, including in three new areas of cooperation presented.
- 11. 2017** | 23 EU Member States submit a 'common notification' expressing their interest to participate in PESCO to HR Mogherini. The notification includes the list of common commitments, indicating that the participating Member States are willing and able to fulfil the requirements of PESCO.
- 11. 2017** | The European Commission and HRVP Mogherini present a Joint Communication on military mobility to address the obstacles hampering the movement of military equipment and personnel within the EU.

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11. 2017 | The Council highlights the significant progress made in strengthening security and defence, in the follow-up to the EU Global Strategy. It invites the HR to submit a forward looking concept paper on strengthening civilian CSDP by early 2018.
10. 2017 | First trial run of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence ([CARD](#)) starts. CARD will help to foster capability development addressing shortfalls, deepen defence cooperation and ensure more optimal use of defence spending plans.
- 09/10. 2017 | EU and NATO conduct for the first time a parallel and coordinated exercise. Crisis response mechanisms and their synchronisation are tested, including countering cyber and hybrid threats.
09. 2017 | Start of discussions in the European Parliament on the European Defence Fund and proposal for regulation on the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP).
09. 2017 | HRVP Mogherini and EU Defence Ministers agree to develop defence cooperation and increase defence industry financing at an informal meeting in Tallinn.
07. 2016 | Beginning of Council discussions on proposed regulation on EDIDP.
06. 2017 | The Military Planning and Conduct Capability ([MPCC](#)) is established. The EU military training missions (currently in Mali, Somalia and Central African Republic) are now under one commander, ensuring a better coordination and cooperation between military and civilian actors.
06. 2017 | **1<sup>ST</sup> PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU GLOBAL STRATEGY.**
06. 2017 | Launch of Preparatory Action on defence research (signature of delegation agreement with European Defence Agency), making the European Defence Fund (Research window) operational.
06. 2017 | First progress report on the implementation of the Warsaw Declaration submitted by HRVP Mogherini and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg.
06. 2016 | European Council agrees on the need to activate PESCO, expressing the will to cooperate more closely together.
06. 2017 | The Commission presents proposals for [European Defence Fund](#) and on the EDIDP.
06. 2017 | European Commission opens with its [Reflection Paper on the future of European defence](#) a public debate on defence in an EU at 27.
05. 2017 | EU Foreign and Defence Ministers endorse the modalities to establish CARD, which should allow Member States to test, adapt and validate the approach as necessary ahead of the first full CARD implementation in autumn 2019.
04. 2017 | HRVP Mogherini and EU Defence Ministers review the different strands of the defence package at an informal meeting in la Valletta.

03.  
2017

During the [60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaties of Rome](#), EU leaders decide to move forward on the European Union defence and security cooperation

12.  
2016

European Council endorses the 'defence package' - the Implementation Plan on Security and Defence, EDAP and the proposals for the EU-NATO cooperation.

12.  
2016

EU and NATO Foreign Ministers endorse a [common set of proposals](#) of 42 concrete measures in seven areas of cooperation: 1. countering hybrid threats; 2. operational cooperation including at sea and on migration; 3. cyber security and defence; 4. defence capabilities; 5. defence industry and research; 6. exercises; 7. supporting Eastern and Southern partners' capacity-building efforts.

11.  
2016

[The European Defence Action Plan](#) (EDAP) is put forward by the European Commission with new financial tools for capability development and defence cooperation in support of European defence industry and technological innovation.

11.  
2016

HRVP Mogherini proposes an Implementation Plan on Security and Defence, which includes a new level of ambition as well as concrete actions. These actions will assist the EU and its members states in addressing further the EU's current and future security and defence needs. Proposals include improving the EU's rapid response to crises, strengthening coordination between civilian and military structures, setting up a Coordinated Annual Review of Defence spending, and exploring the potential of a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) among Member States.

10.  
2016

The EU's Foreign Ministers endorse the priority areas for the implementation of the Global Strategy and invite HRVP Mogherini and the Commission to take work forward, drawing on all available instruments and policies in a comprehensive manner.

09.  
2016

HRVP Mogherini and EU Defence Ministers agree in an informal meeting in Bratislava to move forward on European Defence.

07.  
2016

The Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, together with the Secretary General of NATO sign a Joint Declaration in Warsaw with a view to giving new impetus and substance to the EU-NATO strategic partnership. It tasks HRVP Mogherini and SG Jens Stoltenberg to take the work forward.

**28 June 2016:**

HRVP Mogherini launches the [EU Global Strategy](#)

