



EU-NATO COOPERATION



“Working together: a stronger and more capable European defence also strengthens NATO. EU-NATO cooperation is crucial for European, transatlantic and global security. Making this cooperation even deeper will remain at the heart of the EU’s defence efforts.”

JOSEP BORRELL

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/
Vice-President of the European Commission

EU-NATO cooperation constitutes an integral pillar of the EU’s work on European security and defence. The strategic partnership between the two organisations fosters the transatlantic bond, while EU defence initiatives enhance the European contribution to transatlantic burden-sharing. A stronger EU and a stronger NATO are mutually reinforcing.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the long-lasting effects it will have on the European security order, has brought the EU and NATO closer than ever. The EU and NATO have shown strong transatlantic unity in the face of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The security of the EU and NATO are inter-connected. By working together, they can make the best use of resources and of respective toolboxes to address challenges and enhance the security of their citizens.

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:



**COUNTERING
HYBRID
THREATS**



**OPERATIONAL
COOPERATION
INCLUDING AT SEA
AND ON MIGRATION**



**CYBER SECURITY
AND DEFENCE**



**DEFENCE
CAPABILITIES**



**DEFENCE
INDUSTRY AND
RESEARCH**



**PARALLEL AND
COORDINATED
EXERCISES**



**SUPPORTING EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN PARTNERS' CAPACITY-
BUILDING EFFORTS**

In December 2016 and 2017, 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 signed in Brussels in July 2018 called for swift and demonstrable progress in implementation.

So far, six progress reports have been submitted jointly by the EU High Representative and the Secretary General of NATO to the respective Councils highlighting key achievements and concrete deliverables. Cooperation between the EU and NATO is now the established norm and daily practice, on the basis of key guiding principles: mutual openness and 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.



RAPID PROGRESS IN ALL AREAS OF COOPERATION

Hybrid threats

The common actions relate 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 recent establishment of a structured dialogue on resilience will further strengthen interaction in this key work strand.

Operational cooperation including maritime issues

EU and NATO staffs are working to enhance coordination and complementarity of efforts in the maritime domain. Staffs have regular exchanges through the mechanism on Shared Awareness and De- Confliction in the Mediterranean (SHADE MED) and continue to cooperate and exchange information in the Aegean Sea.

Cyber security

EU and NATO staffs closely interact in the field of cyber on concepts and doctrines, training and education courses, threat indicators, ad-hoc exchanges of threat alerts and assessments, cross- briefings and cross-participation in exercises.

Defence Capabilities

Efforts continue to ensure coherence of output between EU and NATO capability development planning instruments and processes. Military mobility remains a "flagship" of EU-NATO cooperation, with the established Structured Dialogue continuing to serve as an effective format for focused discussions on shared priorities.

Defence industry and research

Staff exchanges continue on wider industry matters and concrete topics related to industry engagement, in particular towards Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), to ensure mutual awareness and sharing of best practices.

Parallel and coordinated exercises

Cooperation in the domain of exercises continues, including through cross-participation in respective activities.

Capacity-building

The EU and NATO assist partners in building their capacities and fostering resilience – in particular in the Western Balkans and in our Eastern and Southern neighbourhood. EU and NATO staffs continue to regularly exchange views regarding the political and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Georgia, Jordan, the Republic of Moldova, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Strengthening political dialogue between EU and NATO

Political dialogue remains an indispensable instrument for strengthening mutual understanding, building confidence and ensuring reciprocal transparency vis-à-vis all EU Member States and NATO Allies. Mutual invitations to Ministerial meetings have now become the established practice. Since 2016, more than 150 reciprocal cross-briefings have taken place. The EU Political and Security Committee and the North Atlantic Council continue to hold regular meetings on topical issues of mutual interest.

STRATEGIC COMPASS

The Strategic Compass gives further political impetus to the EU-NATO strategic partnership, by making concrete proposals to further:



ENHANCE

ongoing cooperation on political dialogue, information sharing, crisis management operations and exercises, defence capability development and military mobility;



DEEPEN

our common work on enhancing maritime security and countering hybrid threats including foreign information manipulation and securing cyberspace as well as the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda;



EXPAND

our cooperation on emerging and disruptive technologies, climate change and defence, resilience and space.

