



EU-NATO COOPERATION

“Working together: a stronger European defence for a stronger NATO. EU-NATO cooperation is crucial to our defence and to European and global security. Making this cooperation even deeper will remain at the heart of European defence efforts.”

Josep BORRELL

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EU FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY/VICE-PRESIDENT

In the current strategic environment, in facing old and new challenges alike, cooperation between the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) remains essential.

The security of the EU and NATO are inter-connected. Not only are 21 EU Member States also NATO Allies – together, they can also mobilise a broad range of tools and make the most efficient use of resources to address challenges and enhance the security of their citizens.

EU-NATO cooperation constitutes an integral pillar of the EU's work aimed at strengthening [European security and defence](#). The partnership between the two organisations fosters the transatlantic bond, while EU defence initiatives contribute to Trans-Atlantic burden-sharing. A stronger EU and a stronger NATO are mutually reinforcing.

A NEW ERA OF INTERACTION

A first Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016 identified seven concrete areas for enhanced cooperation between the EU and NATO:

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.

- Information sharing
- Coordinated planning
- Concrete cooperation

in the areas of:



HYBRID
THREATS



OPERATIONAL
COOPERATION



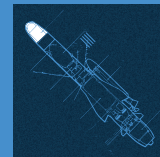
CYBER
SECURITY



CAPACITY-
BUILDING



DEFENCE
CAPABILITIES



INDUSTRY AND
RESEARCH



EXERCISES

In December 2017 and 2018, the EU and NATO Councils endorsed a common set of 74 concrete actions for implementation and agreed to further strengthen their political dialogue. A second Joint Declaration on EU-NATO cooperation signed in Brussels in July 2018 called for swift and demonstrable progress in implementation.

So far, five progress reports have been submitted jointly by the High Representative-Vice President and the Secretary General of NATO to the respective Councils highlighting key achievements and concrete deliverables across all areas of interaction.

Cooperation between the EU and NATO is now the established norm and daily practice, on the basis of key guiding principles: openness, transparency, inclusiveness and reciprocity, in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of any Member State.

THE EU AND NATO TOGETHER AGAINST COVID-19

In addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU-NATO partnership has proven its importance and relevance through the close coordination of efforts in overlapping areas of competence both at political and working level.



Countering disinformation activities and hostile propaganda



Addressing cyber threats



Exploring potential logistics support to facilitate the delivery of assistance



Exploring the implications of the crisis on respective operational engagements

RAPID PROGRESS IN THE SEVEN AREAS OF COOPERATION



Hybrid threats

20 out of the 74 current proposals for cooperation are focussed on countering hybrid threats. This includes fighting disinformation, cooperation on resilience, civil and medical preparedness and continued efforts on counter-terrorism and on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) issues. The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats in Helsinki helps develop a better understanding of hybrid threats and the options to counter them in a coordinated way.



Operational cooperation including maritime issues

EU and NATO staffs are engaged in exploring modalities to enhance coordination and complementarity of efforts in the maritime domain. Staffs have regularly exchanges through the mechanism on Shared Awareness and De-Confliction in the Mediterranean (SHADE MED), as the main forum for sharing information and coordination of efforts.



Cyber security

Active interaction at staff level is ongoing in the field of cyber on concepts and doctrines, existing and planned training and education courses, threat indicators, ad-hoc exchanges of threat alerts and assessments, cross-briefings and regular meetings. These efforts are complemented by high-level staff talks and reciprocal participation in cyber exercises.



Defence Capabilities

Efforts continue to ensure coherence of output between the planning instruments and processes, namely the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund (EDF), the EU Capability Development Plan (CDP), the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and respective NATO processes such as the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP) and the Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP). As a flagship project, EU and NATO are working together to improve military mobility through enhanced transparency, coherence and synergies.



Defence industry and research

EU and NATO staffs continue the dialogue on industry matters, which includes regular updates on related NATO and EU activities. Special focus lies for example on Small and Medium Enterprises' access to defence supply chain and innovation, or industry engagement in specific areas. NATO is participating in several EU funded maritime research projects.



Exercises

The EU and NATO have successfully concluded the Parallel and Coordinated Exercises (PACE) pilot project in 2017 and 2018. New plans for future PACE exercises are under discussion. In parallel, EU and NATO staffs have been participating in respective crisis management, military and civil protection exercises.



Capacity-building

Assisting partners in building their capacities and fostering resilience – in particular in the Western Balkans and in our Eastern and Southern neighbourhood – is a common objective. Consultations at staff level regarding the three focus countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova and Tunisia) continued apace. EU and NATO are exploring broadening cooperation in Georgia. Cooperation and de-confliction of activities between respective missions have also intensified in Ukraine and Iraq.



Strengthening political dialogue between EU and NATO

Mutual invitations to relevant Ministerial meetings have become the established practice. More than 100 reciprocal cross-briefings on issues of mutual interest have taken place since the signature of the Warsaw Joint Declaration (2016). The EU Political and Security Committee and the North Atlantic Council hold regular formal and informal meetings.