



International  
Academy  
Europe Faculty

## ***Working with Europe and the EU – A New Context***

Practitioner Level Training Course  
organised by the European Institute of Public Administration  
(EIPA), Maastricht on behalf of  
the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

London, 6-8 February 2024



**3.5**

1

Interactive exercise: Identifying your interlocutors - who is in charge of what in the EU's system of external action

**(Open) strategic autonomy**



2

## (Open) Strategic Autonomy

The Strategy nurtures the ambition of **strategic autonomy** for the European Union. This is necessary to promote the common interests of our citizens, as well as our principles and values.

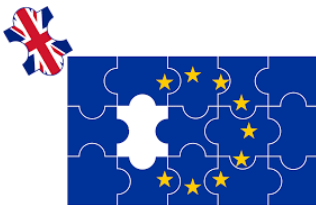
An appropriate level of ambition and **strategic autonomy** is important for Europe's ability to promote peace and security within and beyond its borders.

A sustainable, innovative and competitive European defence industry is essential for Europe's **strategic autonomy** and for a credible CSDP.



3

## The 'BPT factor'



4




## DEFENDING EUROPE: *Improving Military Mobility in the European Union*



*"By 2025 we need a fully-fledged  
European Defence Union."*

President Juncker, State of the Union Address, September 2017

Creating a fully-fledged European Defence Union by 2025 is imperative to Europe's security and to build a **Union that protects**. A smooth, efficient and effective movement of military personnel and assets across and beyond the EU will enhance the EU's preparedness and response to crises. It will enable EU Member States to act faster, in line with their defence needs and responsibilities, both in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations, and in the framework of national and multinational activities. Currently, cross-border mobility is still hampered by a number of barriers that can lead to delays, disruption, higher costs or increased vulnerability.



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5

## The path towards a Defence Union

- 12/2013: European Council Conclusions on CSDP
- 06/2016: EU Global Strategy (EUGS)
- 07/2016: EU-NATO Warsaw Joint Declaration
- 09/2016: Decision to set up MPCC (FAC)
- 11/2016: EUGS implementation plan on security and defence
- 11/2016: European Defence Action Plan (EC)
- 12/2016: Common set of 42 actions for the implementation of the EU-NATO joint Declaration
- 05/2017: Agreement on Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD)
- 06/2017: Launch European Defence Fund (EUCO)
- 12/2017: Launch of PESCO (EUCCO)
- 01/2021: Setting up of DG DEFIS (EC)
- 03/2021: Establishing of the European Peace Facility (EPF)
- 03/2022: Adoption of the "Strategic Compass"
- 04/2023: Decision to allocate € 1 bn for procurement of ammunition to Ukraine (EPF)
- 07/2023: Adoption of ASAP Regulation (Act Supporting Ammunitions Production)
- 10/2023: Adoption of EDIRPA Regulation (instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement)

6

# The EU's strategic compass

The EU is facing new and increasing threats and challenges. To counter them, protect its citizens, and enhance its strategic autonomy to become a stronger global partner, the EU needs to define what kind of security and defence actor it wants to be.

## ADDRESSING THREATS TO THE EU'S SECURITY

As a first step to determine the direction of travel, the EU has conducted for the first time a comprehensive analysis on key threats and challenges to Europe, including:

- Global and regional threats
- Conflicts in our neighbourhood
- Challenges by state actors
- Threats by non-state actors

The Threat Analysis is a classified intelligence report identifying key trends:

- Global level:** slowdown of globalisation, growing economic rivalry between global powers, climate change and competition for resources, migratory pressures, and threats to the multilateral system.
- Regional level:** regional instability, conflict, state fragility, inter-state tensions, external influences, destabilising impact of non-state actors.
- Threats against the EU:** state and non-state actors targeting the EU with hybrid tools, including disruptive technologies, disinformation, and other non-military sources of influence; terrorist threat.

## DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC COMPASS TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS

The Strategic Compass will help strengthen a common European security and defence culture and help define the right objectives and concrete goals for our policies.

The Strategic Compass will address four different, inter-linked areas:

- Crisis management missions
- Resilience
- Capabilities and Instruments
- Working with partners



# A STRATEGIC COMPASS FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE

For a European Union that protects its citizens, values and interests and contributes to international peace and security



# Strategic Autonomy (security & defence)

- Capacities ? Price tag?
- Strategic vision? Political will ?
- Questions of trust & leadership



# Strategic autonomy as an evolving concept

	Conventional perspective	Global perspective
Strategic autonomy for...	Security & Defence	Security & Defence, Trade & Industry, Digitalization, Climate, Health
Strategic autonomy from...	United States	United States, China, other emerging powers and economies
Strategic autonomy to...	Act militarily in Europe's neighbourhood, protect Europe	Promote European interests and values
Drivers	US structural pivot, transatlantic uncertainties	Rise of China and rivalry with US, technological change
Inter-organizational relations	NATO	NATO, UN, WTO
Alternative concepts	Strategic responsibility, ability to act	Open strategic autonomy (trade), European sovereignty (tech, industry)
Principal dividing lines	Threat perception & ties to the US	Political economy / Free market vs. state intervention

Source: FIIA Working Paper 119: EU strategic autonomy: A reality check for Europe's global agenda, Helsinki, 2020.

Updated 19:52, 22-Mar-2020

CGTN

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Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic greeted Chinese doctors who arrived in Serbia on Saturday, kissing the Chinese flag in a show of gratitude for the country's timely support against COVID-19.

"The arrival of Chinese health professionals is of great importance to us because they were the first to defeat the great enemy of today: COVID-19," Vucic said.

# Strategic Autonomy and the level playing field

## European Commission blocks Siemens-Alstom merger

THE European Commission (EC) announced on February 6 that it has blocked the merger of Siemens Mobility and Alstom on the grounds that the two companies have failed to address its concerns over the potential impact of the deal on competition in the signalling and high-speed rolling stock markets.



EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager

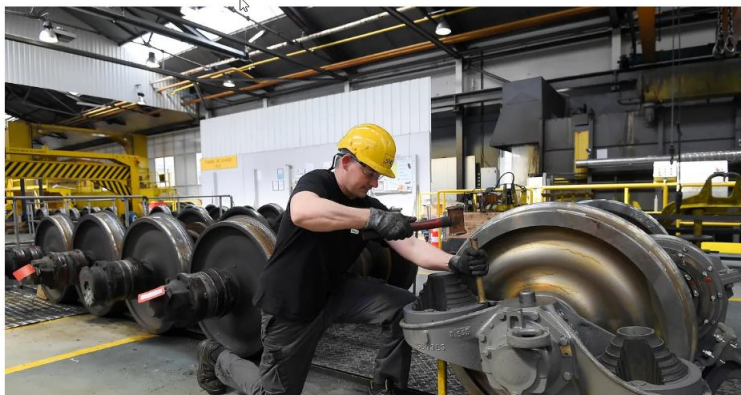
# Strategic Autonomy and the level playing field

FROM POLITICO PRO

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

## Goodbye competition. Hello industrial strategy.

Paris and Berlin want strategy to prioritize industrial 'champions' over antitrust rulebook.



EIPA European Institute of Public Administration

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION**  
**Criteria for the analysis of the compatibility with the internal market of State aid to promote the execution of important projects of common European interest**

(2021/C 528/02)



13



14

# Open strategic autonomy

- “Open strategic autonomy emphasises the EU’s ability to make its own choices and shape the world around it through leadership and engagement, reflecting its strategic interests and values”-

Trade Policy Review - An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy  
 Brussels, 18.2.2021 COM(2021) 66 final

## From “strategic autonomy” towards “open strategic autonomy”

Tackle economic distortions	Defend against economic coercion	Link values and sustainability	Critical infrastructure & supply resilience
Trade Defence Instruments	Blocking Statute	CBAM	Investment Screening
Foreign Subsidy Instrument	INSTEX	Due Diligence	5G Toolbox
International Procurement Instrument	Anti-coercion Mechanism	Human Rights Sanctions	Export Controls
Enforcement Regulation	Financial Resilience		Supply Security
Chief Trade Enforcement Offer			Industrial Tools

Source: Tobias Gehrke: Threading the trade needle on open strategic autonomy, in: FIIA report 67, Strategic autonomy and the transformation of the EU: New agendas for security, diplomacy, trade and technology, Helsinki, 2021.




**EURACTIV** The Capitals The Brief

Agrifood Economy Energy & Environment Global Europe Health

By Alexandra Brzozowski | Euractiv.com | Est. 6min

30 Mar 2023



**Von der Leyen wants 'de-risking' not 'de-coupling' in new China doctrine**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. [EPA-EFE/OLIVIER HOSLET]

**It is not in Europe's interest to decouple itself fully from China, and the bloc should instead look into diplomatic and economic 'de-risking', European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Thursday (30 March).**

It was the first time Von der Leyen gave a full speech on the bloc's relations with Beijing.

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17



English EN

Search

Home > Press corner > An EU approach to enhance economic security

Available languages: English

Press release | 20 June 2023 | Brussels

## An EU approach to enhance economic security \*

Assessment of four key economic security risks:

- supply chains
- critical infrastructure
- technology leakage
- coercion

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18

## From “strategic autonomy” to “open strategic autonomy”

- Trade & Industry, Digitalization, Climate, Health...
- Focusing on “decreasing levels of reliance”
- Global interdependence: source of conflict or harmony?
- “open strategic autonomy” as best of two worlds?
- Risk of diluting the EU’s leverage on others?
- Do autonomy and formal sovereignty buy external leverage?

19

**slido**



**What do you think which consequences are most likely to result from the EU striving towards strategic autonomy? (please rank – most likely above)**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

20



# Do You Have Any Questions?

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21



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22